

GUIDE TO THE
BIRDS



OF

NIUE



SPREP

South Pacific Regional Environment Programme

Guide

to the

Birds of Niue

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Compiled by Joanna Sim

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Tau Manatu Fakaue

Ko e tau tupe ne totogi aki e matagahua nei, ne foaki mai he Kaugahua Takatakai Motu he Lalolagi / Tau Kautu Kau Fakalataha / Fakatufono Ausetalia moe Matakau Puipui moe Leveki ke he tau mena Momou i he Atu Pasifika Toga (SPREP).

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Koe tau lapa fakatino he tau manulele, ne foaki lagomatai mai he Faahi Gahua Leveki moe Puipui kehe Takatakai motu a Niu Silani. Koe mepe ke lata moe vala fonua ko Huvalu, ne kua talahau fakamahino koe vala fonua leveki mo e puipui kehe takatakaimotu ko Huvalu, ne foaki mai ai e James Atherton mai he Pasifika Toga ko Martel & Associates i Apia, Samoa.

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Foreword

The "Guide to the Birds of Niue" has been prepared by SPREP's Regional Avifauna Conservation Programme in response to, and in partnership with, the Government of Niue. The objectives of the Guide are to provide information on Niue's birdlife in a publication suitable for the general public, tourists and students. It will also provide a promotional, marketing and educational tool for local conservation efforts, tourism and education.

The Guide should enable anyone interested in the birdlife of Niue to put a name to each type of bird on the island. By including traditional bird lore, it is also hoped that the guide will nurture awareness of the importance and benefits of conserving Niue's birdlife and links to Niuean culture. This in turn may also encourage participation in wider regional and international biodiversity programmes—an objective under Niue's National Environment Management Strategy. The Guide is published in English and Niuean, to encourage both locals and visitors to read the guide.

The book has been arranged into two main sections. The first section describes 29 species of birds seen on Niue. The second section contains descriptions of 13 species that may occasionally be found and are vagrants to Niue from the central Pacific region. Each section is further divided into landbirds, shorebirds and seabirds for easy reference. The peka, (fruit bat) has also been included, as although it is not a bird, the peka is a significant part of Niue's avifauna.

The Guide also provides some additional information about each species (behaviour, voice and breeding), and locations where certain species are most likely to be seen. The principal location for bird-watching is the Huvalu Conservation Area. Emphasis is placed on this as a key birding site, because it has the highest number and biodiversity of birds on the island, as identified under the South Pacific Biodiversity Conservation Programme (SPBCP).

Since one of the aims of the Guide is to increase public awareness of Niue's birdlife, it is hoped that people will record their observations. A better understanding of the requirements and problems of each species will gradually become more evident as more information is recorded, and will contribute to the birds' long term conservation.

There is a real need for this book to be produced, not only for bird-watchers and tourists, but to allow Niueans to make informed decisions about the future of their native avifauna. At the very least, it is a step in the right direction towards achieving some of the Government of Niue's goals for the conservation and sustainable use of Niue's biodiversity. I hope that you find the "Guide to the Birds of Niue" an informative and useful publication that serves your information needs well.

Tamari'i Tutangata
Director
South Pacific Regional Environment Programme

Crossley Tatui
Director
Department of Community Affairs
Government of Niue

Folafolaaga

“Ko e tohi hāgaao ke he tau manulele ha Niue”, kua tauteute pauaki ai he matakau ko e SPREP, tuga kua fakahigoa “Ko e matagahua puipui ma e tau manulele he tau atumotu”, ke lata ia ma e manako mai ki ai, mo e gahua kau tokoua mo e Fakatufono Niue. Ko e hanai foki e tau kakano uho po ke alito he Tohi nai, ke maeke ai ke moua e tau talahauaga hāgaao ke he tau manulele kehekehe ha Niue, mo e tohia foki ki loto he taha tohi pauaki ke lata ia ma e iloaaga he tau tagata auloo, tau tagata fenoga evaeva mai ke he motu, pihia mo e tau tagata fakaako. Kua maeke foki ke moua mai he tohi nai, e tau fakamatalaaga ke lagomatai aki e fakalaulahiaga ma e tau puhala fakaohooho, tau puhala makete, mo e tau puhala fakaako, hāgaao ke he puipuiaga he tau koloa fakamotu, matagahua ma e tau tagata fenoga evaeva.

Ko e tohi nai foki, to maeke ke lagomatai atu ki a lautolu kua fiafia mo e fia iloa hokulo atu ke he tau vahega manulele kehekehe ha Niue, ke maeke ai foki ke iloa e tau higoa ma e tau vahega manulele takitaha. Ko e puhala nai kua aoga lahi ia, ke maeke ai foki ke ma'ologa mo e iloa he tau tagata e aoga mo e tau mitaki ke moua mai i ai, kaeke kua puipui fakalahi e tautolu e tau momoui manulele ha Niue, mo e eke ai foki mo taha matagahua uho he tau aga faka-Niue. To maeke foki he tauteaga nai, ke fakaohooho aki e Fakatufono Niue ke hu atu ke he tau matagahua kau fakalataha he tau atumotu, po ke he lalolagi katoa, ke lata ma e tau fakaholoaga he faahi puipui ma e tau mena momoui oti. Ko e matapatu fekau foki haia, tuga kua toka ai ke he tau talahauaga he matakau leveki takatakaimotu ha Niue katoa. Kua tohia ai e tohi nai ke he vagahau faka-Peritania, pihia foki ke he vagahau faka-Niue, ke maeke ai ke he tau tagata Niue, pihia mo e tau tagata o mai evaeva ke he motu nai ke totou mo e maama e tohi nai.

Kua toka ai he tohi nai, ua e matapatu veveheaga. ko e veveheaga fakamua, kua toka ai e tau fakamatalaaga hāgaao ke he uafulu-ma-hiva (29) e vahega manulele, kua iloa po ke manatu kua fa kitia tumau i Niue tali mai. Ko e veveheaga ke ua aki, kua toka ai e tau fakamatalaaga hāgaao ke he hogofulumatolu (13) foki e tau vahega manulele, tuga kua maeke ke kitia ai i Niue he falu a magahala, ka e nakai mahani ke nonofo mau i Niue, ka e fa o mai ki Niue mai he falu a atumotu he Pasifika. I loto foki he na veveheaga ua ia, kua ha ha i ai foki e fakavahegaaga kua taute pauaki ke lata ma e tau vahega manulele takitaha tuga kua fakahigoa ai - ko e vahega manulele nonofo motu, vahega manulele nonofo he tau kaukau tahi, mo e vahega manulele nonofo mau he tau tahi tokanoa. Kua fakaaoga e fakavahegaaga pehe nai he tau manulele ke fakamukamuka aki e iloaga ma e tau vahega manulele takitaha i Niue. Ko e peka (peka kai fualakau), kua aofia ai foki ke he totouaga nai, pete ni kua nakai totou e peka ke he totouaga he tau manulele, ka kua eke e peka mo taha manu talahaua ke he iloaga mo e totouaga he tau vahega manulele ha Niue.

Ke lalafi atu ke he tau fakamatalaaga oti nai, ko e tohi nai kua maeke foki ke moua mai ai falu a fakamatalaaga lafi ki luga, ke lata ma e tau vahega manulele takitaha, (fakalata atu ke he ha lautolu a tau aga mahani mau ai, tau vahega leo, mo e tau fanafanauaga), pihia mo e tau matakavi pauaki kua fa mahani ke kitia tumau ki ai e tau vahega manulele takitaha. Ko e fonua pauaki kua fa kitia tumau ki ai e tau vahega manulele ha Niue ko Huvalu haia, ko e fonua kua fifili mo e puipui pauaki ke eke mo kitekiteaga ke he tau manulele. Kua mamafa e kitekiteaga mo e puipuiaga he vaha nai ke lata ma e fonua nai ko Huvalu, ha kua fifili mo e talia auloo ke eke e fonua ia mo kitekiteaga manulele, ha kua loga lahi e tau manulele kua nonofo ai mo e mahuiga foki e takatakaimotu kua ha ha i ai, ma e tau momoui manulele, tuga kua fai iloaaga mahino ki ai, mai he tau kumikumiaga he matakau leveki Takatakaimotu he Pasifika Toga (South Pacific Biodiversity Conservation Programme).

Ke tuga foki mo e taha kakano uho ma e tohi nai, ke omoi aki e iloaaga laulahi he tau tagata, haaao ia ke he tau vahega manulele kehekehe ha Niue, kua fai amaamanakiaga ke maeke ai foki he tau tagata ke fakamau hifo ha lautolu a tau iloaaga ke lata ma e tau vahega manulele kehekehe, ka kitia e lautolu i Niue he taha magahala ke he taha magahala. Ko e lahi po ke hokulo he ha tautolu a tau iloaaga ke he tau vahega manulele takitaha i Niue, ke tuga e tau vahega mena kua maeke ke fakatupu tolotologa aki po ke fakahagahaga mitaki ue atu aki e tau momoui manulele i Niue, po ke tau mena kua maeke ke fakalekua aki e tau momoui manulele he ha tautolu a motu nai. To eke ia foki mo lagomataiaga lahi ma e ha tautolu a tau iloaaga ke he tau vahega manulele oti ha Niue, mo e to maeke foki e tau lotomatala pihia, ke fakamau hifo ai ke eke mo tau koloa aoga ke lagomatai aki e ha tautolu a matagahua, ke leveki mo e puipui e tau momoui manulele ha Niue, ma e tau atuhau anoiha.

Ko e mena kua aoga lahi ni, ke fai tohi pehe nai, ke taute ai, nakai ni ke lata mo lautolu e tau tagata pulotu ke he tau momoui manulele, po ke tau tagata o mai evaeva ke he motu nai, ka e aoga foki ma e tau tagata Niue, ke iloa mo e mailoga e tau fakamatalaaga uho, haaao ke he tau vahega manulele kehekehe i Niue, mua atu foki ke iloa e tau vahega mena kua mua he mitaki mo e aoga ke lata ma e levekiaga he tau momoui manulele i Niue, ma e tau vaha i mua. Ka e mai he tau mena oti pihia, kua kitia ai, ko e taha lakaaga hanai kua hokotia ki ai a Niue, mua atu foki ke iloa, ko e taha a nai he tau foliaga uho he Fakatufono Niue, kua amohia mo e fakamooli ai he vaha nai, ke taute taha puipuiaga mauokafua ma e tau mena momoui oti i Niue, ke aofia ai foki e fakaaogaaga kua hagahaga mitaki ke lata mae puipuiaga he tau vahega mena momoui oti he Takatakaimotu ha Niue. Amaamanaki haaku a lotu, to eke e tohi nai - "Ko e Tohi Haaao ke he tau Manulele ha Niue", mo Tohi kua mua he aoga, ke iloa ai e tau vahega lotomatala, kua lata ki a tautolu ke iloa, haaao ke he tau momoui manulele ha Niue.

Tamari'i Tutagata
Ulufakatonu
Matakau Takatakai-motu mae
Pasifika Toga

Crossley Tatui
Ulufakatonu
Faahi Gahua Fakamotu
Fakatufono Niue

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Figure 1. The South Pacific region showing the location of Niue Island in relation to its four main neighbouring island groups.

Fakatino I. Ko e takatakaimoana he pasifika toga, ke fakakite aki e tuaga tonu he motu ko Niue, ke fakatatai atu ke he falu he tau atu-motu kua tutu tata mai ki ai

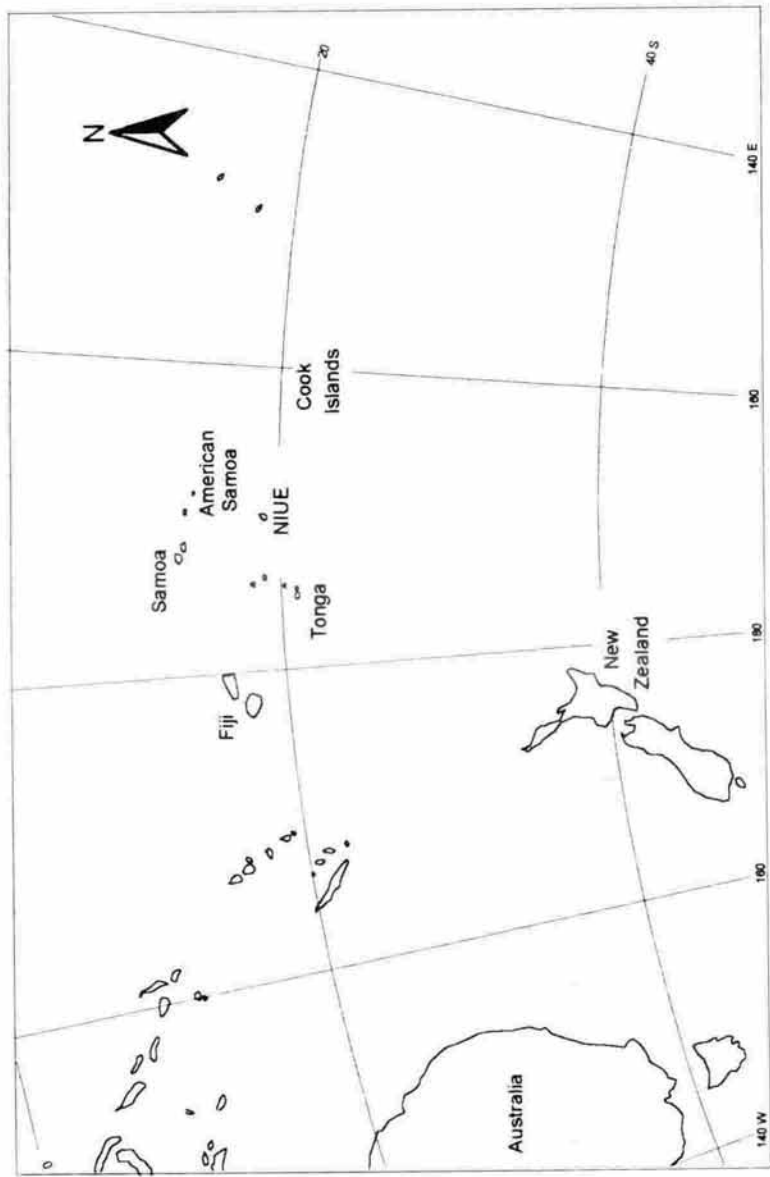
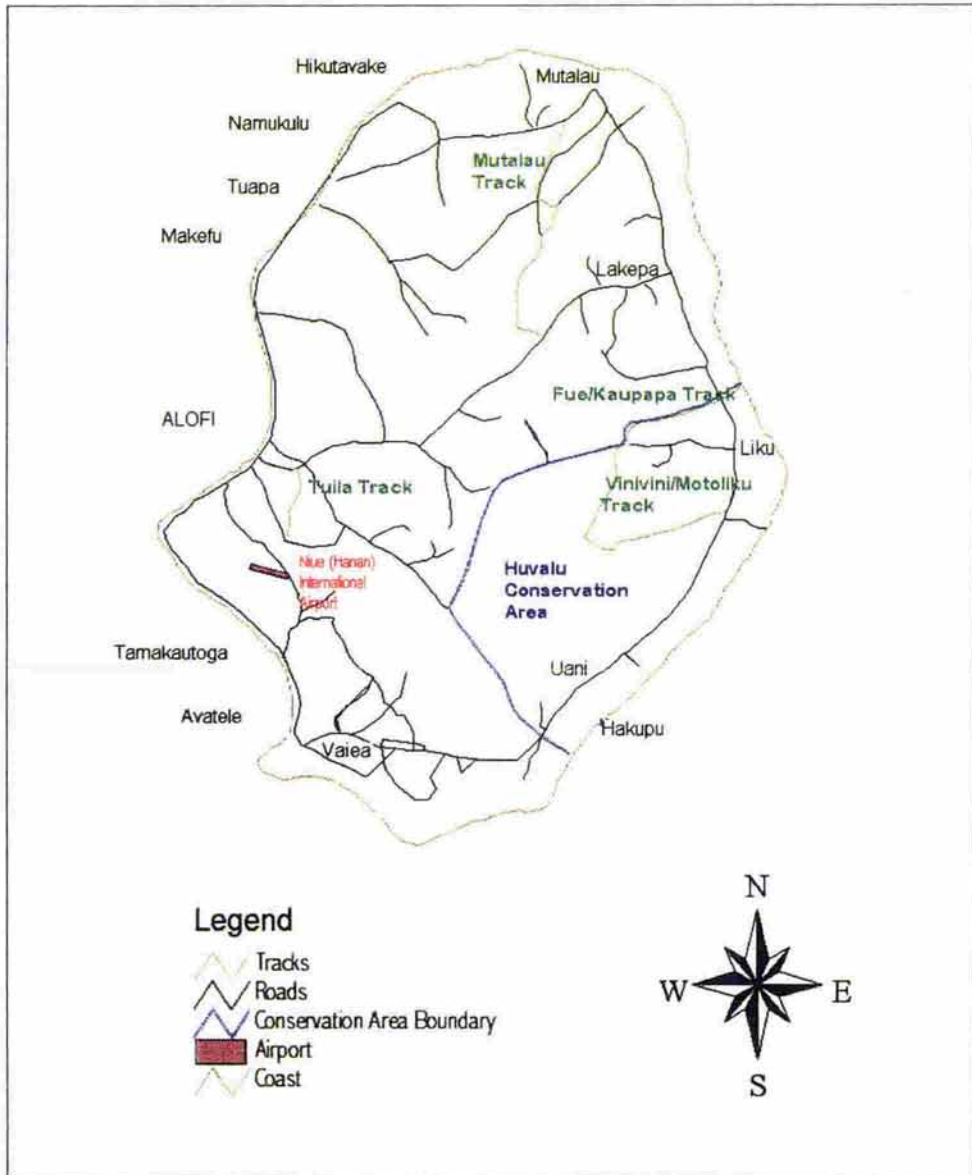


Figure 2. Niue Island, showing the locations of villages, Huvalu Conservation Area and the tracks used as key birding sites.

Fakatino 2. Ko e motu ko Niue, kua fakakite mai ai e tau tutuaga tonu he tau maaga takitaha, pihia mo e vao uhi fakatapu i Huvalu mo e tau puhالاتو mo e falu a hala loto ke he tau vao, tuga kua fakaaoga ai mo tau matakai vao kua mahuiga mo kitekiteaga ke he tau manulele.



Niue Island

Niue is a single raised coral atoll in the south-central Pacific located at latitude 19°S and longitude 169°W (figure 1). It is isolated, being approximately 480 kilometre east of Tonga, 930 kilometre west of Rarotonga and 660 kilometre south-east of Samoa.

The island is the largest raised coral atoll in the world, being 259 square kilometres in area. Niue is roughly circular (18 by 21 kilometres, figure 2) and formed of two terraces: a lower terrace at about 20 metres above sea level and an upper terrace averaging about 60 metres. The interior is a plateau, the edge of which slopes steeply down to the lower terrace. This lower terrace ends abruptly in most places in steep cliffs containing caves and deep chasms.

Some parts of the coastline, particularly to the west and north, are fringed by a narrow coral reef close to the shore that can be walked at low tide during suitable weather. Very few beaches exist and access to the sea is restricted to tracks leading down from most villages. The terrain, especially near the coast, is characteristic of a "makatea" landscape in being extremely rough and difficult to travel through. Jagged pinnacles of limestone and deep chasms are made all the more hazardous by being clothed in thick vegetation. In places, the rock is so sharp that it would severely restrict access, not only by humans but also other animals such as pigs, cats and dogs. Limestone outcrops characterise much of the island but generally the centre, the prehistoric lagoon floor, has the deepest and best soils.

