

# Erromango Island Bird Checklist

Vanuatu Sth.

18 49 09.3s 169 07 46.3e

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

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

[To communicate: please re-type e-mail address]

| #   | Common Name             | Scientific Name                                    | Ecol. Status | Abundance  | References     |
|-----|-------------------------|--|--------------|--|----------------|
| 1.  | Wedge-tailed Shearwater | <i>Ardenna pacificus</i>                           | Res          | Possibly breeds on Goat Islet & other offshore islets, C,  | 1,5,21,        |
| 2.  | Short-tailed Shearwater | <i>Ardenna tenuirostris tenuirostris</i>           | Res          | Common at sea Nov 2004,  | 21,29,         |
| 3.  | Striated Heron          | <i>Butorides striatus diminutus</i>                | Res bre      | MC, P,   | 1,19,          |
| 4.  | Eastern Reef Egret      | <i>Egretta sacra</i>                               | Res bre      | UC-C, 2 spec AMNH. Obs 1971, Obs. between 2002 & 2006,   | 1,14,19,25,30, |
| 5.  | Swamp Harrier           | <i>Circus approximans approximans</i>              | Res bre      | Obs. between 2000 & 2006,  | 19,30,         |
| 6.  | Peregrine Falcon        | <i>Falcon peregrinus nesiotis</i>                  | Res bre      | Common-Uncommon  | 1,19,          |
| 7.  | Pacific Black Duck      | <i>Anas superciliosa</i>                           | Res bre      | C.   | 1,19,          |
| 8.  | Hardhead,               | <i>Aythya australis</i>                            | Res bre      | Common   | 1,19,          |
| 9.  | Red Jungle Fowl         | <i>Gallus gallus</i>                               | Res bre      | P. 1971, Obs. between 2000 & 2006,   | 25,30,         |
| 10. | Buff-banded Rail        | <i>Gallirallus philippensis</i>                    | Res bre      | Common. P. 1971.   | 1,19,25,       |
| 11. | Spotless Crake          | <i>Porzana tabuensis tabuensis</i>                 | Res bre      | Uncommon   | 1,5,19,        |
| 12. | White-browed Crake      | <i>Poliolimnas cinereus tannensis</i>              | Res bre      | Uncommon   | 1,5,19,        |
| 13. | Purple Swamphen         | <i>Porphyrio porphyrio samoensis</i>               | Res bre      | Common-Uncommon  | 1,19,          |
| 14. | Common Sandpiper        | <i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>                          | Sum mig      | Fairly common, Obs. between 2002 & 2006,   | 30,            |
| 15. | Wandering Tattler       | <i>Tringa incanus</i>                              | Sum mig      | Fairly Common 1 spec. Mar.   | 12,            |
| 16. | Crested Tern            | <i>Thalasseus bergii cristatus</i>                 | Res          | Uncommon 1877,   | 7,             |
| 17. | Red-bellied Fruit-Dove  | <i>Ptilinopus greyii</i>                           | Res bre      | Obs in virgin forest but not regrowth 1971. Coll. 1920's   | 19,25,27,      |
| 18. | Tanna Fruit-Dove        | <i>Ptilinopus tannensis</i>                        | End Vanu     | Obs. between 2000 & 2006,  | 30,            |
| 19. | White-throated Pigeon   | <i>Columba vitiensis leopoldii</i>                 | Res bre      | 1 coll 1877, 1M1F coll 1899. P. 1971. 1M1F coll. Obs. between 2000 & 2006,   | 1,5,7,8,19,24, |
| 20. | Pacific Imperial Pigeon | <i>Ducula pacifica pacifica</i>                    | Res bre      | C-UC. 1 coll 1877 starving birds exited forests after cyclone, 1F Coll. 1899. In regrowth but not virgin kauri 1971. Obs. between 2000 & 2006, | 25,26,30,      |
| 21. | Mackinlay's Cuckoo-Dove | <i>Macropygia mackinlayi mackinlayi</i>            | Res bre      | Abundant 1877, VC # coll. 1899. Obs. in forest & regrowth 1971. Coll. Obs. between 2000 & 2006,  | 6,7,19,23,     |
| 22. | Pacific Emerald Dove    | <i>Chalcophaps longirostris</i>                    | Res bre      | C., P. 1971. 1 skin exam. Obs. between 2000 & 2006,  | 25,26,30,      |
| 23. | Coconut Lorikeet        | <i>Trichoglossus haematodus massena</i>            | Res bre      | C. Obs 1877, 1M Coll. 1899. 1 netted in virgin Kauri 16 in old regrowth. Obs. between 2002 & 2006,   | 1,19,25,29,    |
| 24. | Palm Lorikeet           | <i>Charmosyna palmarum</i>                         | Res bre      | C. Obs at regrowth 1971. VC Nov 2004,  | 19,            |
| 25. | Fan-tailed Cuckoo       | <i>Cacomantis flabelliformis schistaceigularis</i> | Win mig      | P,   | 1,4,15,19,     |
| 26. | Shining Bronze-Cuckoo   | <i>Chrysococcyx lucidus layardi</i>                | Win mig      | Common 1 spec. AMNH.   | 1,7,19,30,     |
| 27. | Eastern Barn Owl        | <i>Tyto javanica</i>                               | Res bre      | Common, Obs 1877, Obs. between 2000 & 2006,  | 1,19,          |

