Checklist of the Birds of Christmas Island and Cocos (Keeling) Islands

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April 2018

This checklist covers Christmas and Cocos (Keeling) Islands in the tropical eastern Indian Ocean and their surrounding seas. Christmas Island lies 290 km south of Java (Indonesia) and 1,400 km north-west of Western Australia. It is a small uplifted volcanic island (137 km² in area) and is administered by Western Australia as an External Territory of Australia. The Cocos (Keeling) Islands lie 970 km west of Christmas Island and 2,100 km north-west of Western Australia. They comprise two low-lying atolls, a large southern atoll (Cocos) consisting of about 26 islands around a horseshoe-shaped lagoon and a smaller North Keeling Island lying 25 km to the north. They cover a land area of about 14 km² and are also administered by Western Australia as an External Territory of Australia.

The main aim of this work is to provide an up-to-date checklist of the birds of this region to include the large number of additional species that have been recorded on these islands since the publication of the Annotated Checklists of Christmas Island and Cocos (Keeling) Islands in 2004 (Johnstone and Darnell Appendix A and B in: Handbook of Western Australian Birds Volume II) and the more recent review of the birds of Christmas Island (James and McAllan 2014 Australian Field Ornithology Suppl. 31). The cut off date for records in this checklist is March 2017.

Criterion for inclusion of a species or subspecies on the list is, in most cases, supported by tangible evidence i.e. a museum specimen, an archived or published photograph or detailed description or video recording.

The advent of molecular investigation into avian taxonomy has required, and still requires, extensive and ongoing revision at all levels – family, generic and specific. This “Checklist of the Birds of Christmas and Cocos (Keeling) Islands” is a collation of the most recent information/research emanating from such studies, together with the inclusion of newly recorded species.

As a result of the constant stream of publication of new research in many scientific journals, delays of its incorporation into the prime sources listed above, together with the fact that these are upgraded/re-issued at differing intervals and that their authors may hold varying opinions, these prime references, do on occasion differ. Where considered appropriate, these latest research findings have been included as has some pre-published material in order to make this checklist as up to date as possible.

From these comments it can be seen that avian taxonomy is a “work in progress” and that it is currently a long way from having a definitive world list. Overall, departures from the prime reference material in both global and regional lists (as above) have been minimised. Subject to the general consensus/opinion of other authors, the IOC comments have been accepted relating to the higher taxonomic levels and taxonomic status beyond Australia, but not where the Western Australian Museum collection material, distributional data base etc. shows otherwise.

Changes should only come when there is certainty and consensus and the Western Australian Museum’s objective is to maintain the status quo until claimed revisions have been thoroughly analysed and accepted.

Amendments to the previous checklists have been carried out with reference to both global and regional publications/checklists. The prime reference material for global coverage has been the International Ornithological Committee (IOC) World Bird List, The Clements Checklist of Birds of the World, the Illustrated Checklist of the Birds of the World Volume, 1 (Lynx Edicions, Barcelona), A Checklist of the Birds of Britain, 8th edition, the Checklist of North American Birds and, for regional coverage, Zoological Catalogue of Australia volume 37.2 (Columbidae to Coraciidae), The Directory of Australian Birds, Passerines, the Working List of Australian Birds (Birdlife Australia) and the Checklist of the Birds of Western Australia (Western Australian Museum).

Increased public interest in ornithology combined with improved identification knowledge, the increasing number of “bird watchers” having high-technology photographic equipment, and more extensive field excursions (to these remote islands) all have contributed here. Whether all of these newly recorded species are in fact migratory “strays” which have been missed earlier, or whether other factors such as habitat destruction (along migratory routes) or climatic change is involved is of course unknown.
In the table below, the ecological status for each species is given i.e. whether a resident or a breeding or non-breeding visitor, endemic, introduced, whether the species is migratory, or a passage migrant (i.e. Palaearctic species that breed in Northern Hemisphere and migrate annually to winter in Southern Hemisphere, especially Australia), or vagrant. For some vagrants and rare visitors, records are individually cited. A comment is also given for each species on its relative abundance i.e. is it very common, common, moderately common, uncommon, scarce or rare. The status of some species has changed dramatically in the past decade. For example, the White-breasted Waterhen was first recorded on Christmas Island in 1993, bred successfully, but the population then declined and is now an uncommon resident. It was first recorded on Cocos (Keeling) Islands in 2004 (probably from Christmas Island), and is now a common resident with a population of ca. 2,000. Abbreviations for the Abundance/Status comments are outlined in the table below. The aim of this checklist is to summarise all available data on systematics and taxonomy, provide brief explanations for changes, incorporate new higher level classifications and recent new generic, specific and subspecific changes. Where necessary, reasons for departing from the current above-named checklists (IOC, Birds Australia etc.) are also given. Where there is doubt on the identification of a subspecies it is included in square brackets. A brief footnote is also given on the taxonomic status of many species and subspecies recorded from these islands based on specimens or photographs, but in many cases the subspecific identity of many visitors is unknown.

As expected most migrants are of eastern Asian origin, but there has proven to be an element of records of species e.g. European Roller and Tree Pipit which are unknown from South-East Asia.

Over the past decade the regular bird reports of both resident and visiting naturalists to these islands have added a great deal to our knowledge of the avifauna. Special mention should be made of the trip reports of Richard Baxter and Mike Carter and the monthly reports from Cocos (Keeling) by Geof Christie and Pam Jones.