Niue may have been inhabited by Polynesians for about 2000 years. Today the population totals about 2500 residents. Alofi, on the western coast, is the administrative centre and port. In addition, there are 13 villages situated along a 64 kilometre road near the perimeter of the island.

The climate is tropical, with two distinct seasons: the hot or wet season from December to March, and the cool or dry season from April to November. Most rainfall occurs during the hot season, often in torrential downpours. During this season, temperature and humidity are high, and cyclones normally occur at this time of year. Niue has been subject to severe cyclones on average once every ten years; cyclones occurred in 1959, 1960, 1969, 1979 and 1990. The latter caused widespread damage to crops and buildings and severely defoliated the forest. Typically, the cool season consists of warm, sunny days and cool nights, and a much lower rainfall. The average temperature is 27°C in January and 24°C in July. The average rainfall is 2180 millimetres per annum. However, droughts can be severe and usually occur in the cool season. There is no surface water of any kind, except ephemeral pools which form after heavy rain. Therefore, Niue relies heavily on groundwater supplies as a source of water for domestic use. In some limestone caves it is possible to reach the water table.

The soils of Niue are reasonably rich but shallow. As a result they are not suitable for pasture production or sustained cropping. Using the traditional slash and burn techniques (the usual cropping practice today), bush garden areas are left for up to ten years before being reused. At the end of that period, the second growth forest is bulldozed, and often burnt, before planting occurs. The main crops grown are taro, tapioca, sweet potato, yams, bananas and pawpaw. As a result of the shifting agriculture, much of the island is now a mosaic of varying stages of regeneration, interspersed with cultivated gardens. There are also scattered coconut plantations and three experimental farms with some open ground.

Niue

Ko Niue ko e motu maka, malagaki hake mai he uho toka mo e tu toko taha he moana Pasifika, ke he tau fuafuaaga kua lata mo e 19° ke he faahi toga - fakalava mo e 169° he faahi ki lalo - fakaloa (fakatinu. 1). Nakai fai motu foki kua tu tata mai ki Niue, mo e fuafua ai, liga lata mo e 480 e kilomita (km) ke he faahi toga-ki-uta ha Samoa lalo.

Ko Niue ko e motu maka, tuga kua malagaki hake mai he uho toka, kua mua atu e lahi ke he tau vahega motu maka oti he lalolagi, 259 e sikuea kilomita he lahi. Ko e foliga he motu katoa, kua veliveli takai (18 x 21 km - fakatinu. 2), mo e 2 e lapalapa lautatai he motu, ko e lapalapa tokolalo, lata ai mo e 20 e mita he tokoluga mai he gaaga he puke tahi. Ko e lotouho tonu he motu kua lapalapa tatai moe tokoluga mo e papati hifo ke he lapalapa tokolalo he motu, mo e hokulo hifo taha foki ke hoko atu ke he tau kaukau feutu, kua ha ha i ai e tau liu ana moe tau pahua hokulo.

Ko e falu a vala he tau kaukau tahi, mua atu ke he faahi lalo-ki-tokelau he motu, kua ha ha i ai e tau kaukau hafati tokoluga he tau kaukau feutu mo e tau kaukau tahi tokoluga. Kua maeke ke ohui ai e tau tagata he tau magaaho ka maha ai e tahi katoa. Nakai loga lahi e tau mataafaga kua ha ha i ai, pihia foki mo e falu a halaloto ke hohoko atu ai ki tahi. Kua gahoa mo e maeke hokoia ke he tau hala loto mai he tau maaga takitaha. Ko e tau pahua hokulo, kua faliki fakaholo katoa aki e tau maka matila mo e nakai mukamuka ke o atu ki ai. Ko e tau maka matila pehe nai, mo e tau pahua hokulo, kua maluia katoa a luga he motu, ha ko e tau vahega akau po ke tau vao vihi kehekehe kua fa tutupu mau ai. Ko e falu a matakavi kua hahagaha kelea lahi e matila he tau maka mo e nakai mukamuka he hohoko atu fakahanoa ki ai ha tagata, po ke ha manu huifa, tuga e tau puaka, tau kuli po ke tau pusi. Ko e tau maka patuo mao kua faliki fakaholo katoa aki e motu. Ka ko e lotouho he motu, kua eke ai mo nonofoaga he tau tagata he motu, tali mai he vaha fakamua atu, ato fai matutakiaga a Niue mo e lalolagi laulahi, kua ha ha i ai e lahi mo e hokulo he kekelekele talumelie.

Ha ha i ai e taofi ne pehe, ko e 2000 ia he tau tau tali he nonofo tagata e motu nai ko Niue. Ko e katoa he puke tagata kua nonofo mau i Niue ai nai, ko e 2,500. Ko Alofi ko e tokaaga haia he Matapatu Fakatufono ha Niue, ko e tokaaga foki haia he lotoava ke hele ai e tau vakatoga mo e toloaga he tau tagata oti he motu. Ha ha i ai foki e tau maaga ne 13, ku a tutu viko takai he motu, mo e vikotakai ai foki e puhala tu lahi he Fakatufono, lata ia mo e 64 e kilomita he loa.

Ko Niue ko e motu mafana, mo e kitia ki ai foki, e ua e magahala he tau katoa. Ko e magahala mafana mo e fa to hololooa ai e uha, kamata mai he mahina Tesemo, ke hoko atu ke he mahina Mati mo e magahala mokomoko/makalili, ko e magahala momo mo e mago katoa ai e motu ha kua nakai fa to tumau e uha. Ko e magahala ia foki, ne fa hahagaha kelea lahi ai e vevela aafu he motu, moe fa lauia ai foki e motu ke he tau matagi afa. Kua fa mahani ke to ai e tau matagi afa ke he motu nai ko Niue he tau magahala 10 tau oti, tuga ne to ai e tau matagi afa ki Niue he tau 1959, 1960, 1969, 1979 mo e tau 1990. Ko e afa fakamui he tau 1990 ne malona lahi ai e tau lakau to mo e tau fua he fonua, pihia mo e tau fale nonofo. Ne malona kelea lahi ai foki mo e tau vao uhi. Ko e magahala makalili foki ne fa kikila malolo mai e la ki luga he fonua, ka e logona foki e hoho makalili he tau magaaho pouli mo e tote foki e uha kua fa to ai, ke fakahaumolu aki e fuga kekeleke. Ko e tuaga he fuafuaaga vevela he atu mahina Ianuali ko e 27°C mo e 24°C he tau atu mahina Iulai. Ko e evaleti foki he uha kua mahani ai, ko e 2180 e milimita (mm) he taha e tau katoa. Ka e na fa mahani foki ke lauia e motu ha ko e tau la mo e nakai fai uha he tau magahala momoko makalili, ke fakahaumolu aki e kekeleke. Kua nakai ha ha i ai ha vai namo po ke ha vaitafe ke he lotouho he motu, ka e ha ha i ai hokoia e tau tumu pelapela kua puke

The natural vegetation of the island consists of rainforest with a canopy reaching to about 20 metres, but most of it has been modified to some degree by people. A survey of vegetation cover in 1981 showed that about 30 per cent of the island was classified as open, which included bush gardens under cultivation and areas dominated by fou (*Hibiscus tiliaceus*), and fernland with *Nephrolepis birsutula* the main fern species. This community is thought to be the result of prolonged overcropping and subsequent soil impoverishment. A further 11.5 per cent was covered by coastal forest, which includes those areas up to about one kilometre from the coast with generally good cover but which have been stunted by salt spray. This forest is usually difficult to walk through because the ground is rocky with deep holes and many sharp pinnacles up to five metres tall. Land covered by regenerating forest that was previously in cultivation amounted to 46.2 per cent, and just 12.3 per cent was covered by 'merchantable forest', including the remnants of mature tropical rainforest. The mature rainforest is concentrated in the triangular area contained by the villages of Alofi, Lakepa and Hakupu. The largest block is the Huvalu Forest between Hakupu and Liku (see later section for more detail on Huvalu Conservation Area). It is not possible to make a comprehensive assessment of the area and at the same time to honour the spirit of the tapu which has been placed there, but surrounding forests certainly exhibit relatively high numbers of birds and flying fox. In the past, other tapu areas were clearly recognised but these appear to be accorded less importance today.

Between 1966 and 1981 the area of open habitat changed from 3200 to 7800 hectares, a 144 per cent increase. This came about largely as a result of land being cleared for agriculture. No data exist to determine the habitat changes that have occurred during the past 14 years. However, with the establishment of an export taro market and the ready availability of bulldozers to clear land, it is likely that more areas of regenerating and old-growth forest have been cleared for cultivation.

Given that Niue is of relatively recent geological origin and formed in isolation from other land masses, all but one species of bird, the introduced moa, must have flown to the island of their own accord. All the species presently breeding on Niue are of western Polynesian origin, and most have originated from Tonga or Samoa. The Polynesian triller and Polynesian starling have evolved into distinctive subspecies on Niue but all other birds are found elsewhere in the Indo-Pacific region. The future conservation of two species is of immediate concern; there have been no confirmed sightings of spotless crane since about 1970 and the blue-crowned lory is rare. A notable feature of Niuean birdlife is its lack of introduced species, except for the feral fowl. This is in contrast to that of other Pacific island groups such as Fiji and Samoa, where several species have been introduced, sometimes to the detriment of the native fauna and agricultural crops.

The Pacific pigeon and fruit bat are hunted from December to February each year. At present lupe numbers seem adequate to cope with the hunting pressure, but their numbers should be monitored annually. However, there is concern about the number of peka apparently remaining.

There is the usual variety of introduced mammals that associate with people on Niue. Two species of rat are ubiquitous: the kuma or Polynesian rat, probably introduced by the early Polynesian settlers, and the ship rat that arrived between 1900 and 1950. Dogs and cats are common about villages, and feral cats are widespread over the island. Feral pigs are present in some areas of forest. All these mammals cause problems for birds, particularly the agile climbing rats that take eggs and chicks from ground level to the canopy, and compete with birds for insects, seeds and fruit.

ai, ka mole e to he uha. Ko e mena ia, kua falanaki lahi e tau tagata Niue ke he vai pamu hake mai he uho toka, ke lata ma e tau momou tagata he tau kaina oti. Ha ha i ai e falu a ana alopaki ki loto he tau patuo kua maeke ke moua hake ai e vai magalo.

Ko e kelekele he motu nai ko Niue, ko e kelekele talumelie, ka e potake. Ko e mena ia kua nakai mitaki e kelekele ke fakatoto fakahanoa ai e tau manu huifa, tuga e tau povi po ke to ai e tau vahega akau fua tumau. Ko e puhala gahua maala he tau tagata Niue, ke kini fakamua e maala mo e tugi ai, to maeke agaia ke to. Kua maeke foki ke tokanoa e kelekele ia ka oti e maala he fakaaoga, liga lata mo e magahala kua nakai tote hifo mai he 10 e tau tau, ke liu e fonua ke tupu hake fou e tau akau mo e talumelie ai foki e kelekele, ato liu laia ke gahua maala foki (ko e puhala mahani ai haia mai fakamua). Ka e mole atu e magahala ia, ko e vaha nai kua fakaaoga tuai e tau peleo afi mamafa ke fofoa aki e tau maala, ti fa mahani foki ke huhunu to kamata ke to.

Ko e tau fua ne mahuiga lahi ke to he tau maala, ko e tau talo, tau kaufi, tau simala, tau futi mo e tau loku. Ko e gahua hikihiki fano e gahua maala he tau tagata he motu nai ko Niue, ko e kakano haia, kua maeke ai ke kitia he vaha nai e tau talutalu he tau vao, kua kehekehe e lalahi he tau akau kua ha i ai he tau fonua vao, mua atu ke he tau talutalu kua oti he fakaaoga. Ha ha i ai foki mo e tau fonua to ulu niuniu mo e tau fonua faama kumikumi kua ha ha i ai, pihia mo e tau fonua tokanoa.

Ko e tau akau lalahi kua tutupu ai foki ke he tau vao, mua atu ke he tau vao motua mo e ha lautolu a tau tapunu akau kua hoko atu ke he 20 e tau mita he tokoluga, ka e fa hahala he tau tagata e tau akau lalahi pehe nai. Ko e fuafuaaga kumikumi ke he tau fonua he motu nai, ne taute ai he tau 1981, kua kitia ki ai, liga lata mo e 30% he tau fonua katoa he motu nai, kua fakahigoa ko e tau vao tafafafaga, mo e aofia ai e tau vala fonua kua fakaaoga mo gahua maala, mo e tau fonua kua tutupu fetui ai e tau fou (*Hibiscus tiliaceus*) mo e tau vahega mohuku kehekehe kua tutupu ai. Ko e motu nai, kua talahau ai pehe, ko e motu kua nakai ha ha i ai ha kelekele talumelie, ha kua lahi e fakagahua tumau he kelekele, mo e talue fakahaga ai foki e kelekele ha ko e kakano taha ia ni. Ke lalafi atu ke he tau vahega lekua ia. Ko e 11.5% he tau fonua ha Niue, kua ha ha i ai ke he tau kaukau tahi, kua tutupu ai foki e tau akau lalahi. Kua aofia ai ke he tau fonua pehe nai, e lahi he tau fonua, liga lata mo e 1 e kilomita he mamao mai he kaukau tahi, kua ha ha i ai e tau vahega kelekele talumelie, ka kua fakakelea ai he tau fufu peau mo e kona he tau puke tahi. Kua nakai mukamuka foki ke oatu mo e o mai hui ai ki luga he tau fonua pehe nai, ha ko e tau maka patuo matila mo e tau avaava pahua, liga lata mo e lima e tau mita he hokulo hifo ki kelekele. Ko e tau fonua kua kamata ke liliu tutupu hake ai e tau akau ha kua fai magaahe he oti ai e fakaaogaaga mo taute aki e tau maala, kua lata ia mo e 46.2%, ka e liga lata foki mo e 12.3% e tau fonua kua tutupu ai e tau akau, kua lata ke fakaaoga mo moua tupe, aofia ai fakalataha mo e tau vao uhi, kua nakai la hokotia ki ai ha tuateaga ki ai, tali mai fakamua. Ko e tau vao uhi pehe nai, kua ha ha i ai ke he vahaloto he tau maaga nai ne tolu, ko Alofi, Lakepa mo Hakupu. Ka ko e vala fonua vao uhi pehe nai, kua mua a tu he lahi, Ko Huvalu haia, ke he vahaloto ha Hakupu mo Liku. Kua ha ha i ai foki ke he vao uhi nai e taha magafonua, kua fakatoka kehe pauaki, kua fakahigoa ai koe Vao Tapu po ke Tauga, tuga kua fakatapu ai he tau mamatua mai fakamua, ke nakai maeke ha tagata ke huhu fakahanoa atu ki ai. Ko e mena kua aoga ue atu e fakatapuaga nai, ke maeke ai foki ke lagomatai mo e puipui aki e tau vahega mena momou oti he fonua, kua tutupu mai ai, poke heapi mo e ofaga mau ai. Kua nakai mukamuka ke fai kumikumiaga ke taute ai, ke iloa tonu e aoga he matagahua fakatapu nai, ka e pete he pihia, ko e kitiaaga noa ki ai, kua ha ha i ai e loga he tau manulele, mua atu ke he tau peka kua fa felele fano ai. Tali mai he vaha fakamua, ko e mena ha ha i ai foki falu a vala fonua fakatapu ke he falu a maaga kua tutu fano ai he motu, ka kua nakai tuai fakatumau ke leveki atu ki ai he vaha nai.

Ke he magahala tali mai he tau 1966 ke he tau 1981, ko e tau vala kelekele katoa he motu nai ne kua fakaaoga mo gahua maala ko e 3,200 e heketea, ka kua holo ki mua e lahi he tau fonua pehe nai ke he 7,800 heketea,

lata ia mo e 144% ne holo hake ai tali mai fakamua. Ko e kakano ati lahi pihia ai e malikiti hake ia, ha kua lalahi e tau fonua kua fofoa fakahaga mo taute ai e tau maala.

Ha kua nakai maeke ke moua ai e falu a fakamatalaaga hagaao ia ke lata mo e tau gahua maala po ke falu a vahega gahua kehekehe he motu nai, tali mai he 14 e tau tau kua mole, ka kua kitia mahino ki ai, ha ko e fakatuaga he matagahua fafao talo ke fakafua atu ke he tau makete i Niu Silani, pihia foki mo e moua mukamuka he tau peleo afi mamafa ke fofoa aki e tau fonua maala, kua nakai taumaleku, ke kitia e lahi atu he tau vala fonua kua tighau he fofoa ke lata mo e matagahua nai, tuga kua aofia ai e tau fonua tutupu hake foou mo e tau vao uhi ne nakai fa mahani ke fakaaoga, tali mai fakamua.

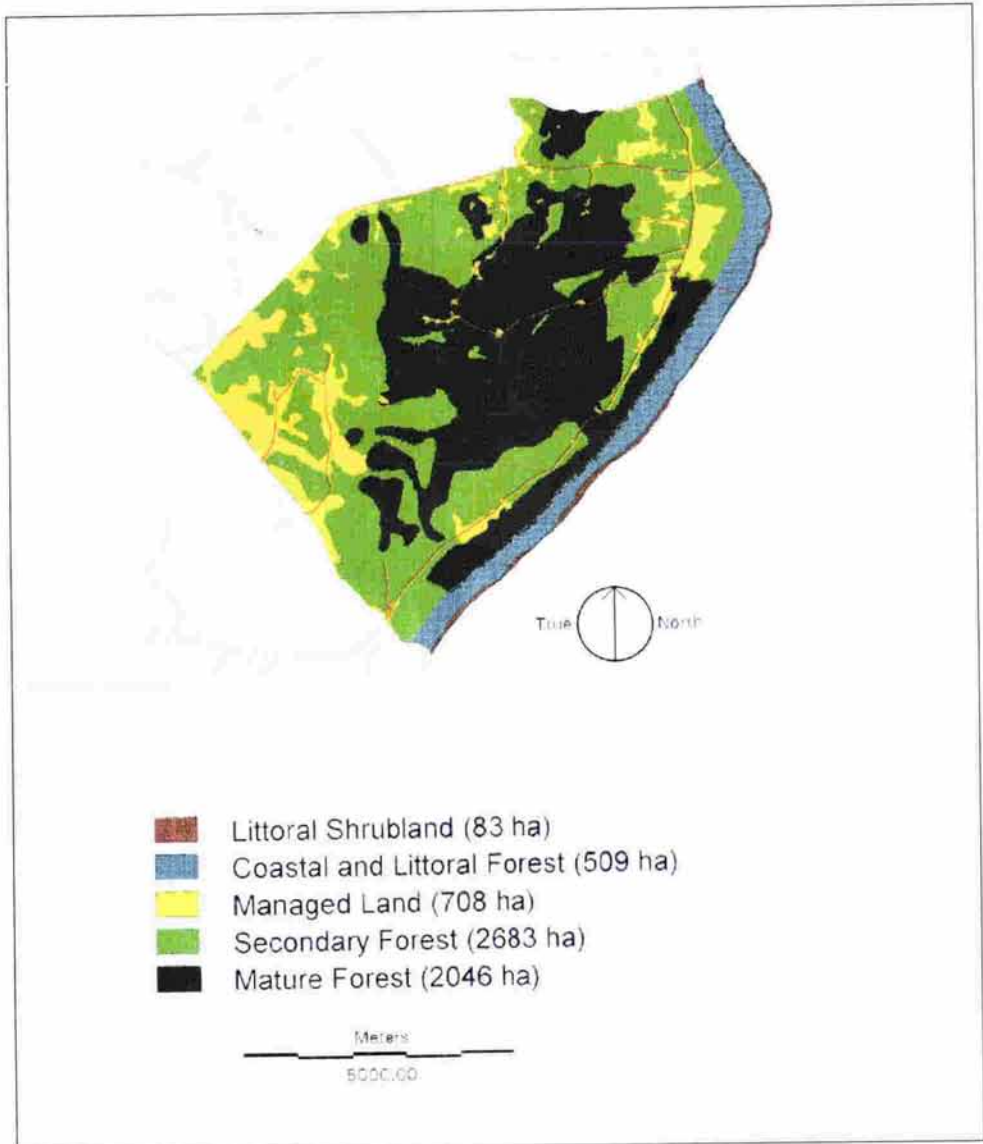
Ke tuga mo e iloaaga ki ai, ko Niue ko e motu kua nakai la leva lahi ia, ka fakatatai atu ke he falu a atumotu he lalolagi, pihia foki mo e haana a tuaga vilivilio he moana Pasifika, mamao mai he ha motu foki, ko e tau vahega manulele oti kua ha ha i ai i Niue, ka e kehe mai ai ni e tau moa, ko e tau manulele oti ne toe, ko e mena o mai ni e lautolu a lautolu he kamataaga. Ko e tau vahega manulele oti ia, kua o mai mo e fanafanau tolotologa ai i Niue he vaha nai. Ko e tau vahega manulele tutupu hake fakamua he tau atumotu Polinesia, mai he faahi lalo mo e faahi toga. Ko e falu foki ia lautolu kua felele fakamua mai i Tonga mo Samoa. Ko e Heaheha mo e Miti kua faliu fakahaga mo e eke ai mo vahega manulele nofo mau hokoia i Niue nai, kua kehe mai he falu a vahega manulele tuga kua maeke ke kitia ai foki ke he tau atumotu he moana Pasifika, ke aofia ai foki e tau atumotu he moana Initonisia. Ha ha i ai foki e tau manatu tuaha he magaaho nai, ha ko e ua e vahega manulele ne kua galo kehe fakahaga mai he motu. Ko e mena kua nakai liu kitia foki i Niue he vaha nai e Moho tali mai he tau 1970, pihia foki mo e Hega, kua gahoa lahi. Kua kitia mitaki foki, ko e kakano ati nakai loga mahaki ai e tau vahega manulele kehekehe kua ha ha i ai i Niue he vaha nai, ha kua nakai loga e tau vahega manulele kua tamai pauaki ki Niue, ke tuga e tau moa. Ko e mena kua kehe lahi a nai, ka fakatatai atu ke he falu a atumotu he moana Pasifika, tuga a Samoa mo Fiti, ha kua loga mahaki e tau vahega manulele kehekehe kua taatu pauaki ai mo e fakatutupu ai ke he tau atumotu ia. Ti ko e falu he tau vahega manulele pihia, kua maeke ai foki ia lautolu ke lagomatai atu ke he fakatupuaga he falu a akau po ke falu a akau fua mai he fonua.