|     |                                |   |          |  |
|-----|--------------------------------|---|----------|--|
| 28. | Glossy Swiftlet                | <i>Collocalia esculenta uropygialis</i>     | Res bre  | C. Obs 1877. Obs in Virgin Kauri forest & not regrowth 1971. 1,7,19,25,<br>P Nov 2004, M 2F skins AMNH, 29,34,   |
| 29. | White-rumped Swiftlet          | <i>Aerodramus spodiopygius ingrens</i>      | Res bre  | Obs 1877, 1 <sup>st</sup> rec> 1870's = 1998. no recs 1979-99, 3M1F1? 1,6,7,18,19,<br>skins AMNH, 20,34,   |
| 30. | Uniform Swiftlet               | <i>Aerodramus v. vanikorensis</i>           | Res bre  | C. Obs 1970s, 2 spec. AMNH. Obs in virgin forest and 1,7,16,19,<br>mature regrowth 1971, P Nov 2004, 4 skins AMNH, 25,29,34,                           |
| 31. | Sacred Kingfisher              | <i>Todirhamphus sancta</i>                  | ?        | Obs 1870's on beach, in grassland and in forest, 7,  |
| 32. | Collared Kingfisher            | <i>Todirhamphus chloris</i>                 | Res bre  | C. 1 coll 1899. 5 netted in Kauri forest 7 in mature regrowth 6,19,24,25,<br>1971, Obs. between 2002 & 2006, 29,30,                                    |
| 33. | Pacific Swallow                | <i>Hirundo tahitica subfuscata</i>          | Res bre  | Common, Obs. between 2000 & 2006, 1,19,30,   |
| 34. | South Melanesian Cuckoo-Shrike | <i>Coracina caledonica</i>                  | Res bre  | C-UC, Obs in virgin kauri forest 1971. Obs. between 2000 & 1,5,6,19,25,<br>2006, 30,   |
| 35. | Long-tailed Triller            | <i>Lalage leucopyga</i>                     | Res bre  | C. 2 coll. 2M1F coll 1899. obs in Virgin kauri forest 1971. 1,3,13,19,<br>Obs. between 2000 & 2006, 24,25,30,  |
| 36. | Grey Fantail                   | <i>Rhipidura fuliginosa brenchleyi</i>      | Res bre  | C. 5 netted in Kauri forest and 18 in mature regrowth 1971. 1,6,19,25,<br>Obs. between 2000 & 2006, 30,  |
| 37. | Streaked (Spotted) Fantail     | <i>Rhipidura verreauxi spilodera</i>        | Res bre  | Fairly common 2 spec. BM. 2 M Coll 1899. 1,17,24,35,   |
| 38. | Buff-bellied Monarch           | <i>Neolalage banksiana</i>                  | End Vanu | Common on coast, 7,  |