We especially thank Kim Sarti for the development and layout of this checklist document.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Abundance/Status</th>
<th>Code</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Common breeding visitor</td>
<td>Bc</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rare breeding visitor</td>
<td>Bv</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Uncommon breeding visitor</td>
<td>Bv</td>
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<tr>
<td>Endemic. Common resident</td>
<td>ERc</td>
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<tr>
<td>Introduced. Common resident</td>
<td>Ic</td>
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<tr>
<td>Introduced. Uncommon resident</td>
<td>Iu</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Common passage migrant</td>
<td>PMc</td>
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<tr>
<td>Moderately common passage migrant</td>
<td>PMm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rare passage migrant</td>
<td>PMr</td>
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<tr>
<td>Uncommon passage migrant</td>
<td>PMu</td>
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<tr>
<td>Common resident</td>
<td>Rc</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rare resident</td>
<td>Rr</td>
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<tr>
<td>Uncommon resident</td>
<td>Ru</td>
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<tr>
<td>Vagrant</td>
<td>V</td>
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<tr>
<td>Irregular visitor</td>
<td>Vi</td>
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<tr>
<td>Regular visitor</td>
<td>Vis</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rare/irregular visitor</td>
<td>Vr</td>
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<tr>
<td>Uncommon visitor</td>
<td>Vu</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Extirpated</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Status indeterminate</td>
<td>?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ø Absent, no records</td>
<td>Ø</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Abundance and Status comments with abbreviated Code
Class AVES

ANATIDAE  Ducks, geese and swans

₁Nettapus coromandelianus  (Gmelin, 1789) ............................................ Cotton Pygmy Goose  Ø  V
₂Anas superciliosa  Gmelin, 1789 ................................................................. Pacific Black Duck  Ø  Bc
₃Anas gibberifrons  Müller, 1842 ................................................................. Sunda Teal  V  Ø
₄Anas gracilis  Buller, 1869 ......................................................................... Grey Teal  Ø  V
₅Anas querquedula  Linnaeus, 1758 ............................................................. Northern Pintail  Ø  V
₆Anas crecca  Linnaeus, 1758 ...................................................................... Garganey  V  Ø
₇Anas crecca crecca  Linnaeus, 1758 ............................................................ Eurasian Teal  Ø  V
₈Aythya australis  (Eyeton, 1838) ................................................................. Hardhead  V  V

GALLIFORMES

NUMIDIDAE  Guineafowl

₄Numida meleagris  (Linnaeus, 1758) ......................................................... Helmeted Guineafowl  Ø  X

PHASIANIDAE  Pheasants

₅Gallus gallus  (Linnaeus, 1758) ................................................................. Red Junglefowl  Iu  Iu
₆Gallus varius  (Shaw, 1798) ..................................................................... Green Junglefowl  Ø  Ic

PROCELLARIIFORMES

OCEANITIDAE  Austral Storm Petrels

₇Pelagodroma marina  (Latham, 1790) ......................................................... White-faced Storm Petrel  V  V

DIOMEDEIDAE  Albatrosses

₈Thalassarche chlororhynchos  Gmelin, 1789............................................ Yellow-nosed Albatross  Ø  V
₉Thalassarche chlororhynchos cartieri  (Rothschild, 1903)..................... Indian Yellow-nosed Albatross  Ø  V

HYDROBATIDAE  Storm Petrels

₉Oceanodroma mitsudariae  Kuroda, 1922 ................................................. Matsudaira’s Storm Petrel  V  V

PROCELLARIIDAE  Petrels and shearwaters

₇Macronectes halli  Mathews, 1912 ............................................................. Northern Giant Petrel  Ø  V
₈Pachyptila desolata  (Gmelin, 1789) ............................................................ Antarctic Prion  V  Ø
₉Pterodroma australis  (Salvin, 1888) ......................................................... Herald Petrel  V  V
₈Pterodroma barbata  (Jouanin, 1964) .......................................................... Barau’s Petrel  V  V
₈Puffinus pacificus  (Gmelin, 1789) ............................................................. Wedge-tailed Shearwater  Vr  Bv
₁₀Puffinus bailloni  Bonaparte, 1857 ............................................................ Tropical Shearwater  Ø  V
₉Bulweria bulwerii  (Jardine and Selby, 1828) ......................................... Bulwer’s Petrel  V  V
₈Bulweria fallax  Jouanin, 1955 ................................................................. Jouanin’s Petrel  Ø  V

Status code:  Cocos

₁ Subspecies unknown, most likely the nominate.
₂ Breeding population now well established; up to 70 birds recorded.
₃ Two birds recorded 2016-17.
₄ Domestic strain introduced to Cocos (Keeling) Is., but now extirpated.
₅ Domestic strains on both islands. On Christmas I., wild populations show characteristics of ancestral Red Junglefowl stock.
₆ No specimens available, but ssp. probably dulciae. Sometimes placed in the genus Oceanites.
₇ Sometimes treated as a full species.
₈ Mostly listed as O. mitsudariae, but Kuroda latinised Y. Matsudaira's Japanese name as mitsudariae and this has not been validly amended.
₉ One confirmed record.
₁₀ North Keeling I. 2009. Recorded on ground at night; ssp. unknown.