Ko e tau lupe mo e tau peka, kua fa mahani ke fana ai he tau atu mahina Tesemo, ke hoko atu ke he atu mahina Fepuali ma e tau tau takitaha. Ko e kitiaaga ki ai, kua loga agaia e tau lupe i Niue he vaha nai, ke lata ma e tau tagata takafaga, ka e lata foki ke leveki mo e fai kitekiteaga ki ai, ke he tau tau takitaha. Ka ko e numela he tau peka he magaaho nai, kua eke mo mena ke tupetupe lahi ki ai, ha kua hogaia fakahaga, mo e nakai loga koa, ke tuga he fakamua.

Ha ha i ai e tau vahega manu huifa ne fai matutakiaga mo e tau tagata kua nonofo mau i Niue. Ko e kuma tuai he motu, kua fakahigoa ko e kuma Polinesia, liga tamai he tau uluaki tagata ne fenoga fakamua mai ki Niue, mo e taha vahega kuma, tuga kua fakahigoa, ko e tau kuma vakatoga, liga hohoko mai ki Niue, mai he tau puha koloa ne fa tamai he tau vakatoga lau koloa, liga lata mo e magahala 1900 ke he 1950. Ko e tau kuli mo e tau pusi, kua tupu fetui he tau maaga takitaha, pihia mo e tau vahega pusi vao, ne kua loga lahi ke he motu nai.

Ha ha i ai foki he vaha nai e loga he tau puaka vao ke he tau uho vao mo e tau vao uhi. Ko e tau vahega manu huifa pehe nai, kua lahi mahaki e fa fakalavelave atu ke he tau momoui he tau manulele, mua atu e kelea ke he tau kuma, ha kua maeke ke he tau kuma, ke toli hake ki luga he tau akau mo e kai mounou ai e tau fufua manulele, pihia foki e tau punua manulele, ke hoko atu ke he tau fata i luga he tau magamaga akau. Kua kaihou foki a lautolu fakalataha mo e tau manulele oti, ke moua falu a moko po ke tau tega akau, pihia mo e tau fua akau kua magalo he kai.

Figure 3. Vegetation map of Huvalu Conservation Area
Fakatino 3. Ko e fakatino ke fakakite fakamahao e tau vala fonua katoa kua aofia ai ki loto he vao uhi leveki Huvalu



Key birding sites

I. Huvalu Conservation Area

Location and area

The Conservation Area (CA) is located in the south-eastern part of Niue, approximately 169° 50'W and 19° 6'S, between the villages of Liku and Hakapu, with its boundary stretching down to the coast and out to the seaward edge of the coral platform 15–20 metres offshore. (figure 2)

The total area is approximately 54 square kilometres (5400 hectares), with 85 percent of the CA (about 4558 hectares) being rainforest of varying state. The CA encloses the Huvalu forest, the largest remaining primary rainforest on the island which covers approximately 2500 hectares. Huvalu forest contains significant populations of birds, bats, endangered coconut crabs and other wildlife, making it an important refuge for this type of biodiversity.

This area was chosen because the site was considered large enough to maintain ecological viability and enable sustainable use of natural resources, as well as protecting three quarters of Niue's high stature rainforest. Since 1996 the project has received support from SPREP's South Pacific Biodiversity Conservation Programme, and is administered by the Environment Unit, Department of Community Affairs in Alofi. The area is visited by locals, (including students and hunters) and tourists. Hunting is allowed in the CA, with peka and lupe being hunted for two months of the year, and uga hunted all year round. Visitors to Niue can get information about the CA at the Environment Unit, Liku or Hakapu village and at the Tourist information centre.

Inland primary rainforest

This forest is composed of both original primary forest and modified mature regrowth. Closed canopy high stature forest is found throughout, being dominated by two tree species, *Syzygium inophylloides* (kafika) and *Syzygium richii* (kolivao). Other common species include *Dysoxylum forsteri* (moota), *Planchonella torricellensis* (kanumea), *Pometia pinnata* (tava), *Macaranga seemanii* (le) and *Ficus prolixa* (ovava). Major understorey trees include *Polyscias multijuga* (tanetane vao), *Streblus anthropophagorum* (atatu), *Merremia peltata* (fue vao) and epiphytic and ground ferns (kapihi, luku and mihuku tane).

Coastal primary forest

As this is found on rocky terrain, it has been largely left intact, and hence considered as a primary forest. It is generally found within 800 metres of the coast (although it does merge into inland forest) and represents approximately 550 hectares of the CA. Coastal forest is dominated by species similar to inland forest although they tend to be stunted as they are exposed to salty winds. Seawards there is more open scrub, including *Barringtonia asiatica* (futu), *Capparis cordifolia* (pamoko), *Timonius polygamus* (kavetutu), *Occhrosia oppositifolia* (pao), *Pandanus tectorius* (fa fi), *Scaveola taccada* (pao) and *Messerschmidia argentea* (taihune). Within 50 metres of the coast there is only *Pemphis acidula* (gigie).

Tau nonofoaga mahuiga ma e tau manulele

I. Fonua Leveki i Huvalu

Tokaaga mo e lahi he fonua

Ko e Fonua Leveki i Huvalu, kua toka ai ke he faahi toga ki uta ha Niue, liga lata mo e 169° 50'W mo e 19°6'5, ke he vahalo to he tau maaga ko Liku mo Hakupu. Kua hoko atu foki haana tau katofia ke he feutu he faahi ki tahi, liga lata mo e 15-20 e mita he mamao mai mo e puke tahi. (fakatino 2)

Ko e fonua katoa ia, liga lata mo e 54 e sikuea mita (5400 heketea), ka e liga lata mo e 85 e pasene (%) mai he fonua katoa ia (lata mo e 4558 e heketea a ia), kua maluia ke he vao uhi, mo e tau vahega akau kehekehe kua tutupu ai. Ko e Fonua Leveki nai, kua putoia katoa ai e vao uhi i Huvalu, ko e taha ni a ia he tau vao uhi he motu kua mau agaia mo e mua atu e lahi, liga lata mo e 2500 heketea he katoa). Ko e fonua nai he vao uhi i Huvalu kua ha ha i ai e loga lahi he tau mena momoui kua ha ha i ai, tuga e tau manulele, tau peka, tau uga, mo e loga foki he falu a vahega manu kehekehe, tuga kua eke ai e fonua nai mo huaga ke malu ai a lautolu.

Kua fifili ai e fonua katoa nai ke eke mo Fonua Leveki, ha kua mua atu e lahi he fonua tokanoa nai, tuga kua ha ha i ai e tau vahega katoa kehekehe he vao ke lata mo e tau kumikumia, pihia mo e maeke ke he tau mena momoui loga kua nonofo mo e momoui mau ai ke fakatupu ki mua e loga, ka e mua atu ke maeke ai foki ke puipui, liga lata mo e tolu kuata he tau vao uhi oti i Niue, kua aofia ai ke he fonua katoa ia. Tali mai he tau 1996, ne kamata moua lagomatai tupe ai e matagahua nai, mai he taha matakau he Pasifika kua fakahigoa ko e SPREP, ma e tau Fakaholoaga Gahua Puipui he Tau Mena Momoui ma e tau Atumotu he moana Pasifika Toga mo e fakagahuahua mo e leveki ai he matakau Gahua Takatakai Motu, he Faahi Gahua Fakamotu i Alofi. Kua fa o atu hokoia e tau tagata he motu nai ke he Fonua Leveki (mua foki mo e tau fanau aoga mo e tau tagata takafaga), katoa foki mo e tau tagata fenoga evaeva mai ki Niue. Na fakagofua e Fonua Leveki nai ke o atu ki ai e tau tagata mo e takafaga ai, ka e ua ni e mahina he tau ka fakagofua ke o atu e tau tagata mo e fanafana ai ke lata mo e tau lupe mo e tau peka. Ko e tau tagata Evaeva mai ki Niue, kua maeke ia lautolu ke moua e tau fakamataalaga tohi haggao ke he Fonua Leveki nai, mai he tau Ofisa he tau gahua Takatakaimotu he tau maaga ko Liku mo Hakupu, pihia foki mo e matapatu ofisa ma e tau tagata Fenoga Evaeva i Alofi.

Ko e vao uhi i loto he uho motu

Ko e vao uhi nai kua ha ha i ai e tau akau lalahi mai he loga mo loga he tau tau kua mole, ti pihia foki mo e falu akau tutupu hake foou he mole atu e hahala he tau tagata Niue e tau akau lalahi fakamua. Ha ha ia ai e falu a vala he vao uhi kua tutupu ai e tau akau lalahi tali mai he loga mo loga e tau tau, tuga kua kitia mitaki ai ke he ua e vahega akau lalahi pihia kua tutupu ai, tuga e tau kafika (*Syzygium inphylloides*) mo e tau Kolivao (*Syzygium richii*). Ha ha ia ai foki e falu akau tupu fetui tuga e tau akau moota (*Dysoxylum forsteri*), kanumea (*Planchonella torricellensis*), tava (*Pomentia pinnata*), le (*Macaranga semanii*) mo e ovava (*Ficus prolixa*). Ha ha i ai e tau vahega akau tutupu lotoloto tuga e tau tanetane vao (*Polyscias multijuga*), atatu (*Streblus anthropophagorum*), fue vao (*Merremia peltata*), pihia foki mo e tau vahega akau tutupu ki kelekele tuga e tau kapihi, luku mo e tau mohuku taane (epiphytic).

Secondary forest

These regenerating forest communities occupy approximately 2100 hectares of the CA. There is a variety of major tree and subcanopy species found in this area depending on how much has been cleared and how long ago. There are also a number of scattered areas of scrub and agricultural clearings covering about another 800 hectares, dominated by pioneering species such as *Hibiscus tiliaceus* (fou), *Morinda citrifolia* (nonu) and *Macaranga harveyana* (le hau). Ferns are also present, notably *Nephrolepis hirsutata* (mohuku).

Fauna

Apart from the birdlife found here, there is a variety of other native animal species present, most notably the coconut crab (*Birgus latro*), and the fruit bat (*Pteropus tonganus tonganus*). Both are important food sources and traditionally hunted by the Niueans. Five species of lizards have been recorded in Niue but it is not known how many occur in the CA.

Cultural and historical features

Four tapu areas are currently enforced elsewhere in the CA, which cover approximately 100 hectares in total. Twenty two archaeological sites are also found within the CA; most of these are burial grounds, but these are not tapu.

There is one tapu site in addition to these sites, called Veve, a tapu cave where it is believed that the life of the island (tokamotu) is hidden. This is found adjacent to the Fagafue tapu area near Hakapu. Village leaders forbid anyone to enter these tapu areas, which has no doubt contributed significantly to the protection of flora and fauna in this habitat.

Scenic features

There are many scenic features in the CA in addition to the archaeological sites, which include caves, bushwalks and dramatic coastal scenery.

Fue track

This track, about five kilometres in length, passes through mainly mature rainforest, with some current and regenerating bush gardens at its southern end. It is a good track to walk in order to hear and see forest birds, particularly Polynesian triller, Polynesian starling, Pacific pigeon and purple-capped fruit dove. Purple swamphen are occasionally seen at the southern end of the track in bush gardens. The track starts on the left 1.5 kilometres north of Liku where there is an old quarry, and finishes about 3.2 kilometres west of Liku on the Alofi-Liku road.

Vinivini track

This is an excellent track to walk in order to see a variety of habitats and birds. The track starts about 3.5 kilometres west of Liku on the Liku-Alofi road and has a low sign indicating the track's name beside a roof structure and storage tank for collecting rainwater. Initially, the track goes past mainly current bush gardens and those in various stages of regeneration, but after about two kilometres it meanders through mature rainforest. The track is about seven kilometres long and ends nearly two kilometres south of Liku on the Liku-Hakupu road. If travelling by motorbike, this and the Fue track can be very slippery after rain. Most of the forest birds can be heard and seen from this track,

Tau vao uhi he faahi ki tahi

Ko e lahi he tau vao uhi nai, kua ha ha i ai ke he tau matakavi tule he faahi ki tahi, mo e nakai maeke ke o atu tumau ai e tau tagata ha kua hagahaga kelea mo e tule e tau hala ke hohoko atu ki ai. Kua fa mahani ke viko takai e tau vao uhi pehe nai he tau faahi tata atu ki tahi, liga lata mo e 800 mita he mamao mai he tahi puke (pete ni he fa tutaki atu fakalataha e tau vao uhi nai, he falu a matakavi, ke he tau vao uhi he uho he motu). Liga lata mo e 550 e heketea e tau vao uhi pehe nai i loto he Fonua Leveki ha Niue. Ko e tau vao uhi nai he faahi ki tahi, kua maeke ke tutupu ai foki e vahega akau lalahi tuga kua fa tutupu ai he tau vao uhi i loto he uho he motu, ka e fa mamate fakahaga e tau akau lalahi ha kua fa lauia ke he tau matagi malolo mo e kona foki ha koe tau fufu peau mai he tahi. Ke he faahi ki tahi he tau vao uhi, kua fa tutupu ai e tau akau tutupu tokolalo tuga e tau futu (*Barringtonia asiatica*), pamoko (*Capparis cordifolia*), kave utu (*Timonius polygamus*), pao (*Ochrosia oppositifolia*), fa (*Pandanus tectorius*) pao (*Scaveola taccada*), mo e taihuni (*Messerchmidia argentea*). Ka e liga lata mo e 50 e mita mai he tahi puke, kua tupu ai foki e taha vahega gigie (*Pemphis acidula*).

Tau vao kua fai magaaho he tutupu hake

Ko e tau vahega vao uhi tutupu hake fou pehe nai, tuga kua kitia ai ke he falu a matakavi he motu, liga lata ia mo e 2100 heketea mai he Fonua Leveki. Kua ha ha i ai e tau vahega akau lalahi mo e falu a akau tutupu potopoto kua kitia i ai, uta ni ke he puhala gahua ne fakaaoga ke he tau fonua nai fakamua, pihia mo e fiha foki e tau tau tali mai he fakaaoga e tau fonua pehe nai. Kitia ai foki ke he falu a fonua kua tutu fano ai e talutalu maaga kua oti he fakaaoga, liga lata mo e 800 e heketea, kua tutupu mo e maluia ai ke he tau vahega akau tuga e tau fou (*Hibiscus tiliaceous*), nomu (*Morinda citrifolia*) mo e le hau (*Maranga harveyana*). Tutupu ai foki e tau vahega mohuku kehekehe, mua atu ke he vahega motuku vao (*Nephrolepis birsutata*).

Falu a mena momoui (manu totolo)

Kehe mai he tau vahega manulele kehekehe tuga kua nonofo mau ai ke he Fonua Leveki nai, kua ha ha i ai foki e falu a vahega manu (huifa) kua nonofo ai, mua atu ke he tau vahega manu tuga e tau uga (*Birgus latro*), mo e tau peka (*Pteropus tonganus tonganus*). Ko e tau vahega manu ua nai, ko e tau kai mahuiga haia he tau tagata Niue, tuga kua fa mahani ke o atu mo e takafaga ke he vao uhi. Ha ha i ai foki lima e vahega moko lauulu kua kitia mo e fai talahauaga ki ai i Niue, ka e nakai la iloa mahino po ke fiha he tau vahega moko lauulu pihia kua nonofo ai ke he Fonua Leveki i Huvalu.

Tau talahauaga fakamotu mai i tuai

Ha ha i ai fa e tau maga fonua fakatapu, kua fakatapu agaia he vaha nai i loto he Fonua Leveki i Huvalu, liga lata ia mo e 100 heketea he katoa. Uafulu-ma-ua e tau matakavi kumikumi ha ko e tau nonofoaga tagata mai fakamua atu kua toka ai foki, ka ko e loga he tau matakavi nai ko e tau tanuaga tagata noa ni, ka e nakai fakatapu.

Ha ha i ai taha foki e Fonua Fakatapu ke lafi atu ke he tau Fonua Fakatapu nai, tuga kua fakahigoa ai ko Veve. Kua ha ha i ai e ana kua fakatapu, mo e ha ha i ai foki e talahauaga ne pehe, ko e moui he motu nai (ko e Toka motu) ha ne fufu ai he ana ia. Kua iloa ai kua matutaki atu e ana nai ki Fagafue tata atu ki Hakupu. Kua fakatapu he tau mamatua maaga e ana nai, nakai maeke ha tagata ke hu atu fakahanoa ki ai, kua eke ai foki e mena ia mo lagomataiaga lali ke matagahua puipui he tau mena momoui oti kua

especially Polynesian triller, Polynesian starling, Pacific pigeon, purple-capped fruit dove, feral fowl, white-rumped swiftlet, white-tailed tropicbird, white tern and common noddy. In addition, blue-crowned lory have been seen along this track, mainly in or at the forest edge of bush gardens near the start of the track, and long-tailed cuckoo in the mature forest. A late afternoon and evening visit to the track may be rewarded with sightings of flying fruit bats.