| 39. | Southern Shrikebill            | <i>Clytorhynchus pachycephaloides</i>       | Res bre  | 8 netted in kauri forest 1971. 25,   |
| 40. | Melanesian Flycatcher          | <i>Myiagra caledonica melanura</i>          | Res bre  | C. 1 coll 1877, 2F Coll. 1899. 3 netted in kauri forest & 1,5,7,10,19,<br>mature regrowth 3 or 4 Nov 2004, 24,25,29,                                   |
| 41. | Pacific Robin                  | <i>Petroica multicolor similis /cognata</i> | Res bre  | 3 spec. 3 coll 1899. Juv M coll 1899. 2 netted in virgin kauri 11,19,23,24,<br>forest, 26 in mature regrowth 1971. Obs. between 2000 & 2006, 25,30,33, |
| 42. | Common Golden Whistler         | <i>Pachycephala pectoralis chlorura</i>     | Res bre  | C. Obs 1877, 11 netted in virgin kauri forest 13 in mature 1,5,7,9,19,<br>regrowth 1971, Obs. between 2002 & 2006, In lowland forest, 25,30,31,33,     |
| 43. | Yellow-fronted White-eye       | <i>Zosterops flavifrons</i>                 | End Vanu | C. 21 netted in mature kauri forest 24 in regrowth 1,5,7,19,25,<br>1971, Obs.between 2000 & 2006, 30,  |
| 44. | Silvereye                      | <i>Zosterops lateralis</i>                  | Res bre  | Common, Obs 1877, P. 1971, Obs.. between 2000 & 2006, 1,7,19,25,30,  |
| 45. | White-bellied Honeyeater       | <i>Glyciphohia notabilis</i>                | End Vanu | Common. 3F coll. 1899. 3 Coll. <1870. 1,24,28,32,  |
| 46. | Dark-Brown Honeyeater          | <i>Lichmera incana</i>                      | Res bre  | Common-Uncommon. P. 1971. Obs. between 2002 & 2006, 1,5,19,25,30,  |
| 47. | Cardinal Myzomela              | <i>Myzomela cardinalis</i>                  | Res bre  | MC. 5 netted in kauri forest 1 in mature regrowth 1971. Obs. 1,5,19,25,30,<br>between 2002 & 2007,   |
| 48. | Island Thrush                  | <i>Turdus poliocephalus</i>                 | Res bre  | C. 7 netted in virgin kauri forest and 9 in mature regrowth '71. 1,19,25,<br>Obs. between 2000 & 2006, 30,   |
| 49. | Blue-faced Parrot-finches      | <i>Erythrura trichroa cyaneifrons</i>       | Res bre  | Common. P. 1971. 1,2,5,19,25,  |
| 50. | White-breasted Woodswallow     | <i>Artamus leucorhynchus tenuis</i>         | Res bre  | Common 1,5,19,   |

