

# Daru Island Bird Checklist

## Torres Strait, PNG

9 05 12s 143 12 28e

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

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

#	Common Name	Scientific Name	Ecol. Status	Abundance	References
1.	Brown Booby	<i>Sula leucogaster plotus</i>	Res	Common	18,
2.	Eastern Reef Egret	<i>Egretta s. sacra</i>	Res bre	1 spec AMNH.	2,27,
3.	Intermediate Egret	<i>Egretta intermedia plumifera</i>	?	1 at airport 5 Aug 2005.	22,27,
4.	Striated Heron	<i>Butorides striatus macrorhynchus</i>	Res bre	C Dec 76- Jan 77,	9,27,
5.	White-bellied Sea-Eagle	<i>Haliaeetus leucogaster (no ssp)</i>	Res	Imm 5.8.05,	22,27,
6.	Gurney's Eagle	<i>Aquila gurneyi (no ssp)</i>	Res	Pr near airfield.	12,16,
7.	Brahminy Kite	<i>Haliastur indus girrenera</i>	Res bre	1 on airstrip 5.8.05,	22,27,
8.	Whistling Kite	<i>Haliastur sphenurus (no ssp)</i>	?	1 over town 5.8.05,	22,27,
9.	Black-shouldered Kite	<i>Elanus caeruleus wahgiensis</i>	Vag	Rare 1 <sup>st</sup> rec. 5.11.1970.	5,27,
10.	Brown Goshawk	<i>Accipiter fasciatus dogwa</i>	?	P Oct 94,	14,27,
11.	Australian Kestrel	<i>Falco cenchroides cenchroides/baru?</i>	?	2 on 5.8.05,	15,22,27,
12.	Plumed Whistling Duck	<i>Dendrocygna eytoni (no ssp)</i>	Vag	1 rec.	19,27,
13.	Masked Lapwing	<i>Vanellus m. miles</i>	Res bre	C on airstrip and town lawns. P in Dec 1943. 18 5.8.05,	9,20,22,27,
14.	Pacific Golden Plover	<i>Pluvialis f. fulva</i>	Sum mig	P Oct 1994, Sev. 14.9.43.	10,14,20,27,
15.	Lesser (Mongolian) Sand Plover	<i>Charadrius m. mongolus</i>	Sum mig	C Dec 76- Jan 77, Sev. Sep 1943.	9,20,27,
16.	Large Sand-plover	<i>Charadrius leschenaultii (no ssp)</i>	Sum mig	C Dec 76- Jan 77,	9,10,27,
17.	Oriental Plover	<i>Charadrius veredus (no ssp)</i>	Sum mig	4 at airfield 10 Oct 1980.	11,27,
18.	Ruddy Turnstone	<i>Arenaria i. interpres</i>	Sum mig	2 and 4 seen Oct 1975.	8,10,27,
19.	Whimbrel	<i>Numenius phaeopus variegatus</i>	Sum mig	C Dec 76- Jan 77,	9,27,
20.	Little Whimbrel (Curlew)	<i>Numenius minutus (no ssp)</i>	Sum mig	P 7th Oct 1994. Sev. Sep 1943.	14,20,27,
21.	Grey-tailed Tattler	<i>Tringa brevipes (no ssp)</i>	Sum mig	P 1994,	14,27,
22.	Terek Sandpiper	<i>Xenus cinereus (no ssp)</i>	Sum mig	P,	10,27,
23.	Australian Pratincole	<i>Stiltia Isabella (no ssp)</i>	Win mig	Flock nearly collided with plane. At airport. 11 near airport	11,13,14,22,27,
24.	Bar-tailed Godwit	<i>Limosa lapponicabaueri</i>	Sum mig	P,	10,27,
25.	Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	<i>Calidris acuminata (no ssp)</i>	Sum mig	P,	10,27,
26.	Red-necked Stint	<i>Calidris ruficollis (no ssp)</i>	Sum mig	sev. Sep 1943.	20,27,
27.	Silver Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus novaehollandiae forsteri</i>	Vag.	1 rec, P Oct 1965,	3,26,27,
28.	Common Tern	<i>Sterna hirundo longipennis</i>	Sum mig	Abundant, Flock 7 Oct 1994.	14,27,
29.	White-winged Black Tern	<i>Chlidonias leucopterus (no ssp)</i>	Aut/Spr mig	Fairly common on reef 12 miles to Sth. 21 Apr 1936.	6,18,27,
30.	Rose-crowned Fruit-Dove	<i>Ptilinopus r. regina?</i>	Res bre	P, Only NG rec	3,18,21,27,
31.	Orange-fronted Fruit-Dove	<i>Ptilinopus aurantiifrons (no ssp)</i>	Res bre	Mod Common. 5 near airstrip 5.8.05,	9,22,27,
32.	Superb Fruit-Dove	<i>Ptilinopus s. superb</i>	Res bre	MC	18,
33.	Collared Imperial Pigeon	<i>Ducula m. muellerii</i>	Res bre	Mod Common.	9,27,
34.	Bar-shouldered Dove.	<i>Geopelia humeralis gregalis</i>	Res bre	Common. 10 in woodland near airport Aug 05,	9,22,27,
35.	Rock Dove	<i>Columba livia</i>	Intro	P Oct 1994,	14,

