

Birds in the Backyard



Classified as a flycatcher for a long time, this species is now classified under the crow superfamily Corvoidea. It is closely related to the white-spotted fantail (*R. albogularis*), featured in the June 2018 issue of *Resonance*. The white-throated fantail is distributed in the foothills of the Himalayas and throughout northeastern India, as well as in Indochina and Southeast Asia. It is a brownish-slaty grey bird that has a broad fan-shaped tail with white tips to most of the tail feathers. The white throat and white supercilium (“eyebrow”) are striking. The area around the eye is black. The species inhabits forest, scrubland, and cultivation, and feeds on insects, fanning its tail as it moves around in the understorey. Its nest is cup shaped. Brood parasitism of the white-throated fantail by the Asian emerald cuckoo has been reported once, from southwestern China. Although under the Least Concern category, the species is largely restricted to checklists and studies on its behaviour or ecology seem to be lacking.

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Photo Credit: Pratiksha Buragohain, IISER-Mohali