## 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. Bregulla, H. L. 1992. **Birds of Vanuatu**. Anthony Nelson, Oswestry, UK.
2. Mayr, E. 1932. Birds collected during the Whitney South Sea Expedition The Parrot Finches (genus *Erythrura*). *Am. Mus. Novit.* 489.
3. Mayr, E. & Ripley. 1941. Birds collected during the Whitney South Sea Expedition. *Am. Mus. Novit.* 1116.
4. Amadon, D. 1942a. Birds Collected during the Whitney South Sea Expedition. 49. Notes on some non-passerine genera, 1. *American Museum Novitates* 1175.
5. Pickering, R. 1986. An annotated Checklist of the birds of Vanuatu. *Vanuatu Nat. Sci. Soc. Misc. Publ.* #1.
6. Tristram H.B. 1876. Notes on a collection of birds from the New Hebrides. *Ibis* (3) 6: 259-267.
7. Layard, E.L. & E.L.C. Layard. 1978b. Notes on some birds collected or observed by Mr. E. Leopold C. Layard in the New Hebrides. *Ibis* (4) 2: 267-280.
8. Tristram, H.B. 1879. Notes on collections of birds sent from New Caledonia, from Lifu (one of the Loyalty islands), and from the New Hebrides by E.L. Layard, C.M.G. &c. *Ibis* (4) 3: 180-194.
9. 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.
10. 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.
11. Mayr, E. 1934. Birds collected during the Whitney South Sea Expedition. 29. Notes on the genus *Petroica*. *Am. Mus. Novit.* 714: 1-19.
12. Stickney, E. H. 1943. Birds collected during the Whitney South Sea Expedition. 53. Northern Shore birds in the Pacific. *Am. Mus. Novit.* 1248: 1-9.
13. Mayr, E. & S.D. Ripley. 1941. Birds collected during the Whitney South Sea Expedition. 44. Notes on the Genus *Lalage* Boie. *Am. Mus. Novit.* 1116: 1-18.
14. Mayr, E. & D. Amadon. 1941. Birds collected during the Whitney South Sea Expedition. 46. Geographical variation in *Demigretta sacra* (Gmelin). *Am. Mus. Novit.* 1144: 1-11.
15. Amadon, D. 1942b. Birds Collected during the Whitney South Sea Expedition. 50. Notes on some non-passerine genera, 2. *American Museum Novitates* 1176: 1-21.
16. Mayr, E. 1937. Birds collected during the Whitney South Sea Expedition. 33. Notes on New Guinea Birds 1. *Am. Mus. Novit.* 915: 1-19.
17. Mayr, E. 1931. Birds collected during the Whitney South Sea Expedition. 16. Notes on fantails of the genus *Rhipidura*. *Am. Mus. Novit.* 502: 1-21.
18. Dutson, G. 2001. New distributional ranges for Melanesian birds. *Emu* 101: 237-248.
19. Diamond, J.M. & A.G. Marshall. 1976. Origin of the New Hebridean avifauna. *Emu* 76, 187-200.
20. Doughty, C., N. Day & A. Plant. 1999. **Birds of The Solomons, Vanuatu & New Caledonia**. Christopher Helm, London.
21. Hoyo, J del., A. Elliott & J Sargatal. 1992. **Handbook of the Birds of the World** Vol. 1. Lynx Edicions / Birdlife International.
22. Hoyo, J del., A. Elliott & J Sargatal. 1996. **Handbook of the Birds of the World** Vol. 3. Lynx Edicions / Birdlife International.
23. Farquhar, A.M. 1900. Ornithological notes in the New Hebrides. *Ibis* (7)6, 607-612.
24. Sharpe, R.B. 1900. On a collection of birds made by Captain A,M, Farquhar, R.N., in the New Hebrides.
25. Medway, Lord and Marshall, A.G. 1975. Terrestrial vertebrates of the New Hebrides: origin and distribution. *Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society of London B* 272, 423-465.
26. 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.
27. 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.
28. Mayr, E. & S. Camras. 1938. Birds of the Crane Pacific Expedition. *Publ. Field Mus. (Zool.)*, 20, 453-473.
29. Myers, S. Bishop, D. & D. Hobcroft. 2004. The birds and mammals recorded on the Victor Emanuel Nature Tours South West Pacific 2004 Tour. Private printing of field trip.
30. Wantok Environment Centre, [WWW.Vanbirds](http://WWW.Vanbirds) accessed 14.06.2007.
31. Kratter, A.W., J.L. Kirchman, & D.W. Steadman, 2006. Upland bird communities on Santo, Vanuatu, Southwest Pacific. *Wilson J of Ornithology* 118(3), 295-308.
32. Dickinson, E.C. (Ed) 2003. The Howard & Moore complete checklist of the birds of the world. Princeton Uni. NJ.
33. Boles, W.E. 2007 In Hoyo, J. A. Elliott, & D Christie. 2007. Handbook of the Birds of the World Vol 12. Lynx Edicions. Barcelona.
34. 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.
35. Dickinson, E.C. & Watling, D. 2005. The valid specific name of the Streaked Fantail. *Bull. Brit. Ornithol. Club* 126(1), 59-60.