



Migratory & Native Birds of Guam



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Tringa incana
Dulili, wandering tattler

This dulili's common name "wandering" refers to the broad range of this highly migratory species and "tattler" refers to their penchant for making warning calls when disturbed.

Breeding in northeastern Siberia and Alaska, these birds spend the winters on the rocky shores of Pacific islands including Guam and islands below the equator.

They feed on mollusks, crabs, marine worms, and insects with their tail bobbing up and down as they feed.

Photos by Martin Kastner



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Pluvialis fulva
Dulili, Pacific golden plover

As with many birds, the Pacific golden plover sports striking breeding plumage, with a black breast and face contrasted by a sinuous white line of feathers. However, in the Marianas, we generally see them in their somewhat more subdued non-breeding plumage. These handsome birds are speckled with golden flecks, hence the name.

These migrants breed in the Siberian and Alaskan tundra during the summer months. When the season is over, they head south to the warmer regions of the Pacific including Micronesia and Australia. They are known to revisit the same locations year after year.

Photos by Martin Kastner



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Charadrius mongolus
Dulili, lesser sand plover

The breeding grounds for these small-to-medium-sized plover are eastern Siberia and above the treeline in the Himalayas. They typically lay their eggs on bare ground after making a slight depression. They fly south for the winter months to shorelines from Japan and the Mariana Islands to Australia.

These birds feast on marine worms, crustaceans, and insects. In the photo below, a dulili eats a ragworm caught on a tidal flat in Fujimai-higata, Japan.

Photos by Martin Kastner & <https://commons.wikimedia.org/>



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Numenius phaeopus
Kålalang, Eurasian Whimbrel

Numenius means “new moon” in Greek and describes the crescent shape of whimbrel beaks. These birds have a large global range demonstrated by the Faroe Island stamp pictured below.

After breeding in the northern latitudes, kålalang spend many months vacationing on Guam shores. Their long curved bills and large size make them easily identifiable. Their beaks are the perfect shape for pulling small crabs out of holes in mudflats and beaches.

Photos by Martin Kastner & <https://commons.wikimedia.org/>



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Anous minutus
Fåhang, black noddy

Black noddies begin arriving in Guam at the end of April through May. They make their nests on Islan Dãno (Cocos Island) and recently have been nesting in Malesso near the church. They are the only tern to build nests in shoreline trees such as gågu (ironwood, *Casuarina equisetifolia*).

It is not known where the fåhang go after raising their young, but they return to Guam annually to nest.

Photos by Martin Kastner



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Aplonis opaca
Sāli, Micronesian starling

These gregarious birds are not migratory and were very prevalent in Guam before the arrival of the invasive brown treesnake. Avian biologists from the Ecology of Bird Loss project (EBL) and the Guam Department of Aquatics and Wildlife (DAWR) collaborated on a sāli survey of Guam and found that their population has increased from 100 birds in the 1990s to 1500 individuals currently. Their findings were published in 2021. The nesting box above was designed by EBL researchers with 70 nest boxes installed and monitored on Andersen Air Force Base.

Photos by Martin Kastner



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Arenaria interpres
Dulili, ruddy turnstone

Ruddy turnstones get their name from how they use their slightly upturned beaks to flip stones looking for a bite to eat. They make the long migration from their breeding grounds in the far northern reaches of Siberia and Alaska to their wintering grounds in Asia and the Pacific.

With their bright orange legs, they are easy to identify along the rocky shorelines and beaches of Guam.

Photos by Martin Kastner



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Egretta sacra
**CHúchuko' átilong, Pacific
reef heron**

The Pacific reef heron is found throughout Oceania and can be seen fishing in the shallows around Guam. They exhibit the unusual coloring characteristic of having either all grey or all white feathers, which is referred to as a dark morph (left) or a light morph (below). Breeding populations have been documented in the Mariana Islands, Palau, and Marshall Islands.

Photos by Martin Kastner & Joe Mancuso



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Tringa brevipes
Dulili, grey-tailed tattler

These migratory dulili breed in northeastern Siberia laying their eggs in stony riverbeds. After breeding season, they head south to Asia, southeast Asia, Micronesia, and Australia. Grey-tailed tattlers walk along the shoreline, rocks, and in the water looking for insects and crabs to eat.

In 2012, *Tringa brevipes* was listed as "Least Concern" on the IUCN Red List. Two years later, they were up listed to "Near Threatened".

Photos by Martin Kastner



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Himantopus himantopus
No Chamoru name, black-winged stilt

With their long pink legs, these birds can wade in deeper waters than other migratory shorebirds. Their breeding grounds are near the marshes, ponds, and shallow lakes of Northern Europe and Asia. Their diet consists of aquatic insects, fish, crustaceans, and worms. Black-winged stilts winter in Guam from September through April.

Photos by M. Mubashir and Martin Kastner



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Tringa glareola
Dulili, wood sandpiper

This medium-sized sandpiper visits Guam and the Northern Mariana Islands annually from October to May seeking a warm vacation spot on its annual migration from subarctic breeding grounds. Both parents incubate the eggs and fledglings learn to fly within a month after hatching.

Photos by Martin Kastner & Doug Pratt



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Spatula querquedula
No CHamoru name, garganey

These small ducks do not let their size keep them from migrating to warmer climates from their breeding grounds in northern Asia and Europe. They are called dabblers from their foraging habit of skimming the surface of the water. Garganey can be found in wetland areas of Guam along with shovelers and pintailed ducks, which are shown in the photos below.

Photos by Martin Kastner



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Gygis alba
CHunge', white tern

These birds can be seen soaring with the wind around Guam and when fishing plunge into the ocean to catch small fish. The base of their beaks is a bright blue ending in a black tip. Although they lay their eggs in trees and rocky ledges, they do not make a nest. This behavior leaves the eggs and chicks vulnerable to strong winds and inclement weather. Pacific navigators use this, and other seabirds, to find land.

Photos by Martin Kastner



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<https://www.allaboutbirds.org/>

<http://datazone.birdlife.org/>

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