36.	Sulphur-crested Cockatoo	<i>Cacatua galerita triton</i>	Res bre	Spec. AMNH	4,27,
37.	Channel-billed Cuckoo	<i>Scythrops novaehollandiae</i> (no ssp)	Win mig	1 obs. Sep 1974.	7,27,
38.	Forest Kingfisher	<i>Halcyon m. macleayii</i>	?	Sev. Obs.	20,
39.	Rainbow Bee-eater	<i>Merops ornatus</i> (no ssp)	Win mig	3,11,29, seen 5.8.05,	22,27,
40.	Noisy Pitta	<i>Pitta versicolor simillima</i>	Win mig	1 spec Jun/Jul 1936. P in Dense woodland, mangroves and gallery woodland.	16,27,
41.	Red-rumped Swallow	<i>Hirundo daurica japonica?</i>	Sum mig	1 seen Jan 1985. Dec 1984.	12,17,27,
42.	Tree Martin	<i>Petrochelidon n. nigricans</i>	Win mig	Obs Sep 1943.	20,
43.	Boyer's Cuckoo-shrike	<i>Coracina boyeri subalaris</i>	Res bre	C in lowland forests, clearings, regrowth & mangroves, P,	7,27,28,
44.	Slender-billed Cicadabird	<i>Coracina tenuirostris aruensis?</i>	Res/Mig	UC in forest, forest edges, gardens, savanna & mangroves	7,27,
45.	Black Cuckoo-shrike	<i>Coracina m. melaena or meeki</i>	Res bre	C in lowland rainforest & mangroves, MC at higher altitude, P,	16,27,28,
46.	Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike	<i>Coracina novaehollandiae didimus or melanops</i>	Red/Mig?	4 on 5.8.2005,	22,27,
47.	Varied Triller	<i>Lalage leucomela yorki or polygrammica</i>	Res bre	MC in rainforests.	16,27,
48.	Golden-headed Cisticola	<i>Cisticola exilis diminutus</i>	Res bre	C in savanna and other grasslands < 1000+ m. All months. 2 on edge of town 5.8.05,	9,16,20,22,24,
49.	Large-billed Gerygone	<i>Gerygone magnirostris mimikae</i>	Res bre	LC-VC in mangroves, swamps and other wet locations.	16,27,
50.	Mangrove Gerygone	<i>Gerygone levigaster pallida</i>	Res bre	UC-LMC in low mangroves, Heard in forest edge 5.8.05,	11,16,22,27,25,
51.	Willie Wagtail	<i>Rhipidura leucophrys melaleuca</i>	Res bre	P	20,23,
52.	Black Thicket-Fantail	<i>Rhipidura maculipectus mimika</i>	Res bre	UC-MC in dense shade close to ground.	16,27,
53.	Northern Fantail	<i>Rhipidura rufiventris vidua</i>	Res bre	MC-C in all forests, forest edges and regrowth of lowl. & hills	16,27,
54.	Black-faced Monarch	<i>Monarcha m. melanopsis</i>	Win mig	MC in most forests and regrowth.	16,27,
55.	Broad-billed Flycatcher	<i>Myiagra ruficollis mimikae</i>	Res bre	UC sedentary in mangroves & forest edges.	16,18,
56.	Shining Flycatcher	<i>Myiagra alecto wardelli/nitidus</i>	Res bre	UC-C in Lowland Swamp forest, littoral & riparian scrub, P,	16,24,25,
57.	Mangrove Golden Whistler	<i>Pachycephala melanura dahli</i>	Res bre	LC in mangroves, forest and scrub.	16,27,
58.	Dusky Myzomela	<i>Myzomela obscura munna or fumata</i>	Res bre	LMC	16,27,
59.	Red-headed Myzomela	<i>Myzomela erythrocephala infuscata</i>	Res bre	LMC	16,27,
60.	Tawny-breasted Honeyeater	<i>Xanthotis flaviventer tararae</i>	Res bre	A. & ubiquitous.	16,27,
61.	Varied Honeyeater	<i>Lichenostomus v. versicolor</i>	Res bre	P, MC-VC.	3,16,27,
62.	Brown-backed Honeyeater	<i>Ramsayornis modestus</i> (no ssp)	Res bre	MC-C.	16,27,
63.	Helmeted Friarbird	<i>Philemon buceroides brevipennis</i>	Res bre	Common. 2 seen near airport 5.8.05.	9,16,22,27,
64.	Yellow-bellied Sunbird	<i>Nectarinia jugularis frenata</i>	Res bre	MC-C mostly outside of forests. F in town	16,22,27,
65.	Olive-crowned Flowerpecker	<i>Dicaeum pectorale ssp?</i>	Res bre	MC-C but inconspicuous.	9,16,27,
66.	Red-capped Flowerpecker	<i>Dicaeum geelvinkianum rubigulare?</i>	Res bre	MC	18,27,
67.	House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	Intro	4 in town 5.8.05,	22,
68.	Singing Starling	<i>Aplornis cantoroides</i> (no ssp)	Res bre	LC, 7 near airport 5.9.05,	16,22,27,
69.	Metallic Starling	<i>Aplornis m. metallica</i>	Res bre	MC-VC	16,27,
70.	Spangled Drongo	<i>Dicrurus bracteatus</i> (no ssp)	Res bre	C & U in Rain Gallery, Monsoon & Teak forests & mangroves.	9,16,22,
71.	Brown Oriole	<i>Oriolus szalayi</i> (no ssp)	Res	5 seen 5.8.05.	22,27,
72.	Yellow-faced Myna	<i>Mino d. dumontii</i>	Res bre	MC-C	16,27,
73.	White-breasted Woodswallow	<i>Artamus l. leucorhynchus</i>	Res bre	P.	16,20,27,
74.	Black Butcherbird	<i>Cracticus q. quoyi</i>	Res bre	UC-MC.	11,16,27,
75.	Torresian Crow	<i>Corvus o. orru</i>	Res	Sep 1974, 3 feeding on fruit 5.8.05,	7,22,27,

