



COMMONWEALTH of the
NORTHERN MARIANAS ISLANDS

- Farallon de Pajaros (Uracas)
- Maug
- Asuncion

● Agrihan

● Pagan

● Alamagan

● Guguan

● Sarigan

● Anatahan

● Farallon de Medinilla

● Saipan

● Tinian
● Aguiguan

● Rota

* Distribution in the CNMI



PHOTOS BY DPW and SCOTT VOGT



ENDEMIC FOREST BIRD GOLDEN WHITE-EYE

Canario *Chamorro* Khanooriyo *Carolinian*

IDENTIFICATION

The Golden white-eye is a bright yellow bird that often has a long, melodious, sing-song call.

HABITAT and FEEDING

Golden white-eyes are endemic to the Marianas Islands. They are seen in pairs or small flocks in native and secondary forests. They are not as abundant in introduced forests of *Leucaena* (tangantangan). Golden white-eyes feed on a combination of seeds, fruit and insects. They enjoy the hard seeds of *Melanolepis* (alum) and *Maytenus* (lulujut). They also feed on the berries of *Aidia* (sumak), *Eugenia* (agatelang), *Psychotria* (aploghating) and papaya.

REPRODUCTION

After a mating pair have established themselves, they build a nest three to four meters off the ground. They build deeply cupped nests attached to tree branches by a handle. The nests are made from small twigs, needles, and spider webs. Nests are often built in native trees such as *Cynometra* (gulos) or *Ochrosia* (langiti). The female lays one to two eggs. The male and female take turns incubating the

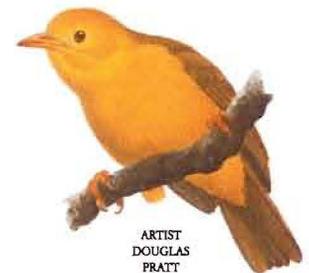
eggs and taking care of the chicks once they are hatched. It takes about fourteen days from the time of hatching before the chicks are ready to fledge. Fledging is the process of young birds learning to fly and eventually setting out on their own.

THREATS and CONSERVATION

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

Golden white-eyes, particularly the chicks, are preyed upon by rats, feral cats, monitor lizards and birds such as the Micronesian starling and Collared kingfisher.

The native forests are essential to the Golden white-eyes continued existence. Golden white-eyes are found in native forest habitats on just two islands (Saipan and Aguiguan) in the CNMI. This makes them very susceptible to habitat loss and to catastrophes such as typhoons. The Golden white-eye is a protected native forest bird in the CNMI.



ARTIST
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ISLAND SPECIALISTS

88% of white-eyes are found on islands, which make them more susceptible to becoming endangered than continental birds.

FACTOID!



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