

## NOTES ON BIRDS OF GUAM

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Through the kindness of Mr. I. IKEHARA, Fisheries Management Biologist, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Guam, I was enabled to spend several hours during the afternoon of Saturday 3rd July and Sunday 4th July, 1965, touring the Island of Guam, and making cursory observations on the bird life.

My sole justification for preparing this note is that the ornithological literature since 1951 contains but few references to the bird life of this relatively remote isolated island, and scanty though the following notes are, they may add some few facts to the knowledge of Guamanese birds.

From BAKER, 1951, the avifauna of Guam appears to contain 57 living species, of which 26 are resident, and of these, four are introductions, one, the Black Drongo (*Dicrurus macrocerus harterti*) is "established in N. Guam", the remaining species being migrants or occasional visitors except for *Egretta intermedia intermedia* said to have both resident and migratory status.

### Species Observed.

*Phaethon lepturus*      White-tailed Tropic Bird.

Six of these graceful exquisite birds were seen gliding off the steep cliff at "Two Lover's Leap". The birds circled close to the cliff face occasionally "disappearing" into a deep cleft, presumably to nesting or resting sites but concealed from our vantage point.

*Egretta sacra*      Reef Heron.

Three specimens of the dark grey phase of this species were seen along the coast to the south west of the island, two in flight and one feeding on an exposed reef.

*Ixobrychus sinensis* Little Yellow Bittern.

This species is common and active by day, often seen in flight. A dispersed group of five birds was seen feeding on exposed reef near the south western end of the island and several individuals also noted at different places around the island.

*Rallus owstoni* Guam Rail.

Common, frequently seen on the roadside and relatively tame, permitting close approach by car, thence disappearing into the roadside vegetation. Two "automobile casualites" unfortunately in an advanced stage of decomposition were noticed. The rattling chuckling call was commonly heard.

*Pluvialis dominica* Golden Plover

A small flock of four birds was noted in flight over the international airport.

*Numenius phaeopus*. Whimbrel.

A brief glimpse of, apparently, this species was obtained through the trees fringing the coast, the bird was on a narrow patch of coral sand and departed before a closer view and definite identification could be obtained. The impression gained however was that it was clearly the smaller and less robust of the two species of *Numenius* presently recorded for Guam.

*Anous stolidus* Common Noddy

Not exactly common. During our circuit of the island only 4-5 birds were seen, these invariably well inland, flying over or perched on the scrubby vegetation.

*Gygis alba* White Tern.

These graceful terns are fairly common and widely spread, frequently, as with the Common Noddy, well inland from the coast.



A Wild Caught *Lonchura* Hybrid



*Streptopelia bitorquata* Philippine Turtle Dove

Not common, a few isolated individuals seen in flight.

*Gallicolumba xanthonura* White-throated Ground Dove.

Noted only on two occasions.

*Collocalia inexpectata* Gray-rumped Swiftlet

Common over the northern end of the island. A large colony of several hundred birds occupies a cliff face cave at "Two Lover's Leap".

*Halcyon cinnamomina* Micronesian Kingfisher

Only three birds seen, widely spaced along the length of the island.

*Rhipidura rufifrons* Rufous-fronted Fantail.

One bird, associated with a small flock of Bridled White-eyes was noted at the far northern end of the Island.

*Aplonis opacus* Micronesian Shining Starling.

Very common, probably, at this season, the most common species on the island, usually seen in 2's and 3's or small parties, apparently distributed throughout the island.

*Myzomela cardinalis* Cardinal Honeyeater

Common, usually in singles or pairs throughout the island. Appears to have adapted well to suburban conditions.

*Zosterops conspicillata* Bridled White-eye.

A small flock—6-10 birds—feeding in low scrub at the northern end of the island.

*Dicrurus adsimilis* Black Drongo. (*D. macrocerus* of Baker).

Not common, several birds seen towards the north end of the island. It would be interesting to know if the species is enlarging its range over the island.

*Lonchura malacca* Chestnut Munia ( *L. atricapilla* of Baker )

Common, usually in small parties of 4-10 birds, regularly observed feeding on seeding grass along the roadside.

*Passer montanus* Tree Sparrow.

As usual this species appears to have adopted a suburban existence. Common.

#### REFERENCES

- BAKER, R.H. 1951 Avifauna of Micronesia, its Origins, Evolution and Distribution. Univ. Kansas Publ., Mus. Nat. Hist., III (1), 359 pp., 16 figs.
- MARSHALL, J.T. Jnr. The Endemic Avifauna of Saipan, Tinian, Guam and Palau. CONDOR 51: 200-221, figs. 35-40.