

NOTE

New migrant and vagrant bird records for the Mariana Islands, 1978–1988

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Introduction

This paper provides 70 species accounts documenting new bird records we obtained in the 14 Mariana Islands north of Guam (Fig. 1) from the winter of 1978 through Dec. 1988. The accounts are comprised of 224 sight, 3 photographic, and 32 specimen records. These represent 118 new island records, 23 which are new to the Marianas group, 10 new to Micronesia, and 5 new to the tropical Pacific (Table 1). Records are new for a particular island only, unless a larger geographical area is mentioned for a specific record in the text.

Previously unpublished or poorly documented records of T. O. Lemke, R. B. Clapp, and T. K. Pratt that were reported in checklists of Pyle & Engbring (1985) and Pratt *et al.* (1987) are more completely described and/or better documented in this paper. Specimen records in the text have specimen numbers preceded by DFW (Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Division of Fish and Wildlife) or CRCM (Charles R. Conner Museum, Washington State University, Pullman, WA).

Bird species, including pelagic seabirds, are considered migrant or vagrant if we could find no record of breeding from the Mariana group. This excludes species such as the Pacific Reef-Heron (*Egretta sacra*), which breed here but also may occur as vagrants on certain islands. We do not report new records from Guam, but include it in our discussions of previous Marianas records. We use the definition of tropical Pacific proposed by Pratt *et al.* (1987), i.e. that area roughly bounded by Palau in the W, the Mariana Islands to Kure and the Hawaiian Islands in the north, Ducie and Pitcairn Islands to the SE, and the Fiji group in the SW.

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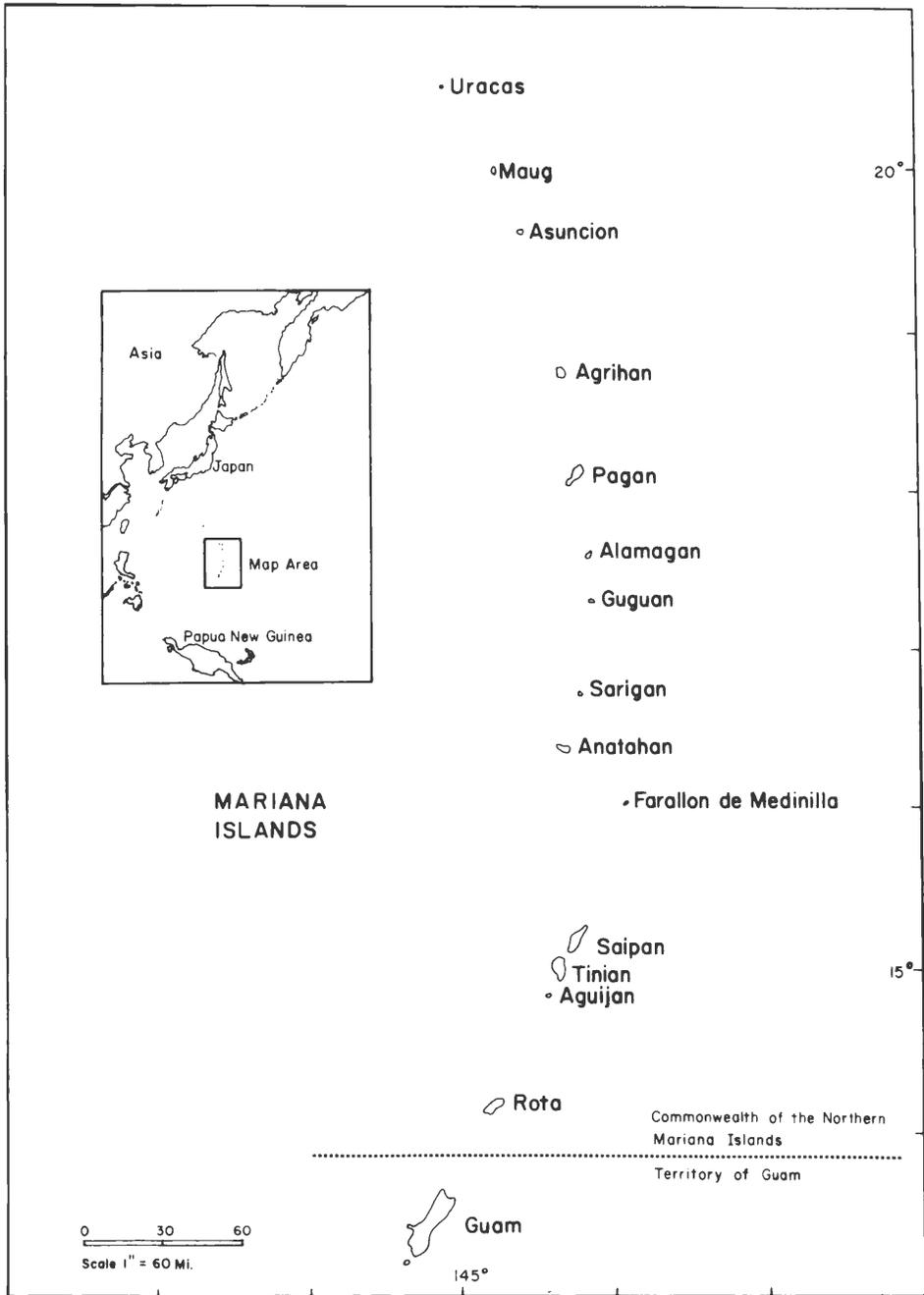


Figure 1. Map of the Mariana Islands.

R. B. Clapp (RC) visited the islands of Farallon de Medinilla, Anatahan, Sarigan, Guguan, Pagan, Agrihan, Asuncion, Maug, and Uracus from 29 July to 16 Aug. 1979 to collect information on terrestrial vertebrates for the U.S. Museum of Natural History.

D. T. Aldan (DA) served as Biological Technician and Fishery Biologist for the Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Islands Division of Fish and Wildlife (DFW) from Jan. 1979 through the present. In this capacity he made several trips to the 10 Mariana Islands north of Saipan and numerous trips on Saipan, Tinian, Aguijan, and Rota. He lived on Pagan until 1968.

G. J. Wiles (GW) has been Wildlife Biologist for Guam Division of Aquatic and Wildlife Resources (DAWR) since Jan. 1981. In this capacity, he was a member of the 1983 Oxford University Marianas Fruit Bat expedition which visited all 10 islands north of Saipan between 20 Aug. and 10 Sep. 1983. He has made a number of field trips to Rota and Tinian.

T. O. Lemke (TL) served as a Wildlife Biologist for the DFW, stationed at Saipan, from Apr. 1983 until Apr. 1985. He made visits of 1–4 days at each of the 10 islands north of Saipan, some twice, during this period.

T. K. Pratt (TP) served in the same capacity from May 1983 until Aug. 1985. He made 1 to 3-day visits at each northern island except Alamagan and spent a total of 12 days on Sarigan on 2 visits. Both Pratt and Lemke conducted frequent bird surveys at Lake Susupi and the leeward lagoon shoreline on Saipan, and 1 or both biologists made quarterly trips to Rota and Tinian and 2 trips to Aguijan.

P. O. Glass (PG) served as DFW Wildlife Biologist from Jan. 1986 through Nov. 1988. During this period he visited the northern islands of Asuncion, Agrihan, Pagan, and Alamagan for 2 to 4-day periods and Guguan on 3 occasions for a total of 21 days. He visited Tinian 4 times, Aguijan once, and made quarterly visits to Rota.

J. D. Reichel (JR) has been a DFW Wildlife Biologist since Oct. 1986. He made 2 to 4-day visits of Uracus, Maug, Asuncion (twice), Agrihan, Pagan (twice), Alamagan, and Guguan (twice), in addition to 2 visits to Tinian, 2 to Aguijan, and 4 to Rota. Both Reichel and Glass surveyed migratory birds at Saipan's Lake Susupi, small freshwater wetlands, and the leeward lagoon mudflats and shoreline areas on numerous occasions during this period.