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### PHOENICOPTERIFORMES

**PHOENICOPTERIDAE** Flamingos  
_Phoenicopterus roseus_ Pallas, 1811 .............................................................. Greater Flamingo Ø V

### PHAETHONTIFORMES

**PHAETHONTIDAE** Tropicbirds  
11. _Phaethon aethereus_ Linnaeus, 1758 .................................................. Red-billed Tropicbird V Ø  
12. _Phaethon rubricauda_ Boddaert, 1783 .......................................... Red-tailed Tropicbird Rec Bv  
13. _Phaethon lepturus_ Daudin, 1802 ........................................ White-tailed Tropicbird Rec Bv  
14. _Phaethon lepturus lepturus_ Daudin, 1802 ............................................ Rec Bv  
15. _Phaethon lepturus fulves_ von Brandt, 1838 ...................................... Golden Bosunbird ERc Vi

### PELECANIFORMES

**ARDEIDAE** Herons and bitterns  
_Ixobrychus sinensis_ (Gmelin, 1789) ............................................. Yellow Bittern (Chinese Little Bittern) V V  
_Ixobrychus eurhythmus_ (Swinhoe, 1873) ......................................... Schrenck’s Bittern (Von Schrenck’s Bittern) V V  
_Ixobrychus cinnamomeus_ (Gmelin, 1789) ........................................ Cinnamon Bittern V V  
16. _Ixobrychus flavicollis_ (Latham, 1790) ........................................ Black Bittern V V  
_Gorsachius goisagi_ (Temminck, 1836) ........................................... Japanese Night Heron V Ø  
_Gorsachius melanolophus_ (Raffles, 1822) ......................................... Malayan Night Heron Vis V  
_Nycticorax nycticorax_ (Linnaeus, 1758) ........................................... Black-crowned Night Heron V V  
_Nycticorax nycticorax nycticorax_ (Linnaeus, 1758) .............................................. Striated Heron (Mangrove Heron) Vi Re  
17. _Nycticorax caledonicus_ (Gmelin, 1789) ....................................... Nankeen Night Heron (Rufous Night Heron) V V  
18. _Nycticorax caledonicus australasiae_ (Vieillot, 1823) ....................... V Vi  
_Butorides striata_ (Linnaeus, 1758) .................................................. Striated Heron (Mangrove Heron) V V  
19. _Butorides striata amurensis_ (Schrenck, 1860) .................................. Vr Vu  
_Ardea bacchus_ (Bonaparte, 1855) ..................................................... Chinese Pond Heron V V  
20. _Ardea ibis_ Linnaeus, 1758 ............................................................. Cattle Egret V V  
21. _Ardea ibis coromanda_ (Boddaert, 1783) ......................................... Eastern Cattle Egret Vi Vi  
22. _Ardea purpurea_ Linnaeus, 1766 ..................................................... Purple Heron V Ø  
23. _Ardea modesta_ J.E. Gray, 1831 ..................................................... Eastern Great Egret Vr Vr  
24. _Ardea intermedia_ Wagler, 1829 .................................................... Intermediate Egret V V  
25. _Ardea picata_ Gould, 1845 ............................................................. Pied Heron V V  
26. _Ardea novaehollandiae_ Latham, 1790 .............................................. White-faced Heron Rr V

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11. Most likely _ssp. indicus_ judging from photographs.  
12. Treated as monotypic with no subspecies recognised.  
13. Christmas Island _P. l. fulves_ (an endemic _ssp._) recently re-invaded by nominate _P. l. lepturus_ birds. Christmas Island now comprises _P. l. fulves, P. l. lepturus_ and hybrid populations.  
14. Common resident on Christmas I. interbreeding with _P. l. fulves_ - see above footnote.  
15. Common resident on Christmas I. interbreeding with _P. l. lepturus_ - see above footnote.  
16. Most likely the nominate _ssp._ Sometimes placed in the genus _Dupetor_.  
18. One specimen of _B. s. amurensis_ in ZRC confirmed. Some observations could refer to other Asian _ssp._  
19. Subspecies unknown.  
20. Sometimes placed in the genus _Bubulcus_.  
21. Sometimes treated as a full species.  
22. Most likely _ssp. mantilensis_.  
23. Sometimes treated as a _ssp._ of _A. alba_.  
24. Most likely nominate _ssp._ Sometimes placed in the genus _Egretta_.  
25. Sometimes placed in the genus _Egretta_.  
26. Sometimes placed in the genus _Egretta_.

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27 Ardea garzetta Linnaeus, 1766 .................................................. Little Egret
   Ardea garzetta garzetta Linnaeus, 1766 .................................................. V V
28 Ardea garzetta nigripes Temminck, 1840 .................................................. V V
29 Ardea gularis Bosc, 1792 .................................................. Western Reef Heron
   Ardea gularis schistacea Hemprich & Ehrenberg, 1828 .................................. Ø Ru
30 Ardea sacra Gmelin, 1789 .................................................. Eastern Reef Heron (Eastern Reef Egret)
   Ardea sacra sacra Gmelin, 1789 .................................................. Rc Rc

PELECANIDAE Pelicans
Pelecanus conspicillatus Temminck, 1824 .................................................. Australian Pelican V Ø

SULIFORMES

FREGATIDAE Frigatebirds
Fregata andrewsi Mathews, 1914 .................................................. Christmas Island Frigatebird ERc V
Fregata minor (Gmelin, 1789) .................................................. Greater Frigatebird (Great Frigatebird)
31 Fregata minor minor (Gmelin, 1789) .................................................. Ø Rc
32 Fregata minor listeri Mathews, 1914 .................................................. Rec Ø
Fregata ariel (G.R. Gray, 1845) .................................................. Lesser Frigatebird
   Fregata ariel ariel (G.R. Gray, 1845) .................................................. Ru Rec

SULIDAE Gannets and boobies
Papasula abbotti (Ridgway, 1893) .................................................. Abbott’s Booby ERc Ø
Sula dactylatra Lesson, 1831 .................................................. Masked Booby
   Sula dactylatra personata Gould, 1846 .................................................. Ø Ru
33 Sula sula (Linnaeus, 1766) .................................................. Red-footed Booby Rec Rec
Sula leucogaster (Boddaert, 1783) .................................................. Brown Booby
   Sula leucogaster plotus (J.R. Forster, 1844) .................................................. Rec Ru

