



COMMONWEALTH of the
NORTHERN MARIANAS ISLANDS



PHOTOS BY SCOTT VOGT

ENDEMIC FOREST BIRD

MARIANA FRUIT-DOVE

Paluman totut
Chamorro

Mwee'mwe
Carolinian



- Farallon de Pajaros (Uracas)
- Maug
- Asuncion

● Agrihan

● Pagan

● Alamagan

● Guguan

● Sarigan

● Anatahan

● Farallon de Medinilla

● Saipan

● Tinian

● Agulguan

● Rota

* Distribution in the CNMI

IDENTIFICATION

The Mariana fruit-dove is the most colorful bird in the CNMI. It has a purple cap, yellow and orange breast and a bright yellow tail band. Its back is mostly green which allows it to blend into the leaves of trees as it makes short flights to look for food.

HABITAT and FEEDING

The Mariana fruit-dove is endemic to the Mariana Islands. It lives and nests mainly in native forests, although also occupies secondary forests; often near houses. The fruit-dove is very secretive and rarely seen, but you can usually hear its deep cooing call throughout the forest and in quiet neighborhoods.

They feed on fruits and nuts found in the forests. Some of their favorite foods are *Eugenia* (Agatelang) and *Psychotria* (Aploghating) berries. They also feed on papaya, *Muntingia* (Mansanita) berries and the red juicy fruit of the bittermelon vine (Almagosa).

REPRODUCTION

Fruit-doves build very loose nests out of large twigs in the forks of tree branches and on mats of vines. The female lays only one egg. The mother incubates the egg and raises the

young chick. The young are fed a milky substance produced in the lining of the parent's throat sac or crop. This is called "pigeons milk". The young are later fed a mash of regurgitated berries and nuts that have been partially digested.

THREATS and CONSERVATION

The Mariana fruit-dove has been a popular game species but was becoming rare due to overhunting. It is now protected by local custom since it was declared the official bird of the Commonwealth.

Fruit-doves are very shy and secretive. They will flush almost immediately upon hearing a disturbance. On Guam, the population was eliminated by the Brown treesnake (*Boiga irregularis*). Efforts are being made to keep the Brown treesnake out of the CNMI.

The Mariana fruit-dove is a protected native forest bird in the CNMI. It is illegal to hunt, kill or possess any threatened, endangered, or protected species, or any part thereof, without a valid scientific permit issued by the CNMI Division of Fish and Wildlife. The taking of eggs from any species of land or sea bird is also prohibited without a permit.



ARTIST
DOUGLAS
PRATT

Ptilinopus roseicapilla

PRIDE IN PEACE

The Mariana fruit-dove is the official bird of the CNMI. The dove is a symbol of peace around the world.

FACTOID!



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