

# Stephens Is. Bird Checklist

## Torres Strait Australia.

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

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

#	Common Name	Scientific Name	Ecol. Status	Abundance	References
1	Australian Pelican	<i>Pelecanus conspicillatus</i>	Res bre?	P,	1,
2.	Lesser Frigatebird	<i>Fregata ariel</i>	Res	C,	1,
3.	Eastern Reef Egret	<i>Egretta sacra</i>	Res	P mostly white phase,	1,
4.	Rufous Night-heron	<i>Nycticorax caledonicus</i>	Vag	P,	1,
5.	Pacific Golden Plover	<i>Pluvialis fulva</i>	Sum Mig	C in Sum UC in Win,	1,
6.	Greater Sand Plover	<i>Charadrius leschenaultii</i>	Spr/Aut mig	UC,	1,
7.	Ruddy Turnstone	<i>Arenaria interpres</i>	Spr/Aut Mig	P,	1,
8.	Whimbrel	<i>Numenius phaeopus</i>	Sum Mig	C some remaining some years,	1,
9.	Grey-tailed Tattler	<i>Tringa brevipes</i>	Sum Mig	C Spr, Aut & Sum, UC Win,	1,
10.	Marsh Sandpiper	<i>Tringa stagnatilis</i>	Spr/Aut Mig	UC	1,
11.	Common Greenshank	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>	Sum mig	UC Spr, Aut, & Sum.	1,
12.	Terek Sandpiper	<i>Xenus cinereus</i>	Sum Mig	MC Spr/Aut, UC rest of year,	1,
13.	Bar-tailed Godwit	<i>Limosa lapponica</i>	Sum Mig	C Spr/Sum/Aut,	1,
14.	Red-necked Stint	<i>Calidris ruficollis</i>	Sum Mig	A Spr/Sum/Aut/ UC win,	1,
15.	Black-naped Tern	<i>Sterna sumatrana</i>	Res	P,	1,
16.	Crested Tern	<i>Thalasseus bergii</i>	Res	P,	1,
17.	Lesser Crested Tern	<i>Thalasseus bengalensis</i>	Win mig	C sometimes,	1,
18.	Rose-crowned Fruit-Dove	<i>Ptilinopus regina</i>	Res bre	P,	1,
19.	Pied Imperial Pigeon	<i>Ducula bicolor</i>	Mig bre	Bre Sep-Jan, Arrives when Wongai <i>Manilkara kauki</i> fruit ripen.	1,
20.	Bar-shouldered Dove	<i>Geopelia humeralis</i>	Res bre	MC,	1,
21.	Rainbow Lorikeet	<i>Trichoglossus haematodus</i>	Vag	Arrives opportunistically when trees blossom,	1,
22.	Channel-billed Cuckoo	<i>Scythrops novaehollandiae</i>	Spr/Aut mig	Single birds or small groups pass through,	1,
23.	Forest Kingfisher	<i>Todirhamphus macleayii</i>	Spr/Aut mig	Mig flock size varies much year to year,	1,
24.	Sacred Kingfisher	<i>Todirhamphus sancta</i>	Win mig	VC in Spr/Aut as migrants pass through, C in Win,	1,
25.	Buff-breasted Paradise-Kingfisher	<i>Tanyptera sylvia</i>	Spr/Aut mig	P,	1,
26.	Rainbow Bee-eater	<i>Merops ornatus</i>	Spr/Aut mig	May roost during migration,	1,
27.	Dollarbird	<i>Eurystomus orientalis</i>	Spr/Aut mig	P Mar-May & Oct-Nov,	1,
28.	Tree Martin	<i>Cecropis nigricans</i>	Win Mig	UC,	1,
29.	Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike	<i>Coracina novaehollandiae</i>	Win mig	Flocks vary in size considerably,	1,
30.	Golden-headed Cisticola	<i>Cisticola exilis diminutus</i>	Res bre	Bre Sum, C in savanna and other grasslands,	1,2,3,
31.	Black-faced Monarch	<i>Monarcha melanopsis</i>	Spr/Aut mig	Ad & juv mig, MC in most forests and regrowth.	1,2,
32.	Spectacled Monarch	<i>Monarcha trivirgatus</i>	Sum mig/bre	Bre in forest, P,	1,2,
33.	Mangrove Golden Whistler	<i>Pachycephala melanura</i>	Res bre	BR in wet season, LC in mangroves, forest and scrub.	1,2,
34.	Red-headed Myzomela	<i>Myzomela erythrocephala</i>	Res bre	breeds in mangroves, LMC	1,2,
35.	Yellow-bellied Sunbird	<i>Nectarinia jugularis</i>	Res bre	C breeding late dry – early wet, MC-C mostly outside of forests	1,2,
36.	Pale White-eye	<i>Zosterops citrinellus</i>	Res bre	Nests in wet season,	1,

37. Spangled Drongo

*Dicrurus bracteatus*

Res bre

UC, in mangroves,

1,2,

### **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**

1. Draffan, R.D.W., S.T. Garnett, G.J. Malone. 1983. Birds of the Torres Strait: An annotated list and biogeographic analysis. *Emu* 83, 207-234.
2. Coates, B.J. 1990. **The Birds of Papua New Guinea Vol. 2.** Dove Pub. Aldersley, Qld.
3. 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.