PHALACROCORACIDAE Cormorants
34 Phalacrocorax melanoleucos (Vieillot, 1817) .................................................. Little Pied Cormorant
   Phalacrocorax melanoleucos melanoleucos (Vieillot, 1817) .................................. V V
Phalacrocorax sulcirostris (Brandt, 1837) .................................................. Little Black Cormorant V V
35 Phalacrocorax carbo (Linnaeus, 1758) .................................................. Great Cormorant V V

ACCIPITRIFORMES

PANDIONIDAE Ospreys
Pandion haliaetus (Linnaeus, 1758) .................................................. Western Osprey
   Pandion haliaetus haliaetus (Linnaeus, 1758) .................................................. Ø V

ACCIPITRIDAE Hawks, eagles, kites and harriers
Pernis ptilorhynchos (Temminck, 1821) .................................................. Crested Honey-Buzzard
   Pernis ptilorhynchos orientalis Taczanowski, 1891 .................................................. Oriental Honey-Buzzard V Ø
Accipiter soloensis (Horsfield, 1821) .................................................. Chinese Sparrowhawk V V
36 Accipiter natalis (Lister, 1889) .................................................. Christmas Island Goshawk ERc Ø
37 Accipiter gularis (Temminck & Schlegel, 1844) .................................................. Japanese Sparrowhawk V V
38 Circus approximans Peale, 1848, .................................................. Swamp Harrier Ø V
Haliaeetus leucogaster (Gmelin, 1788) .................................................. White-bellied Sea-Eagle V Ø

27 Sometimes placed in the genus Egretta.
28 Some observations may be attributed to A. g. immaculata.
29 Sometimes placed in the genus Egretta.
30 Sometimes placed in the genus Egretta.
31 Possible overlap of both populations at sea.
32 Possible overlap of both populations at sea.
33 Validity of ssp. often questioned. If accepted, ssp. rubripes would apply to these two populations.
34 Sometimes placed in the genus Microcarbo.
35 Most likely ssp. novaehollandiae.
36 Treated as full species by Johnstone and Darnell 2004, but sometimes treated as ssp. of A. fasciatus.
37 Subspecies unknown.
38 One specimen in Raffles Museum (ZRC) confirmed.
GRUIFORMES

RALLIDAE Rails, crakes, waterhens and coots

*Charadrius philandering* (Linnaeus, 1766) ............................................. Buff-banded Rail

39*Charadrius philandering andrewesi* (Mathews, 1911) ............................. Andrew’s Rail

40*Leuciana striata* (Linnaeus, 1766) ............................................. Slaty-breasted Rail

Crex crex (Linnaeus, 1758) ....................................................................... Corncrake (Corn Crake)

*Amaurornis phoenicurus* (Pennant, 1769) .................................................. White-breasted Waterhen

41*Amaurornis phoenicurus phoenicurus* (Pennant, 1769) ........................... Ru Re

Porzana pusilla (Pallas, 1776) ................................................................... Baillon’s Crake

42*Porzana pusilla pusilla* (Pallas, 1776) .................................................. V V

43*Porzana fusca* (Linnaeus, 1766) .......................................................... Ruddy-breasted Crake

Gallicrex cinereus (Gmelin, 1789) .................................................................. Watercock

Gallinula chloropus (Linnaeus, 1758) ......................................................... Common Moorhen

44*Gallinula chloropus chloropus* (Linnaeus, 1758) .................................. Ø V

45*Tribonyx ventralis* (Gould, 1837) ......................................................... Black-tailed Native-hen

46*Fulica atra* Linnaeus, 1758 .......................................................................... Eurasian Coot

CHARADRIIFORMES

HAEMATOPODIDAE Oystercatchers

*Haematopus fuligineus* Gould, 1845 .......................................................... Sooty Oystercatcher

*Haematopus fuligineus ophthalamicus* Castelnau and Ramsay, 1877 ............... V Ø

RECURVIROSTRIDAE Stilts and avocets

*Himantopus himantopus* (Linnaeus, 1758) ................................................. Black-winged Stilt

47*Himantopus himantopus leucocephalus* Gould, 1837 ............................. White-headed Stilt

CHARADRIIDAE Plovers, dotterels and lapwings

Vanellus cinereus (Blyth, 1842) ................................................................. Grey-headed Lapwing

Vanellus miles (Boddaert, 1783) ................................................................. Masked Lapwing

Pluvialis fulva (Gmelin, 1789) ................................................................. Pacific Golden Plover

Pluvialis squatarola (Linnaeus, 1758) ........................................................... Grey Plover (Black-bellied Plover)

48*Pluvialis squatarola squatarola* (Linnaeus, 1758) ...................................... VVu

49*Charadrius dubius* Scopoli, 1786 ............................................................. Little Ringed Plover

50*Charadrius alexandrinus* Linnaeus, 1758 ................................................ Kentish Plover

Charadrius hiaticula Temminck, 1821 ........................................................ Red-capped Plover (Red-capped Dotterel)

51*Charadrius mongolus* Pallas, 1776 .......................................................... Lesser Sand Plover.

52*Charadrius leschenaultii* Lesson, 1826 ...................................................... Greater Sand Plover

Charadrius veredus Gould, 1848 ................................................................. Oriental Plover

Elsegornis melanops (Viellot, 1818) .............................................................. Black-fronted Dotterel

39 Thirty nine birds translocated from Pulu Keeling to Horsburgh I. in April 2013.

40 Subspecies unknown. Sometimes placed in the genus *Charadrius*.

41 First recorded on Christmas I. in 1993; bred successfully to become Common, but subsequently numbers dwindled to now Uncommon resident. First recorded on Cocos I. in 2004, now a Common resident. Estimated population ca. 2,000 birds.

