

SILKTAIL

Other Names: Satin Flycatcher

Scientific Name: *Lamprolia victoriae*

Fijian Name: Sisi

Appearance:

12 cm long; the Natewa species is slightly smaller than the Taveuni sub-species

Beautiful bird, striking black in color

Unmistakable silky white rump extending over the tail

Head, nape, throat and breast are metallic blue in color

Blue spangles on the head

A restless bird with a swift darting flight

The silktails from Taveuni and Vanua Levu were originally described as separate species, but are now recognized as sub-species

L. v. victoriae on Taveuni and *L. v. kleinschmidti* on Natewa/Tunuloa

Conservation Measures:

The survival of this species depends on the conservation of forest

BirdLife Global Status)

Source:

BirdLife International Fiji Programme

A Guide to the Birds of Fiji and Western Polynesia including American Samoa, Niue, Samoa, Tokelau, Tonga, Tuvalu and Wallis & Futuna written by Dick Watling and illustrated by Chloe Talbot Kelly.

<http://www.unep.ch/islands/ILO.htm#465>

Distribution:

Restricted to mature forest on Taveuni and the Natewa/Tunuloa Peninsula of Vanua Levu.

Habitats:

This bird survives in healthy matured rainforests, and forests that haven't been cut

Rarely ascends to the canopy & rarely emerges from beneath canopy into open areas

Nests are usually built at 1-3 m above the ground and always placed immediately underneath an umbrella of one or two leaves

The nest is usually constructed of pliable fibers, rootlets, shredded bark, vine tendrils and other material

Geographical Variation:

The silktail is a flagship conservation species with a significant international profile, which is why it is very important to enforce measures for the protection of the forest. Current land use development in the Peninsula could severely threaten the survival of the silktail.

Conservation Status:

Endemic to Fiji. Near Threatened (IUCN /

