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GUAM FIELD NOTES By Ben King

In April of 1960, while serving aboard the U.S.S. Helena, I spent 3 days on Guam. During that period, by using Baker's, "The Avifauna of Micronesia, Its Origin, Evolution, and Distribution," and Mayr's, "Birds of the Southwest Pacific," I was able to identify most of the species occurring regularly on that island. I also observed 7 species that are apparently new for the island.

My observations extended from the 22nd through the 24th. The major areas of observation were as follows: (1) Taraque Beach, a sandy beach with a palm jungle behind it; (2) a mile of rocky and sandy beach about 5 miles north of Apra Harbor; (3) a small marsh with a heavy reed growth and some open mud adjacent to Marine Drive about 1 mile north of Apra Harbor Naval Base; (4) a large tidal inlet with extensive mud flats and adjacent palm jungle next to Marine Drive about 3 miles north of the marsh; (5) cliffs at the mouth of Apra Harbor; (6) and open ocean out to 30 miles south of Guam. I worked area 1 on the 22nd, areas 2, 3, and 4 on the 23rd, and areas 4, 5, and 6 on the 24th.

LIST OF SPECIES AND NUMBERS OF INDIVIDUALS OBSERVED

	<u>22nd</u>	<u>23rd</u>	<u>24th</u>
Storm Petrel (Tristram's?) <u>Oceanodroma tristrami</u>	--	--	2
White-tailed Tropic Bird <u>Phaethon lepturus</u>	--	--	8
Plumed Egret <u>Egretta intermedia</u>	--	10	10
Reef Heron <u>Demigretta sacra</u>	2	2	1
Chinese Least Bittern <u>Ixobrychus sinensis</u>	--	3	2
Red Jungle Fowl <u>Gallus gallus</u>	1	--	--
Guam Rail <u>Rallus owstoni</u>	5	3	--
Gallinule <u>Gallinula chloropus</u>	--	35	15
Black-bellied Plover <u>Squatarola squatarola</u>	1	3	2
Golden Plover <u>Pluvialis dominica</u>	40	15	20
Large Sand Dotterer <u>Charadrius leschenaultii</u>	--	2	2
Whimbrel <u>Numenius phaeopus</u>	2	20	10
Bristle-thighed Curlew <u>Numenius tahitiensis</u>	--	1	1
Bar-tailed Godwit <u>Limosa lapponica</u>	--	1	1
Greenshank <u>Tringa nebularia</u>	--	--	5
Wood Sandpiper <u>Tringa glareola</u>	--	3	4
Polynesian Tattler <u>Heteroscelus brevipes</u>	2	4	4
Tattler <u>Heteroscelus sp.</u>	3	30	25
Wandering Tattler <u>Heteroscelus incanus</u>	2	6	10
Ruddy Turnstone <u>Arenaria interpres</u>	--	7	5
Long-toed Stint <u>Erolia subminuta</u>	--	3	--
Common Tern <u>Sterna hirundo</u>	--	--	4

	<u>22nd</u>	<u>23rd</u>	<u>24th</u>
Common Noddy <u>Anous stolidus</u>		COMMON	
White Tern <u>Gygis alba</u>		COMMON	
Rock Dove <u>Columba livia</u>		UNCOMMON	
Marianas Fruit Dove <u>Ptilinopus roseicapillus</u>	3	--	2
Philippine Turtle Dove <u>Streptopelia bitorquata</u>		COMMON	
White-throated Ground Dove <u>Gallicolumba xanthonura</u>	4	1	--
Edible Nest Swiftlet <u>Collocalia inexpectata</u>	10	--	--
Micronesian Kingfisher <u>Halcyon cinnamomina</u>	12	3	2
Marianas Crow <u>Corvus kubaryi</u>	2	--	--
Nightingale Reed Warbler <u>Acrocephalus luscini</u>	--	4	--
Rufous-fronted Fantail <u>Rhipidura rufifrons</u>		VERY COMMON	
Micronesian Broadbill <u>Myiagra oceanica</u>	1	--	--
Micronesian Starling <u>Aplonis opacus</u>		ABUNDANT	
Cardinal Honeyeater <u>Myzomela cardinalis</u>		ABUNDANT	
Bridled White-eye <u>Zosterops conspicillata</u>	8	--	--
Tree Sparrow <u>Passer montanus</u>		COMMON	
Chestnut Mannikin <u>Lonchura ferruginosa</u>	--	90	25

COMMENTS

Storm Petrel: Two storm petrels, which I believe to be Oceanodroma tristrami, were observed at sea about 4 miles west of Apra Harbor. They were completely black except for brown upper wing coverts and a white mark on the upper part of the leading edge of the wings on or near the alula. The tails were deeply forked. They were larger than, and their manner of flight differed from the dark-rumped race of the Leach's Storm Petrel. The large size may also serve to distinguish them from Matsudaira's Storm Petrel, O. matsudairae. I saw similar storm petrels midway between Kyushu, Japan and Torishima. Perhaps the small white patch in the wing will prove to be a method of distinguishing this storm petrel in the field. Apparently, this is the first record of any storm petrel in Micronesia.

Red Jungle Fowl: I saw this bird in the palm jungle back of Taraque Beach. It may have been feral as its extreme wariness allowed me only a brief glimpse of it.

Large Sand Dotterel: This species was at the tidal inlet. Both individuals observed were in winter plumage. Apparently, there is no previous record for the Marianas.

Bristle-thighed Curlew: This species was with the Whimbrels in area 4. Although it is listed by Baker as a straggler in the Marianas, he lists no record for Guam.