Species Accounts

Laysan Albatross (*Diomedea immutabilis*) (Fig. 2)—PG saw 1 bird at a distance of 10 m in a grazed pasture 250 m from the cliff edge at As Dudo, Rota, on 25 Jan. 1988. Diagnostic field characters visible were all white head and neck with black “cat-eye” extending behind and grading to gray below level of eye, pale pinkish bill with black tip, dark slate gray back and tip of tail with white wedge on upper tail, light underwing with slate edges and 2 indistinct wide stripes on middle and distal portions, and pale pink tarsi and toes. Photographs are on file in the DFW Wildlife Collection, Saipan. The nearest record of this species to the Marianas is from at sea approximately 965 km to the northeast by Dunbar (1975). The nearest breeding record, and the only modern breeding record outside the Hawaiian chain, is in the Bonin Islands, about 1290 km north of Rota (Hasegawa



Figure 2. Laysan Albatross on Rota, 25 Jan. 1988.

1978). Our sighting occurred 13 days after Typhoon Roy struck Rota, and the bird was not seen again on following days.

White-necked Petrel (*Pterodroma externa*)—JR saw a single White-necked Petrel 40 km north-northwest of Saipan on 27 Sep. 1988. The bird was dark gray dorsally with a white cervical collar and black crown, tail lighter than the body, white ventrally with dark trailing wing edges and carpal bars. Previous records of this species in the Marianas have been from far at sea only (Tanaka & Inaba 1981).

Bulwer's Petrel (*Bulweria bulwerii*)—JR identified Bulwer's Petrels at the following locations: 1 just offshore of Aguijan on 17 Mar. 1987, 1 about 1.5 km north of Saipan on 31 Aug. 1987, 2 offshore of Agrihan on 29 May 1987, 5 offshore of Asuncion on 29 May 1987, and 1 offshore of Uracus 31 May 1987; the first Marianas records. The birds seen were all dark brown, small (slightly larger than Matsudaira Storm-Petrels *Oceanodroma matsudairae* seen nearby at 2 of the sightings) petrels with pale diagonal wing-bars and relatively long pointed tails. Observations were from 10 to 30 m. The main Pacific breeding areas for this petrel are off China, Taiwan, Johnston, Hawaiian, and Phoenix Islands with no known breeding in Micronesia, and a speculated east-west migratory pattern (Harrison 1985).

Short-tailed Shearwater (*Puffinus tenuirostris*)—TL and TP found 2 dead at Jeffrey's Beach, Saipan on 20 May 1983. The carcasses were photographed and the skulls collected. JR found 2 birds dead at Unai Halaihai Beach, Saipan, 16 Jun. 1987 (DFW 181, DFW 182). RC diagnosed them as *P. tenuirostris* based on measurements of wing (255 mm), tarsus (49.5mm), and tail (83 mm). The skins are deposited at the National Museum of Natural History. The only other Marianas records are from Guam, where moderate numbers have washed ashore during migrations in May of at least 5 years since 1971 (Drahos 1977; G. J. Wiles, unpubl. data). This shearwater is only known to breed off southern Australia (Harrison 1985).

Christmas Shearwater (*Puffinus nativitatis*)—JR saw 4 birds, each all dark including bill and feet, with rounded tails and slightly smaller than nearby Wedge-tailed Shearwaters, on 5 Sep. 1988 at 300-degree Reef, about 22 km west of Saipan. TL and TP saw 1 on 21 Jun. 1984 flying along the coast of Aguijan. It was completely dark with a short rounded tail. This species breeds widely in the tropical eastern and central Pacific (A.O.U. 1983) but in Micronesia breeds only at Taongi Atoll in the Northern Marshalls (Amerson 1969). These are the first Marianas records.

Leach's Storm-Petrel (*Oceanodroma leucorhoa*)—TP collected a single specimen from Saipan in 1983. The specimen is deposited at Charles R. Conner Museum, Washington State University (CRCM 87-356). Leach's Storm-Petrel breeds in the northern Atlantic and Pacific, migrating south during the northern winter (Harrison 1985). The only previous Marianas records are from offshore Guam during Mar. 1980 (Maben & Wiles 1981).

Matsudaira's Storm-Petrel (*Oceanodroma matsudairae*)—JR saw 16 offshore of Saipan during 2 hrs and 10 mins of observation time on 21 Apr. 1987. He saw 2 individuals offshore of Alamagan on 27 Mar. 1988, 2 offshore of Agrihan and 4 single birds and 1 group of 2 offshore of Asuncion on 29 May 1987, and 2 following the ship offshore of Uracus on 31 May 1987. All of these birds were identified by their all-dark coloration with diagonal light bars on the upper wing surface and white bases to the primaries and were seen at distances from 5 to 30 m. Y. Tanaka (personal communication) saw 23 on 23 Apr. 1984 about 34 km north of Uracus. He saw many others farther than 48 km offshore north, east, and west of the Marianas during Jan.–May in 1982. There have been several Guam sightings. This western Pacific—eastern Indian Ocean species breeds only in the Volcano Islands, south of Japan; thus the Marianas would be within its north-south migratory pathway (Harrison 1985).

Great Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax carbo*)—PG and JR saw a Great Cormorant flying and alighting on a partially submerged snag at Pagan's lower lake on 19 Nov. 1987. This bird repeatedly perched alongside a Little Pied Cormorant (*P. melanoleucos*) and appeared about 2 times the body length and 3 times the mass of the smaller bird. We distinguished it from the Japanese Cormorant (*P. capillatus*) by its bronze rather than greenish upper wing coverts. It was dark slate gray with a huge grayish-yellow bill, dirty-cream oval breast patch, and yellow facial skin with dirty-cream feathers at the edges. This is the first Marianas and only the second Micronesian record for this species, which breeds primarily in the temperate zone in Japan, eastern Asia, Australia, and New Zealand, in addition to other Old World localities (Harrison 1985). The first Micronesian record is from Ruul, Yap during March 1986 and was also of a single bird having "pale flecking on the breast" alongside a single Little Pied Cormorant (Wiles *et al.* 1987).

Little Pied Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax melanoleucos*)—The Little Pied Cormorant mentioned in the previous species account represents the first well documented Marianas and only the third Micronesian record outside of Palau (Wiles *et al.* 1987), where it is a common resident. This is also the most northerly record for this primarily Southern Hemisphere species. The combination of white underparts, black upperparts, relatively short yellow bill, and size comparison with the Great Cormorant make us certain as to its identification. A photograph is on file at the CNMI-DFW. This gives credence to an earlier sight record from Pagan which lacks any details (Hachisuka *et al.* 1942) and which Baker (1951) questioned.

Great Frigatebird (*Fregata minor*)—The Great Frigatebird is frequently seen throughout the Marianas chain, with aggregations of up to 35 birds at colonial seabird colonies on Rota, Guguan, and Maug. However, to date we have no firm breeding records. We report new island records for this distinctive species as follows: Medinilla, about 15 mostly immatures with a few adult females, RC, 29–30 July 1979; Anatahan, a subadult male seen by TL and TP offshore on 3 Mar. 1984; Sarigan, 1 immature seen by TP over the coast on 8 Sep. 1983; Guguan, TL saw 8, mostly immatures with at least 2 adult males 3–6 Sep. 1983; Asuncion, TL saw 2 groups, 1 with 2 adult females and 1 immature and 1 with 2 immatures on 31 Aug. 1983; Uracus, RC saw several females on 8 Aug. 1979.