2. Reef at Tamakautoga and Tuapa

A walk along the reef at low tide from either of these villages (figure 2) is well worth the effort in order to see shorebirds foraging, as well as the beauty of the corals and associated fish and shellfish. The reefs can be reached by walking down the seatracks from these and other villages. Sandshoes or similar footwear is recommended as brittle and sharp coral in places, and frequent paddling through shallow water is required. Pacific golden plover and wandering tattler occur at intervals along the reef, and there is always the possibility of seeing a rare vagrant to Niue. White tern, white-tailed tropicbird and common noddy may be seen feeding not far offshore or flying over the reef to or from their nesting sites in the rainforest.

3. Niue Sports Club

These grounds (figure 2) are mainly used as a golf course and so the short lawns are excellent to walk over. Early morning or at high tide seem to be good times to visit the grounds to see shorebirds. Species often seen there are Pacific golden plover, wandering tattler and banded rail. Vagrant shorebirds, such as turnstones, may also be present.

4. South Side of the Niue Airport

A visit to the southern perimeter fence of the airport (figure 2) during late afternoon or evening should provide good viewing of the roosting flock of shorebirds on the runway. Most of the birds will be Pacific golden plover, but occasionally vagrants have been present in the flock too. Often barn owl are seen from this site as they forage about the airport. If a bird comes within hearing distance and you make a squeaking noise, it will often fly within two metres of your head to investigate the noise. Access to the back road is from the Alofi-Liku road, making a left turn onto a gravel road beside the T-shirt factory about one kilometre out of Alofi. Follow this road, taking the road to the left at each intersection until travelling along side the runway, and stop opposite the airport terminal. Binoculars are necessary to determine the species of each shorebird from this

ofaga po ke nonofo mau he tau fonua ia.

Tau matakavi kitekite

Kua ha ha i ai loga e tu matakavi kitekite kua ha ha i ai ki loto he Fonua Leveki nai, ke lafi atu ke he tau nonofoaga tuai tuga e tau ana, tau hala o hui i loto he vao uhi, pihia foki e tau kaukau tahi fulufuluola he o atu ke kitekite.

Hala vao i Fue

Ko e halavao nai, 5 e kilomita he loa, kua hu atu ai ki loto he vao uhi kua toka ai e tau akau lalahi, ha ha i ai foki e falu akau tutupu hake foou he tau talutalu maala ke he matapotu ki toga he maala. Kua mua he mitaki e halavao nai ke o hui ai ke maeke ai foki ke fanogonogo atu ke he tau leo he tau manulele ka tagi mai, mua atu ke he heahea, miti, lupe, kulukulu mo e kale, tuga kua fa logona mai he matapotu ki toga he hala nai, ne toka ai e tau maala. Ne kamata ai e hala nai, liga lata mo e 1.5 kilomita ke he faahi tokelau ha Liku, ne toka ai foki e luo makatea tuai, mo e fakaoti mai ai liga lata mo e 3.2 kilomita ke he faahi lalo ha Liku he halatu mai Alofi ki Liku.

Halavao Vinivini/Motoliku

Ko e halavao i Vinivini mua he mitaki ke o hui ai, ke maeke ai foki ke kitekite atu ke he nonofo aga he falu a manulele. Kua kamata ai e hala, liga lata mo e 3.5 e kilomita ke he faahi lalo ha Liku, he hala Alofi ki Liku. Na ha ha i ai foki e tau lapa fakamailoga kua tohi ai e higoa Vinivini/Motoliku, mo e fakapiki ai ke he tapa he fale vai kua ha ha i ai ke he kamataaga he halavao nai, kua hu atu ai ke he mena ne toka ai e falu a maala foou, pihia foki mo e falu a talutalu tuai kua kamata ke tupu hake foou e tau akau, ka e mole atu ki tua he tau fonua ia, liga lata mo e 2 e kilomita, ti hu atu ai ke he vao uhi, kua ha ha i ai e tau akau lalahi, kua tutupu hake fakahaga. Ko e vala hala vao nai, liga lata mo e fitu e kilomita he loa, kua fakaoti mai liga lata mo e ua e kilomita ke he faahi ki toga ha Liku, he hala Liku ki Hakupu (Motoliku/Vinivini).

Kaeke ke finatu a koe he pasikala afi he hala nai, po ke hala Fue, kua hahaga kelea he momole ka to e uha. To ha ha i ai e loga he tau leo manulele ka logona e koe, po ke kitia foki e koe, ke tuga e tau heahea, miti, lupe, kulukulu, moa vao, pekapeka, tuaki, taketake mo e gogo. To ha ha i ai foki e tau hega mo e tau kalue i loto he vao uhi. Ko e tau magaaho pale la mo e tau magaaho afi kua mua he mitaki ke finatu ai a koe he tau hala nai ne ua, ha kua maeke foki ke kitia ai e koe e tau manu peka.

2. Tau matafeutu i Tamakautoga mo Tuapa

Kaeke ke fano hui a koe he hala kautahi he ha magaaho ka pakupaku ai e tahi he magatahi he tau maaga nai ne ua, (fakatino 2) to kitia e koe e tau vahega manulele kehekehe kua fa felele fano ai mo e maeke foki ke kitia e koe e tau vahega feo fulufuluola kehekehe mo e tau ika, pihia mo e tau vahega mena momou kehekehe, tuga e tau fua alili mo e tau fua gege po ke falu a mena foki ne loga i ai. Maeke ia koe ke finatu kehe tau vala tahi nai, mai he tau hala tahi kua taute pauaki mai he tau maaga takitaha ke hoko hifo ki tahi. Kua mua he mitaki kaeke ke tui e tau tevae malu po ke ha vahega tevae pihia, ka finatu ai ke he tau hala tahi nai, ha kua ha ha i ai e tau patuo matila mo e hahaga kelea, pihia foki ka finatu hui a koe he tau loloto potake he tahi. To maeke ke kitia e koe e tau vahega manulele, tuga e tau kiu, mo e tau kautahi, kua o fano ai he tau kaukau tahi. To maeke foki ia koe ke kitia falu a vahega manulele kua nakai fa kitia

fakahanoa i Niue. Ha ha i ai foki e tau taketake, tau tuaki, pihia mo e tau gogo, kua felele mai he tau kaukautahi po ke felele mai he ha lautolu a tau ofaga he tau vao uhi.

3. Fonua fakafiafia i Fonuakula

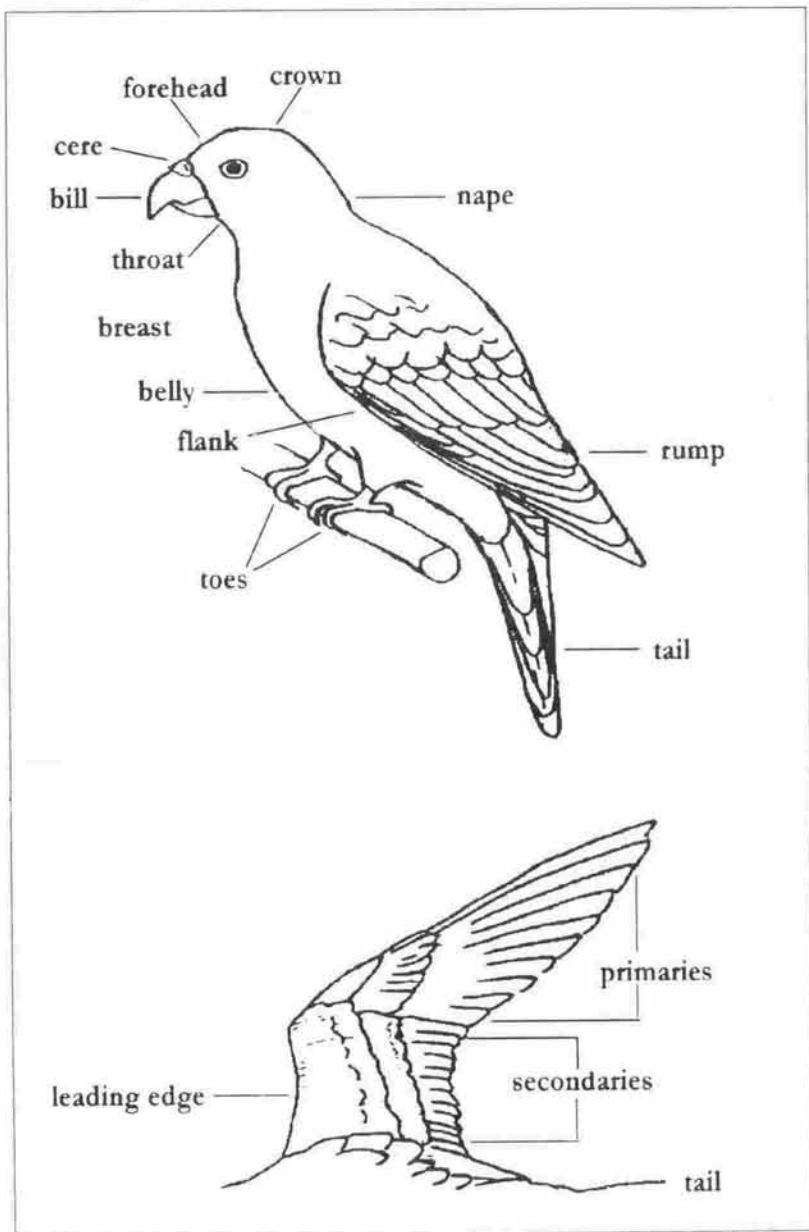
Ko e fonua lahi nai, (fakatino 2), kua fa fakaaoga hololoa ke lata mo e tau feua ta fua polo tea, kua mahomo he mitaki ke o hui ai, ha kua molemole mo e mea e fonua katoa. Ko e tau magaaho pogipogi ki, po ke tau magaaho ka pakupaku ai e tahi, kua lata ke evaeva atu a koe ke he fonua nai, ke kitia ai e koe e tau vahega manulele nonofo mau he motu tuga e tau manulele kua fakahigoa ko e tau fulipatuo, kua fa nonofo ai he fonua ia he falu a magaaho.

4. Faahi ki toga he male vakalele

Kaeke ke finatu a koe ke he matapotu ki toga mai he male vakalele, (fakatino 2) he magaaho pale la po ke magaaho afiafi, to maeke ke kitia mitaki ai e koe e tau vahega manulele nonofo mau he motu, ha ne tutu fano ai he male vakalele, ko e loga he tau manulele ia, ko e tau kiu ka e maeke foki he falu a magaaho ke kitia ai foki e tau vahega manulele kua mahani ke o holo noa mo e nakai nonofo mau he motu nai.

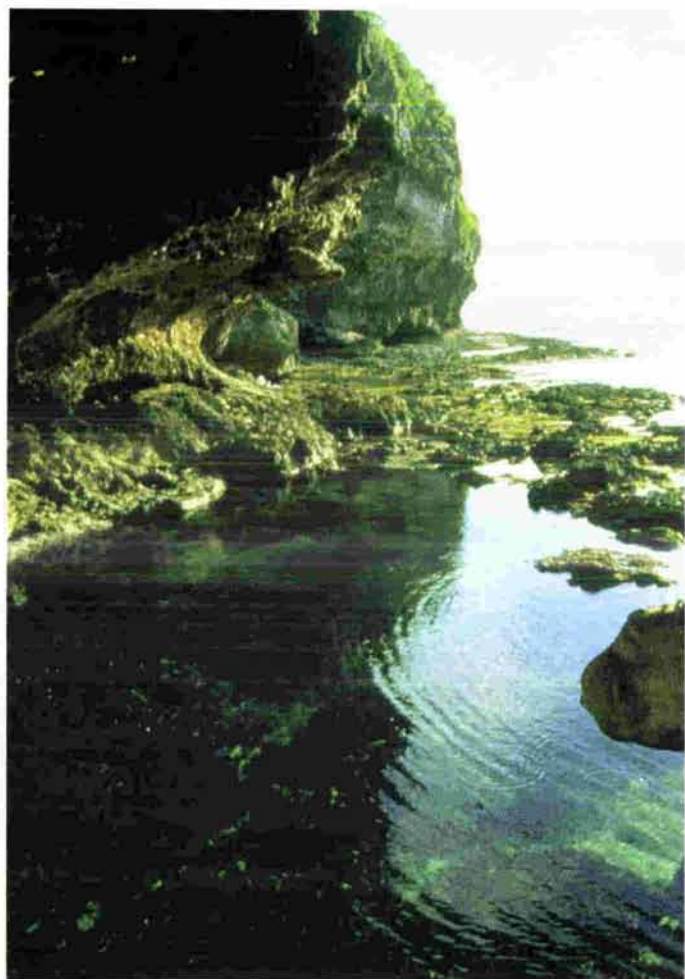
Ha ha i ai foki ke he falu a magaaho e tau vahega manulele tuga e tau lulu kua kitia ai ki luga he fonua nai he tau magaaho ka felele fano ai a lautolu i luga he male vakalele. Kaeke ke lele tata atu e ha manulele ke he mena ne tu ai a koe, ti ka logona e lautolu a koe po ke ha leo fakatagitagi mai i a koe, to lele tata lahi atu e tau manulele ia ki a koe, liga lata mo e 2 e mita he mamao kehe mai i a koe, mo e lali ke iloa tonu ko e heigoa e leo ia kua logona ki ai. Ko e hala ke hoko atu ai a koe ke he taha hala tua mai he puhala tu, mai i Alofi ki Liku, ka e ka hoko atu a koe ke he hala tanu makatea ke he faahi hema he tapa fale vali tapulu miti, liga lata mo e taha e kilomita he mamao mai i Alofi. Muihua atu a koe he hala ia, ka e aafe hokoia ka hoko atu a koe ke he ha mafega hala, ato hoko atu a koe ke he taha faahi he male vakalele mo e tu ai a koe ke he mena ne fakahagaao atu tonu ke he fale Tali Fenoga he Male Vakalele. Kua aoga lahi foki ke ha ha i ai mo koe e taha fakaata kitia mamao, ke maeke ai ia koe ke kitekite atu ke he tau vahega manulele nonofo mau he motu nai, mai he mena ne tu ai a koe.

Figure 4. Parts of a bird.
Fakatino 4. Ko e tau alaga takitaha he manulele.



Glossary

- distance.
- archipelago:** a group of islands within close proximity to each other and usually associated with a mainland
- Australasia:** the region including Australia, eastern Indonesia, Papua New Guinea, the south-western Pacific and New Zealand
- biodiversity:** the variety of plants and animals found in an area
- cere:** the fleshy covering of the upper bill of certain birds, e.g. hawks, parrots and pigeons, which is often brightly coloured
- crustacea:** hard shelled arthropods such as crabs, shrimps and prawns
- endemic:** found only in a certain range or country, and nowhere else
- feral:** an animal that becomes wild or untamed, after escaping from captivity or domesticity
- frontal shield:** horny shield on the forehead instead of feathers e.g. kale
- gregarious:** living together in flocks or colonies
- inflection:** the change in pitch of a call
- iridescent:** showing rainbow-like, or gleaming colours
- juvenile:** birds in their first plumage after losing their natal down
- mandibles:** the upper and lower parts of a bird's bill
- migrant:** a species that moves annually and seasonally between breeding and non-breeding areas, either within a country or to other countries
- mollusc:** an invertebrate with a hard (and usually) external shell, i.e. shellfish, squid
- native:** birds that are naturally found in a country, or are self-introduced
- peka:** flying fox or fruit bat
- resident:** a bird that is a permanent inhabitant of a country, i.e. it always lives there and doesn't visit or migrate to other countries
- rufous:** reddish-brown colour
- speculum:** lustrous-coloured area on the wing of some birds, especially ducks
- tapu:** forbidden place or practice which has been placed under taboo
- tokamotu:** life or core of the island
- vagrant:** a wanderer; a bird that turns up unexpectedly in an unusual direction, e.g. either strayed off course accidentally, or was blown there in a storm
- visitor:** species which disperse from mating areas in other countries and reach Niue, i.e., it doesn't breed in Niue but can be found there when not breeding



Birds seen on Niue

Landbirds

Blue-crowned Lory

Vini australis

Status: Resident, rare

Description: This is a small parrot (18 cm) with a blue-purple crown, lower abdomen and thighs, and red over the chin, throat, cheeks and upper breast and upper belly. The upper parts are green, except for a yellow tail tip, and the bill and legs are orange. Young birds are duller, with reduced red markings.

Range: The blue-crowned lory is endemic and widespread in south-central Polynesia, although it is only found on the Lau Group of Fiji, and has become rare on islands of Tonga inhabited by ship rats.

Habits: The blue-crowned lory is seen most often about bush gardens, particularly those regenerating. It is gregarious, forming small flocks to feed on nectar, especially that of coconut palms, pollen and soft, ripe fruit of a variety of trees. Its flight is steady and direct, with whirring wings.

Voice: A characteristic shrill, high-pitched whistle or screech is given regularly while in flight and feeding.

Breeding: There is little information on the Niue population, but elsewhere it nests in holes and cracks in trees, hollow coconuts still hanging on palms, and leaf axils of palms. One to two white eggs are laid.

Hega

Talahauaga: Ko e vahega manulele nofo mau he motu nai, ka e nakai loga.

Hagahaga he tino: Ko e hega ko e vahega manulele tino tote (18 e senetimita), fapogi, lanu laukou e tau fulu he tumuaki ulu, pihia mo e vala ki lalo he manava, mo e vala ki luga he tau hui. Ka e kula e tau fulu he lalo kakia, tau paka mata, pihia mo e vala ki luga he kupu manava, lanu laukou e tau fulu he vala ki luga he tino katoa, ka e ago e tau fulu he hiku, mo e ago fuamoli e gutu, pihia mo e tau hui. Kua kehe mai e tau fulu he tau punua ikiiki - nakai unoko lahi e lanu he tau fulu, ke tuga e tau fulu he tau hega kua hokotia e motua. Pihia foki e tau ilaila kula, tuga kua kitia ke he tau fulu he tino katoa he tau punua ikiiki.

Tau vahega motu ne nofo ai: Ko e hega, ko e vahega manulele fa kitia hololoa mo e nofo foki ke he loga he tau atumotu Polinesia he faahi ki toga-lotouho. Ka e pete ni kua kitia hokoia ke he tau atumotu ko Lau i Fiti, mo e nakai kitia hololoa ke he tau atumotu ha Tonga, tuga kua loga lahi ai e tau kuma ne fa nonofo he tau vakatoga.

Tau aga mahani mau: Fa mahani ke kitia tumau e tau hega ke he tau fonua maala he tau vao, mua atu ke he tau fonua maala kua kamata ke liu tutupu hake ai foki e tau akau ikiiki. Ko e vahega manulele fiafia lahi ke o fuhifuhi mo e nonofo fakalataha tumau, ke kai auloa he tau fiti lakau puke humelie, mua atu ke he tau fiti niu, pihia mo e tau pauta ago humelie mo e tau fua lakau momoho he tau vahega akau fua humelie. Fa mahani foki ke lele hako mo e mafiti kua kitia noa e kapukapu he tau pekau ka lele.

Haana a leo: Ko e vahega manulele leo matila mo e leo fuluola ka tagi, mua atu he tau magaaho ka felele fakalataha ai e tau vahega manulele nai ke he pulagi, po ke pihia foki he tau magaaho ka tolo fakalataha ai ke kai.

Blue-crowned Lory



Illustration: Fiti Muanua

Fanauaga: Nakai loga lahi e tau talahauaga kua iloa ai ke he fanauaga he vahega manulele nai i Niue, ka e he falu a motu, kua mahani e hega ke kati fata i loto he tau pu akau mo e tau magamaga akau, i loto foki he tau pu patuniu popo ne tutu agaia ki luga, pihia foki mo e tau magamaga he tau niu momoui. Taha ke he ua e fufua tea kua maeke ke fanau he taha e magaaho.

