

are believed to be nonbreeding wanderers or migrants at the localities given.

Puffinus (?*griseus*)

In the late afternoon on 27 June 1978, Pratt saw a large all-dark shearwater near the eastern mouth of the ship channel leading to Malakal Harbor at Palau. It remained in view only a matter of seconds, but long enough to reveal that it was a shearwater, essentially uniform dark gray-brown and slightly larger than the Brown Noddies (*Anous stolidus*) that were circling the boat. The manner of flight was distinct from that of the terns, and the dark tube-nosed bill was evident. No all-dark shearwater has previously been reported from Palau (Owen, 1977b). The observed shearwater was most likely *Puffinus griseus*, the Sooty Shearwater.

On 8 July, Pratt observed two all-dark shearwaters near Bird Island off the northeast coast of Saipan in the Marianas. They were seen at considerable distance and in relatively poor light, but their flight silhouette and tube-nosed bill indicated they were shearwaters. Again, Brown Noddies were present for comparison. As in Palau, no all-dark shearwater has been previously recorded at Saipan.

Fregata (?*minor*)—GREAT(?) FRIGATEBIRD

Frigatebirds have been reported in the Palau District only from Helen Island (Owen, 1977a). On 27 June 1978 we observed a single large frigatebird soaring high over the eastern entrance to the Malakal ship channel in the main Palau Islands, ca. 483 km northeast of Helen Island. Although the bird was seen at great distance we believe it to have been a Great Frigatebird, but the possibility that it was a Lesser Frigatebird, a smaller species (see following account), cannot be eliminated.

Fregata ariel—LESSER FRIGATEBIRD

Bruner saw a male of this species flying about 100 m off the northeast coast of Peleliu, Palau Archipelago, on 29 June 1976. The white flank patches, diagnostic for males of this species, were prominent. Lesser Frigatebirds breed at Helen Island in the Palau District (Owen, 1977a) but have apparently not been reported previously from the main Palau Islands.

Phaethon rubricauda—RED-TAILED TROPIC-BIRD

This species breeds in the Mariana Islands north of Saipan (Baker, 1951) but has not been reported

NOTEWORTHY RECORDS OF NONBREEDING BIRDS IN MICRONESIA

This note summarizes records of a variety of bird species observed by the authors between 1976 and 1978 in Micronesia. Some records are of species or subspecies new to the region, but most represent new island records within Micronesia. The most recent summary of bird distribution in this region is that of Owen (1977b). We also report new sightings of several birds at localities from which they are known on the basis of a single previous record. Such subsequent observations help to establish patterns of occurrence. All species reported herein

from that island. We watched two Red-tailed Tropicbirds circle below Suicide Cliff at the north end of Saipan on the morning of 9 July 1978. The birds' identity was readily apparent from their pure white plumage, bright red bills, and more robust shape than that of the White-tailed Tropicbirds *P. lepturus* also present. Both individuals lacked the long red central rectrices for which the species is named.

Phaethon lepturus fulvus—WHITE-TAILED TROPICBIRD (Christmas Island race)

A distinctive golden-plumaged subspecies of the White-tailed Tropicbird breeds at Christmas Island in the Indian Ocean just south of Java (Alexander, 1963). Individuals from this population are distinguishable in the field (Serventy et al., 1971). At about noon on 9 July 1978 we observed a golden tropicbird in flight with a normal white-plumaged individual near Bird Island, Saipan. All the usually white areas of the plumage were a vivid honey-gold color, much more intense than the pale rosy suffusion often seen in this species. We have seen hundreds of White-tailed Tropicbirds throughout the Pacific, but never one with such distinctively colored plumage. This apparent wanderer from Christmas Island represents the first record of *P. l. fulvus* in Micronesia, all previous records being *P. l. dorotheae* (Baker, 1951).

Bubulcus ibis—CATTLE EGRET

Coincident with a recent worldwide expansion of this species' range, records have been increasing in Micronesia. Baker (1951) recorded it only from Babelthup and Koror at Palau. Drahos (1977) first found it at Guam, and Owen (1977a) saw a single Cattle Egret at Truk and considered it a vagrant there. Cattle Egrets are now regular and fairly common winter residents at Koror (Owen, pers. comm.). Pratt saw several individuals on Peleliu on 19 January and Bruner and Pratt saw two others there on 27 June 1978.