Lesser Frigatebird (*Fregata ariel*)—This species is less common in the Marianas than *F. minor*. On 15 Jan. 1988 Robert Craig observed a Lesser Frigatebird in the company of a Great Frigatebird over Wing Beach, Saipan. He described the bird as follows “Lesser 25% smaller with finer bill, all dark with 2 distinct light breast patches joined to axillary spurs.” This description seems conclusive and corresponds to the adult male pictured in Harrison (1985). JR saw 1 just off the coast of Guguan on 27 May 1987. It was a first stage subadult female as pictured in Harrison (1985), with the white axillaries very prominent. It was seen in the company of Great Frigatebirds, from which it was easily distinguished by its smaller size and finer bill. This central Pacific species regularly disperses westward, all the way to the Philippines and Japan (Sibley & Clapp 1967). Fall and winter sightings in the Marianas are likely from colonies in the central Pacific and perhaps Marshalls.

Gray Heron (*Ardea cinerea*)—TL and TP first identified this species from photographs (on file in DFW Wildlife Collection) of a single individual taken by Patrick Bryan at Saipan’s Lake Susupi during the winter of 1982–83. The heron’s pale gray underparts and white neck and upper breast are clearly visible and diagnostic. TL and TP later saw an adult in the mudflats by Puerto Rico Dump on 3 Nov. 1983 and an adult and immature at Lake Susupi on 5 Nov. 1983. These are the first confirmed Micronesian records of this species, although a hypothetical sighting was made on Palau (Owen 1977). The Gray Heron breeds across the northern Palearctic east to Sakhalin and south to Java. Wintering birds are found along the Pacific coast of Asia, the Philippines, and occasionally as far south as Australia (Payne 1979, Hancock & Kushlan 1984).

Great Egret (*Casmerodius albus*)—On 5 occasions between 6 Dec. 1987 and 13 Feb. 1988, at Saipan’s Lake Susupi, PG and JR observed a very large white egret. The egret perched on bare tree limbs at the water’s edge approximately 200 m away. It had a huge yellow bill approximately 2 times the head length, a very kinked neck assuming the shape of a question mark, and dark legs with somewhat lighter upper shanks. On 3 occasions either Pacific Reef-Herons (*E. sacra*), Intermediate Egrets, or Black-crowned Night-Herons (*Nycticorax nycticorax*) were on the same branch, allowing comparison in the same viewing field. The Great Egret appeared almost twice the mass of the adjacent white morph Pacific Reef-Herons, which reached only to the base of its neck when standing alongside. On 19 Dec. GW and Paul Conry saw the bird and on 4 Jan. Robert Craig, Douglas Pratt, and Robert Pyle saw it, all confirming our diagnosis. This is the first record from Micronesia. The species breeds in the eastern Australasian area from Japan south through the Philippines to New Guinea, Australia, and northern New Zealand. The south-

east Asian race, *E. a. modesta* migrates from Japan and Korea to the Philippines, New Guinea, and Australia (Hancock & Kushlan 1984) and is the form most likely to occur in the Marianas.

Intermediate Egret (*Egretta intermedia*)—TL and TP saw a single Intermediate Egret at a cattle pond southeast of Lake Hagoi, Tinian, on 10 Feb. 1984. On 5 Dec. 1987 PG saw 2 in a flock of 30 Cattle Egrets (*Bubulcus ibis*) at a stock watering tank just to the east of Broadway Road approximately 8 km north of San Jose village, Tinian. They appeared much taller than the Cattle Egrets immediately beside them, with distinctly longer bills merging gradually into the sloping foreheads rather than abruptly, and longer slimmer necks. RC saw 7 birds on Guguan on 31 July 1979, 1 at a distance of 10 m. TL and TP observed 1 at the Pagan airstrip on 20 Feb. 1984. The yellow bill and black legs extending well beyond the tail and weak, buoyant flight were used to distinguish this individual from the 6–8 Cattle Egrets present some distance away. These records, coupled with Baker's (1951) collections on Guam and Rota during 1945 and Marshall's 1945 collection on Saipan (Marshall 1949) indicate that the Intermediate Egret is an uncommon but regular winter visitor to the larger Mariana Islands.

Cattle Egret (*Bubulcus ibis*)—TL saw 1 Cattle Egret on the north slope of Guguan's north volcano cone on 6 Sep. 1983, identifying it by its short yellow bill, short thick neck, and faint rusty brown breast markings. PG and DA saw 4 foraging through the sedge-grass meadow to the south of Guguan's volcanic cones on 31 May 1987. All birds had the short squatty posture, abrupt forehead, and thick neck and gular region typical of the Cattle Egret and were foraging for large insects. TL and GW saw 2 Cattle Egrets on 23 Aug. 1983 near the village lagoon at Pagan and again at the end of the airstrip. PG and JR saw 4 at a distance on the airstrip on 19 Nov. 1987. The Cattle Egret is a regular winter visitor to the Marianas. We commonly see flocks of 20 to 50 birds on Rota, Tinian, and Saipan; and in some years sizeable numbers use the Marianas chain as a spring migration pathway. PG and DA, during infrequent observation periods, noted 21 northbound flocks of 8 to 51 individuals between Tinian and Saipan from 31 Mar. to 9 May 1986.

Black-crowned Night-Heron (*Nycticorax nycticorax*)—On 3 Feb. 1979 Eugene Kridler captured and released an adult caught in a mist net at the small ponds east of Lake Susupi on Saipan (Kridler 1979), the first Saipan record. On 12 Nov. 1987 PG saw a chunky-bodied, medium-sized heron with pearl gray wings and yellow legs fly into a stand of bulrush at Lake Susupi. At dusk that same day, 4 very short-necked, thick-headed herons with rounded wings and feet protruding little if any behind the tail flew around Lake Susupi at treetop height right above the observer, frequently giving the harsh throaty "quook" call which PG considered identical to the Black-crowned Night-Heron call from North America. On 4 subsequent occasions, the latest during the first week of Feb. 1988, DA, PG, and JR saw and heard presumably these same 4 birds at Lake Susupi, 3 times during daylight at distances down to 45 m. All birds seen on subsequent days (up to 3 on the same day) were in immature plumage, with brown and cream streaked breasts, dark brown backs with light flecks, yellow irises and legs, and grayish bill. We could not see if the base of the lower mandibles were yellow, a character Pratt *et al.* (1987) use to distinguish the immature of this species from that of the Rufous Night-Heron (*N. caledonicus*). We consider these 4 birds far more likely to be Black-crowned Night-Herons based on

these factors, especially the gray-winged (adult) individual seen on 12 Nov. The only other Marianas record of this species is a flock of 6 seen on 4 Apr. 1945 by Marshall (1949) at Lake Hagoi, Tinian.

Rufous Night-Heron (*Nycticorax caledonicus*)—RC saw 2 circling at about 60 m over Pagan's lower lake on 6 Aug. 1979, the first Marianas record for this species. He noted their thick, short-necked body shape and vocalizations, white underparts, and rufous upperparts. On 19 Nov. 1987 PG and JR flushed 1 bird at a distance of 20 m from along the east shore of Pagan's lower lake. It had striking uniform pale rufous upperparts with a glossy pinkish tinge, yellow legs which trailed very little behind the tail, short very thick neck and head, and rounded wings. Later that same day PG saw an immature night heron, possibly *N. caledonicus*, in a tree along the west shoreline of the lake. This species resides throughout Australia, Melanesia, and the Philippines (Pratt *et al.* 1987); and Truk, Palau, and possibly Yap in Micronesia (Pyle & Engbring 1985). These are the most northerly recent sightings for this species, now that the Bonin Night-Heron (*N. c. crassirostris*), known only from Chichi and Nakondo Shima in the Bonins, is presumed extinct (Greenway 1967).

