

# Maewo (Aurora) Island Bird Checklist

## Vanuatu Nth.

Compiled by Michael K. Tarburton, Pacific Adventist University, PNG.

[swiftlet@optusnet.com.au](mailto:swiftlet@optusnet.com.au)

#	Common Name	Scientific Name	Ecol. Status	Abundance	References
1.	Australian Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus novaehollandiae leucosternos</i>	Res bre	P,	1,
2.	Eastern Reef Egret	<i>Egretta sacra</i>	Res bre	Obs. between 2002 & 2006,	2,3,7,15,
3.	Pacific Black Duck	<i>Anas superciliosa</i>	Res bre	Uncommon, Obs. between 2000 & 2006,	2,7,
4.	Swamp Harrier	<i>Circus approximans approximans</i>	Res bre	Obs. between 2000 & 2006,	3,7,
5.	Vanuatu Scrubfowl	<i>Megapodius layardi</i>	Res bre	Obs. between 2000 & 2006,	3,7,
6.	Red Jungle Fowl	<i>Gallus gallus</i>	Intro	Obs. between 2000 & 2006,	7,
7.	Buff-banded Rail	<i>Gallirallus philippensis</i>	Res bre	Common, Obs. Since 2002,	1,3,7,
8.	Purple Swampphen	<i>Porphyrio porphyrio samoensis</i>	B,V	Common-uncommon, Obs., between 2000 & 2006,	1,3,7,
9.	Pacific Golden Plover	<i>Pluvialis f. fulva</i>	Sum mig	C., Obs. between 2000 & 2006,	2,5,7,
10.	Whimbrel	<i>Numenius phaeopus variegates</i>	Sum mig	Moderately Common, Obs. between 2000 & 2006,	2,5,7,
11.	Wandering Tattler	<i>Heteroscelus incanus incanus</i>	Sum mig	Moderately Common, Obs between 2000 & 2006,	2,5,7,
12.	Red-bellied Fruit-Dove	<i>Ptilinopus greyii</i>	Res bre	Coll. 1920's Obs. between 2000 & 2006,	3,7,18,
13.	Tanna Fruit-Dove	<i>Ptilinopus tannensis</i>	End Vanu	IM coll., Obs. between 2000 & 2006,	1,2,3,7,17,
14.	Vanuatu Mountain Pigeon	<i>Ducula bakeri</i>	Ind Vanu	IM coll., Common-uncommon Obs between 2000 & 2006,	1,2,3,7,17,
15.	Pacific Imperial Pigeon	<i>Ducula pacifica pacifica</i>	Res bre	Photographed Asanvari Feb 05,	3,6,
16.	White-throated Pigeon	<i>Columba vitiensis leopoldii</i>	Bre vag	Common-uncommon	1,
17.	Mackinlay's Cuckoo-Dove	<i>Macropygia mackinlayi mackinlayi</i>	Res bre	C, 3 skins examined, Obs. between 2000 & 2006,	1,3,7,17,
18.	Emerald Dove	<i>Chalcophaps indica sandwichensis</i>	Res bre	Common, Obs. between 2002 & 2006,	1,3,7,
19.	Rainbow Lorikeet	<i>Trichoglossus haematodus Massena</i>	Res bre	Obs. between 2000 & 2006,	3,7,
20.	Palm Lorikeet	<i>Charmosyna palmarum</i>	Res bre	Common, 1 spec. AMNH.	1,3,13,
21.	Shining Bronze-Cuckoo	<i>Chrysococcyx lucidus layardi</i>	Win Mig	Obs. between 2000 & 2006,	7,
22.	Eastern Barn Owl	<i>Tyto javanica</i>	Res bre	Common Obs. Between 2002 & 2006,	1,3,7,
23.	Glossy Swiftlet	<i>Collocalia esculenta uropygialis</i>	Res bre	C, Obs. between 2000 & 2006, F skin AMNH,	1,3,7,22,
24.	Uniform Swiftlet	<i>Aerodramus vanikorensis</i>	Res bre	Common, Obs. between 2000 & 2006,	1,3,7,
25.	Collared Kingfisher	<i>Todirhamphus chloris</i>	Res bre	Obs. between 2002 & 2006,	1,3,7,
26.	Pacific Swallow	<i>Hirundo tahitica subfusca</i>	Res bre	Common, Obs., between 2000 & 2006,	1,3,7,
27.	Polynesian Triller	<i>Lalage maculosa</i>	Res bre	Common in forest	1,2,
28.	Long-tailed Triller	<i>Lalage leucopyga</i>	Res bre	C., Obs. between 2000 & 2006,	1,3,7,
29.	Island Thrush	<i>Turdus poliocephalus</i>	Res bre	Common	1,3,
30.	Fan-tailed Gerygone	<i>Gerygone flavolateralis</i>	Res bre	Obs. between 2000 & 2006,	3,7,
31.	Grey Fantail	<i>Rhipidura albiscapa brenchleyi</i>	Res bre	Common in open & closed forest	1,2,3,20,
32.	Streaked (Spotted) Fantail	<i>Rhipidura verreauxi spilodera</i>	Res bre	C,P in thick bush	1,2,3,20,23,
33.	Buff-bellied Monarch	<i>Neolalage banksiana</i>	End Vanu	Common, Obs. between 2000 & 2006,	1,2,3,7,8,11,12,
34.	Southern Shrikebill	<i>Clytorhynchus pacycephaloides grisescens</i>	Res bre	Common in forest	1,2,3,21,
35.	Melanesian Flycatcher	<i>Myiagra caledonica marinae</i>	Res bre	C., Obs. between 2000 & 2006,	1,2,3,7,10,21,
36.	Pacific (Scarlet) Robin	<i>Petroica multicolor</i>	Res bre	Common	1,3,

