

DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

news release

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

For Release June 1, 1979

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A DOZEN ANIMALS FROM GUAM ARE TO BE REVIEWED AS POSSIBLE ENDANGERED SPECIES CANDIDATES

The status of 10 birds and 2 mammals from Guam is being reviewed to determine if they should be listed as endangered or threatened by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

The review is being conducted at the request of the Government of Guam as allowed under the Endangered Species Act of 1973.

In its petition, the Guam Government submitted substantial data to indicate that listing these birds and mammals, and determining their critical habitat, may be important elements in preventing their extinction. The animals under review for possible listing are as follows:

Marianas fruit dove (Ptilinopus roseicapillus)--Only about 100 remain on Guam. Probably less than 500 are in existence counting those on Guam, Rota, Tinian, and Saipan. Their decline is due to clearing of their forest habitat.

Marianas gallinule (Gallinula chloropus guami)--Draining freshwater for agriculture caused the decline of this member of the coot family. Less than 100 are found on Guam; less than 50 on Tinian. How many remain on Saipan and Pagan is not known at this time.

Guam rail (Rallus owstoni)--Introduced predators have played havoc on this flightless species. Only 500 to 1,000 birds survive on Guam.

Edible nest swiftlet (Collocalia inexpectata bartschi)--Use of insecticides and herbicides caused the decline of this bird. Currently from 100 to 200 are found on Guam. The numbers remaining on Rota, Tinian, and Saipan are not known.

Micronesian kingfisher (Halcyon cinnamomina cinnamomina)--Loss of much of the native limestone forest of Guam is blamed for the decline of this bird. Numbers are estimated at between 100 and 150.

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Micronesian broadbill (Myiagra oceanica freycineti)--The decline of this bird is related to loss of habitat. Fewer than 100 remain on Guam.

White-throated ground dove (Gallicolumba xanthonura)--This game bird's troubles began with the use of defoliants in World War II which rendered much of its habitat useless. Less than 100 remain on Guam. The numbers on other islands are unknown.

Cardinal honey-eater (Myzomela cardinalis saffordi)--On Guam, the loss of most of the native limestone forest has restricted this species to the remaining areas of pristine forest occurring in the northern cliff line. From 100 to 200 birds exist on Guam. Numbers elsewhere are not know.

Marianas crow (Corvus kubaryi)--Loss of forest habitat and shooting by farmers who consider all crows nuisances brought this bird into jeopardy. From 100 to 150 are estimated to survive.

Bridled white-eye (Zosterops conspicillata conspicillata)--Use of insecticides and loss of habitat due to urbanization have brought the total population of this bird down to less than 150.

Marianas fruit bat (Pteropus mariannus mariannus)--Less than 100 of these mammals remain on Guam due to habitat loss and illegal hunting. Numbers elsewhere are unknown.

Little Marianas fruit bat (Pteropus tokudae)--Illegal hunting and habitat destruction have, likewise, caused the decimation of these small bats. Extremely small numbers are reported on Guam.

Persons having knowledge or wishing to comment on these species or any part of this review may do so by writing the Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Washington, D.C. 20240, on or before August 18, 1979.

The Service is particularly interested in information on the critical habitat and status of any of these animals on other islands as well as Guam to determine whether any should be listed as endangered or threatened throughout their range or just on certain islands.