42 No specimens available, but photographs suggest nominate ssp.

43 Subspecies unknown, most likely nominate ssp.

44 No specimens available, but photographs suggest nominate ssp.

45 Sometimes placed in the genus *Gallinula*.

46 Subspecies unknown.

47 Sometimes treated as a full species.

48 Some observations may be attributed to *P. s. tomkovichi*.

49 Most likely ssp. *carunculus*.

50 Subspecies not determined.

51 Subspecies not determined.

52 Subspecies unknown, most likely the nominate.
### SCOLOPACIDAE  Sandpipers and snipes

53 *Gallinago stenura* (Bonaparte, 1830) ........................................... Pin-tailed Snipe

54 *Gallinago megala* Swinhoe, 1861 ........................................... Swinhoe’s Snipe

55 *Limosa limosa* (Linnaeus, 1758) ........................................... Black-tailed Godwit

56 *Limosa lapponica* (Linnaeus, 1758) ........................................... Bar-tailed Godwit

57 *Numenius minititus* Gould, 1841 ........................................... Little Curlew

58 *Numenius phaeopus* (Linnaeus, 1758) ........................................... Whimbrel

59 *Numenius arquata* (Linnaeus, 1758) ........................................... Eurasian Curlew

60 *Tringa totanus* (Linnaeus, 1758) ........................................... Common Redshank

61 *Tringa stagnatilis* (Bechstein, 1803) ........................................... Marsh Sandpiper

62 *Tringa nebularia* (Gunnerus, 1767) ........................................... Common Greenshank

63 *Tringa glareola* Linnaeus, 1758 ........................................... Wood Sandpiper

64 *Tringa brevipes* (Vieillot, 1816) ........................................... Grey-tailed Tattler

65 *Tringa cinerea* (Güldenstädt, 1775) ........................................... Terek Sandpiper

66 *Tringa hypoleucos* Linnaeus, 1758 ........................................... Common Sandpiper

### GLAREOLIDAE  Pratincoles

67 *Glareola pratincola* (Horsfield, 1821) ........................................... Great Knot

68 *Calidris canutus* (Linnaeus, 1758) ........................................... Red Knot

69 *Calidris alba* (Pallas, 1764) ........................................... Sanderling

70 *Calidris ruficollis* (Pallas, 1776) ........................................... Red-necked Stint

71 *Calidris minuta* (Middendorff, 1833) ........................................... Long-toed Stint

72 *Calidris melanotos* (Vieillot, 1819) ........................................... Pectoral Sandpiper

73 *Calidris acuminata* (Horsfield, 1821) ........................................... Sharp-tailed Sandpiper

74 *Calidris ferruginea* (Pontoppidan, 1763) ........................................... Curlew Sandpiper

75 *Limicola falcinellus* (Pontoppidan, 1763) ........................................... Broad-billed Sandpiper

76 *Phalaropus lobatus* (Linnaeus, 1758) ........................................... Red-necked Phalarope

77 *Phalaropus fulicarius* (Linnaeus, 1758) ........................................... Red Phalarope

### LARIDAE  Gulls and terns

78 *Anous stolidus* (Linnaeus, 1758) ........................................... Common Noddy (Brown Noddy)

79 *Anous stolidus pileatus* (Scopoli, 1786) ........................................... Lesser Noddy

80 *Anous tenuirostris* (Temminck, 1823) ........................................... Lesser Noddy

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53 Cocos (Keeling) Is. ca. 10 birds observed in 2012.

54 No positive observations accepted for Cocos (Keeling) Is.

55 Subspecies not determined, most likely ssp. melanuroides.

56 Subspecies *lapponica* and *bauerii* are likely to occur.

57 Subspecies not determined, most likely ssp. variegatus.

58 Most likely ssp. orientalis.

59 The name Far Eastern Curlew is preferred to reduce confusion with the eastern race of the Eurasian Curlew *N. arquata orientalis*.

60 Subspecies not determined.

61 Sometimes placed in the genus Xenus. *Tringa terek* is a synonym.

62 Sometimes placed in the genus *Actitis*.

63 Subspecies *pieris* and *regersi* are likely to occur.

64 Most likely nominate ssp.

65 Subspecies not determined, most likely ssp. *sibirica*.

66 On Cocos (Keeling) Is. some birds remain throughout the year.

67 Subspecies not determined.
Gygis alba (Sparrman, 1786) .................................................. White Tern (White Noddy)
Gygis alba candida (Gmelin, 1789) ...........................................

64 Larus canus Linnaeus, 1758 ..................................................... Common Gull (Mew Gull)

65 Larus fuscus Linnaeus, 1758 .................................................... Lesser Black-backed Gull
Larus fuscus fuscus Linnaeus, 1758 ............................................ Baltic Gull

66 Sterna nilotica Gmelin, 1789 ..................................................... Gull-billed Tern

70 Sterna nilotica affinis Horsfield, 1821 ....................................... Asian Gull-billed Tern
Sterna bergii Lichtenstein, 1823 ............................................ Crested Tern (Greater Crested Tern)

71 Sterna bergii christata Stephens, 1826 ......................................

72 Sterna bengalensis Lesson, 1831 .................................................. Lesser Crested Tern

73 Sterna albifrons (Pallas, 1764) .......................................................... Little Tern
Sterna albifrons sinensis Gmelin, 1789 ......................................White-shafted Little Tern

74 Sterna sandvicensis Hume, 1877 .................................................. Saunders’s Tern

75 Sterna anaethetus Scopoli, 1786 .................................................. Bridled Tern
Sterna anaethetus anaethetus Scopoli, 1786 ...................................

