

State of Palau's Birds. Koror: Belau National Museum 2014

Birds

Palau Bird Records Committee

On December 8, 2014, the Board of Trustees of Belau National Museum established the Palau Bird Records Committee (PBRC) as a Committee of the museum's National Program for Monitoring Forest and Coastal Birds. The geographic scope of the Committee is all islands that are part of the Republic of Palau and the waters within 200 nautical miles of the coast of the Palau Islands. The mission of the Committee is to review noteworthy reports of field observations of Palau's birds for the purpose of maintaining an authoritative Palau Islands Bird List and building a broader understanding of the avifauna of Palau. The PBRC is the first, and so far only, BRC in Micronesia and the second BRC in the tropical Pacific (Hawaii has the other). Situated in the western equatorial Pacific and within the East Asian/Australasian Flyway (EAAF), Palau has the richest bird diversity of any island group in Micronesia (Wiles 2005). Establishment of the PBRC was motivated by the entry into force of the UN Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals in the Republic of Palau and the designation of the Northern Peleliu Lkes in Palau as a global Important Bird Area and a regionally (Oceania) significant migratory shorebird site (BirdLife International 2015).

State of Palau's Birds 2017

The 2017 edition of *The State of Palau's Birds*, a book produced by the Belau National Museum with support from Palau Conservation Society (PCS) is the 8th annual publication presenting a stunning visual display of a few of the many resident and migratory bird species of Palau. The book showcases the increasingly important role that Palau plays in supporting the migration of birds as they fly through the East Asian/Australasian Flyway (EAAF) and stopover in Palau, especially on the sand flats of Peleliu Island. This was one of the last publications spearheaded by the late Alan R. Olsen, BNM's longtime entomologist and Natural History Manager.

iBird and eBird

Through the amazing work of the BNM ornithology team, information about the resident and migratory bird species of Palau can be accessed online on two platforms: iBird and eBird.

iBird is a consolidated app (available on App Store and Google Play) that shows a database of bird species present in North America, United Kingdom, Ireland, Hawaii and Palau. There is a version of this application that can show you Hawaii and Palau bird species only for a cheaper price. It offers a Time-of-Day in-app feature that lets you search for birds by activity levels during day or night. The Birds Around Me (BAM) feature can show species in your GPS location and help you identify birds just like birding experts. A collection of audio recordings and illustrations are also available for further identification help.

eBird Mobile (available on App Store and Google Play) makes it easy to record the birds you see in the field, and seamlessly link these observations with eBird--a global online database of bird records used by hundreds of thousands of birders around the world. This free resource

makes it easy to keep track of what you see, while making your data openly available for scientific research, education, and conservation. The "Record as you go" functionality is designed for incremental list keeping and counting while birding. The app's full offline functionality enables use in places with limited or no Internet connection. eBird Mobile is directly linked to the website- [**https://ebird.org**](https://ebird.org).