



COMMONWEALTH of the  
NORTHERN MARIANAS ISLANDS

- Farallon de Pajaros (Uracas)
- Maug
- Asuncion

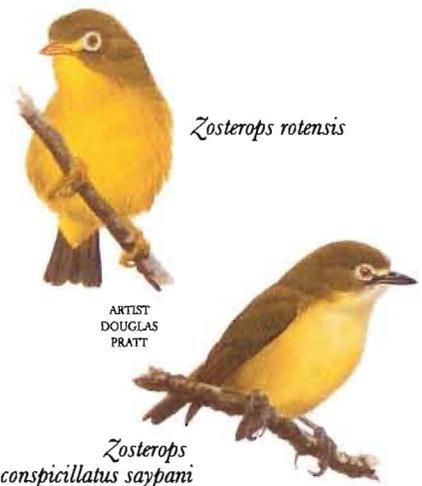
Left: Rota species  
Below: Saipan species

- Agrihan
- Pagan
- Alamagan
- Guguan
- Sarigan
- Anatahan
- Farallon de Medinilla

- Saipan
- Tinian
- Aguiguan

● Rota

- \* *Z. rotensis* distribution
- \* *Z. c. saypani* distribution



ARTIST  
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*Zosterops  
conspicillatus saypani*

*Zosterops rotensis*

## EASY PREY

The Nosa' have a habit of sleeping shoulder to shoulder, making them easy prey for the Brown treesnake. Nosa' are extinct on Guam, last seen in 1983.

**FACTOID!**



PHOTOS BY DFW and SCOTT-VOGT

ENDEMIC FOREST BIRD

# BRIDLED WHITE-EYE

Nosa' *Chamorro* Litchogh *Carolinian*

## IDENTIFICATION

These tiny light yellow/green birds got their name from the white ring around their eyes. Their upper parts are light green and their wings and tail feathers dark brown. They have yellow breasts and abdomens. The Rota species (*Zosterops rotensis*) is somewhat different than those on Tinian and Saipan (*Zosterops conspicillatus saypani*) and is not as common. The Rota Bridled white-eye is a much deeper yellow.

## HABITAT and FEEDING

Endemic to the Mariana Islands, Bridled white-eyes live in flocks in the uppermost canopy of the forest. The Saipan and Tinian Bridled white-eyes can be found in many different habitats including native and secondary forests, hibiscus thickets and tangantangan. Rota Bridled white-eyes can only be seen in the higher elevations of the Sabana on Rota. Their population appears to be decreasing as old and large trees die and are replaced with younger forests.

## REPRODUCTION

Bridled white-eyes build small, cup shaped nests. They attach the nests to the tree by building a handle that wraps around the

branch. Nests are composed of grasses bound together with spider webs and lined with hairs and small roots. The female lays one to three small, blue eggs. Both parents take turns sitting on the eggs. It takes roughly fourteen days before the chick is ready to fledge. During the first few trips outside the nest the parents stay near the young bird.

## THREATS and CONSERVATION

Threats to native forest birds, including Bridled white-eyes, are habitat loss and degradation. They are especially vulnerable in areas where much of the native limestone forest has been altered by humans or introduced mammals.

Another subspecies of the Bridled white-eye used to exist on Guam but is now extinct due to the Brown treesnake (*Boiga irregularis*). The Brown treesnake feeds on birds and bird eggs.

The Bridled white-eye is a protected native forest bird in the CNMI. The Rota species will soon be listed as endangered. It is illegal to hunt, kill or possess this bird or its eggs without a permit issued by the CNMI Division of Fish and Wildlife. Much effort is going toward keeping the Brown treesnake out of the CNMI due to its devastating effects on many bird populations in Guam.



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