Green-winged Teal (*Anas crecca*)—During the first week of Feb. 1984, TL and TP were shown a mounted specimen of this species on Rota. This bird, which was photographed, was found on Rota approximately 3 years previously in an exhausted state. On 11 Dec. 1986 PG and JR saw 2 at Kagman Pond, Saipan, in either eclipse male or female plumage. These birds were speckled brown with iridescent green speculum bordered front and back with white, wing linings white to gray, black stripe through eye, and lacking a pale spot at base of bill. They saw 2 or 3 birds on 16, 29, and 30 Jan. 1987, and on 14 Mar. 1988 they saw a male in full breeding plumage, with brownish-red head and wide iridescent green eye-stripe extending to the neck. It had the horizontal white stripe above the wing rather than the vertical stripe in front, thus identifying it as the Eurasian subspecies. The first Marianas record for this species was from Pagan by Hachisuka *et al.* (1932), and it has also been recorded from Guam (Wiles *et al.* 1987). It should be considered an uncommon but regular migrant to the Marianas.

Mallard (*Anas platyrhynchos*)—TL saw a female Mallard flying along the west coast of Sarigan on 8 Sep. 1983. From a cliff he watched the bird fly past below him at about 40 m and clearly saw the spotted orange bill, mottled brown head and back, and broad blue speculum bordered on each edge with white. DA observed a flock of at least 40 Mallards at Pagan's lower lake during the winter months of 1978. Some of the birds alit in wetland grasses along the edge of the lake, apparently exhausted, and were captured by the villagers by hand. DA observed 2 birds in the hand and noted their large size, iridescent green heads with white collars, gray and black backs, orange legs and feet, and curled tail feathers. These are the only records for the migratory form of the Mallard from the Marianas.

Northern Pintail (*Anas acuta*)—During the first week of Nov. 1984 TL and TP saw a female-plumaged Northern Pintail held in captivity by a Rota resident. On 1 Dec. 1986 PG and JR saw 4 individuals in small ephemeral puddles and roadside ditches on Rota. During Oct. 1987, Wildlife Technician Estanislao Taisacan saw a total of 6 birds on Rota and captured 2 that were extremely emaciated. One was prepared as a specimen, a female-plumaged bird weighing 336 gm collected 2 Oct. 1987 and deposited in the DFW wildlife

collection (DFW 107). The Northern Pintail is the Marianas' most common migratory and wintering waterfowl, regularly seen in appropriate habitat on all the major islands. Birds stopping on wetland-deficient Rota are frequently too emaciated to continue their migration, as residents have reported picking up stranded ducks during each winter of our studies.

Garganey (*Anas querquedula*)—Garganey were first reported for Saipan by Kridler (1979) in an unpublished report. He saw a male and female in an old stock watering pond near Lake Susupi on 29 Jan. 1979, but gave no details of the sighting. We have observed them on Saipan on the following dates: TL, 23 Nov. 1983 on Flores Pond; DA, Sep. 1984 and Mar. 1985 on Lake Susupi and Aslito Pond; up to 6 by PG and JR on Lake Susupi 17 Oct., 5 Nov., 7 Nov. 1986, 5 Dec. 1987, 4 Jan., 4 Feb., 13 Feb., and 14 Mar. 1988. All non-breeding birds were identified by their small size, dark crown stripe, 2 dark facial stripes, light patch at base of bill, and in several cases light blue upper secondary coverts. Two of the 3 birds seen on 14 Mar. 1988 were males in breeding plumage, with brownish heads and white crescents from in front of eye to neck. The Garganey has been reported previously from Guam (Drahos 1977) and Tinian (Marshall 1949).

Northern Shoveler (*Anas clypeata*)—Northern Shovelers were first reported for Saipan by Kridler (1979) in an unpublished report. He saw 4 on Lake Susupi 29 Jan. 1979, but gave no details of the sighting. We have recorded this common migrant in groups up to 18 as follows: TL at Flores Pond on 23 Nov. 1983; DA on Lake Susupi and Aslito Pond from Sep. 1984 to Mar. 1985; PG and JR saw them on Lake Susupi on 20 Dec. 1986, 29 Jan., 11 Nov., 5, 8, 19, 24 Dec. 1987, and 4 Jan., 13 and 29 Feb., and 1 and 14 Mar. 1988. In all cases the prominent spatulate bill, blue upper secondary coverts, orange legs, and (breeding males') contrasting green, white, and brown plumage pattern were used to distinguish this species. Previous Marianas records are from Guam (Drahos 1977) and Tinian (Marshall 1949).

Gadwall (*Anas strepera*)—Wiles *et al.* (1987) provided the first Marianas record, from Lake Hagoi, Tinian on 23 Nov. 1984. TL and TP saw 7 at Lake Hagoi on 27 Nov. 1984, all in female plumage. On 5 Dec. 1987 PG observed 2 Gadwalls at Lake Susupi on Saipan. They were all mottled brown with small white marks visible in the wings at rest, had yellow-orange bills all the way to the base, and were between the nearby Northern Shoveler and Northern Pintail in size. PG and JR saw 1 at Kagman Pond, Saipan, on 7 Dec. 1987 at close range, then flushed it, getting a good view of the large white speculum bordered by black and russet. PG and JR saw 3 at Lake Susupi on 4 Jan., 4 Feb., and 13 Feb. 1988, the same field characters as the 5 Dec. birds noted.

Falcated Teal (*Anas falcata*)—A single male bird was brought into the Saipan DFW office during Oct. 1985. Barbara Schmitt, DFW Biologist, rehabilitated the bird, photographed it (photo subsequently lost), and released it at Lake Susupi. DA handled the bird and noted its long curving tertiary feathers which drooped over the tail, brown head with broad glossy dark green band curving to nape, long sleek crest, white throat with black lower border, white spot above base of bill, black bill, and black legs. This is the first tropical Pacific record for this species, a Palearctic migrant which ranges through East Asia, India, East China, Hainan, Taiwan and Southeast Asia (King *et al.* 1975).

Eurasian Wigeon (*Anas penelope*)—The first Saipan record is a Sep. or Dec. 1978 sighting in an unpublished field trip report (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service 1980), lacking details. TL examined in the hand an injured female found at Lake Susupi, Saipan on

6 Dec. 1984. DA, PG, TL, TP, and JR have all seen this species on Saipan's Lake Susupi. PG saw a male in full breeding plumage here on 12 Jun. 1987. The male had bright chestnut head with contrasting amber forehead and top, brown breast, gray body and black under-tail coverts. On 19 Nov. 1987 PG and JR saw 3 on Pagan's lower lake, a new island record. All 3 birds appeared to be females or juvenile males, with mottled brown backs, brown sides, relatively short bluish-gray bills with black nails, and rounded heads with distinct buffy brown cast (rather than gray) and abrupt foreheads. The Eurasian Wigeon was previously reported from Guam (Maben & Wiles 1981) and Tinian (Hachisuka *et al.* 1932).

Tufted Duck (*Aythya fuligula*)—TL and TP inspected a female Tufted Duck on Rota on 7 Nov. 1984 which had been captured a few days previously by a local resident. Estanislao Taisacan prepared as a specimen (DFW 186) a female Tufted Duck found in starving condition at Ginalangan, Rota, during Dec. 1987. The Tufted Duck is one of the most common migratory waterfowl in the Marianas chain, seen in appropriate habitat yearly on the larger islands during fall and winter, however apparently it usually passes over wetland deficient Rota.

Greater Scaup (*Aythya marila*)—On 8 Dec. 1987 PG and JR saw 2 male and 3 female Greater Scaup in a flock of approximately 30 Tufted Ducks at Lake Susupi. Presumably these same birds were seen again on 19 Dec., 24 Dec., and 4 Jan., 4 Feb., and 13 Feb. 1988. The 2 drakes had light grayish-white backs and rounded heads with no sign of crests. The 3 females had large, sharply-defined white patches at base of bill. The bills appeared very wide and were bright blue on the males. On 2 occasions we noted a distinct greenish gloss to the males' heads in good light. These are the first Micronesian records. TP previously saw a female scaup at Saipan's Lake Susupi on 5 Nov. 1983 and 17 Jan. 1984. It was identified by the broad white plumage at base of bill, lack of crest, and browner plumage than nearby female Tufted Ducks but the description does not eliminate the similar but geographically less likely Lesser Scaup (*A. affinis*).