37.	Common Golden Whistler	<i>Pachycephala pectoralis intacta</i>	Res bre	4 spec taken 1928, Obs. between 2002 & 2006,	1,2,3,7,2,19,
38.	Yellow-fronted White-eye	<i>Zosterops flavifrons perplexa</i>	End Vanu	C, Obs. between 2000 & 2006, Coll. Jan 1926. M coll 26 Jan 1927,	1,2,3,7,16,24,
39.	Silvereye	<i>Zosterops lateralis</i>	Res bre	Common	1,3,
40.	White-bellied Honeyeater	<i>Glycifohia notabilis</i>	End Vanu	Common, Obs. between 2000 & 2006,	1,2,3,7,14,
41.	Dark Brown Honeyeater	<i>Lichmera incana</i>	B, V, R	Common-uncommon	1,
42.	Cardinal Myzomela	<i>Myzomela cardinalis</i>	Res bre	MC, Obs between 2002 & 2007, Spec. AMNH	2,3,7,14,
43.	Red-Headed Parrot-finch	<i>Erythrura cyaneovirens</i>	Res bre	C,U	1,2,
44.	Blue-faced Parrot-finch	<i>Erythrura trichroa</i>	Res bre	P,	2,
45.	Rusty-winged Starling	<i>Aplornis zelandicus</i>	Res bre	in lowland forests	2,
46.	White-breasted Woodswallow	<i>Artamus leucorhynchus tenuis</i>	Res bre	Common, Obs. between 2000 & 2006,	2,3,7,

## KEY

### Ecological status

**End** = Endemic to Island unless otherwise stated, **Res bre** = Resident breeder, **Res** = resident ie breeding not proven or not likely. For seabirds it means they have or should be found in that area: note other refs. **Vag** = Vagrant, **Res/mig** = Part of population migratory, **Sum mig** = Summer migrant, **Win mig** = Winter migrant, **Spr/Aut mig** = Passage migrant in Spring and Autumn, **Intro** = Introduced.

### Abundance

**R** = rare, **S** = scarce, **UC** = uncommon, **MC** = moderately common, **LC** = locally common, **C** = common, **VC** = very common, **A** = abundant, **P** = present.

**Colour coding** applies only to one species on a particular list. eg. An abundance comment in **red** for the Brown Booby refers to the Ref # in **Red** for that species only.