Tattlers: Many were in breeding plumage. This and the close association of the two species permitted positive identification of both. I did not attempt to identify all specifically, however, H. incanus appeared the commoner species.

Long-toed Stint: This species was associated with 3 Wood Sandpipers on the mud in area 3. Apparently, this is the first record for the Marianas.

Common Tern: Four of this species were feeding in the tidal inlet. All were in a transition stage between winter or immature and breeding plumage. Apparently, there is no previous record for this species from the Marianas.

Nightingale Reed Warbler: None of this species was seen or heard in the reedy marsh. However, I heard four of them singing from brush covering the dry hillsides above Marine Drive. Although Baker states that this species, "at Guam is restricted to cane thickets and adjacent areas in and near brackish water marshes," and describes them as very difficult to observe, there were no marshes nearby and I was easily able to attract one of them to within 4 feet by squeaking.

Tree Sparrow: This species was common in the vicinity of docks and residential areas. Apparently, it has been introduced on Guam since Baker's visit in 1945, since he lists no records for Micronesia.

Chestnut Mannikin: It appears that this species, also, has been introduced after Baker's visit since he gives no records for Micronesia. It is now fairly common on Guam.

REMARKS

It may be of interest to note that Baker saw only 8 species of shorebirds on Guam, and not more than 5 species on any one field trip, during 8 months of observation. In comparison, within 3 days, I identified 12 species.

A Feather-toed Scops Owl, Otus bakkamoena, was captured on board ship near Okinawa and released alive on Guam by the crew. This species has not been recorded previously in Micronesia. This is an example of the role ships can play in bird distribution.

FIELD NOTES from Ronald L. Walker, District Wildlife Biologist, Hilo, Hawaii.

October 14, 1962 - Observed a medium sized goose in a flock of 17 shovellers on the Wailoa State Park pond in Hilo. Disturbed, it flew in large circles and then landed at close range. It has bright orange feet, a pinkish-white bill, a white rump, and a generally grey-brown coloration all over. It was identified as an immature white-fronted goose (Anser albifrons). Fisherman activity during the ensuing week caused it to move four miles to Nakagawa pond where it was last seen.

October 25, 1962 - A small, dark seabird hit the superstructure of the Isumi Maru, a flagline boat operating 15 miles off Hakalau, Hawaii, and fell to the deck. The captain, Denichi Kawabata, turned it over to the Division of Fish and Game for identification and care. It was a Hawaiian storm petrel (Oceanodroma castro)* apparently only in a state of temporary shock, for when released, it paralleled the crescent of Hilo bay, and headed for sea.

*Harcourts storm petrel (Oeoe)

FIELD TRIP to see shore birds, November 11, 1962.

The November bird walk was extremely interesting. Seven of us took part. Led by Mike Ord, we stopped first at Sand Island to look for the Pomarine jaegers, out at sea. There they were, busily fishing, four or five to be seen at once, probably a dozen in the area, perhaps five miles from shore. Moving over to the lagoon shore, we spotted several birds on a little sandy island toward the old airport road: some stilt and plover, a bar-tailed godwit, which looks something like a plover, and a gull, too far off to reveal its species.

On we went to Waipio peninsula. The old salt ponds had little water in them, but a good many birds were there, possibly between 150 and 200, principally stilt, coot and plover. Among the less numerous were a flock of sanderling, a good many turnstone, some wandering tattlers, and quite a few ducks, mostly shovelers, a few baldpate. The rarities were a teal, two female pintail ducks, a couple of sharp-tailed sandpipers, and at least one pectoral sandpiper. These were all new to most of us. It is more than likely that such birds have been coming here for centuries, but through the present advantages of a telescope, plus a member who has a quick eye and knows birds well, W. Michael Ord, we are now able to record such visitors.

Off in the tussocks of long grass at the edges of the ponds were our now familiar escaped cage-birds, the black-headed mannikins.

Kahuku was our next point to examine. There too the water area is much less extensive than formerly. Drainage is going on so as to pull this area into agricultural land. Soon there will be no place left for birds. Scattered over three or four fields, separated by mounds, as in the old taro fields of years ago, were shallow pools and islets covered with brush and weeds. The stilt are fairly numerous there, the coot even more so. One pair of gallinule was spotted by our youngest member, Thane Pratt. There were a few plover, wandering tattlers, turnstone, and one flock of sanderlings, with ricebirds in the grassy areas. The day was capped by Mike's spotting a semi-palmated sandpiper.

Margaret Titcomb
and
Thane Pratt

EDITOR'S NOTE:

We are sorry to lose a most valuable member of our Society to Oskaloosa, Iowa. John Bowles will be leaving the later part of November for William Penn College, where he will teach and also find time to finish his Ph.D. thesis. We wish him well and shall anticipate his return.

A hearty welcome to the following new members:

Alys J. Chong, 1420 Lunalilo St., Honolulu 14, Hawaii
Margaret Lau, 3241 Brokaw St., Honolulu 15, Hawaii
Mrs. James McLean, c/o Robert Judd, Hawaiian Trust Co., Honolulu 13, Hawaii
Mrs. Phyllis Turnbull, 3340 Anoai Place, Honolulu 14, Hawaii

DECEMBER ACTIVITIES:

The Christmas bird count will take the place of the December field trip. The date will be announced at the December general meeting. Those who wish to participate, please call Mike Ord, telephone 587-328.

December 11 - Board meeting at the Auditorium of the Honolulu Aquarium at 7:30 p.m.
Members are always welcome.

December 17 - Annual meeting and election of officers. Details of the Christmas bird count will be worked out at this meeting.
Meet at the Auditorium of the Honolulu Aquarium at 7:30 p.m.

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