

Common Name/Scientific name: **Spectacled Monarch/Symposiarchus trivirgatus**



Description: The Spectacled Monarch is blue-grey above, with a black face mask that extends across both eyes in a 'clover-leaf' pattern, rufous (red-orange) breast, white underparts and a black tail with white outer tips. Immature birds lack the black face and have a grey throat.

Where seen in the gardens: The Spectacled Monarch prefers thick understorey in rainforests, wet gullies and waterside vegetation, as well as mangroves. In the gardens, likely areas to see this bird include the creekside section of the Creek Walk, the Ephemeral Wetlands, the 'loop' section of the Lagoon Walk and possibly the Mossy Log Garden and the Fern Glade.

Feeding & Behaviour in the gardens: The Spectacled Monarch feeds on insects, foraging mostly below the canopy in foliage and on tree trunks or vines. The species occurs at all strata of the forest, but stays mostly in the middle to lower levels, where it gleans, sallies and flutter-chases insect prey among the inner foliage of the trees and shrubs. Spectacled Monarchs call persistently while they forage, and may stop feeding to inquisitively investigate imitated whistles or squeaks.

Nesting: The Spectacled Monarch builds a small cup nest of fine bark, plant fibres, moss and spider web in a tree fork or in hanging vines, 1 m - 6 m above the ground, often near water.

Similar Species in the gardens: The Black-faced Monarch, an occasional visitor to the gardens, is quite similar in many respects including the black face, but lacks the black around the eyes.