



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

News Release

Pacific Islands External Affairs Office

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55 Pacific Island Bird Species Added to Federal List of “Migratory Birds”

Species Now Protected Under Migratory Bird Treaty Act

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Acting Director Rowan Gould today announced the first revisions to the list of bird species protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act since 1985, including the addition of 24 species that occur only in Hawai‘i and 28 species from American Samoa, the Mariana Islands, or Baker and Howland Islands.

“This update to the list of federally protected birds reflects the best available science on bird taxonomy and distribution and will help us improve management of our nation’s migratory birds,” said Gould. “The new list benefits researchers, hunters, conservationists, state agencies, tribal governments, and birdwatchers by extending federal protection to all migratory bird species native to the United States while highlighting advances and changes in bird taxonomy that have accumulated since the list was last published.”

The changes include 186 new additions and 11 subtractions, bringing the total number of species protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act to 1,007. Species appearing on this list are protected from take (killing, capturing, or attempts to kill or capture of adults, eggs, or nests) and from commercial use, unless authorized under migratory bird permits or hunting regulations. Many of the Hawaiian species and five Mariana Island species are already protected under the Endangered Species Act.

Sixty-five species were added to the list based on documented sightings within the United States, Puerto Rico, or the U.S. Virgin Islands since 1985, including three new species for Hawai‘i. Twenty-four species from the Fringillidae family were added to the list, including many of the Hawaiian forestbird species and three species from the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands. An additional 28 species occurring naturally in American Samoa, Baker and Howland Islands, Guam, or the Northern Mariana Islands also were added.

The revisions also remove species no longer known to occur within the United States and change some names to conform to accepted usages. The changes also reflect taxonomic revisions to the bird taxa of North America published by the American Ornithologists’ Union, and changes in the Migratory Bird List incorporate name changes and revisions moving some species from one taxon to another.

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The Migratory Bird Treaty Act implements Conventions between the United States and Canada, Mexico, Japan, and Russia. Unlike the Endangered Species Act, the Migratory Bird Treaty Act requires no demonstrated biological need for protection, and species are listed whenever they are part of a family or species contained within one of the Conventions. Although many of the newly listed species are found only on one island or one archipelago and do not truly “migrate,” they qualify for protection because their families are covered by the Canadian and/or Mexican Conventions.

All species included on the list are considered federally protected, and governed by federal regulations limiting take (from the wild), possession, and other use. These regulations provide considerable flexibility for managing bird populations, including establishment of hunting seasons where deemed appropriate. The Service is the primary federal agency responsible for managing migratory birds.

The final rule can be found online at <http://migratorybirds.fws.gov>. Newly listed Pacific Island species are found below.

The mission of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is working with others to conserve, protect and enhance fish, wildlife, plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. We are both a leader and trusted partner in fish and wildlife conservation, known for our scientific excellence, stewardship of lands and natural resources, dedicated professionals and commitment to public service. For more information on our work and the people who make it happen, visit www.fws.gov.

- FWS -

Hawaiian species added because they belong to families covered by the Canadian and/or Mexican Conventions	
‘Akeke’e (PE)	<i>Loxops caeruleirostris</i>
‘Ākepa (E)	<i>Loxops coccineus</i>
Greater ‘Akialoa (E)	<i>Hemignathus ellisianus</i>
‘Akiapōlā‘au (E)	<i>Hemignathus munroi</i>
‘Akikiki (PE)	<i>Oreomystis bairdi</i>
‘Ākohekohe (E)	<i>Palmeria dolei</i>
Maui ‘Alauahio	<i>Paroreomyza montana</i>
O‘ahu ‘Alauahio (E)	<i>Paroreomyza maculata</i>
Hawai‘i ‘Amakihi	<i>Hemignathus virens</i>
Kaua‘i ‘Amakihi	<i>Hemignathus kauaiensis</i>
O‘ahu ‘Amakihi	<i>Hemignathus flavus</i>
‘Anianiau	<i>Magnumma parva</i>
‘Apapane	<i>Himatione sanguinea</i>
Hawai‘i Creeper (E)	<i>Oreomystis mana</i>
Laysan Finch (E)	<i>Telespiza cantans</i>
Nihoa Finch (E)	<i>Telespiza ultima</i>
‘I‘iwi	<i>Vestiaria coccinea</i>
Kākāwahie (E)	<i>Paroreomyza flammea</i>
Nihoa Millerbird (E)	<i>Acrocephalus familiaris</i>
Nukupu‘u (E)	<i>Hemignathus lucidus</i>
‘Ō‘ū (E)	<i>Psittirostra psittacea</i>
Palila (E)	<i>Loxioides bailleui</i>
Maui Parrotbill (E)	<i>Pseudonestor xanthophrys</i>
Po‘ouli (E)	<i>Melanprosops phaeosoma</i>