Black Kite (*Milvus migrans*)—On 19 Feb. 1984 TL and TP saw a Black Kite on Pagan. It was identified by its slightly forked tail, smallish head, long flat wings with widely spread primaries, and tawny brown underparts and tail. This is the second tropical Pacific record for this species, which ranges widely in the eastern hemisphere, south to Southeast Asia and Borneo (King *et al.* 1975). The only other record is a bird seen on Midway Atoll in the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands more than a decade ago (C. S. Robbins pers. comm., in prep.).

Chinese Goshawk (*Accipiter soloensis*)—DA examined a specimen picked up by a resident of Garapan Village, Saipan, during 1984. The specimen had light brown wing linings grading to ivory, underwings with black-tipped primaries, light brown breast, dark broad tail bands, and yellow legs. It was not saved. The brown breast identifies this specimen as an adult. The only other Marianas record is from Rota (Hachisuka *et al.* 1942), where PG and JR also obtained a sight record of a single adult on 30 Nov.–1 Dec. 1986. The bird we saw was uniformly gray above except for black wing-tips and faint bars on tail, buffy below with lighter throat and belly, and had light plain wing linings. It was slightly large and stockier than nearby Black Drongos (*Dicrurus macrocercus*) and had typical accipiter shape and behavior.

Common Buzzard (*Buteo buteo*)—A single Common Buzzard was seen by TL, TP,

and GW on Anatahan on 19–20 Aug. 1983 and on Sarigan on 7 Sep. and 19 Sep. 1983. The bird(s) were large, short-necked Buteos with wide rounded wings and tail, pale brown upper breast and wing linings, no obvious tail bar, black carpal patch, and dark lower breast and belly band. The Anatahan bird hovered twice over the tall swordgrass while foraging, a characteristic of the Common Buzzard (Wild Bird Society of Japan 1982). On 28 and 29 Sep. 1988 PG and JR saw at least 3 different large soaring hawks on Anatahan. One bird observed soaring overhead at a distance of about 40 m closely matched the above description. We recorded the call (in DFW Wildlife Collection), a loud, high-pitched “kreee.” These characters rule out either the Rough-legged (*B. lagopus*) or Upland (*B. hemilasius*) Buzzard, the only 2 other Buteos in eastern Asia. Although large, Buteo-like hawks are infrequently seen, usually at high altitudes, over the larger Mariana Islands during fall and winter (PG and JR saw 1 at Pagan on 19 Nov. 1987, and 6 were reported soaring high over the mountains of southern Guam during Oct. 1987 (Wiles and Beck, In prep.), these are among the first confirmed records of a Buteo from the tropical Pacific. Other tropical Pacific records include a hypothetical Jan. 1978 sighting on Palau (Pratt & Bruner 1981) and an unidentified Buteo sighted on Palau (Marshall 1949).

Eurasian Kestrel (*Falco tinnunculus*)—DA found a dead female Eurasian Kestrel near his house in Koblerville, Saipan, during Oct. 1981 (cited under Pt in Pyle & Engbring 1985). The specimen was preserved and is at Charles R. Conner Museum, Washington State University (CRCM 87–358). On 10 Dec. 1987 DA, PG, and JR observed a male alongside the runway at Saipan International Airport. It had rusty brown upperparts with black flecks, gray tail with black terminal band, gray top of head and nape, faint moustachial mark, buffy breast with dark striations, and yellow tarsi and toes with contrasting black nails. We watched this bird forage, kiting frequently, catch a shrew (*Suncus murinus*), alight on the runway, and feed at a distance of 20 m. These are the first tropical Pacific records for this species.

Amur Red-footed Falcon (*Falco amurensis*)—On 14 Oct. 1986 PG saw a small raptor with pointed wings and squarish tail fly swiftly across the clearing just west of Saipan International Airport, hover briefly, and light in the tangantangan (*Leucaena leucocephala*) edge. Its upperparts appeared predominantly gray, and bright red-orange tarsi and toes were visible and immediately noticed with the naked eye from approximately 60 m. A definite dark moustachial mark was visible contrasting with lighter throat, sides of neck, and underparts before the bird flew into the brush and was lost from view. These field characters seem to rule out any raptor other than the female Amur Red-footed Falcon. This is the first tropical Pacific record for this raptor, which breeds in northeast Asia and migrates through Africa, India, south China, and southeast Asia (King *et al.* 1975) and reaches the southern Japanese islands of Tsushima and Goto as a straggler (Wild Bird Society of Japan 1982).

Oriental Pratincole (*Glareola maldivarum*)—On 14 May 1986 DA and PG saw a bird in breeding plumage standing in the short grass alongside the runway at Rota Airport. We noted all significant field characters from a distance of 209 m, including striking tan throat bordered by white and black, strong bill basally red and distally black, and rich cinnamon under-secondary coverts. On 8 Apr. 1988 PG and Estanislao Taisacan again saw a single Oriental Pratincole in breeding plumage at approximately the same location and noted identical field characters. On 5 Nov. 1987 DA, PG, and JR observed and col-

lected a single bird standing in and foraging over the short grass near the runway at Saipan International Airport. This bird (DFW 092) was in adult non-breeding plumage, with upperparts and upper breast an even dark grayish brown. It was a non-breeding female weighing 98 g with copious subdermal fat. These are the first Marianas records of this migrant, which has been previously recorded from the Marshalls, Truk, Yap, and Palau in Micronesia (Pyle & Engbring 1985).

Lesser Golden-Plover (*Pluvialis dominica*)—This species is the most common wintering shorebird in the Marianas. JR saw 1 at Aguijan on 7 Jun. 1988. JR saw 1 bird on the south shore of Anatahan on 28 Sep. 1988. RC saw 2 at Guguan from 31 July to 3 Aug. 1979. PG and JR saw single birds on 27–29 Mar. 1988 on Alamagan. TL and TP saw 1 on the west outcrop of Uracus on 27 Feb. 1984.

Greater Sand-Plover (*Charadrius leschenaultii*)—A single bird was seen on the apron of Rota Airport during Feb. 1986 by DA and PG. It was separated from the very similar Mongolian Plover (*Charadrius mongolus*) by its large size (only slightly smaller than nearby Lesser Golden-Plovers), faint narrow breast band not quite complete, white eye-stripe extending most of length of head, bill $\frac{1}{2}$ to $\frac{2}{3}$ head length, and pale greenish-yellow long legs. We see Greater Sand-Plovers annually in small numbers on Saipan during spring and fall migration periods, and it has previously been recorded from Guam (King 1962) and Saipan (Kobayashi 1970).

Common Ringed Plover (*Charadrius hiaticula*)—DA, PG, and JR saw 1 Common Ringed Plover on 22 Sep. 1988 and 2 on 7 Oct. 1988, all feeding alongside the collecting reservoir at Saipan International Airport. We separated all 3 birds from the similar Little Ringed Plover (*C. dubius*) by their lack of yellow eye-ring and presence of a wingbar. Their bills were slightly lighter at the base and about $\frac{1}{2}$ head length, too long for the Semipalmated Plover (*C. semipalmatus*). All birds had distinct cervical collar and dark breast band, white lores and eye stripe, and yellowish tarsus and toes. On 28 Oct. 1988 JR collected a single bird in the same location (DFW 245). This species is seen on Guam on a fairly regular basis during migration (Williams & Grout 1985).