Pratt observed five Cattle Egrets at the Yap airport on 16 January 1978, and one on 23 January. Later that year we saw two birds at the airport on 22 June. Pratt found five birds there between 31 July and 5 August, one of which was in brilliant breeding dress with bright buffy plumes. All these observations may be of the same birds. The species has not been reported in the literature previously from Yap, but District Communications Officer Lloyd Griffiths (pers. comm.), who worked at the airport, noted them for the previous three years.

He stated that 1978 was the first year the birds remained through the summer months.

On 13 June 1978 we found a flock of five Cattle Egrets at the same antenna field on Moen, Truk where Owen (1977a) had found one. Five birds, probably the same flock, were present on Moen on 15 July.

We noted three Cattle Egrets at the airport on Saipan on 20 June 1978, the first for the island. We did not see any in July, but Robert J. Shallenberger (pers. comm.) found about 75 of these birds roosting in *Casuarina* trees near Lake Susupe between 17 and 22 December. Shallenberger also saw one bird and received reports of as many as fifteen during the same period on Tinian, where the species has not been previously reported.

These observations indicate that the Cattle Egret has become a regular visitor to western Micronesia as far east as Truk. Some individuals apparently remain throughout the year, although most over-summering Cattle Egrets never assume the breeding plumage. Breeding can be expected in future years if Micronesian Cattle Egrets follow the pattern established in recent invasions of America and Australia.

Egretta garzetta—LITTLE EGRET

A regular migrant to Palau, this egret has not been reported elsewhere in Micronesia. We saw a Little Egret at the reservoir near Colonia, Yap on 22 June 1978. Later in the year Pratt repeatedly observed a single Little Egret, probably the same individual, at the reservoir and at the Yap airport between 31 July and 5 August. The bird was seen several times in the company of Cattle Egrets and Plumed Egrets *E. intermedia* and as close as 30 m. It exhibited black legs and greenish-yellow toes. It was almost exactly the same size as the Cattle Egrets, but with a distinctive posture and profile. The facial skin was grayish green. The Snowy Egret *E. thula* of the Americas, with which this species might be confused (Scott et al., 1978), has bright yellow facial skin.

Egretta intermedia—PLUMED EGRET

This egret has been reported from many localities in western Micronesia (Baker, 1951; Owen, 1977a). In the Yap District, records exist for Ulithi Atoll but apparently not for Yap itself. On 23 January and again on 2 and 3 August 1978 Pratt saw two Plumed Egrets at the Yap airport. On 3 August they were present on an antenna field with two other species of egrets (see above accounts) and

could be easily distinguished by their much larger size and graceful S-curved necks, quite unlike the angularly postured necks of the Cattle Egrets.

Accipiter sp.

No member of this genus has been identified to species at Palau, although Marshall (1949) reports frequent observations of two unidentified species, one large and one small. On 18 January 1978 Pratt saw a small accipiter on Koror. The bird was streaked below in the manner of immatures of this genus.

Buteo buteo—COMMON BUZZARD

In addition to the two accipiters, Marshall (1949) reported a medium-sized hawk of the genus *Buteo* at Palau. On 18 January 1978 Pratt observed a similar bird at a small reservoir on southern Babelthuap. In flight, the hawk was uniformly warm brown above, with the tail indistinctly barred except for a prominent dark subterminal band, as in the immature Red-tailed Hawk *B. jamaicensis*. The throat was unmarked white, contrasting with a dark gray or gray-brown breast the color of which gradually lightened posteriorly to the pale undertail coverts. Perched, the bird showed contrasting pale thighs, bright yellow legs and cere, and a distinctive face pattern: a dark streak from bill to eye and through the auriculars separating the pale throat from a similarly colored pale eyebrow and forehead. The sky was overcast during these observations, making colors difficult to discern accurately.

Glareola maldivarum—ORIENTAL PRATINCOLE

This species has been observed at Palau and Truk (Owen, 1977a) and thus its occurrence at Yap is not surprising. On 22 June 1978, we discovered an Oriental Pratincole among a mixed flock of shorebirds resting on a mudflat of a small pond near the Yap airport. The bird was very tame and allowed approach to within 50 m. We observed the bird for more than one hour and then collected it. This specimen, now in the collections of Brigham Young University-Hawaii Campus, is the first taken in Micronesia.