Pacific Pigeon

Ducula pacifica

Status: Resident, common

Description: This is a large (40 cm) pigeon. The head, back of neck and shoulders are grey, wings and tail dark green, chin whitish, breast and belly pinkish-grey, and the under-tail area chestnut brown. The eyes and feet are red, and the bill is black with adults having an enlarged black knob, the cere, at the base of the upper mandible. Young birds have duller feathers and lack the bulbous cere.

Range: The Pacific Pigeon is found in the South West Pacific, from islands off the north coast of Papua New Guinea eastwards to the Cook Islands.

Habits: The Pacific Pigeon flies to and from fruiting trees with strong, deliberate wing-beats, sometimes well above the forest. It is a bird of the canopy, gathering in small flocks to feed on mainly ripe fleshy fruit.

Voice: Two types of 'coos' are heard: a single, drawn out oooooo and the same call, but given as a warble. Niueans indicated that the warble call is given by females and the other by males.

Breeding: The few observations available suggest that Lupe on Niue start nesting in May, but length of the season is unknown. Lupe build a flimsy platform of twigs, probably mainly in the canopy of trees with thick foliage, such as the kafika (*Syzygium inophylloides*). A single white egg is laid.

Lupe

Talahauaga: Ko e vahega manulele nofo mau he motu a nai, mo e fa kitia hololoa he tau magahala oti i Niue.

Hagahaga he tino: Ko e vahega manulele tino lahi (40 e senetimita). Efuefu e tau fulu he ulu, tua he kakia mo e fuga tukeua, lanu laukou unoko e tau fulu he tau pekau mo e hiku, tea e tau fulu he lalo kumukumu, pakatea-efuefu e tau fulu he fuga fatafata mo e kupu manava, ka e kaki fua akau e tau fulu he lalo hiku. Kula e tau mata mo e tau hui, ka e uli e gutu. Ko e tau vahega lupe kua hokotia e motua, kua lalahi e tau tepu uli he ihu, toka tata ke he matafu he laugutu luga. Ko e tau punua ikiiki, kua nakai kitia mahino e lanu he tau fulu mo e nakai kitia e tepu he ihu.

Tau vahega motu ne nofo ai: Kua mahani e vahega manulele nai ke kitia hololoa he tau atumotu he faahi toga ki lalo he Pasifika ke kamata mai he tau atumotu he faahi tokelau ha Niu Kini ke hoko atu ke he faahi uta he Atu Kuki Aelani.

Tau aga mahani mau: Fa mahani e vahega manulele nai ko e lupe ke lele atu mai he taha akau fua ke he taha akau fua mo e haana tau pekau kua logona noa ka kapukapu he magaaho ka lele ai he pulagi. Maeke foki e lupe ke lele hake tokoluga ke he pulagi he falu a magaaho, mua atu ki luga he tau vao uhi. Ko e lupe foki ko e vahega manulele nofo mau ni he haana ofaga, mo e lele fano ai ke kumi fua akau momoho ke kai, mo e liu atu ke he haana a ofaga.

Haana a leo: Ua e vahega leo tagi kua fa mahani ke logona mau mai he vahega manulele nai. Ko e taha vahega leo kua logona "ooooooo" fakalao mo e tagi mai pihia tumau. Ka ko e taha vahega leo tagi, kua tuga e tagata fakataki he fii he magaaho ka tau ai. Pehe e taofi he tau tagata Niue, ko e vahega tagi pihia tuga e fakataki he fii, kua mahani ke logona mai he tau lupe fifine, ka ko e taha vahega tagi foki, ko e tagi he tau lupe taane.

Fanauaga: Ko e falu a kitiaga ke he vahega manulele nai ko e lupe, kua talahau ai ko e lupe i Niue kua kamata kati fata ai he atu mahina ha Me, ka e nakai iloa tonu po ke fiha e leva he magahala fanau he lupe.

Pacific Pigeon



Illustration: Thomas G. Brown from the Cornell Lab of Ornithology

Fa mahani e lupe ke taute e ia haana a ofaga aki e tau lala akau ikiiki mua atu ke he tau pu akau i luga he tau magamaga akau tokoluga, kua fakapuke aki e tau laukou popo mo e tau veve, mua atu ki luga he tau akau tokoluga, ko e tau kafika. Taha ni e fufua tea ka fanau ai he taha e magaaho.

Purple-capped Fruit Dove or Crimson-crowned Fruit Dove

Ptilinopus porphyraceus

Status: Resident, common

Description: The purple-capped fruit dove is a small (23 cm) dove. Much of the upper parts are dark green, merging into grey on the neck and head. It has a crimson forehead and crown and a light yellow tip to its tail. The breast is grey-green, becoming dark green on the belly with an obscure purplish patch, and the lower belly and under-tail are bright yellow. Immatures are entirely green with some yellow feather edgings.

Range: This species occurs in Micronesia and western Polynesia. It is widespread on Tonga and Samoa, but not all islands of the Fiji group.

Habits: Most often purple-capped fruit doves are heard calling or seen in flight. Their flight is fast and direct with rapid wing-beats. This dove tends to be solitary or lives in pairs, only occasionally congregating in fruiting trees. Its food is mainly berries. It is common in mature and regenerating forests, and is often seen flying over roads, villages and scrub country to reach forest.

Voice: Purple-capped fruit doves have a characteristic, rhythmic series of hooting: hoo, hup-hoo, hup-hoo, hoo-hoo-hoo. They call often and throughout the day.

Breeding: It probably breeds during much of the dry season (May-November). A single white egg is laid on a twig platform, usually low down in thick foliage of bushes and small trees.

Kulukulu

Talahauaga: Ko e vahega manulele nofo mau he motu a nai, mo e maeke ke kitia hoioloa ai i Niue he tau magahala oti.

Hagahaga he tino: Ko e kulukulu, ko e vahega manulele tino tote (23 e senetimita). Lanu laukou unoko e tau fulu he tino, mua atu ke he vala ki luga, ka e eke ke efuefu e tau fulu he kakia, pihia mo e ulu. Kula unoko e tau fulu he matale, pihia mo e tumuaki ulu, ka e ago mama e tau hikuhiku he tau fulu he hiku. Efuefu -lanulaukou e tau fulu he fuga fatafata, ka e eke ke lanu laukou unoko e tau fulu he kupu manava, ha ha i ai foki e falu a fulu kua toka ai e ila fapogi ka e nakai kitia mahino, ka e ago mo e kikila e tau fulu i lalo he manava, pihia mo e i loto he hiku. Ko e tau punua ikiiki, kua lanu laukou katoa e tau fulu he tino mo e falu a fulu kua ago e tau kalakala.

Tau vahega motu ne nofo ai: Nofu e vahega manulele nai, he tau atumotu Maikolonesia, pihia foki mo e tau atumotu he faahi ki lalo he Atu Polinesia. Mua atu e loga ke he motu ko Tonga, Samoa, ka e ha ha i ai ke he falu a motu ha Fiti.

Tau aga mahani mau: Ko e kulukulu kua fa mahani mau ke kitia he tau magaaho ka lele ai mo e tagi foki. Mafiti lahi e kulukulu he magaaho ka lele ai mo e fa mahani ke lele fakahako atu ke he mena kua lele atu ki ai, mo e tau pekau kua kapukapu fakamafiti foki. Fa mahani e kulukulu ke lele taki tokotaha po ke taki hoa ua he magaaho. Maeke foki ke he tau kulukulu ke fakapotopoto aulua fakalataha ki luga he taha e akau, kaeke kua momoho e tau fua. Moui e kulukulu he kai he tau fua akau momoho. Mahuiga lahi ke nonofo he tau vao motua mo e tau vao uhi kua kamata ke liu tutupu hake foou. Fa kitia hololoa foki ka felele fano ai he tau puhala tu, mo e i loto foki he tau loto maaga, pihia foki he tau vao kaukau motua, tata atu ke he tau vao uhi.

Haana a leo: Fa mahani e kulukulu ke taha ni e vahega fakaleo ka tagi mo e tuga foki e leo lologo ka logona - "hoo, hup-hoo-hapo-hoo, hpp-hoo-hoo". Fa mahani e kulukulu ke tagi tumau noa ni he tau magaaho oti he aho.

Purple-capped fruit Dove



Fanauaga: Liga fanau fufua e kulukulu he magahala nakai fai uha mo e momo e fonua (Me-Novema). Taha ni e fufua tea ka fanau he taha e magaaho, mo e fanau ai i luga he fata ne talaga aki e tau lala akau ikiiki, mahani ke toka ai ke he tau pu akau he tau akau tokolalo, tata hifo ke he tau akau ikiiki he vao.

Polynesian Starling

Aplonis tabuensis

Status: Resident, common

Description: A stocky, medium-sized bird (18 cm) with a stubby bill and mainly brown feathering. The bill, legs and feet are dark brown-black, the upper parts are dark brown with a grey-buff streak on the wing, and the under parts are buff to brown with pale streaking.

Range: It is widely distributed in the south-west Pacific, from the Santa Cruz Islands eastwards to Samoa, Tonga and Niue. *A. t. brunnescens* is an endemic subspecies found only on Niue.

Habits: The polynesian starling, (miti, pronounced 'misi'), is found in most vegetated habitats, being particularly evident in regenerating bush gardens, the edges of mature forest and coconut plantations. They are sociable birds, appearing to move about as family groups and calling regularly to each other. Individuals can often be seen perched on prominent bare branches above the canopy. Although they have not been seen foraging on the ground, miti avidly search holes, crevices, undersides of branches and foliage in their quest for food, moving up trunks in short hops using their tail for support in the manner of a woodpecker. They eat insects, spiders, lizards and fruit.

Voice: Polynesian starling call frequently, responding with short contact calls to those from miti nearby. A variety of whistling calls are given, some having a buzzing quality. Calls include wheer-whit, tzeep-breee and tchizp.

Breeding: The nesting season on Niue extends from at least April to December and perhaps longer. Favoured nesting sites are holes in trees, hollow branches and hollow coconut palm trunks which have lost their tops. An untidy nest of leaves, twigs and fibres is built in such cavities, with two to three pale blue eggs marked with red-brown spots being laid.

Miti

Talahauaga: Ko e miti ko e vahega manulele nofo mau he motu nai, mo e maeke ke kitia hololoa he tau magahala oti he tau.

Hagahaga he tino: Ko e vahega manulele tino vahaloto mo e patupatu ku a nai (18 e senetimita), ku foki e gutu mo e kaki e tau fulu he haana a tino katoa. Uli unoko eke ke kaki e gutu, tau hui mo e tau lapalapa hui, ka ko e haana a tau fulu he vala ki luga he tino, kua kaki unoko, mo e ha ha i ai foki e tau fulu efuefu melomelo ago i luga he tau pekau, ka e melomelo ago kaki e tau fulu he ao ki lalo he tino.

Tau vahega motu ne nofo ai: Kua maeke e vahega manulele nai, ke nonofo fano ai he tau Atumotu he faahi toga ki lalo he moana Pasifika, ke kamata mai i Santa Cruz ke he faahi uta ha Samoa, Tonga mo Niue. Ko e faga manulele kua talahau e *A. t. brunnescens* he vahega manulele nai, ko e mena kitia hokoia ni i Niue.

Tau aga mahani mau: Kua fa kitia tumau ke he tau fonua maala he tau tagata, ka e mua atu ke he tau fonua maala kua tighau he oti he fakaaga, mo e kua kamata e tau akau ke liliu tutupu hake foki, pihia foki ke he tau kaukau vao motua mo e tau ulu niuniu. Ko e miti, ko e taha a ia he tau vahega manulele lalata mo e fa mahani ke o fuhifuhi fakalataha tuga e matua mo e tau punua. Fa mahani foki ke fakatagitagitagi leo hokoia e taha ke he taha. Kua maeke he falu a magaaho ke kitia atu e tokotaha he vahega manulele nai, kua tu mai he taha la akau tata i luga he mena kua nonofo mau ai. Pete ia, kua nakai maeke e miti ke hifo mai mo e hetu po ke ketu moko ai he fuga kekekele, fa mahani ni e miti ke kumi kai ni ki luga he tau pu akau mo e tau magamaga akau tokoluga, tau lalolalo he tau lau akau mo e tau la la akau, mo e maeke foki ke poi hake hifo he tau fuga patu akau ke kumi moko ke lata mo ia. Maeke ke hopohopo fano pihia i luga he tau fuga akau, mo e fakaaga e haana a hiku ke taofi aki e tino katoa haana, ke tuga e mahani he falu a manulele kua fa mahani ke tolitoli i luga he tau akau tokoluga. Kua kai he vahega manulele nai, e tau moko fualakau,

Polynesian Starling



tau kufani, tau mokotaliga, pihia foki mo e tau fua akau.

Haana a leo: Fa mahani e miti ke fakatagitagi leo tumau, mua atu he tau magaaho ka logona ai he taha Miti e taha Miti kua fakatagitagi leo mai he taha akau tata mai ki a ia. Kehekehe foki e tau vahega leo kua maeke ke logona ai, kua maeke ke logona ai foki he falu a magaaho e tau vahega leo kua logona tumau, ke tuga e - "wheer-whit, tzeep - bree mo e tchizp".

Fanauaga: Ko e magahala katifata mo e fanau fufua he miti i Niue, ko e atu mahina ha Apelila ki a Tesemo, po ke loa atu foki. Mahuiga lahi e vahega manulele nai, ke katifata i luga he tau pu akau popo, i luga he tau magamaga akau tokoluga, po ke i loto he tau pu patu niu popo kua tu agaia ki luga he tau vao. Ko e haana a fata kua taute aki e tau laukou mo e tau lala akau ikiiki mo e tau veve kehekehe, ti fa mahani ke toka ai ua poke tolu e fufua kili lanu moana, ka e ilaila kaki-kula e falu a vala he fufua miti.

Polynesian Triller

Lalage maculosa

Status: Resident, common

Description: The polynesian triller is a medium-sized (15 cm) black and white bird. It is mainly grey-black above, except for white patches on the wings and a narrow white tail tip. It has a black eyestripe, white under parts, and the bill and feet are dark grey to black.

Range: The polynesian triller is widespread and common from the Santa Cruz Islands and New Hebrides eastwards to Samoa and Niue. There is an endemic subspecies found only on Niue, *L. m. whitmeei*.

Habits: The heahea is found in all vegetated habitats on Niue, including open areas with isolated trees. Although it forages mainly above ground among the foliage of trees and shrubs, it does hop about on the ground of gardens and sports fields in search of food. It eats mainly insects, particularly caterpillars, but also takes small fruit. Polynesian trillers are active, noisy birds, often involved in very vocal disputes with neighbours. They fly fast with quick fluttering beats of their broad, rounded wings. They are often seen in pairs or family groups, and are more approachable than most other Niuean birds.

Voice: A variety of calls are given, including loud tchick, peach-it or pee-chew, but the regularly heard trill—a high-pitched rasping whistle—is most useful for identifying the caller as a heahea: tsee-tsee-tsee-tsee-tseep.

Breeding: Pairs have been seen feeding nestlings or fledglings in April, September and December, suggesting that pairs may rear two or three broods during the dry season (April–November). A compact cup nest of interwoven fibres is built in thick foliage of trees, palms and shrubs. A clutch of one or two pale blue-green eggs, spotted brown and faded purple, are laid.

Heahea

Talahauaga: Ko e vahega manulele nofo mau he motu a nai, mo e fa kitia hololoa ke he ha mena he ha magaaho noa ni.

Hagahaga he tino: Ko e Heahea, ko e vahega manulele tino vahalo (15 e senetimita), uli mo e tea e tau fulu he haana a tino. Fa mahani ke efuefu-uli e tau fulu he vala ki luga he tino, ka e kehe e ila tea he tau pekau mo e tau fulu tea ikiiki he matahiku he hiku. Ha ha i ai foki e tau fulu uli ke he tau ava mata, ka e tea e tau fulu he ao, mo e efuefu unoko, eke ke uli e haana a gutu.

Tau vahega motu ne nonofo ai: Fa mahani ke loga mo e nonofo holo, tuga kua lahi ke he atu motu i Santa Cruz, mo New Hebrides, ke faahi uta ha Samoa lalo mo Niue. Na ha ha i ai e taha vahega manulele pehe nai ne kitia ni hokoia i Niue - *L. m. whitmeei*.

Tau aga mahani mau: Ko e Heahea, ko e vahega manulele kua fa mahani ai ke he tau nonofoaga kehekehe i Niue, mua atu ke he tau vao tokanoa mo e tau akau kua tutu fano ai. Pete ni kua mahani e Heahea ke moua mau haana a tau mena kai ki luga he tau lau akau he tau akau mo e tau lakau he vao, kua fa mahani lahi foki a ia ke hopo fano i luga he fuga kekelele mua atu ke he tau fonua maala mo e tau male taute mena fakafiafia tino, ke hetu mo e ketu moko ke lata mo ia, tau vahega moko tuga e tau ketapila, mo e maeke foki e Heahea ke kai e tau fua akau momoho. Ko e Heahea ko e manulele tino hakahakau mo e fa tagitagi fakahoha tumau e gutu, mua atu he tau magaaho ka fai vahega manulele foki kua fakatauhele atu ki a ia. Maeke he Heahea ke lele mafiti mo e fakapakapaka haana a tau pekau loloa mo e lalahi. Fa mahani ke kitia tumau ka o takitokoua, po ke o fuifui auloa, kua mua atu e lalata ke he tau tagata ka fakatatai atu ke he falu a vahega manulele i Niue.

Polynesian Triller



Haana a leo: Ha ha i ai loga e tau vahega leo kua fa logona ai, ke tuga e leo lahi - "tehick-peach - it" po ke "pee chew", ka ko e leo fa logona tumau e leo matila tuga e leo he mafu, fa fakaaoga lahi he tau magaaho ka manako ai ke iloa mai he falu a vahega manulele he tau magaaho ka tagi ai a ia - "tee - tee - tee."

Fanauaga: Kua kitia mau e vahega manulele nai, kua taki hoa ua he fa e hetu mo e ketu moko, po ke kati fata, po ke felele fano ai he atu mahina Apelila; Sepetema mo Tesemo, mo e liga talahau ai pehe, ko e tau vahega manulele taki hoa ua nai, ha ne fakapulupulu ai e ua po ke tolu e punua ikiiki ke he magahala ai fai uha mo e magomago e fonua (Apelila ke he mahina Novema). Kua kitia ki ai foki kua ha ha i ai e fata kua mauoka he talaga aki e tau laukou mo e tau lala akau ikiiki i loto he tau loto uho malu he tau akau lalahi, tau niu po ke tau vao vihi. Maeke foki he falu a magaaho ke kitia ai taha po ke ua e fufua - lanu moana - lanu laukou kua toka ai he fata, eke foki e kili he tau fufua ke nikiniki kaki mo e melomelo efuefu.

White-rumped Swiftlet

Collocalia spodiopygius

Status: Resident, common

Description: This is a small (10 cm) black swiftlet with long sickle-shaped wings. The upper parts are black, except for a white-grey rump, and the under-parts are dusky grey. The tail has a slight central notch.

Range: White-rumped swiftlet inhabit the Indo-Pacific region from the Celebes and Moluccas eastward to Samoa.

Habits: The white-rumped swiftlet is a distinctive bird of Niue, being commonly seen along roads at any time of day because of its erratic darting flight to catch small flying insects. It occurs singularly or in small flocks, often flying back and forth in small area from ground level to just below the forest canopy. Occasionally, pekapeka do forage high above the canopy.