Black-winged Stilt (*Himantopus himantopus*)—On 10 Oct. 1986 DA and PG observed 2 in a pond beside the collection reservoir at Saipan International Airport. Both birds had dusky dark gray upperparts darker on back, wings, and rump; continuous dark crown and nape; white underparts; very long pinkish-red legs; and long pointed bill. The dark did not extend below the eye. JR saw 1 on 11 and 20 Dec. 1987 at Kagman Pond. PG, JR, Douglas Pratt, and Robert Pyle saw 1 at Lake Susupi on 4 Feb. 1988. DA and PG saw 1 at Saipan International Airport on 23 Feb. 1988. By plumage characteristics and range, these birds would belong to the nominate race of this cosmopolitan species, *H. h. himantopus*. These are the first Marianas sightings.

Common Greenshank (*Tringa nebularia*)—Kridler (1979) reported seeing 1 on 29 Jan. 1979 at Saipan's Lake Susupi but gave no details. TP saw 1 at Puerto Rico Dump, Saipan, 5 Dec. 1983, identified by large size, long upturned bill, white forehead, and dull band at base of neck. RC started a large *Tringa*, the size of a Greater Yellowlegs (*Tringa melanoleuca*), white-rumped but with dark legs and bill, from the edge of the upper pond on Pagan on 6 Aug. 1979. The bird's piercing cry was totally unlike that of a Greater Yellowlegs. He concluded the bird was a Common Greenshank. This Palearctic migrant is occasionally seen during spring and fall on Guam (Williams & Grout 1985).

Greater Yellowlegs (*Tringa melanoleuca*)—GW observed 1 Greater Yellowlegs closely at a shallow roadside pool in Sinapalu, Rota on 30 Nov. and 1 Dec. 1987. A number of features distinguished the bird from similar species such as the Lesser Yellowlegs (*T. flavipes*) and the Common Greenshank (*T. nebularia*). It had long bright yellow legs and a slightly upturned bill that was gray at the base and black on the outer half. The bill was noticeably longer than the length of the head. It had a dark grayish-brown back and wings flecked with small pale dots, head and neck striped with brown on the sides, thin white eyering, and white lower breast and belly. It was 10–12 cm taller than 2 Sharp-tailed Sandpipers (*Calidris acuminata*) also feeding in the pool. In flight, the yellowlegs had a squared-off white rump, pale stripes in the tail, and lacked wingbars. This is the first record of this species for the Marianas and western Micronesia. It is a rare visitor to the tropical Pacific, with verified records existing only for the Marshall Islands and Hawaii (Baker 1951, Pratt *et al.* 1987).

Common Redshank (*Tringa totanus*)—The first Marianas sighting of this species was on Guam on 21 Sep. 1986 (Wiles *et al.* 1987). We recorded the first Saipan sighting on 14 Oct. 1986 when DA, PG, and Estanislao Villagomez saw 1 in a shallow rainwater pond near Saipan International Airport. The bird was slightly larger than the Marsh Sandpiper standing next to it, had large white wing stripe on the trailing edge of the wing, barred tail, white wedge up back, brownish striations on upper breast, yellowish-orange legs, and lighter basal one-half of bill. On 21 Sep. 1987 PG and JR saw a single bird at Puerto Rico mudflats, Saipan. This bird had the characters listed above, plus bright orange legs and base of bill.

Wood Sandpiper (*Tringa glareola*)—PG and GW saw approximately 30 at Rota between 24 and 29 Aug. 1986, including 20 in a single flock at Rota Airport on 25 Aug. These birds appeared about $\frac{3}{4}$ the size of nearby Lesser Golden-Plovers, had very thin bills, wings and backs dark and plain with a few silvery specks, upper breasts flecked with dark gray or slightly washed brown, white rump squared-off and with faint dark striations, and light axillars and underwing coverts. PG and JR saw 1 at Rota Airport on 3 Dec. 1986. RC collected an adult female (USNM 576671) as it foraged along a rain pool in a dirt road on Saipan on 27 July 1979. TL and TP saw 1 at Upper Sadog Tase Beach and Flores Pond, Saipan, on 3 Nov. 1983 and 23 Jan. 1984 and we have seen them annually since that time on Saipan. RC collected 2 from a hog wallow near Pagan's lower lake on 6 Aug. 1979 (USNM 576424, USNM 576425), and saw 2 others. Wood Sandpipers apparently migrate through the Marianas, and possibly winter, in small numbers annually.

Wandering Tattler (*Heteroscelus incanus*)—This species occurs less commonly in the Marianas than *H. brevipes* and it is unclear whether some birds remain here throughout the year. It seems relatively more common on the rocky northern islands. We differentiated it from *H. brevipes* in the field, with practice and patience, by its somewhat darker, heavier appearance; much fainter eye stripe; more striations on flanks; and longer, 5–8 note call. We observed the 2 species together on several occasions, where these seemingly slight differences become readily apparent. We give new island records as follows. TL and TP saw 2 at Medinilla on 4 Mar. 1984. RC collected 1 on Anatahan on 16 Aug. 1979 (USNM 576421). TL and TP saw 2 at Sarigan on 8 Sep. 1983. RC collected 1 at Guguan (USNM 576422) 31 July 1979. TL and TP saw 3 birds at Pagan between

19–21 Feb. 1984. JR saw 1 along the southwest shore of Asuncion on 1 Jun. 1987. RC collected 1 on Maug on 9 Aug. 1979 (USNM 576465). TL and TP saw 1 on Uracus on 27 Feb. 1984.

Gray-tailed Tattler (*Heteroscelus brevipes*)—We have records for this species for all months from Saipan, where we encounter it more frequently than the Wandering Tattler in mudflat, wetland, and beach habitat. TL saw 1 bird on the west coast of Asuncion on 31 Aug. 1983, differentiated from *H. incanus* by its call.

Common Sandpiper (*Actitis hypoleucos*)—This species is an annual migrant through the Marianas. It can be difficult to distinguish in the field from the Spotted Sandpiper (*Actitis macularia*) of North America, which would be very unlikely in the Marianas. We separated it by its grayish legs and more prominent wingbar, which extends markedly onto the upper secondaries (Hayman *et al.* 1986). RC saw 1 at Anatahan on 15 Aug. 1979. PG and JR saw 1 at Anatahan on 28 Sep. 1988, the obvious wing-stripe on primaries and secondaries ruled out Spotted Sandpiper.

Little Curlew (*Numenius minutus*)—Williams & Grout (1985) saw 1 on Guam from 9 Sep. –12 Oct. 1983, the first Marianas and second Micronesian island record. On 5 Nov. 1987 PG and JR observed and collected an adult male at Saipan International Airport. This bird (DFW 167) had an ossified skull, dormant testes, and weighed 147.5 gm with copious subdermal fat. This is the first Micronesian specimen record of this rare migrant to the tropical Pacific.

Whimbrel (*Numenius phaeopus*)—This distinctive bird is the most common curlew in the Marianas, being regularly seen on all the large islands during spring and fall. We recorded them on 3 of the northern islands, as follows. TL and TP saw a flock of 10 at Anatahan on 2 Mar. 1984. PG and Estanislao Villagomez saw a total of 15 at Guguan between 8–20 Sep. 1986. JR saw 1 at Asuncion on 2 Jun. 1987.

Bristle-thighed Curlew (*Numenius tahitiensis*)—PG observed 1 Bristle-thighed Curlew on Guguan, 11 Sep. 1986. The bird lit on a boulder at eye level at a distance of 20 m. Field marks evident were rich cinnamon color and stiff shiny bristles sticking out about 2 cm from the tibiotarsus and reflecting bright sunlight. Although this bird flew before the characteristic cinnamon wedge on the back (Hayman *et al.* 1986) was seen, we feel certain of the diagnosis because the perfect viewing conditions allowed us to separate it from nearby drab, grayish Whimbrels, which lacked bristles on the tibiotarsus. This species winters in large numbers in Polynesia and eastern Micronesia but is seen only infrequently in western Micronesia (Pratt *et al.* 1987).