Pluvialis squatarola—BLACK-BELLIED PLOVER

This species was first reported from Yap on the basis of a single individual (Pratt et al., 1977). On 3 August 1978, Pratt saw a flock of eight of these

plovers at the side of the runway at the Yap airport. The species is probably a regular visitor or non-breeding resident at Yap.

Charadrius mongolus—MONGOLIAN PLOVER

Pratt found this species and the very similar Greater Sandplover *C. leschenaultii* in mixed flocks at the Yap airport 1–4 August 1978. Although certainly recorded only once before on Yap (Fisher, 1950), we suspect that the Mongolian Plover is a regular visitor there as is *C. leschenaultii*.

Limosa limosa—BLACK-TAILED GODWIT

This species was first recorded on Yap by Pratt et al. (1977). We found a single individual near the Yap airport on 22 June 1978, and presumably the same individual was seen by Pratt 1–4 August. The bird was in winter plumage. This second record may indicate that this species is a regular visitor to western Micronesia.

Numenius tahitiensis—BRISTLE-THIGHED CURLEW

Pratt identified a single individual of this species at the antenna field near the airport on Moen, Truk on 13 June and again on 13 July 1978. In both cases, the bird was in the company of Whimbrels *N. phaeopus* from which it was distinguished by its larger size, paler neck and breast, and buffy rump and tail, as well as its distinctive call. Bristle-thighed Curlews are known from Yap (Fisher, 1950), Saipan, Ponape, and the Marshalls (Baker, 1951), but this record is the first for Truk.

Tringa totanus—COMMON REDSHANK

All previous Micronesian records of this species are from Palau (Owen, 1977a). Pratt saw two Common Redshanks on the antenna field at the Yap airport on 3 August 1978. The birds were identified by their red legs and base of the bill, striking white rear edge of the wing, and low-pitched *too-too-too* calls.

Tringa glareola—WOOD SANDPIPER

Fisher (1950) was first to report this species from Yap. Pratt noted eight Wood Sandpipers near the Yap airport 1–4 August 1978. The species probably is a regular migrant in western Micronesia.

Actitis hypoleucos—COMMON SANDPIPER

Baker (1951) reports this species from the Marianas, Palau, Truk, and Ulithi. Owen (pers. comm.) saw one on Yap in 1977, and Pratt saw one

at the airport on 24 June 1978 and several individuals subsequently at this and other localities on the island between 1 and 4 August. These sandpipers are usually solitary, and are more likely than others to be seen along inland roads on Yap. Even at the airport, Common Sandpipers foraged along gravel roadsides rather than in grassy areas.

Calidris ruficollis—RUFIOUS-NECKED SANDPIPER

Considered a regular visitor to Palau (Owen, 1977b) and with records for Ulithi and the Marianas (Baker, 1951), this species was to be expected at Yap. Between 1 and 4 August 1978, Pratt observed as many as 25 Rufous-necked Sandpipers in small flocks of five to ten birds at the Yap airport. The birds preferred the coral runway and grassy apron to the nearby antenna field.

Erithacus calliope—SIBERIAN RUBYTHROAT

This Asiatic thrush was recorded by the Japanese at least once at Koror, Palau (Baker, 1951). To this may now be added a sighting by Pratt of a single male bird on 18 January 1978 in a patch of woods near the west end of the Palau airport on Babelthuap. The bird's white eyebrow and malar streak, rosy red throat, and brown back identified it. The bird was seen as closely as 5 m and in adequate light although the sky was overcast.

Comments

Kuroda (1961) discussed movements of migrants into Micronesia. He illustrated two major routes taken by these species, one following the Bonin-Volcano chain south into the Marianas and another eastward to Palau from Mindanao. In this scheme, Guam and Palau respectively were considered to be the limit of land and freshwater bird penetration along these routes. However, the records for Yap presented here and by Pratt et al. (1977) indicate that those species using the southern route commonly continue as far east as Yap. Thus, observers on that island should be alert to the possibility that many other species presently known only from Palau in Micronesia will eventually appear on Yap as well.

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