Voice: A repeated clicking sound can sometimes be heard from foraging pekapeka. However, this echolocation system is more readily heard when the birds are flying in the total darkness of a cave. They use echolocation at such times to avoid obstacles and to locate their nests and roosts.

Breeding: White-rumped swiftlets nest in caves, near entrances where some light penetrates or deep underground in total darkness. The nest, made of plant fibres cemented together with saliva, is attached to roofs or steep walls. Little is known about the timing of the nesting season on Niue, but it is probably similar to that on Fiji (September-March).

Pekapeka

Talahauaga: Ko e Pekapeka, ko e vahega manulele nofo mau he motu nai, mo e maeke foki ke kitia hoiloloa he ha magaaho noa.

Hagahaga he tino: Ko e vahega manulele nai, ko e manulele tino tote (10 e senetimita), uli e tau fulu, mo e alokoku e haana a tau pekau tuga e pelu. Uli foki e tau fulu he tino katoa, ka e efuefu-tea e tau fulu he tau matafu hui, moe efuefu e tau fulu he vala ki luga he tau hui. Taha e ila he lotouho he hiku.

Tau vahega motu ne nofo ai: Nofo mau e vahega manulele nai he tau atumotu he Indo-Pasifika, ke kamata mai he motu Celepes mo Moluccas, ke he faahi uta ha Samoa.

Tau aga mahani mau: Ko e pekapeka ko e taha vahega manulele mahuiga lahi ke he motu nai ko Niue. Fa mahani ke kitia tumau he tau puhala tu he ha magaaho noa ni he aho, pihia foki ha ko e mahaniaga ke lele mafiti he tau magaaho ka tutuli atu ai ke moua falu moko lele mo hana kai. Fa mahani foki e pekapeka ke lele tokotaha ni a ia, po ke lele foki fakalataha mo e falu a hoa, ka e nakai tokologa lahi ka o fuhifuhi he taha e magaaho. Maeke he vahega manulele nai, ke lele ki mua po ke lele tafeliuaki he taha ni e matatepu, ke kamata mai he kelekele ke hoko atu ke he tau vahaloto akau he tau vao uhi. Ko e falu a magaaho, kua maeke he Pekapeka ke lele tokoluga hake ki luga he tau tapunu akau tokoluga.

Haana a leo: Maeke ke logona ai he falu a magaaho e leo kali he pekapeka mai he haana a nofoaga. Ka e pete he pihia, ko e vahega leo ka logona mai i ai, he magaaho ka lele fano ai e pekapeka i loto he tau liu ana hokulo mo e pouli. Maeke he pekapeka ke fakaaoga e leo taogo ka logona mai he liu ana pouli, ke kumi aki mo e iloa ai e ha mena kaeke kua fakaalaia aki e haana a leleaga i loto he ana pouli, po ke fakaaoga foki ke iloa ai foki e tokaaga he haana a fata po ke haana a nofoaga mahani ai.

Fanauaga: Fanau fufua e pekapeka i loto he tau liu ana pouli, tata ke he gutu ana ne fai maama ke hoko atu ki ai he falu a magaaho, po ke i loto foki he tau liu ana hokulo mo e pouli. Ko e fata he pekapeka, kua taute aki e tau laukou mo e tau kavekave ne pilipili fakalataha aki e tau puke anu palapala mai he haana ni a gutu, mo e toka ai foki i luga he tau lalo ana po ke tau kaukau hokulo he

White-rumped Swiftlet



tau liu ana. Nakai iloa mahino, po ke magahala fe tonu ne fanau fufua ai e pekapeka i Niue, liga tatau ni mo e magahala ne fanau fufua ai e pekapeka i Fiti, he atu mahina Sepetema-Mati.

Barn Owl

Tyto alba

Status: Resident, uncommon

Description: This is a pale owl (34 cm), with a prominent white facial disc having a buff margin. The upper parts are very light brown-grey, barred and mottled with light brownish-yellow and liberally marked with black and white flecks. The under-parts are white, the bill pinkish-horn, and the feet pinkish-grey to light buff.

Range: The barn owl is widely distributed throughout the world, and is native to the tropical Pacific. It seems to be widespread over Niue.

Habits: Although mainly nocturnal, it is occasionally seen hunting in full daylight in the afternoons. It hunts by listening for prey from a low perch, or by flying close to the ground. Its flight is buoyant and silent, involving a series of slow flaps alternated with glides and occasional brief spells of hovering. The main prey of barn owl on Niue are rats, skinks and geckos, but it probably takes small birds and big insects too. Prey are swallowed whole and the indigestible parts, such as bones and fur, are regurgitated as pellets. Barn owl generally roost in holes and crevices in trees or cliffs, and in thickly foliated trees.

Voice: A rasping, hissing screech is often repeated: schveert...schveert...schveert.

Breeding: The barn owl nests in a hole or crevice in a tree or cliff, with two to five eggs being laid.

Lulu

Talahauaga: Ko e lulu, ko e vahega manulele nofo mau he motu nai, ka e nakai mahani ke kitia fakahanoa he tau magaaho ka lele fano ai.

Hagahaga he tino: Ko e lulu, ko e vahega manulele tino vahaloto (34 e senetimita), mahani ke kitia hololoa e tau mata popoko mo e iko veliveli e tau mata. Ko e tau fulu he vala ki luga he tino, kua efuefu kaki, kikila, avava mo e ilaila eke ke kaki-ago e tau fulu, ha ha i ai foki e falu a fulu kua eke ke uli-tea he haana a tino. Ka e tea katoa e tau fulu he vala ki luga he tino, ka e pakatea e gutu, mo e pakatea efuefu e tau hui, eke ke melo ago.

Tau vahega motu ne nofo ai: Kua mahani e vahega manulele nai, ke nofo he tau atumotu oti he lalolagi, ka e maeke foki ke nofo mau he tau atumotu mafana he moana Pasifika. Kua kitia foki ki ai, kua nofo e lulu ke he tau kavi oti ha Niue.

Tau aga mahani mau: Pete ni ko e lulu, ko e vahega manulele fa lele fano ka po, kua maeke foki ke kitia ka lele fano ai ka aho ke kumi kai, mua atu ke he tau magaaho pale la. Mahani e lulu ke nofo he tau la akau tokolalo mo e fakatalitali atu ai, ke moua taha mena kai. Fa nofo e lulu he tau la akau tokolalo mo e fakatalitali ai. Ko e tau magaaho ka lele fano ai e lulu, kua maeke ke lele fakatotomo mo e nakai fai leo ke logona ai, ka e ha ha i ai falu a magaaho ka fakakakapu mo e fakapaagi fano e tau pekau, kua taute ai pihia ke he falu a magaaho ku ni. Ko e matafi he lulu i Niue ko e tau kuma vao, pihia mo e falu a vahega moko kekelele tuga e tau mokotaliga, ka e maeke foki he lulu ke kai e falu a manulele ikiiki po ke tau moko ikiiki. Fa mahani e lulu ke folo katoa e ha moko ka kai, ka e kaeke ke mao e tau mena kai tuga e tau polohui po ke tau kili manu kafilo, to maeke ke liu fakalua mai ai ki tua to liu ke folo foki. Fa mahani e lulu ke fakalala mo e nofo ai he tau pu akau mo e tau magamaga akau tokoluga, po ke nonofo he lau putuputu akau malu.

Haana a leo: Ko e leo tagi he lulu, ko e tama leo tote, nakai logona lahi, ka e fa tagi tumau tuga e - "schveet, sshveert, schveet..."

Fanauaga: Fa mahani ke kati fata i loto he tau pu akau mo e tau magamaga akau tokoluga mo e tau kaukau maka he tahi, mo e fanau ai ua ke he lima e fufua he magaaho.

Barn Owl

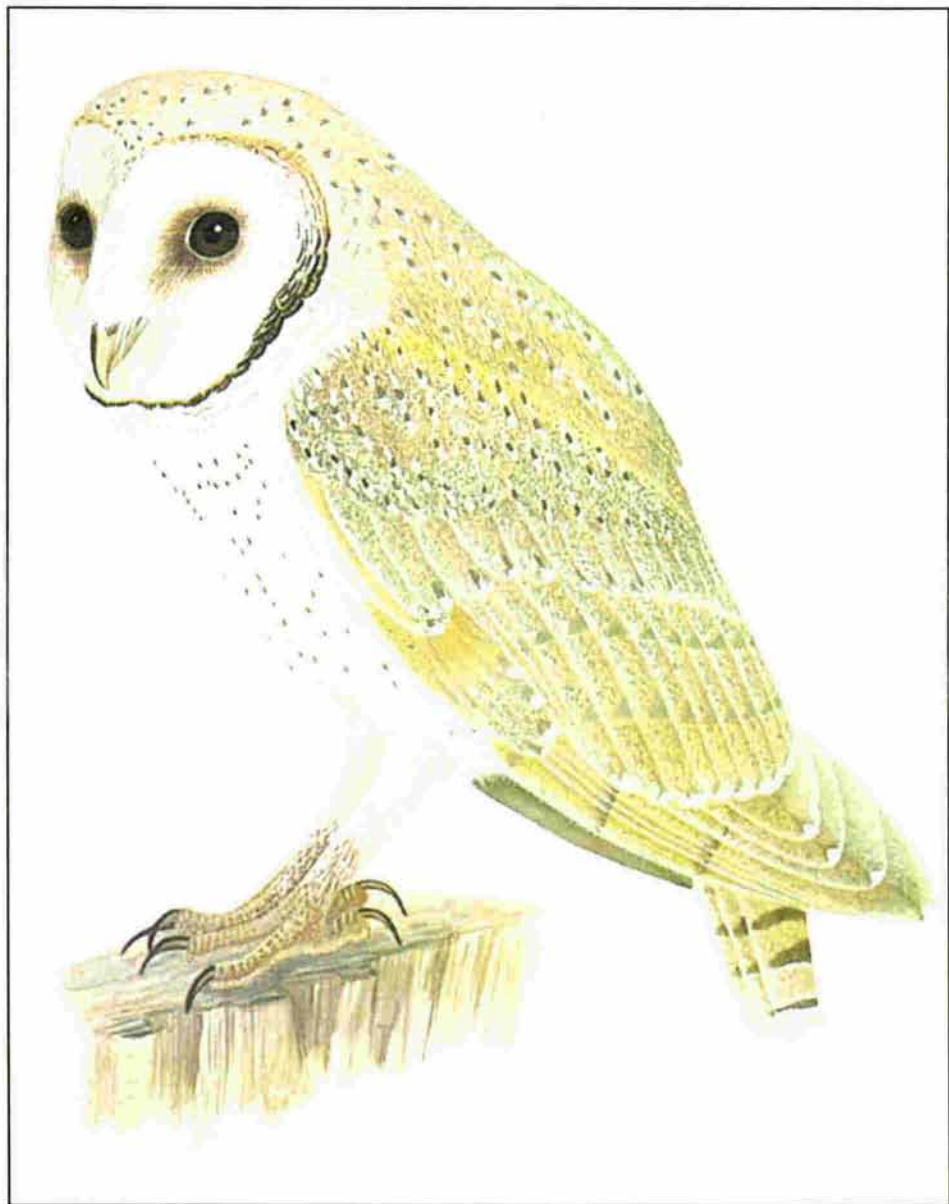


Illustration: The Barn Owl

Feral Fowl

Gallus gallus

Status: Resident, uncommon

Description: The feral fowl is a smaller version of the domestic fowl, hens (45 cm) being smaller than cockerels (65 cm). The variety of plumages of the feral birds suggests they occasionally interbreed with domestic strains that live semi-feral about villages. Cockerels have a prominent red comb and throat wattles, and an iridescent, multi-coloured plumage with the long arching tail usually dark green; hens are various shades of buff, brown or black. Chicks are usually fawn or buff with black markings to aid camouflage.

Range: These were introduced to many Pacific Islands by early Polynesian colonists from South East Asia. They are now present on many of the larger islands of the south-central Pacific region, where they inhabit lowland habitats. The present population on Niue has probably interbred with more recently introduced domestic strains.

Habits: The feral fowl lives in forest, scrub and bush gardens. It is shy, so more often heard than seen, and quickly seeks cover when disturbed, usually by running, although it can fly strongly. The feral fowl feeds mainly on insects, seeds and fruit. Its sturdy feet are used to rake the litter in search of invertebrates.

Voice: Typical crowing of cockerels and alarm cackles of both sexes are heard occasionally.

Breeding: Nests are hidden under the cover of shrubs, ferns and vines. There are clutches of 6-10 pale buff eggs. Recently-hatched chickens are seen from September to December. Few chicks survive to fledge, probably due in part to predation by feral cats.

Moa vao

Talahauaga: Ko e vahega manulele nofo mau he motu a nai, ka e nakai fa mahani ke kitia fakahanoa po ke kitia tumau he tau vao.

Hagahaga he tino: Ko e vahega manulele nai, ko e moa vao tino tote (45 e senetimita) ka fakatai atu ke he tau vahega moa fagai pauaki he tau kaina ke kai. Tote hifo e tino he vahega moa nai, mai he tino he vahega moa fuata taane huihoe (65 e senetimita). Ko e tau vahega moa vao nai, kua kehekehe haana a tau lanu he tau fulu, ha kua fe nonofo aki mo e tau vahega moa fagai kaina, ti pa mai ai e tau moa hafa mo e maeke ke nonofo foki he tau kaina. Ko e tau moa taane kua kula fulufuluola e tau fulu, pihia foki mo e fefe, pihia mo e lalo kakia mo e falu a vala he tino kua kehekehe e tau lanu he tau fulu, kupukupu fulufuluola e tau fulu loloa he hiku, mahani ke lanu laukou unoko e tau fulu. Ko e tau fulu he tau moa fifine, kua kehekehe e tau lanu fulufuluola kua ha ha i ai, kaki po ke uli. Ko e kakano ne kehekehe ai e tau lanu he tau fulu he tau vahega moa vao nai, ke maeke ai foki ke lagomatai aki ke ua kitia mukamuka he falu a manu favale ka tutuli atu ki a ia.

Tau vahega motu ne nofo ai: Ko e vahega moa vao nai, ko e mena tamai fakamua ki Niue mai he tau motu kehe, ke he vaha kua leva lahi, he magahala ne kamata o mai ai e tau tagata mai he falu atumotu he moana Pasifika, mo e nonofo mau ai i Niue. Ko lautolu haia ko e tau uluaki tagata Polinesia ne o mai fakamua ke he motu nai, mo e nonofo mau ai. Ne o mai a lautolu ia he tau atumotu he faahi toga ki uta i Asia. Ko e vaha nai, kua loga lahi e tau vahega moa vao nai ke he tau atumotu ne tokolalo e tau akau kua tutupu ai. Ko e tau vahega moa vao nai i Niue he vaha nai, kua lahi ke fenonofo aki mo e tau vahega moa fagai kaina, tuga kua tamai fakamui ki Niue he vaha fakamui nai.

Tau aga mahani mau: Fa mahani e vahega moa vao nai, ke nonofo mau he tau vao uhi, tau vao tafagafaga mo e tau fonua maala. Lahi e hehegi, mo e nakai mukamuka ke kitia ha kua mafiti he hola.

Feral Fowl



Mafiti lahi foki ke fakamumuli ka logona ha leo kua kehe po ke kalii. Mafiti he poi, po ke lele mamao mo e tokoluga ka hola. Fa mahani ke kai moko he vao, tau tega po ke tau fua akau. Mao mo e matila e tau matahui ke ketu mo e hetu e kelekele ke moua e ha moko mo haana kai.

Haana a leo: Ko e vahega manulele leo matila, mua atu ke he tau moa taane ka ko, pihia foki e tau moa fifine ka kaka po ke kotoka kaeke ke fanau fufua.

Fanauaga: Fa mahani ke kati fata mo e fakato fufua he tau vao tokanoa, tau poko akau galo, mo e tau lalo akau malu. Fa mahani foki ke fanau 6-10 e fufua he taha e magahala fanau he moa fifine. Fa fakapapa e tau fufua he tau atu mahina Sepetema ke he mahina Tesemo. Nakai fa momoui oti e tau punua ka oti he fakapapa he fa kai momou he tau pusi vao po ke tau kuli e tau punua.

Spotless Crake or Sooty Rail

Porzana tabuensis

Status: Resident, rare or possibly extinct

Description: This is a very small black-brown rail (15 cm) with red legs, feet and eyes. It has a brownish-black back and wings, with the under-parts and tail blackish-grey. The bill is black-green. Immature birds have white markings on the breast and abdomen.

Range: The spotless crake or sooty rail is widely distributed throughout the Pacific. The nominate subspecies found on Niue, *P. t. tabuensis*, has also been recorded from Papua New Guinea, New Caledonia, New Hebrides, and eastwards to French Polynesia. There have been no confirmed sightings of the species on Niue since about 1970.

Habits: The spotless crake or sooty rail can be expected in a variety of habitats, from forest, bush gardens, scrub, fernlands and rank pasture that provides much cover at ground level. The moho is secretive, remaining in thick cover and so can readily avoid detection. Its size and conspicuous dangling red legs when forced into flight will assist identification.

Voice: This is a vocal species that produces a variety of squeaks, purrs, crackling scolds and mechanical clicking. Some calls are similar to those of the veka.

Breeding: Clutches of 3-5 buff-coloured eggs blotched with brown markings are laid in a nest on the ground in thick cover.

Moho

Talahauaga: Ko e vahega manulele nofo mau he motu a nai, ka e nakai loga po kua galo fakahaga he vaha nai.

Hagahaga he tino: Ko e vahega manulele tino tote a nai (15 e senetimita), ka e kula e tau hui mo e tau mata. Uli eke ke kaki e tau fulu he tua, mo e tau pekau, ka e efuefu uli e tau fulu he ao, pihia mo e hiku. Eke ke uli-lanu laukou e haana a gutu. Ka ko e tau punua ikiiki, eke ke fai ila tea e fuga fatafata, pihia foki mo e kupu manava.

Tau vahega motu ne nofo mau: Mahuiga lahi e vahega manulele nai ke nofo he tau atumotu he Pasifika. Ko e vahega moho nai foki, kua kitia ai i Niue, kua talahau pehe, kua ha ha i ai foki i Niu Kini, Niu Kaletonia, Vanuatu mo e atumotu he faahi ki uta ma i Tahiti. Nakai liu kitia foki e ha manulele pehe nai i Niue, tali mai he tau 1970.

Tau aga mahani mau: Maeke he vahega manulele nai ke nofo fano ke he ha mena ni kua manako ki ai, ke kamata mai he vao uhi, tau fonua maala, tau vao tafagafaga mo e tau fonua faama kua maluia ke he tau pupu. Ko e manulele nai, ko e manu hu poko ke he lahi he tau magaaho, mo e nakai fa mahani ke hau fakahanoa ki fafo mai he mena ne mahani ke hu ai, ti nakai maeke ke kitia po ke moua fakahanoa he ha magaaho. Kua eke haana a tino tote mo e tau hui kula ikiiki ke lagomatai aki a ia he tau magaaho ka hola ai ke hu, ke ua maeke ke kitia mukamuka ka tutuli po ke kumi ki ai.

Haana a leo: Ko e vahega manulele leo tuga e tagata tutala, mo e maeke foki ke kaa mo e kii po ke takalii fano. Ko e falu a magaaho kua leo e moho tuga e veka.

Fanauaga: Ko e tau fufua he vahega manulele nai, liga lata mo e 3-5 e fufua he taha e magahala fanau, eke ke kili kaki e tau fufua he toka mai he fata ne fanau ai, mua atu ha kua malu mo e galo e mena ne toka ai e fata.