Black-tailed Godwit (*Limosa limosa*)—DA, PG, and JR saw 4 Black-tailed Godwits feeding along the edge of the collecting reservoir at Saipan International Airport on 7 Sep. 1988. The gray back, large white rump stripe (wider than black tail bar), and broad white wing-stripe extending well onto the secondaries allowed us to separate it from the similar (though unlikely based on range) Hudsonian Godwit (*Limosa haemastica*). Kridler (1979) reported seeing 1 in an old stock watering pond near Lake Susupi, Saipan, on 29 Jan. 1979, but provided no details, in his unpublished field notes. The Black-tailed Godwit has also been recorded from Guam (Jenkins 1978).

Bar-tailed Godwit (*Limosa lapponica*)—TL and TP obtained the first Saipan record during the fall of 1983. One or 2 individuals were seen on the Puerto Rico mudflats,

Saipan, by DA, PG, and JR on the following dates: 25 Oct. 1986, and 27 Apr., 3 May, 22 and 30 Sep., 5, 15, and 30 Oct. 1987, and 2 May 1988. The large size, large upturned bill, and barred outer tail feathers make this shorebird unmistakable.

Ruddy Turnstone (*Arenaria interpres*)—This is the second most abundant migratory shorebird in the Marianas, after the Lesser Golden-Plover. We give new island records as follows: Anatahan, 2 seen on 15 Aug. 1979 (RC); Sarigan, 1 seen on 8 Sep. 1983 (TL) and 1 seen on 17 Sep. 1983 (TP); Guguan, 3 seen 31 July–3 Aug. 1979 (RC); Asuncion, 1 seen on 27 Feb. 1984 (TL and TP); Uracus, 1 seen on 8 Aug. 1979 (RC).

Sanderling (*Calidris alba*)—DA and JR saw 1 in non-breeding plumage at Saipan International Airport on 24 Nov. 1987. It was described as follows: legs black; bill stout and black about as long as head; pearly-gray dorsally with some white edgings on the feathers; white ventrally; pale superciliary line. In flight the wing bars were prominent and tail sides were white with a darker gray center. One to two birds were frequently seen along the lagoon on a seaplane ramp from 6 Oct. 1988 through the end of Dec. 1988 by JR and DA. These are first published records for the Marianas outside of Guam (Hartert 1898).

Rufous-necked Stint (*Calidris ruficollis*)—TP saw 1 at Sadog Tase Beach, Saipan, 4 Oct. 1983, the first Saipan record. It had grayish back and wings, whitish throat and underparts, and black legs. Dates of additional Saipan sightings, along west lagoon beaches by JR, are as follows: 24 Mar., 25 Mar., 1 Apr. (in breeding plumage), 16 Sep. (3 birds), 24 Dec., and 28 Dec. 1987 and 8 Feb., 13 Feb., and 18 Mar. 1988. JR collected an adult in breeding plumage with excessive fat (wt. 32.7 gm) at Saipan International Airport on 7 Oct. 1988 (DFW 187).

Little Stint (*Calidris minuta*)—DA, PG, and JR saw 2 stints in a flock of 10 Sharp-tailed Sandpipers (*Calidris acuminata*) at Saipan International Airport on 5 Nov. 1987. They collected 1 (DFW 165), an adult non-breeding female in winter plumage weighing 42 gm and with copious subdermal fat. It is deposited at the National Museum of Natural History. This is the first Marianas and third tropical Pacific record (2 specimens from Eniwetok Atoll are in the USNM collection) for this Palearctic migrant.

Temminck's Stint (*Calidris temminckii*)—TP saw and photographed 2 individuals in shallow rainwater ponds at Saipan's Puerto Rico Dump on 5 Oct. 1983. They were dark gray above with no "v" pattern, some streaking on pale-tipped wing coverts, whitish superciliary, broad dark gray breast band narrower at center, white line at base of primaries and secondaries, dark rump, tail with white lateral border (a distinguishing character according to Hayman *et al.* 1986). JR collected one in a rainwater pond at the Saipan International Airport on 30 Nov. 1988 (DFW 250). These are the first Micronesian records.

Pectoral Sandpiper (*Calidris melanotos*)—On 21 Oct. 1987 PG and JR saw a single Pectoral Sandpiper wading in a small rainwater puddle at Whispering Pines Golf Course, Saipan. Its breast was grayish-brown with dense dark striations clearly demarcated from the light unmarked remaining underparts, head uniform buffy brown with a light eye stripe and no rufous cap, bill slightly longer than head with slight downturn, dull brown mottled upperparts, and light-colored tarsi and toes. This is the first Saipan record, the only other Marianas records being a 23 Sep. 1983 Guam sighting (Williams & Grout 1985) and a 27 Apr. 1982 Tinian sighting (Pyle & Engbring 1987). DA, PG, and JR saw another individual at Saipan International Airport on 4 Nov. 1987.

Sharp-tailed Sandpiper (*Calidris acuminata*)—Kridler (1979) in his unpublished field

notes reported seeing 18 Sharp-tailed Sandpipers near Saipan's Lake Susupi on 29 Jan. 1979 and 28 at the same location on 31 Jan. 1979. We have seen them annually in small numbers on Saipan during fall migration (early date 22 Sep., late date 31 Jan.) since 1984, but none in spring. Pyle & Engbring (1987) reported a single spring bird on Rota 20 Apr. 1982. PG collected an adult male (DFW 093) at Saipan International Airport on 5 Nov. 1987. JR collected an adult female (DFW 173) at the same location on 30 Nov. 1987.

Ruff (*Philomachus pugnax*)—PG and GW saw a single bird on the apron of the Rota Airport on 27 Aug. 1986. It was larger than nearby Lesser Golden-Plovers, had relatively short slightly decurved bill thick at base, very faint wingstripe, tail with white sides and black middle, upper breast washed light brown, and hunched posture as it slowly foraged. TL, TP, and John Engbring saw a juvenile at Sadog Tase Beach, Saipan on 26 Aug. 1983. PG and DA observed a flock of 30 individuals, males and females in winter plumage, at Saipan International Airport on 10 and 25 Oct. and 14 Nov. 1986. The first Marianas sighting was recorded on Guam (Ashman 1983).

Swinhoe's Snipe (*Gallinago megala*)—PG collected 1 individual (DFW 249) out of a flock of 9 at Rota Airport on 2 Nov. 1988. JR collected 1 individual (DFW 236) out of a flock of 4 at Saipan International Airport on 14 Oct. 1988. It was a non-breeding adult female weighing 151 gm. Previous published Marianas records are from Guam on 16 Dec. 1894 (Hartert 1898) and Tinian on 29 Apr.–9 May 1982 (Pyle & Engbring 1987). We have had sightings of snipe from Guguan (18 Sep. 1986) but were unable to differentiate species.

Common Black-headed Gull (*Larus ridibundus*)—TL and TP collected the remains of a Common Black-headed Gull on 11 Jun. 1983 at Lake Susupi, Saipan. TL and TP saw an adult in winter plumage at Lake Susupi on 17 Jan. 1984 and a juvenile at Charlie Dock, Saipan, on 28 Dec. 1984. The only previous Marianas record is of 3 immature birds photographed on Agana Bay, Guam on 26 Jan. 1978 (Jenkins 1978) and 1 included in a list of the birds of Lake Susupi in a Sep. or Dec. 1978 field trip (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service 1980). Pyle & Engbring (1985) list Tenorio & Associates (1979) for a CNMI record but it is only mentioned in there as a personal communication from Jenkins as being seen on tidal flats in Guam.