(E) = Listed as Endangered under the Endangered Species Act

(PE) = Proposed as Endangered under the Endangered Species Act

Pacific Island species added because they belong to families covered by the Canadian and/or Mexican Conventions		
Black Bittern	<i>Ixobrychus flavicollis</i>	Guam
Little Pied Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax melanoleucos</i>	Northern Mariana Islands
Spotless Crake	<i>Porzana tabuensis</i>	American Samoa
Mariana Crow (E)	<i>Corvus kubaryi</i>	Guam, Northern Mariana Islands
Pacific Black Duck	<i>Anas superciliosa</i>	American Samoa
Crimson-crowned Fruit-Dove	<i>Ptilinopus porphyraceus</i>	American Samoa
Many-colored Fruit-Dove	<i>Ptilinopus perousii</i>	American Samoa
Mariana Fruit-Dove	<i>Ptilinopus roseicapilla</i>	Guam, Northern Mariana Islands
Nordmann's Greenshank	<i>Tringa guttifer</i>	Guam
Friendly Ground-Dove	<i>Gallicolumba stairi</i>	American Samoa
White-throated Ground-Dove	<i>Gallicolumba xanthonura</i>	Guam, Northern Mariana Islands
Gray Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>	Northern Mariana Islands
Pacific Imperial-Pigeon	<i>Ducula pacifica</i>	American Samoa
Collared Kingfisher	<i>Todirhamphus chloris</i>	American Samoa, Northern Mariana Islands
Micronesian Kingfisher (E)	<i>Todirhamphus cinnamominus</i>	Guam
Eurasian Oystercatcher	<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>	Guam
Gould's Petrel	<i>Pterodroma leucoptera</i>	American Samoa
Phoenix Petrel	<i>Pterodroma alba</i>	Baker and Howland Islands
Tahiti Petrel	<i>Pterodroma rostrata</i>	American Samoa
Buff-banded Rail	<i>Gallirallus philippensis</i>	American Samoa
Guam Rail (E)	<i>Gallirallus owstoni</i>	Guam
Nightingale Reed-Warbler (E)	<i>Acrocephalus luscini</i>	Northern Mariana Islands, formerly Guam
Matsudaira's Storm-Petrel	<i>Oceanodroma matsudairae</i>	Guam, Northern Mariana Islands
Polynesian Storm-Petrel	<i>Nesofregata fuliginosa</i>	American Samoa
White-bellied Storm-Petrel	<i>Fregatta grallaria</i>	American Samoa
Purple Swamphen	<i>Porphyrio porphyrio</i>	American Samoa
Mariana Swiftlet (E)	<i>Aerodramus bartschi</i>	Guam, Northern Mariana Islands
White-rumped Swiftlet	<i>Aerodramus spodiopygius</i>	American Samoa

Species added based on review and acceptance by AOU (since April 1985) of new distributional records documenting their occurrence in Hawai'i.	
Gray Frog-Hawk	<i>Accipiter soloensis</i>
Stejneger's Petrel	<i>Pterodroma longirostris</i>
Great Crested Tern	<i>Thalasseus bergii</i>