Spotless Crake



Illustration: University of Cambridge, Cambridge, UK

Banded Rail

Rallus philippensis

Status: Resident, common

Description: The banded rail is a strikingly coloured, medium-sized rail (25 cm) with a sturdy bill. The crown, nape and eye stripe are chestnut brown, contrasting with the grey eyebrow, throat and upper breast. The feathers of the back and rump are dark brown with a lighter edging and occasional white spots and barring, particularly along the flanks. The under-parts are intricately barred black and white, sometimes with a buff breast-band. The eyes are brown to red, and the bill is brown-pink.

Range: This species is widely distributed, being found on islands in the Indian Ocean, through south-east Asia, north to the Philippines and south through the Pacific to New Zealand. There are many subspecies, with *R. p. goodsoni* known from the Samoan islands and Niue.

Habits: The banded rail is seen in or adjacent to areas covered by low scrub and ferns, in bush and village gardens, and paddocks. It often forages in the open, such as along roads and over lawns and sports grounds, especially after rain. It is usually seen singularly or in pairs, walking about energetically with a flicking tail in search of food. If disturbed, it runs off rapidly in a semi-crouched posture, or flies off with legs dangling. The banded rail is considered by locals to be destructive to crops, especially sweet potato.

Voice: Harsh grating, croaking and screeching calls are made particularly when disturbed.

Breeding: The banded rail apparently breeds year-round. It builds a well-concealed nest on the ground in thick cover and lays 4-6 pale buff eggs marked with red-brown and grey blotches. Black down-covered young accompany their parents; eggs and young are vulnerable to rat and cat predation.

Veka

Talahauaga: Nofu mau e vahega manulele nai he motu, mo e fa kitia hololoa he falu a magaaho.

Hagahaga he tino: Ko e vahega manulele tino fulufulu, nakai tino lahi mahaki koa (25 e senetimita), ka e lahi mo e mao e gutu. Lanu kaki unoko e tau fulu he ulu, lalo kakia mo e vahaloto he tau mata, ke fakataai atu aki e tau fulu efuefu he tau tuamata, lalo gutu mo luga he fatafata. Ko e tau fulu he tua mo e tau matafu hui, kua kaki unoko, ka e nakai unoko lahi e tau fulu i loto, eke foki ke kikila tea e tau fulu he tau faahi. Ko e tau fulufulu he faahi ki lalo, kua avaava uli mo e tea, ha ha i ai foki e tau fulu kikila he ao fatafata. Ka ko e tau fulu he tau mata kua kaki unoko, ka ko e gutu kua ha ha i ai e tau fulu pakatea - kaki.

Tau vahega motu ne nofo ai: Fa kitia hololoa e vahega manulele nai, ke he loga he tau atumotu, mo e nofo mau ai foki he tau atumotu he moana Intia, ke hoko atu foki ke he tau atumotu he faahi toga ki uta ha Asia, faahi tokelau mai he atumotu he faahi toga he moana Pasifika, ke hoko atu foki ki Niu Silani. Ha ha i ai loga foki e taha vahega manulele kua fakahigoa ko e *R. p. goodsoni*, kua ha ha i ai ke he tau atumotu i Samoa lalo, pihia mo Amerika Samoa, mo e motu ko Niue.

Tau aga mahani mau: Kua fa kitia hololoa e vahega manulele nai ke he tau vao tafagafaga mo e tau ulu mohuku, pihia foki ke he tau vao tata atu ke he tau fonua maala mo e tau fonua toka povi. Fa mahani lahi ke nofo he tau kala puhala ke ketu mo e hetu moko kelekele mo haana kai, pihia foki ke he tau fonua huo foou mo e tau liu male taute mena fiafia, ka e mahomo atu he tau magaaho ka fufu ai e uha. Fa mahani ke kitia ka o takitokotaha po ke felele mo e o taki hoa ua, mafiti mo e kamukamu e tau hui he tafepoi fano mo e lue ai na e tau hiku ka tafepoi, pihia foki he tau magaaho ka ketu mo e hetu ai e kelekele ke kumi mena kai. Kaeke ke logona he vahega manulele nai ha leo kua kehe mo e matakutakuina, kua poi fakamafiti e tau hui he hola mo e lali ke hu fakaave he taha mena galo.

Purple Swamphen

Porphyrio porphyrio

Status: Resident, uncommon

Description: This large (38 cm), colourful rail is readily identifiable. The back, wings and upper tail feathers are black, the under-tail is white, and the rest of the plumage is mainly blue-purple. In contrast, the long legs and feet, bill, frontal shield and eyes are red. Juveniles are less brightly coloured.

Range: This species ranges from the Mediterranean through eastern Africa, India, South East Asia, Papua New Guinea, Australia, New Zealand and the islands of the western and central Pacific. The subspecies, *P. p. samoensis* extends from Melanesia to Fiji, Samoa, Tonga and Niue.

Habits: It is mainly found in current and regenerating bush gardens, and usually seen singularly or in pairs. The purple swamphen walks with a slow, hesitant step, flicking the white under-tail patch conspicuously, but flies to cover when disturbed. They are omnivores, eating birds' eggs and young, lizards, crabs, insects, slugs, snails, spiders, worms, seeds, fruit, shoots and starchy roots. The purple swamphen are regarded as a pest in taro gardens.

Voice: It is most vocal at dawn and dusk, giving loud harsh screams and cackles.

Breeding: These birds probably nest during much of the dry season (April-November). A bulky sedge or grass nest is built on the ground, usually in thick vegetation. Three or four buff-green eggs blotched with red-brown and purple-grey markings are common; chicks are covered in black down.

Kale

Talahauaga: Ko e vahega manulele nofo mau he motu a nai, ka e nakai fa mahani ke kitia tumau.

Hagahaga he tino: Ko e vahega manulele tino lahi a nai, (38 e senetimita). Fulufuluola e tau lanu kehekehe he tau fulu he haana a tino, mo e kitia mukamuka he tau magaaho ka kitia ai e manulele nai. Uli e tau fulu he patu tua, tau pekau, pihia mo e vala ki luga he hiku, ka e tea e tau fulu he lalo hiku, lanu fapogi e tau fulu he tino katoa. Maeke ke kitia mitaki foki e tau hui haana ne loloa, pihia mo e gutu, ha ha i ai foki e vala i mua he gutu mo e ihu mo e tau mata, kua kula katoa. Ko e haana a tau punua, kua nakai fulufuluola e kikila he tau fulu, ke tuga he magaaho ka lahi ai.

Tau vahega motu ne nofo ai: Fa kitia mau e vahega manulele nai, ke kamata mai he tau atumotu he tahi Mediterranean, ke hoko atu ke he faahi uta i Aferika, Initia mo e faahi toga ki uta ha Asia, Niu kini, Ausetalia, Niu Silani mo e tau atumotu he faahi lalo mo e lotouhu he moana Pasifika. Kae ha ha i ai foki taha vahega kale kua fakahigoa ko e *P. p. samoensis*, kua maeke ke kitia mau he tau atumotu Melanesia ke hoko atu ki Fiti, Samoa, Tonga mo Niue.

Tau aga mahani mau: Fa kitia hololola e vahega manulele nai ke he tau fonua maala foou he tau vao. Mahani foki ke o takitokotaha po ke o takitokoua po ke taki hoa ua. Fakatuai haana a tau laka ka fano mo e nakai fai fakatepetepe, ka e lue tumau e tau fulu tea he hiku ka fano. Ka e kaeke kua logona fakatepe e ia e ha leo kua kehe, kua mukamuka i a ia ke oho fakatepe mo e poi fakamafiti e tau hui mo e lali ke hu fakaave he taha mena galo. Ko e kale ko e mena kai fakahanoa a ia he ha mena kua moua. Fa mahani foki ke kai e tau fufua po ke tau punua ikiiki he falu a manulele. Kai foki e tau mokotaliga, tau kalahimu, tau kufani, tau moko ikiiki he fonua, tau tega akau, tau fua akau, tau hulihuli akau mo e tau fua he fonua, tuga e tau talo mo e tau kaufi. Ko e kale ko e manulele fakalavelave lahi ke he tau tagata gahua fonua, mua atu ke he tau tagata gahua maala talo.

Haana a leo: Fa mahani e vahega manulele nai ko e kale ke kaa fakaleo lahi mo e tagi he tau magaaho pogipogi pouli mo e tau magaaho afiafi pouli.

Purple Swampphen



Photo: P. Jones

Fanauaga: Liga fa kati fata e vahega manulele nai mo e fanafanau fufua ke he tau magahala magomago mo e mo ai e fonua (Apelila–Novema). Ko e tau fata, kua fa taute aki e tau pupu mo e tau laukou mo e tau la akau ikiiki i loto he tau mena galo, mua atu ke he tau vao vihi. Ha ha i ai tolu po ke fa e fufua lanu laukou e kili, ka e efuefu fapogi mo e kula kikila e falu a vala he fufua, ka fanau he taha e magahala. Ko e tau punua ikiiki, kua uli oti e tino.

Long-tailed Cuckoo

Eudynamis taitensis

Status: Migrant, uncommon

Description: This species is a long-tailed, slender bird (40 cm). The upper parts and tail are dark brown, barred with rufous. There are white spots and blotches over the wings, back and head, including white stripes above and below the eyes. The under-parts are white with black and brown streaks. The bill is strong, downcurved at the tip and brown. Young birds have lots of white spots over the upper parts, including the tail, with the under parts more buff than white.

Range: The long-tailed cuckoo breeds in New Zealand, and then migrates to many islands of the South West Pacific. Most cuckoos arrive on the islands from March to April and leave in September to October. A few birds remain on the Pacific islands in summer.

Habits: It is a regular winter visitor to Niue, but only in small numbers. Being solitary and secretive, living mainly in the canopy of mature forest, it is rarely seen. The long-tailed cuckoo has a strong flapping flight on short, pointed wings and a long tail. It has a varied diet, including insects, lizards, and birds eggs and nestlings.

Voice: A harsh, long, drawn-out screech, with a rising inflection is heard.

Kalue

Talahauaga: Ko e kalue, ko e vahega manulele nofo mau he motu, ka e nakai maeke ke kitia fakahanoa.

Hagahaga he tino: Ko e vahega manulele nai, ko e manu lele hiku loa, mo e tino tote (40 e senetimita). Kaki unoko e tau fulu he vala ki luga he tino, pihia mo e hiku, kilakila mo e nikiniki. Fai ilaila tea i luga he tau pekau, tua mo e ulu, ha ha i ai foki falu a ava tea i luga mo lalo he tau mata. Tea e tau fulu he ao, ka e eke foki falu a fulu ke uli mo e kaki. Mao e gutu mo e keu alokoku hifo ki lalo ke he matahiku mo e kaki. Ha ha i ai ke he tau punua ikiiki loga e tau fulu ilaila tea he vala ki luga he tino, pihia foki mo e hiku, ka koe tau fulu he ao, kua lahi ke melo ago ka e nakai tea katoa.

Tau vahega motu ne nofo ai: Ko e mena fanau e kalue i Niu Silani, ka e ka hoko ke lalahi kua tuku fenoga atu ai ke he tau atumotu he faahi toga-ki-lalo mai he moana Pasifika ke nonofo ai. Ko e loga he tau vahega manulele nai, kua o mai ke he tau atumotu he Pasifika he tau atu mahina Mati-Apelila, ka e liliu ke he mena ne o mai ai he atu mahina Sepetema-Oketopa. Ko e nonofo hifo ni e falu he tau vahega manulele nai he tau atumotu he Pasifika he magahala mafana.

Tau aga mahani mau: Ko e vahega manulele nai, kua fa mahani ke tuku fenoga mai ki Niue he magahala makalili, ka e na gahoa lahi e tau kalue ka o mai pihia he taha e magaaho. Ko e mahani hu poko mo e nofo hokoia he tau mena galo e vahega manulele nai, kua mahani ni e kalue ke nofo tumau he haana a ofaga ke he tau vao uhi, mo e nakai maeke ke kitia fakahanoa ai ke he ha magaaho. Ko e magaaho ka lele ai e kalue, kua logona maali e kapukapu he haana a tau pekau kuku mo e matila, ka e loa e hiku. Ha ha i ai loga lahi haana a tau mena kai, mua atu ke he tau moko kekelekele, tau mokotaliga, tau fufua manu mo e tau fata manu.

Haana a leo: Ko e vahega manulele nai, fa mahani ke kaa faka leo lahi mo e totoho fakalao mahaki, mo e logona lahi.

Longtailed Cuckoo



WILSON/ILL. 4046

Duck species

Anas sp.

Status: Vagrant, unconfirmed records

Description: The most likely species to be seen on Niue is the grey duck (*A. superciliosa*). A large duck (48 cm), its dark brown feathering has an indistinct scaling. The paler head has a conspicuous black eyestripe between two white stripes. Each wing has a bright iridescent green speculum, the legs and feet are orange, and the bill dark grey. In flight, white under-wing patches become evident.

Range: The grey duck is widely distributed in the South Pacific, including Fiji, Samoa, Tonga and the Cook Islands, although nowhere common.

Habits: It inhabits streams, ponds, paddocks, taro patches and reefs, usually in pairs or small flocks. This duck feeds mainly on invertebrates and vegetable matter (seeds and leaves). It has a swift flight maintained by continual, rapid and shallow wing beats.

Voice: It has a typical nasal quack, often given in flight.

Tau vahega pato

Talahauaga: Ko e vahega manulele fano holo a nai, mo e nakai nofo mau he taha e motu.

Hagahaga he tino: Ko e vahega pato kua fa kitia ai i Niue, ko e vahega pato uli, kua fakahigoa ko e pato Pasifika, ka e maeke foki ke efuefu e tau fulu haana (*A. superciliosa*). Ko e pato tino lahi (48 e senetimita), ko e lanu he haana a tau fulu kua kaki unoko mo e ha ha i ai foki e falu a fulu i loto he tino kua nakai kitia mitaki. Ko e vala he ulu, kua ha ha i ai e .au fulu uli ke he tau ava mata, ke he vahaloto ha na iva tea ne ua. Iгатia e tau pekau mo e tau fulu kikila tuga e tau lanu he tagalao, kae ago fuamoli e tau hui mo e tau lapalapa hui, ka e efuefu unoko e gutu. He magaaho ka lele ai, kua kitia mitaki e tau fulu tea he tau lalo pekau.

Tau vahega motu ne nofo ai: Ko e vahega pato efuefu, kua ha ha i ai ke he tau motu oti he Pasifika, ke aofia ai a Fiti, Samoa, Tonga, Atu Kuki Aelani. Ka e pete ia, kua nakai fai atumu kua loga lahi ki ai e vahega pato nai.

Tau aga mahani mau: Fa mahani e vahega pato nai ke nofo he tau mata vaitafe, tau loloto vai mo e tau faama povi, tau maala talo mo e tau uluulu i tahi. Fa mahani ke nonofo taki hoa ua, po ke nonofo fakaputupu auloa. Ko e vahega manulele nai, kua mahani ke kai he tau moko kekeke mo e tau vesetapolo kehekehe (tau tega mo e tau lau). Maeke foki ke lele mafiti mo e lele mamao foki, mo e logona e kapukapu he tau pekau he tau magaaho ka lele ai i luga he pulagi.

Haana a leo: Fa mahani ke fakaleo mai hala pu ihu ka tagi 'kueke kueke' mua atu he maagaho ka lele ai.

Grey Duck



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Shorebirds

Bristle-thighed Curlew

Numenius tahitiensis

Status: Migrant, uncommon

Description: This large shorebird (45 cm), gets its European name from having the shafts of its thigh feathers lengthened into white bristles, which are visible only at close quarters. The kiu-vouvou has two broad, dark brown stripes on the crown separated by a central light buff stripe, a light buff eyebrow stripe, and a narrow dark brown eyestripe. The upper parts are dark brown, strongly marked with rufous buff spots and blotches, and the tail is light rufous buff, barred dark brown-black. The sides of the head, neck, lower throat, foreneck and upper breast are pale rufous buff, streaked dark brown. The chin, upper throat and belly are whitish. The bill is long and downcurved, being pinkish-brown, grading to dark grey towards the tip. The legs are light bluish-grey.

Range: This shorebird breeds on the tundra of northern Alaska, and winters on Pacific islands, being common on the north-west Hawaiian Islands and those of eastern Micronesia and south-east Polynesia. Recent evidence indicates that some kiu-vouvou become flightless during the non-breeding season and therefore are very vulnerable to predation by cats, dogs and pigs. As a result, kiu-vouvou seem to be more numerous on predator-free islands and atolls.

Habits: The bristle-thighed curlew prefers to forage over sand bars and mudflats, but occasionally does so over short grass, coral beaches and reefs. It uses its long bill to probe into mud and crevices to find molluscs, worms and crabs.

Voice: Its call is distinctive, being a drawn out whistle of pi-ow or weoo-weet, often given in flight.

Kiu vouvou

Talahauaga: Ko e taha a nai he tau vahega manulele faifano mai he taha motu ke he taha motu, ka e nakai mukamuka ke kitia fakahanoa.

Hagahaga he tino: Ko e vahega manulele tino lahi a nai (45 e senetimita) ne moua mai e higoa faka-palagi he vahega manulele nai mai he tau ka hui he manulele nai, ha kua tutupu ai e tau fulu tea loloa mo e eke ke fotofoto, ka e maeke hokoia ke kitia mitaki ka ono tata atu ki ai. Ha ha i ai foki ke he vahega manulele nai, ko e kiu vouvou, ua e iva/avaava lalahi - kaki unoko e tau fulu i luga he ulu, ka vevehe kehe aki e iva/avaava fulu kikila e vahaloto mo e iva/avaava fulu kikila foki e tau tuamata, mo e ha ha i ai foki e iva/avaava kaki - unoko e tau avamata. Ko e tau fulu kaki unoko ne tutupu he vala ki luga he ulu, kua tutupu ai foki e tau fulu ilaila mo e kikila. Fai ila kikila foki e tau fulu he hiku mo e tau fulu avaava kaki-unokouli. Ka e tea oti e tau fulu he lalo gutu mo e makoku hifo ki lalo e gutu, eke ke pakatea kaki, mo e efuefu unoko foki e tau fulu he vala ne hifo ke he hiku. Efuefu-lanu tahi, eke ke kikila e tau hui.

Tau vahega motu ne nofo ai: Ko e vahega manulele nai, fa mahani ke nofo mo e fanau ai he tau valamotu takalekale noa he motu ko Alaska tokelau, ka e hola mai ke he tau atumotu mafana he moana Pasifika he vaha makalili, mua atu ke he tau atumotu he faahi tokelau ki lalo ha Hawaii mo e tau atumotu he faahi toga ki uta he tau atumotu Polynesia. Ha ha i ai e taha talahauaga iloa foou, ko e vahega manulele nai ko e kiu vouvou, ko e mena nakai maeke ke lele fano ai he magahala ka nakai fanau fufua ai, mo e ko e kakano foki haia ati maeke ai ke moua he tau manu huifa tuga e tau pusi vao, tau kuli mo e tau puaka. Ko e kakano foki haia ati tupu tolotologa ai e tau kiu vouvou he tau atumotu tokolalo mai he tahi, ha ko e mena nakai fai vahega manu huifa pihia kua nonofo ai.

Bristle-thighed curlew in non-breeding plumage.



John T. Faaborg

Tau aga mahani mau: Kua mahani e vahega manulele nai, ko e kiu vouvou ke kumi mena kai he tau mataoneone mo e tau pelapela, ka e maeke foki ke lele atu ke he tau ulu pupu kua toka ai e tau puke pelapela, tau mataafaga mo e tau kākau tahi ke kumi mena kai ai foki. Maeke ke fakaaoga he kiu vouvou haana a gutu loa mo e makoku hifo ki lalo ke keli mo e aku aki e tau pelapela mo e tau ava maka ke maeke ai ke moua hake mai i ai e tau manu momoui he tahi, pihia mo e tau uaga mo e tau moko he kelekele, mua atu ke he tau puke pelapela.

