



COMMONWEALTH of the  
NORTHERN MARIANAS ISLANDS

● Farallon de Pajaros (Uracas)  
● Maug  
● Asuncion

● Agrihan  
● Pagan

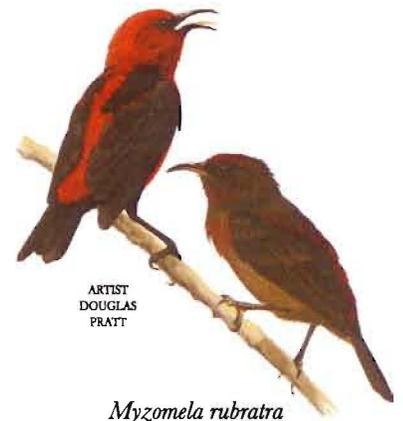
● Alamagan  
● Guguan

● Sarigan  
● Anatahan

● Farallon de Medinilla

● Salpan  
● Tinian  
● Aguiguan  
● Rota

\* Distribution in the CNMI



ARTIST  
DOUGLAS  
FRATT

*Myzomela rubratra*

SPEED: 30 FPM!

While foraging, this speedy bird can visit up to 30 flowers in just one minute!

FACTOID!



PHOTOS BY SCOTT VOGT and TIM SUTTERFIELD

NATIVE FOREST BIRD

## MICRONESIAN HONEYEATER

Egigi Chamorro Tigh'par Carolinian

### IDENTIFICATION

The Micronesian honeyeater is the only bright red bird in the Marianas Islands. Females are dark brown with a reddish tinge on their breasts. Males are bright red on their backs and breast. Their colors are particularly striking during mating season. Honeyeaters have a two-noted call which sounds like a quick whistle.

Micronesian honeyeaters are often confused with hummingbirds, which do not inhabit this region.

### HABITAT and FEEDING

The Micronesian honeyeater is indigenous to much of Micronesia and it is wide spread throughout the Mariana Islands. It is common in native forests, secondary forests, parks and gardens. They are particularly numerous on the northern islands of the CNMI where they have little competition from other forest birds.

Honeyeaters are aptly named as they feed on sweet flower nectar. The beak of the honeyeater is long and thin, specifically designed to poke into a long flower tube. In native forests, they forage on nectar from flowers of many plants including the *Erythrina* (Gaogao), *Cerbera* (Chiute) and *Ochrosia* (Langiti).

Around the garden, honeyeaters can be seen feeding on hibiscus flowers, *Samanea saman* (True monkeypod), and *Albizia lebbek* (White monkeypod or Kalaskas). This species of honeyeater also eats insects that have become trapped inside the flowers.

### REPRODUCTION

Micronesian honeyeaters build tiny cup-shaped nests out of grasses, roots and ironwood needles glued together with spider webs. The female will lay one or two off-white, brown spotted eggs each year. The male Micronesian honeyeater defends the nesting and feeding area for its family. Angry males chase away intruders with their loud, scolding calls.

### THREATS and CONSERVATION

A potential threat to this species is the introduction of predators. The Brown treesnake (*Boiga irregularis*) was responsible for the extinction of the Cardinal honeyeater (*Myzomela cardinalis*) on Guam, where it was last seen in 1986.

The taking of eggs from any species of land or sea bird is prohibited without a permit issued by the CNMI Division of Fish and Wildlife.



This project was funded by a grant under the Wildlife Conservation and Restoration Program from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, administered by the CNMI Division of Fish and Wildlife, Department of Lands and Natural Resources. For further information contact CNMI Division of Fish and Wildlife, Lower Base, P.O. Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950; 670-664-6000.