76 Sterna fuscata Linnaeus, 1766 ..................................................... Sooty Tern

77 Sterna fuscata nubilosa Sparrman, 1788 ........................................

78 Sterna hirundo Linnaeus, 1758 ..................................................... Common Tern

79 Sterna hybridia Pallas, 1811 ..................................................... Whiskered Tern

80 Sterna leucopra Temminck, 1815 ................................................ White-winged Black Tern (White-winged Tern)

STERCORARIIDAE Skuas
81 Stercorarius antarcticus (Lesson, 1831) ....................................... Brown Skua
Stercorarius pomarinus (Temminck, 1815) ................................. Pomarine Skua (Pomarine Jaeger)
Stercorarius parasiticus (Linnaeus, 1758) ................................. Arctic Skua (Parasitic Jaeger)

COLUMBIDAE Pigeons and doves
82 Columba livia Gmelin, 1789 ..................................................... Domestic Pigeon (Rock Dove)

Streptopelia orientalis (Latham, 1790) ............................................. Oriental Turtle-Dove
Streptopelia orientalis meena (Sykes, 1832) .....................................

83 Streptopelia decaocto (Frivaldszky, 1838) .................................... Eurasian Collared Dove

Streptopelia tranquebarica (Hermann, 1804) .................................. Red Turtle-Dove
Streptopelia tranquebarica humilis (Temminck, 1824) ...............

Chalcophaps indica (Linnaeus, 1758) ............................................. Emerald Dove

84 Chalcophaps indica natalis Lister, 1888 .......................................

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68 Subspecies not determined, most likely kantschatschensis.
69 Sometimes placed in the genus Gelochelidon.
70 Some observations may be attributed to S. n. nilotica.
71 Single specimen from Christmas I. identified as ssp. christata. Other observations concern immature birds not attributable to subspecies.
72 Subspecies not determined, most likely ssp. bengalensis. Sometimes placed in the genus Thalasseus.
73 Sometimes placed in the genus Sterna.
74 Sometimes placed in the genus Sterna.
75 Sometimes placed in the genus Onychoprion.
76 Sometimes placed in the genus Onychoprion.
77 S. f. serratus synonymised with ssp. nubilosa.
78 Subspecies not determined.
79 Subspecies not determined. Sometimes placed in the genus Chlidonias.
80 Sometimes placed in the genus Chlidonias.
81 Subspecies not determined. South Polar Skua S. maccormicki could also occur.
82 All records attributed to domesticated strains.
83 Unconfirmed sighting 1993; probably ship assisted.
84 Introduced to Cocos (Keeling) Islands 1890–1895, but now extirpated.
Cuculiformes

Cuculidae Cuckoos

88 Eudynamys scolopaceus (Linnaeus, 1758) .......................................................... Asian Koel (Western Koel) Vis V
89 Chrysococcyx basalis (Horsfield, 1821) .......................................................... Horsfield's Bronze Cuckoo V Ø
90 Cacomantis pallidus (Latham, 1802) .......................................................... Pallid Cuckoo V V
91 [Surniculus] lugubris (Horsfield, 1821) .......................................................... Square-tailed Drongo-Cuckoo ? V
92 Hierococcyx sparverioides (Vigors, 1832) .......................................................... Large Hawk-Cuckoo V Vu
93 Hierococcyx nisicolor (Blyth, 1843) .......................................................... Hodgson’s Hawk-Cuckoo Ø V
94 Cuculus micropterus Gould, 1838 .......................................................... Indian Cuckoo Ø V
95 Cuculus saturatus Blyth, 1843 .......................................................... Oriental Cuckoo Vu Vr

Strigiformes

Strigidae Typical owls

91 Ketupa ketupu (Horsfield, 1821) .......................................................... Buffy Fish-Owl Ø V
92 Ninix natalis Lister, 1889 .......................................................... Christmas Island Hawk-Owl (Christmas Island Boobook) ERc Ø

Caprimulgiformes

Caprimulgidae Nightjars

93 Caprimulgus jotaka Temminck and Schlegel, 1847 .......................................................... Grey Nightjar V Ø
94 Caprimulgus affinis Horsfield, 1821 .......................................................... Savanna Nightjar V Ø

Apodiformes

Apodidae Swifts

95 Collocalia esculenta (Linnaeus, 1758) .......................................................... Glossy Swiftlet
96 Aerodramus spp. .......................................................... Aerodramus "Nest swiftlets" Vi Vi
97 Hirundapus caudacutus (Latham, 1801) .......................................................... White-throated Needletail V V

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85 Possible sighting listed by Chasen 1933.
86 Introduced to Cocos (Keeling) Islands ca. 1890, but now extirpated.
87 Introduced to Cocos (Keeling) Islands ca. 1890, last known record in 1906.
88 Subspecies not determined, most likely chinensis, but malayanus may occur. (James and McAllan 2014, Aust Field Ornith. Supp. 31: 116–117).
89 One positive record.
90 Subspecies unknown, most likely the nominate.
91 The Himalayan Cuckoo C. s. saturatus and Horsfield’s Cuckoo C. s. optatus are herein combined within the vernacular Oriental Cuckoo; both ssp. are likely to occur. Contra to the discussion by James and McAllan 2014, Aust Field Ornith. Supp. 31: 117–118, the only two specimens measured from Cocos are referable to C. s. optatus.
92 Subspecies not determined.
93 Subspecies unknown, most likely the nominate.
94 Subspecies not determined.
95 Sometimes treated as a full species.
96 Regular reports of Aerodramus spp. from both Christmas I. and Cocos (Keeling) Is., but no specimens available. Field identification for this group is problematic and possibly includes Himalayan Swiftlet, Mossy-nest Swiftlet, Black-nest Swiftlet and Edible-nest Swiftlet with the probable occurrence of at least two of these species.
97 Subspecies unknown, most likely the nominate.
Checklist of the Birds of Christmas Island and Cocos (Keeling) Islands

