



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 SCOTT VOGT



NATIVE FOREST BIRD RUFIOUS FANTAIL

Naabak Leteghi par
Chamorro *Carolinian*

IDENTIFICATION

Rufous fantails are small birds with reddish-brown feathers. They have a habit of spreading their tail feathers. The fanning of the tail is used by males to challenge one another and in courtship rituals to attract females. They sing beautiful songs to help keep their families together or to ward off strangers.

HABITAT and FEEDING

The Rufous fantail occurs on islands throughout the Pacific. Found in all forest types, it can be seen buzzing quickly through brush and tree-tops. It seems to be quite curious and will often come close to an observer who is standing still in the forest.

Fantails feed on insects found on tree bark and leaves. They also catch insects in mid air. Small bristles on the sides of their bill help direct insects into their mouths.

REPRODUCTION

Pairs of fantails build small, cone shaped nests of grasses, ironwood needles and spider webs. Nests are held together by saliva. Fantails build

their nests about ten feet above the ground, often in *Cynometra* (Gulos) or *Guamia* (Paipai) trees.

Females lay one to two eggs. Both parents care for the eggs and raise the chicks. They often nest two times a year. Chicks are born naked, but become fully feathered and can fly in about fifteen days.

THREATS and CONSERVATION

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

The Rufous fantail is a protected native forest bird in the CNMI. It is illegal to hunt, kill or possess these birds or their eggs without a permit issued by the CNMI Division of Fish and Wildlife.

These small forest birds were easy prey for the Brown treesnake (*Boiga irregularis*) on Guam. Many efforts are being made to keep the Brown treesnake out of the CNMI due to its devastating effects on many bird populations.



ARTIST
DOUGLAS
PRATT

Rhipidura rufifrons

FOREVER LOST

"Naabak" means "someone who gets you lost" It's a common belief if you follow it as it flits through the forest, you'll become lost.

FACTOID!



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.