## 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.

**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. Mayr, E. & J. Diamond. 2001. **The Birds of Northern Melanesia**. Oxford Uni Press.
2. Mayr, E. & D. Amadon. 1941. Birds collected during the Whitney South Sea Expedition. XLVI. Geographical variation in *Demigretta sacra* (Gmelin). *Am. Mus. Novit.* 1144: 1-11.
3. Beehler, B.M., T.K. Pratt & D.A. Zimmerman. 1986. **Birds of New Guinea**. Princeton University Press, Princeton.
4. Mayr, E. 1937. Birds collected during the Whitney South Sea Expedition. 36. Notes on New Guinea Birds. 3. *Am. Mus. Novit.* 947: 1-11.
5. Coates, B. 1970. Observations reported at the December meeting. *PNG Bird Society Newsletter* 61, 1-2.
6. Lindgren, E. 1974. Sight Records. *PNG Bird Society Newsletter* 97, 2-5.
7. Mackay, R.D. 1974. Observations. *PNG Bird Society Newsletter* 102, 3-4.
8. Mackay, R.D. & M. Mackay. 1975. Observations. *PNG Bird Society Newsletter* 116, 4.
9. Smith, G. 1977. Birds of Daru District, Western Province. *PNG Bird Society Newsletter* 129, 12-13.
10. Heron, S.J. 1978. Waders of the New Guinea Region. *PNG Bird Society Newsletter* 149, 10-17.
11. Finch, B.W. 1980. Bensbach: exciting birding around every bend in the river. *PNG Bird Society Newsletter* 171, 10-37.
12. Anon. 1985. Sightings. *PNG Bird Society Newsletter* 215, 7-15.
13. Block, H. 1986. A Kiunga diary. *PNG Bird Society Newsletter* 223, 3-6.
14. Spanner, S. 1994. Field Trip Bensbach: 7-10 October 1994. *PNG Bird Society Newsletter* 281, 2-4.
15. Dabb, G. 1966. Birds of prey. *PNG Bird Society Newsletter* 14, 1-2.
16. Coates, B.J. 1990. **The Birds of Papua New Guinea Vol. 2**. Dove Pub. Aldersley, Qld.
17. Finch, B.J. 1985. Noteworthy observations in Papua New Guinea and Solomons. *PNG Bird Society Newsletter* 215, 6-12.
18. Rand, A.L., & E.T. Gilliard. 1967. **Handbook of New Guinea Birds**. Weidenfeld & Nicolson, London.
19. Iredale, T. 1956. **Birds of New Guinea. Vol. 1**. Georgian House, Melbourne.
20. Tubb, J.A. 1945. Field notes on some New Guinea birds. *Emu* 44, 249-273.
21. 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.
22. Tarburton, M.K. 2005. Personal records 5<sup>th</sup> August 2005.
23. Boles, W.E. 2006. Fantails. In Hoyo, J. A. Elliott, & D Christie. 2006. Handbook of the Birds of the World Vol 11. Lynx Edicions. Barcelona.
24. Coates, B.J., G.C.L. Dutton, & 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.
25. Iredale, T. 1956. **Birds of New Guinea. V. 2**. Georgian House. Melbourne.
26. Bell, H. 1966. The birds of Balimo. *PNG Bird Society Newsletter* 5, 1.
27. Howard, R. & A. Moore. 1980. A complete checklist of the birds of the world. Oxford. Oxford Univ.
28. Coates, B.J. 1985. **The Birds of Papua New Guinea, Vol 1. Non Passerines**. Dove Pub. Alderley, Qld. Australia.