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98 Hirundapus cochinensis (Oustalet, 1878) ................................ Silver-backed Needletail Ø V
99 Hirundapus spp. .............................................................................. Needletail V Ø
100 Apus apus (Linnaeus, 1758) ...................................................... Common Swift V Ø
101 Apus pacificus (Latham, 1801) ..................................................... Pacific Swift (Fork-tailed Swift) V Ø
102 Apus pacificus pacificus (Latham, 1801) ...................................... Pacific Swift (Fork-tailed Swift) V Ø
103 Apus nipalensis Hodgson, 1837 .................................................. House Swift V Ø

CORACIIDAE Rollers

104 Coracias garrulus Linnaeus, 1758.............................................. European Roller Ø V
105 Eurystomus orientalis (Linnaeus, 1766) ........................................ Oriental Dollarbird V V

ALCEDINIDAE Kingfishers

106 Todiramphus chloris (Boddaert, 1783) ....................................... Collared Kingfisher V V
107 Todiramphus sanctus (Vigors and Horsfield, 1827) ...................... Sacred Kingfisher V V
108 Alcedo atthis (Linnaeus, 1758) ................................................... Common Kingfisher V V

MEROPIDAE Bee-eaters

Merops ornatus Latham, 1802.......................................................... Rainbow Bee-eater Ø V

FALCONIFORMES

FALCONIDAE Falcons and kestrels

Falco cenchroides Vigors and Horsfield, 1827 ................. Australian Kestrel (Nankeen Kestrel) Ru V
110 Falco cenchroides cenchroides Vigors and Horsfield, 1827 ...................... Eurasian Hobby V V
111 Falco berigora Linnaeus, 1758 .................................................... Brown Falcon Ø V
112 Falco berigora berigora Vigors and Horsfield, 1827 ............................... Peregrine Falcon V V

PSITTACIFORMES

PSITTACIDAE Parrots

113 Psittacula krameri Scopoli, 1769 ............... Rose-ringed Parakeet (Indian Ringnecked Parrot) X Ø

98 Identified from photographs - 1 February 2018.
99 Unconfirmed sightings of Hirundapus spp. could be attributed to either Silver-backed Needletail H. cochinensis or Brown-backed Needletail H. giganteus.
100 Most likely ssp. pekinensis.
101 A. pacificus has recently been split into a number of taxa.
102 Some observations could be attributed to related taxa.
103 Currently expanding its range in Lesser Sundas, Indonesia (Johnstone et al. 2014). Sometimes treated as conspecific with the Little Swift Apus affinis. Subspecies not determined.
104 Subspecies not determined, most likely semenowi.
105 Subspecies not determined, most likely calonyx.
106 Subspecies not determined, most likely southeast Asian taxa.
107 Most likely nominate ssp.
108 Most likely ssp. bengalensis.
109 Arrival on Cocos (Keeling) Islands 2011 (up to 10 birds). No recent observations.
110 Most likely nominate ssp. Unconfirmed reports from Christmas I.
111 One record, July 2013.
112 Subspecies not determined, most likely calidis or japonensis.

.. 10 ..
## PASSERIFORMES

### PITTIDAE Pittas

*Pitta nympha* Temminck and Schlegel, 1850 .......................................................... Fairy Pitta  

*Pitta moluccensis* (P.L.S. Müller, 1776) .................................................. Blue-winged Pitta

### CAMPEPHAGIDAE Cuckoo-shrikes and trillers

114 *Coracina papuensis* (Gmelin, 1788) ........................................... White-bellied Cuckoo-shrike

### LINIIDAE Shrikes

*Lanius tigrinus* Drapiez, 1828 ............................................................. Tiger Shrike  

115 *Lanius cristatus* Linnaeus, 1758 .................................................. Brown Shrike

### DICRURIDAE Drongos

*Dicrurus annectans* (Hodgson, 1836) ........................................... Crow-billed Drongo

### HIRUNDINIDAE Swallows and martins

*Hirundo rustica* Linnaeus, 1758 ............................................................ Barn Swallow  

*Hirundo rustica gutturalis* Scopoli, 1786 ........................................ PMc PMu

116 *Delichon dasypus* (Bonaparte, 1850) ........................................... Asian House Martin

117 *Cecropis daurica* (Laxmann, 1769) ........................................... Red-rumped Swallow  

118 *Petrochelidon nigricans* (Vieillot, 1817) .................................. Tree Martin  

*Petrochelidon nigricans nigricans* (Vieillot, 1817) ................................ V Ø

### PHYLLOSCOPIDAE Leaf warblers

119 *Phylloscopus fuscatus* (Blyth, 1842) ........................................... Dusky Warbler  

120 *Phylloscopus borealis* (Blasius, 1858) ........................................ Arctic Warbler  

### ACRÖCEPHALIDAE Reed warblers

*Acrocephalus orientalis* (Temminck and Schlegel, 1847) .................... Oriental Reed Warbler

### LOCUSTELLIDAE Grass warblers and grassbirds

121 *Locustella certhiola* (Pallas, 1811) ........................................... Pallas’s Grasshopper Warbler