**Alternate Island Names & alternate common Bird Names are recorded in two separate spreadsheet files.**

## REFERENCES

- Bregulla, H. L. 1992. **Birds of Vanuatu**. Anthony Nelson, Oswestry, UK.
- Pickering, R. 1986. An annotated Checklist of the birds of Vanuatu. *Vanuatu Nat. Sci. Soc. Misc. Publ.* #1.
- Diamond, J.M. & A.G. Marshall. 1976. Origin of the New Hebridean avifauna. *Emu* 76, 187-200.
- Hoyo, J del., A. Elliott & J Sargatal. 1992. **Handbook of the Birds of the World** Vol. 1. Lynx Edicions / Birdlife International.
- Hoyo, J del., A. Elliott & J Sargatal. 1996. **Handbook of the Birds of the World** Vol. 3. Lynx Edicions / Birdlife International.
- Totterman, S. 2005. [www.positiveearth.org/vanbirds/imagesbird.asp?select=DUCPAC&Submit2=Select+Bird&index=1](http://www.positiveearth.org/vanbirds/imagesbird.asp?select=DUCPAC&Submit2=Select+Bird&index=1)
- Wantok Environment Centre, [WWW.Vanbirds](http://WWW.Vanbirds) 14.06.2007
- Mayr, E. 1933. Birds collected during the Whitney South Sea Expedition Notes on *Neolalage banksiana* (Gray). *Am. Mus. Novit.* 665.
- Mayr, E. 1932. 27. Birds collected during the Whitney South Sea Expedition 21. Notes on Thickheads (*Pachycephala*) from Polynesia [sic]. *Am. Mus. Novit.* 522: 1-22.
- Mayr, E. 1933. Birds Collected during the Whitney South Sea Expedition. 25. Notes on the Genera *Myiagra* and *Mayornis*. *Am. Mus. Novit.* 651: 1-20.
- Mayr, E. 1933b. Birds collected during the Whitney South Sea Expedition. 26. Notes on *Neolalage banksiana* (Gray). *Am. Mus. Novit.* 665: 1-15.
- Mayr, E. 1933c. Birds collected during the Whitney South Sea Expedition. 27. Notes on the variation of immature and adult plumages in birds and a physical explanation of abnormal plumages. *Am. Mus. Novit.* 666: 1-10.
- Amadon, D. 1942b. Birds collected during the Whitney South Sea expedition 50. Notes on some non-passerine genera, 2. *Am. Mus. Novit.* 1176: 1-21.
- Mayr, E. 1932. Birds collected during the Whitney South Sea Expedition, 18. Notes on Meliphagidae from Polynesia and the Solomon Islands. *Am. Mus. Novit.* 516: 1-30.
- Diamond, J.M. & A.G. Marshall. 1976. Origin of the New Hebridean avifauna. *Emu* 76, 187-200.
- Murphy, R.C. & G.M. Mathews. 1929. Birds collected during the Whitney South Sea Expedition. 7. Zosteropidae. *Amer. Mus. Novit.* 356, 1-14,
- Amadon, D. 1943. Birds collected during the Whitney South Sea Expedition. 52. Notes on some non-passerine genera, 3. *Amer. Mus. Novit.* 1237, 1-22.
- Ripley, S.D. & H. Birkhead. 1942. Birds collected during the Whitney South Sea Expedition. 51. On the fruit pigeons of the *Ptilinopus purpuratus* group. *Amer. Mus. Novit.* 1192, 1-14.
- Boles, W.E. 2007 *In* Hoyo, J. A. Elliott, & D Christie. 2007. Handbook of the Birds of the World Vol 12. Lynx Edicions. Barcelona.
- Boles, W.E. 2006. Fantails. *In* Hoyo, J. A. Elliott, & D Christie. 2007. Handbook of the Birds of the World Vol 11. Lynx Edicions. Barcelona.

21. Coates, B.J., G.C.L. Dutson, & C.E. Filardi. 2006. Monarch-Flycatchers. *In* Hoyo, J. A. Elliott, & D Christie. 2006. **Handbook of the Birds of the World Vol 11**. Lynx Edicions. Barcelona.
22. Salomonsen, F. 1983. Revision of the Melanesian Swiftlets (*Apodes, Aves*) & their Conspecific Forms in the Indo-Australian and Polynesian Region. Noona Dan Papers No. **141**.
23. Dickinson, E.C. & Watling, D. 2005. The valid specific name of the Streaked Fantail. *Bull. Brit. Ornithol. Club* **126**(1), 59-60.
24. American Museum of Natural History, Vertebrate Zoology. Accessed 13 Oct 2008 at: <http://entheros.amnh.org/db/emuwebamnh/logon.php> search for “Aurora”