Herring Gull (*Larus argentatus*)—TL and TP found a dead adult on the East Islet of Maug on 24 Feb. 1984, the carcass identified by bill and leg coloration and plumage characters. The skull is in the DFW Wildlife Collection (DFW 026). Bill size (culmen = 58 mm) separates this specimen from the extremely unlikely (based on range) Thayer's Gull (*Larus thayeri*). The only other Micronesian record of the Herring Gull is from Agrihan, where Marche collected a specimen in 1889 (Oustalet 1896).

Great-crested Tern (*Thalasseus bergii*)—TL and TP saw 1 immature perched on a post in the Saipan lagoon on 22 Jan. 1984. They made 3 other Saipan sightings; 1 at Puerto Rico Dump on 23 Oct. 1984, 2 at Smiling Beach on 14 Nov. 1984, and 1 at Lake Susupi on 18 Nov. 1984. JR (some with DA and PG) had 7 sightings of up to 5 individuals of this species at various locations in Saipan Lagoon between 14 Sep. and 28 Dec. 1987. He collected 2 adults on 14 Sep. (DFW 172 and DFW 185). These are the only Marianas records outside of Guam, where they were reported on 11 Jun. and 10 July 1945 (Dixon & Starrett 1952). This species is found throughout the Indian and most of the tropical Pacific Oceans, from southern Africa east to Fiji (Harrison 1985).

Common Tern (*Sterna hirundo*)—JR saw 2 at Saipan's Charlie Dock on 14 Sep. 1987. The field notes give the following description: head white except for black circling from eyes to behind head; ventral white except for black on outer primaries; white neck band dorsally between black on rear of head and gray on back; upper wings gray with black on outer primaries; dorsal tail gray with black outer rectrices; tail "V" shaped but no long streamers; bill black; legs red. They were substantially larger than 4 nearby Little Terns. PG and JR saw 1 at Saipan International Airport on 21 Sep. 1987. It had a white head with black from eyes to rear, ventral white except some dark on outer primaries, white neck-band behind black nape, gray on back and wings with black on outer primaries, tail gray with black outer tail feathers and moderate v-shape, bill black, tarsus and toes red. Previous Saipan records lack descriptions: Tenorio & Associates (1979) during Feb.–Mar. 1979 and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (1980) during Sep. or Dec. 1978 or Jan. or Mar. 1979. The only other confirmed Marianas records are from Guam (Williams & Grout 1985), although Tenorio & Associates (1979) report a sighting from Pagan without details.

Little Tern (*Sterna albifrons*)—On 17 Sep. 1987 Estanislao Taisacan found a Little Tern dead on a road 1 km south of the Rota Airport. PG and JR later examined the bird. It was discarded, as it was too decomposed to make a specimen. However, the very small size and coloration which included a white rather than a gray rump distinguished it from all other species. The Little Tern was previously known from Guam (Maben & Wiles 1981) and Saipan (Marshall 1949) in the Marianas.

Whiskered Tern (*Chlidonias hybridus*)—On 20 Dec. 1986 at Lake Susupi, Saipan, DA, PG, JR, and GW observed a single bird perched and flying at distances down to 15 m. The tern was medium-sized with black bill and reddish legs. The head was white with black extending from behind eyes to nape and no black below eye level, back and upper tail gray, wings gray with some black on primaries, and ventral body and (notched) tail white. Presumably this same bird was observed again on 16 and 30 Jan., 19 and 24 Mar., 1 and 27 Apr., and 18 May 1987. This description closely matches that of the non-breeding adult Whiskered Tern in Harrison (1985). On 5 Nov. 1987 DA, PG, and JR saw 2 Whiskered Terns hawking large flying insects, including grasshoppers, over grasslands between the runways at Saipan International Airport. We collected 1, a male in first winter plumage with ossified skull, dormant testes, weighing 78.9 gm, and with moderate subdermal fat (DFW 166). This bird also had a black bill, whereas some field guides (Harrison 1985; Tuck & Heinzel 1978) show the non-breeding adult to have a dull red bill. These represent only the second and third tropical Pacific records for this species, the first being a specimen from Yap in 1976 (Clapp & Laybourne 1983). A fourth record has recently come from Guam (Wiles & Beck, in prep.).

White-winged Tern (*Chlidonias leucopterus*)—TL and TP saw a White-winged Tern at a stock pond in Tinian on 10 Feb. 1984. They saw another at Saipan's Lake Susupi on 17 Jan. 1984, identified by black "sideburns" extending below eye level and absence of a bar at the side of the neck. PG and JR saw 1 bird flying over the runway apron at Saipan International Airport on 21 Sep. 1987. It had small narrow black bill, white head with black spots behind eye (non-breeding adult pale phase pictured in Harrison 1985: 365), ventral wings white with black leading edge and carpal patch, underwings pale gray with black leading edge, back gray sharply demarcated from white neck and rump, tail white

on sides and below with pale gray center, short and squared-off, dark feet. These are the first Saipan and Tinian records for this wide-ranging Old World tern, although there are several Guam records.

Short-eared Owl (*Asio flammeus*)—An employee of Saipan International Airport brought us the remains of 1 specimen found dead on a runway on 2 Dec. 1985. This specimen is deposited in Charles R. Conner Museum, Washington State University (CRCM 87–357). A rather decomposed Short-eared Owl carcass was found on the Saipan International Airport runway on 30 Nov. 1987 (DFW 184). This migratory owl is known from 3 other Mariana Islands; Guam (Drahos 1977), Tinian (Quoy & Gaimard 1824–26), and Pagan (Hachisuka *et al.* 1942). Residents of Rota frequently report seeing a small owl during winter months, but no species confirmation has been obtained.

Fork-tailed Swift (*Apus pacificus*)—TL and TP saw single birds at Marpi, Saipan, on 8 Nov. 1983 and 29 Oct. 1984. The birds were identified by their curved evenly tapered wings, white rumps, and size, which was larger than resident Island Swiftlets (*Aerodramus vanikorensis*). These are only the second and third Micronesian records for this species. Previously, Schipper (1985) recorded them from Kwajalein Atoll, Marshall Islands.

Barn Swallow (*Hirundo rustica*)—GW saw 3 Barn Swallows flying over the fields between Applatagua and Finata, Rota, on 18 Mar. 1981 and 2 flying over Songsong Village on 11 Aug. 1981. All had rusty throat, black throat bar, and white stomach and breast, which separates this species from the similar Pacific Swallow (*Hirundo tahitica*). PG and Estanislao Villagomez saw small flocks of from 2 to 8 daily from 21 to 29 Aug. 1986 at various locations around Songsong Village, Rota. All birds seen had the short tail wires of immature birds, and had brown throats separated from light breast by dark band. On 7 and 8 Apr. 1988 PG and Estanislao Taisacan saw 4 birds, all with short tail wires, perched on the power lines at Rota Airport. On 27 Feb. 1984 TL and TP saw 2 Barn Swallows flying across the summit of the western outcrop at Uracus. This species was previously known from Guam, Tinian, and Saipan in the Marianas and winters annually in small numbers on Saipan.

Dusky Thrush (*Turdus naumanni*)—TL and TP found the remains of a Dusky Thrush on the west Islet of Maug on 25 Feb. 1984 (DFW 017). They saw 1 bird on Uracus 27 Feb. 1984. It had rufous wings, black and white facial pattern, and white throat. These are the first tropical Pacific records for this Palearctic migrant.

Yellow Wagtail (*Motacilla flava*)—TL and TP saw 1 at Rota airport on 7 Nov. 1984. It had olive-gray upperparts, broad pale superciliary, medium-long tail, pale margins of wing coverts, and whitish underparts with faint grayish wash on sides of throat and bend of wing. This is the first Marianas record for this species, which is known as a migrant from Yap and Palau (Owen 1977).

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