### ZOSTEROPIDAE White-eyes

122 *Zosterops natalis* Lister, 1889 .................................................. Christmas Island White-eye

### STURNIDAE Starlings

123 *Gracula religiosa* Linnaeus, 1758 ............................................. Common Hill Myna

124 *Acrocephalus javanicus* Cabanis, 1851 .................................. Javan Myna

125 *Agropsar sternus* (Pallas, 1776) ........................................... Daurian Starling (Purple-backed Starling)  

*Pastor roseus* (Linnaeus, 1758) ................................................... Rosy Starling (Rosy Pastor)

### TURDIDAE Thrushes

*Turdus poliocephalus* Latham, 1801 ................................................ Island Thrush

126 *Turdus poliocephalus erythropleurus* Sharpe, 1887 .................................. Eyebrowed Thrush

### MUSCICAPIDAE Old World flycatchers

*Muscicapra griseisitica* (Swinhoe, 1861) ................................................ Grey-streaked Flycatcher

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114 A *Coracina* sp. sighting by a casual observer in June 2012 on Cocos Is. (Home I.).  

115 All three ssp. *cristatus*, *lucioniensis* and *confusae* recorded.  

116 Subspecies unknown, most likely the nominate.  

117 Subspecies not determined, most likely *japonica*. Sometimes placed in the genus *Hirundo*.  

118 Sometimes placed in the genus *Hirundo*. Australian and Timor populations treated under the nominate form contra Gill and Donsker (2013).  

119 Subspecies not determined.  

120 Historical records largely unconfirmed as former ssp. Arctic Warbler *borealis*, Kamchatka Leaf Warbler *examinandus* and Japanese Leaf Warbler *xanthodryas* recently separated as full species.  

121 Subspecies not determined.  

122 Introduced to Cocos (Keeling) Islands 1855–1900.  

123 Possible aviary escape - recorded 1923. No subsequent records.  

124 Possible aviary escapees - recorded 1904 and 1939. No subsequent records.  

125 Formerly *Sturnia sternina*.  

126 Introduced to Cocos (Keeling) Islands 1855–1900.
127 Muscicapa sibirica Gmelin, 1789 .......................................................... Dark-sided Flycatcher Ø V
128 Muscicapa dauurica Pallas, 1811 .......................................................... Asian Brown Flycatcher V V
129 Cyanoptila cyanomelana (Temminck, 1829) ........................................ Blue and White Flycatcher V V
130 Ficedula narcissina (Temminck, 1836) ............................................ Narcissus Flycatcher Ø V
Ficedula mugimaki (Temminck, 1836) .............................................. Mugimaki Flycatcher Ø V
131 Monticola solitarius (Linnaeus, 1758) ............................................ Blue Rock Thrush Ø V
132 Oenanthe oenanthe (Linnaeus, 1758) ........................................ Northern Wheatear V Ø

PASSERIDAE True (Old World) sparrows
133 Passer montanus (Linnaeus, 1758) .............................................. Eurasian Tree Sparrow Rc Ø

PLOCEIDAE Weavers, widowbirds
134 Ploceus hypoxanthus (Sparman, 1788) ........................................ Asian Golden Weaver Ø X

ESTRILIDAE Estrildid finches
135 Taeniopygia bichenovii (Vigors and Horsfield, 1827) .................. Double-barred Finch Ø X
136 Lonchura oryzivora (Linnaeus, 1758) ........................................ Java Sparrow Ru X

MOTACILLIDAE Wagtails and pipits
Motacilla dendronotus indicus (Gmelin, 1789) .................................. Forest Wagtail V Ø
137 Motacilla flava Linnaeus, 1758 .................................................... Yellow Wagtail V Ø
138 Motacilla flava similima Hartert, 1905 ........................................ V V
Motacilla flava macronyx (Stresemann, 1920) ................................ V V
139 Motacilla flava taiwana (Swinhoe, 1863) ..................................... Green-headed Yellow Wagtail V V
140 Motacilla citreola Pallas, 1776 ..................................................... Citrine Wagtail V Ø
Motacilla cinerea Tunstall, 1771 ..................................................... Grey Wagtail V Ø
Motacilla cinerea cinerea Tunstall, 1771 .......................................... Vr V
Motacilla alba Linnaeus, 1758 .......................................................... White Wagtail V V
Motacilla alba ocularis Swinhoe, 1860 ............................................. V V
Motacilla alba leucopsis Gould, 1838 ............................................. V Ø
141 Anthus godlewskii (Taczanowski, 1876) ....................................... Blyth’s Pipit V Ø
142 Anthus trivialis (Linnaeus, 1758) .................................................... Tree Pipit Ø V
Anthus cervinus (Pallas, 1811) ....................................................... Red-throated Pipit V V

127 Subspecies unknown, most likely the nominate.
128 Subspecies unknown, most likely the nominate.
129 Subspecies not determined, most likely cyanomelana or intermedia.
130 Subspecies not determined.
131 Subspecies not determined.
133 Subspecies not determined, most likely malaccensis.
134 Introduced to Cocos (Keeling) Islands; failed introduction.
136 Introduced to Cocos (Keeling) Islands before 1828; now extirpated.
137 Sometimes Yellow Wagtail treated as two taxa - Eastern and Western Yellow Wagtail, but retained here as a single species M. flava.
138 M. f. similima herein considered distinct from M. f. tschutschensis.
139 Sometimes treated as a full species.
140 Subspecies unknown, most likely the nominate.
141 One specimen collected 1923. A few other observations may be attributed to this or other Anthus spp.
142 Most likely nominate ssp.
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