Haana a leo: Kua maeke ke logona mahino e leo he vahega manulele nai ka tagi, tatai mo e leo mafu - “pi-ow” “po ke wee-oo-weet”, mua atu he tau magaaho ka kamata ai ke lele kehe mai he mena ne tu ai.

Pacific Golden Plover

Pluvialis dominica

Status: Migrant, common

Description: This is a slender, medium-sized plover (23 cm). The Pacific golden plover has long olive-grey to dark grey legs, a short black bill, and a distinct white stripe across the forehead and above the eye. Its plumage varies from full breeding, to intermediate and non-breeding. Non-breeding birds are mottled buff underneath, and dark brown mottled with russet, buff and black on their upper parts. Intermediate-plumaged birds, those that are moulting into or out of breeding plumage, have a golden tinge over the upper parts, and occasional black feathers on the breast and belly. In full breeding plumage, the under-parts are black and the upper parts are mottled buff, brown, black and gold. Most Pacific golden plovers on Niue are in non-breeding or intermediate plumages.

Range: The Pacific golden plover winters (September–April) in southern and South West Asia, Papua New Guinea, Australia, New Zealand and on islands throughout the western and central Pacific.

Habits: Although a migrant, this plover is present on Niue year-round, but fewer are present from May to August when adults are nesting in Siberia and western Alaska. Pacific golden plovers are two years old before they migrate north to breed. By day Pacific golden plovers forage mainly over lawns such as village greens, school grounds and sports fields, but also on roads, taro gardens and exposed reefs. Foraging involves running a few paces, stopping, standing upright, snatching an item and then running again. Some birds establish foraging territories, calling at and chasing other Pacific golden plovers that transgress their patch. Pacific golden plovers eat a variety of animal foods, especially insects and their larvae. Roosting flocks form in the afternoon, especially on the airport runway. All Pacific golden plovers abandon their territories at night, flocking together to roost at coastal sites.

Voice: A loud, whistled *tooet* and *klew-wee*, often uttered on take-off or several times during territorial disputes.

Kiu

Talahauaga: Ko e vahega manulele faifano po ke fano holo a nai, ka e maeke ke kitia hololoa he ha magaaho.

Hagahaga he tino: Ko e kiu, ko e vahega manulele tino tote mo e pipili (23 e senetimita). Ko e tau hui, kua lanu efuefu olive mo e eke ke efuefu unoko, ka e ku e gutu mo e uli foki, ka e ha ha i ai e ava tea kua kitia maali he matale, mo e i luga he tau mata. Ko e haana a tino katoa kua kehe fakahaga e lanu he tau fulu ka kamata ke lahi po ke motua mo e maeke ke fanau fufua he vaha ka lahi ai. Kua kehe foki e lanu he tau fulu he vahega manulele nai ko e kiu, he magaaho ka fuata ai mo e to hoko e magahala ke fanau fufua ai. Ko e vahega kiu kua nakai la hokotia e motua, kua ilaila e tau fulu he ao mo e kaki unoko mo e eke ke ago kaki mo e uli e tau fulu i luga. Ko e tau vahega kiu fuata, kua ha i ai e tau fulu he fuga fatafata mo e manava, kua kikila aulo e tau fulu he vala ke he ulu, mo e fa mahani ke uli falu a fulu he tino. Ka ko e tau vahega kiu kua katoatoa e lahi po ke motua he tino, kua uli e ao mo e ilaila kaki e tau fulu he vala ki luga he ulu, uli mo e kikila aulo foki e falu a fulu. Ko e loga he tau vahega manulele nai, kua ha ha i ai e tau vahega nakai maeke ke liu fanau fufua foki, tuga e tau kiu vahaloto.

Tau vahega motu ne nofo ai: Ko e vahega manulele nai, kua nofo he vaha makalili (Sepetema–Apelila) he tau atumotu he faahi ki toga ki lalo ha Asia, Niu Kini, Ausetalia, Niu Silani, pihia foki mo e tau atumotu he faahi lalo mo e lotouhu he moana Pasifika.

Tau aga mahani mau: Pete ni ko e vahega manulele nai ko e kiu ko e vahega manulele fa faifano ke he falu a motu, ka kua kitia hololoa foki i Niue he tau magahala oti he tau katoa. Ka e pete ia, kua gahoa e kiu ka kitia i Niue he tau atu mahina ha Me–Aokuso, ha ko e magahala haia ka oatu pauaki ai e tau kiu

Pacific golden plover in non-breeding plumage.



Paul / Hina

Pacific golden plover in breeding phase.



Pacific golden plover in moult.

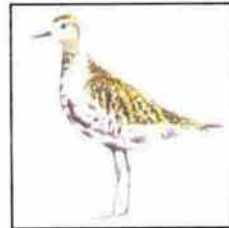


Illustration: Ornithological Society of New Zealand

momotua ke liu fanafanau fufua ai ke he motu ko Siberia mo e faahi lalo he motu ko Alaska. Ko e katoa la e ua e tau he moui ai e kiu, to maeke laia ke lele atu ke he faahi tokelau he lalolagi ke fanau ai. Ko e mahani he kiu ke lele atu ka aho ke he tau loto male, tau fonua aoga mo e tau fonua taute mena fakafafia ke hetu mo e kumi mena kai, tuga e tau moko kekekele. Maeke ke kitia foki ke he tau tapa puhala tu, tau fonua maala talo mo e tau tahi tokanoa, ke kumi mena kai ai foki. Fa mahani foki e kiu ka finatu ke kumi kai, ke hifo mo e tu ai he kekekele, ti poipoi ke he ua po ke tolu e laka, ti tu ai fakahako tika ki luga, maeke ai ke puku he gutu e ha mena kai ka moua, mo e liu ke poi foki. Ha ha i ai e falu a kiu kua fa oatu hokoia ke he taha ni e matakavi he tau aho oti ke kumi mena kai ai. Ti fa fulukovi foki a lautolu ke he falu a kiu kehe ka oatu mo e kumi mena kai ai foki ke he tau matakavi kua fa mahani ke oatu a lautolu ki ai fakamua. Ko e kiu ko e mena maeke foki ki a lautolu ke kai e tau mena kai he tau manu huifa, mua atu ke he tau moko kekekele mo e tau uaga. Fa mahani foki e tau kiu ke nonofo auloa po ke non ofo fuhifuhi he tau magaaho pale la, tuga kua fa kitia mau ke he male vakalele he tau aho oti. Ka e toka he tau kiu ha lautolu a tau nonofoaga ia ka aho, ka e oatu ai ka pouli ke nonofo fakalataha ke he tau kaukau tahi.

Haana a leo: Ko e kiu ko e vahega manulele leo matila ka kii po ke kiliisi, mua atu he tau magaaho ka kamata ai ke lele hake mai he kekekele, pihia foki he falu a magaaho kaeke kua nakai fiafia ai po ke fulukovi ke he falu a kiu.

Turnstone

Arenaria interpres

Status: Migrant, uncommon

Description: This is a small (23 cm) stocky, short-necked and short-legged shorebird. In non-breeding plumage, the upper parts are mottled black and red-brown, the chin and under-parts white, and there is a black breast band. The breeding plumage is the same pattern, but more strikingly coloured black, rufous and white. The short pointed bill is black and the legs orange. In flight turnstones show a distinctive double white wing bar, white rump and white tail with two subterminal black bars.

Range: The turnstone breeds along the arctic coasts, and in the non-breeding season (August-May) is circumtropical in distribution, being widespread and fairly common in the tropical Pacific. A few remain all year at its wintering grounds, these birds probably being immatures.

Habits: It is usually present singularly or small flocks, often in association with kiu. It forages energetically by constantly walking, probing and turning over stones and debris. It has been seen foraging on the Niue Sports Club grounds and reefs, and roosting with kiu on the airport runway.

Voice: A twittering kitititit on taking flight is usual, along with a more melodious kewk, kee-oo or kuiti once in flight.

Fulimaka

Talahauaga: Ko e taha a nai he tau vahega manulele kua fa mahani ke faifano ai mai he taha motu ke he taha motu. Nakai mukamuka foki e vahega manulele nai ke kitia fakahanoa.

Hagahaga he tino: Ko e vahega manulele tino tote a nai (23 e senetimita). Ko e manulele hui kuku, ti ku foki e kakia, fa mahani ke nofo he tahi. Ko e taha he tau vahega manulele pehe nai, kua nakai maeke ke fanau fufua, ko e vala ki luga he tino kua ilaila uli e tau fulu mo e kula-kaki foki e falu a fulu, ka e fulu tea e lalo kumukumu, pihia mo e ao, ka e fulu uli e kupu manava. Ka ko e vahega he tau manulele nai ne maeke ke fanau fufua, kua tatai ni e tau fulu he tino mo e vahega nakai fanau fufua, ka e kehe ni ha kua loga lahi e tau fulu uli kikila mo e tau fulu melotea kua ha ha i ai. Uli e gutu mo e ku foki, ka e lanu fuamoli e tau hui. He magaaho ka lele ai e vahega manulele nai, kua maeke ke kitia mahino e tau fulu tea he tau pekau, pihia mo e tau fulu tea he tau matafu hui, mo e tau fulu tea foki he hiku mo e falu a fulu uli foki kua ha i ai he vala ke he hiku.

Tau vahega motu ne nofo ai: Ko e vahega manulele nai, kua fanafanau ai ke he tau kaukau tahi, tata atu ke he Pole Tokelau, ti ko e tau magahala ka nakai fanau fufua ai (Aokuso-Me), kua maeke he vahega manu nai, ke lele viko takai ke he tau atumotu mafana he moana Pasifika. Ka e nonofo hifo ni e falu he tau vahega manulele nai he tau mena ne fanafanau ai, mo e nakai o kehe he ha magaaho he tau katoa. Liga ko e tau punua mo e tau manulele ikiiki a ia ne nakai o kehe mai he tau mena ne fanau ai.

Tau aga mahani mau: Fa mahani e vahega manulele nai ke o takitokotaha, po ke o fuhifuhi, ka e nakai maeke ke tokologa lahi he taha e magaaho. Fa mahani foki ke o fakalataha mo e tau kiu. Maeke he vahega manulele nai ke lele hifo ke tu he kelekele ke kumi mena kai, to liu ke lele hake. Maeke foki ke fano hui mo e fakaaoga e malolo haana ke fuli aki e tau maka mo e tau patu akau ke kumi moko ke kai. Fa kitia foki e vahega manulele nai ke he male ta polo tea i Fonuakua mo e tau tahi i Niue. Fa nonofo fakalataha foki mo e tau kiu he tapa male vakalele.

Haana a leo: Ko e vahega manulele tagi kiliisi he magaaho ka kamata lele hake ai ki luga mai he kelekele. Fa tagi mahofi foki kaeke ke logona he magaaho ka kamata ke liu lele hake mai he kelekele.

Turnstone in non-breeding plumage.



Photo: G. A. Jones

Wandering Tattler

Tringa incana

Status: Migrant, common

Description: The wandering tattler is a medium-sized (28 cm), dark grey shorebird with a long straight black bill and dull yellow legs. In non-breeding plumage, its upper parts are dark grey with a whitish eyebrow stripe extending to the bill and a dark eye stripe beneath it. The foreneck, breast and sides of the body are pale grey, with the rest of the under-parts white. In breeding plumage, the throat, sides of the head and neck become heavily streaked and the rest of the under-parts heavily barred dark grey.

Range: The wandering tattler breeds in north-eastern Siberia, Alaska and north-western Canada, migrating to the tropics for the northern winter. It is widespread and common throughout the tropical Pacific, particularly on the islands in the western and central Pacific. The species is present in Polynesia throughout the year because immatures remain behind when the adults migrate north to breed.

Habits: The wandering tattler on Niue frequents rocky shorelines and reefs, but has occasionally been seen foraging over the Niue Sports Club grounds. At low tide kiu-tahi forage solitarily, vigorously chasing away others that venture into their patches. They hunt by picking and probing, taking small fish and invertebrates. They have a hunched posture, often bob their tails, and run about searching and to evade waves. During high tide they roost on rock shelves and outcrops just out of reach of the tide.

Voice: A distinct, clear trill, is often repeated, sounding like oulili.

Kiu tahi

Talahauaga: Ko e taha a nai he tau vahega manulele faifano mai he taha motu ke he taha motu, mo e fa mahani ke kitia hololoa foki i Niue nai.

Hagahaga he tino: Ko e kiu tahi, ko e taha vahega manulele nofo mau he tahi, tino vahaloto (28 e senetimita) he loa, hakotika mo e uli e gutu, ka e ago melomelo uli e tau hui. He magahala ka nakai fanau fufua ai e vahega manulele nai, kua efuefu unoko e tau fulu he vala ki luga he ulu, ka e tea e tau fulu he tau tuamata mo e avaava e vala ne tutaki atu kehe gutu, ka e avaava unoko e tau fulu he vala ne tutaki atu ke he tau lalo mata. Efuefu mama e tau fulu i luga he fuga kakia, fatafata mo e tau faahi ne ua he tino, ka e tea e tau fulu he tau vala oti ne toe he ao. Ko e magahala ka fanau fufua ai e vahega manulele nai, kua avaava katoa e tau fulu he lalo kakia, ka e avaava e tau faahi ne ua he ulu mo e kakia, ka e avaava efuefu unoko e tau fulu he tau vala oti ne toe agaia he ao.

Tau vahega motu ne nofo ai: Ko e vahega manulele kua fakahigoa ko e kiu tahi, kua fanau fufua ai he faahi tokelau-ki-uta ha Siberia, Alaska mo e tau atumotu he faahi tokelau-ki-lalo ha Kanata. Kua tuku fenoga mai ke he tau atumotu mafana he moana Pasifika, mua atu ke he tau atumotu he faahi lalo mo e lotouho he moana Pasifika. Ha ha i ai foki e vahega manulele nai he vaha nai ke he atumotu Polinesia, ha ko e mena nonofo hifo ni e tau punua foou, kaeke ke liliu atu e tau vahega manulele lalahi ke he tau atumotu makalili he faahi tokelau he lalolagi ke fanafanau ai.

Tau aga mahani mau: I Niue, ko e kiu tahi ko e vahega manulele kua fa mahani ke nofo mau ke he tau kaukau tahi tule mo e tau matafeutu tokoluga, ka e fa kitia lavea he falu a magahala ke he male taute mena fakafiafia i Fonuakula, ha ne ketu mo e kumi moko kekeleke ke kai. Ko e tau magaaho ka pakupaku ai e tahi, kua maeke foki he kiu tahi ke finatu ke he tofia ke kumi kai mai i ai, ti fa mahani ke fulukovi lahi mo e tutuli kehe e falu a manulele kehekehe kaeke kua oatu foki ke kumi kai he maga tahi taha ia ni. Ko e puhala kumi kai kua fa mahani ki ai e kiu tahi, ke ketu mo e taofi ai e tau ika ikiiki mo e tau manu momou ke kai. Ko e tino he vahega manulele nai, ko e mena makoku ki kekeleke e tua, ti fa lagaki hake e ia haana a hiku ki luga he magaaho ka lele fano ai ke kumi kai he

Wandering tattler in non-breeding plumage.



Photo: J. Brown

fuga he tofia. Maeke foki he kiu tahi ke uku hifo ki lalo he tau peau ke kumi mena kai. Ka ko e tau magaaho ka hokohoko ai e tahi, kua maeke he vahega manulele nai ke nonofo fakalataha i luga he tau fuga patuo, pihia mo e tau lala akau tokoluga kua tokoluga mai he puke tahi.
Haana a leo: Ko e kiu tahi, ko e vahega manulele leo lahi ka tagi/kaa-kii. Maeke ke logona taogo mamao e haana a leo, ti fa fatiaki tumau haana a leo tagi he tau magaaho ka tagi ai.

Pacific Reef-Heron

Egretta sacra

Status: Vagrant, unconfirmed records

Description: This is a medium-sized heron (58 cm). It has three colour phases: slate grey with white chin, dark grey bill and green-yellow legs; white with yellow bill and yellow-green legs; and white variably mottled with slate grey. Characteristic features are its large bill, short legs and hunched posture.

Range: The Pacific reef-heron is found in South East Asia, north to Japan, the south-western Pacific and south to coastal Australia and New Zealand.

Habits: It has a slow, ponderous flight with the neck withdrawn on to the body. On Niue it would be expected to forage over exposed reefs and shoreline. Fish and crustacea are caught after a careful stalk, followed by a quick lunge of the head and neck. It will sometimes run after prey through shallow water and roosts on isolated rocks, headlands or in trees.

Voice: This bird is usually silent.

Motuku

Talahauaga: Ko e vahega manulele fano holo mo e nakai nofo mau he ha motu.

Hagahaga he tino: Nakai lahi mahaki e tino he vahega manulele nai (58 e senetimita). Ha ha i ai tolu e lanu he tau fulu he haana a tino - efuefu tuga e maka tohitohi e lalo kakia, efuefu moko e gutu, mo e lanu laukou ago e tau hui, maeke foki ke tea mo e ago e gutu, po ke ago lanu laukou e tau hui, ka ko e falu he tau vahega manulele nai, kua tea oti e tino mo e kehekehe foki e tau lanu, eke ke kikila e tau fulu he falu a vala he tino, mo e efuefu tuga e makatohitohi. Kitia maali haana a gutu he lahi. Kuku e tau hui, mo e makoku ki kekekele e tino.

Tau vahega motu ne nonofo ai: Kua fa kitia hololoa e vahega manulele pehe nai, ko e motuku ke he faahi toga ki uta i Asia, faahi tokelau mai i Iapana po ko Sapani; pihia foki mo e tau atumotu he faahi toga ki lalo he moana Pasifika mo e faahi toga he tau kaukau tahi ha Ausetalia mo Niu Silani.

Tau aga mahani mau: Fa mahani ke lele totonu mo e fakalaoa e kakia ki luga he falu a magaaho i Niue, kua fa mahani e manulele nai ke kitia tumau ha ne lele fano he faahi ki tahi, mua atu ke he tau kaukau tahi. Maeke he vahega manulele nai ke moua falu a ika po ke tau manu momoui he tahi ke eke mo haana kai, ka fakalaoa fakaeneene e haana a ulu mo e uku hifo ki loto he puke tahi, ti ka moua ha ika, kua ketu hake fakaave e haana a ulu mo e kakia ki luga. Maeke foki he falu a magaaho ke tau tutuli fano ke moua falu a ika, kaeke kua pakupaku po ke maha e tahi. Maeke foki he vahega manulele nai, ke nofo fakapiki atu ke he tau kaukau patuo tokanoa, pihia ke he tau matahoe he motu po ke tau akau.

Haana a leo: Nakai fa mahani e vahega manulele nai ke fai leo ka logona ai.

Pacific reef heron in grey colour phase.



Photo: J. Brown

Seabirds

Common Noddy

Anous stolidus

Status: Resident, common

Description: This is a medium-sized (38 cm), dark brown tern-like bird with a long wedge-shaped tail, often having a central notch. The wing and tail tips are blackish. The forehead and crown are greyish-white, the long, fine bill is black, and the legs and feet are dark olive-brown.

Range: The common noddy is widely distributed throughout the tropical Atlantic, Indian and Pacific oceans, and disperses over subtropical seas. It is a common species of the south-central Pacific, breeding on islands of the Fijian, Samoan and Tongan groups.

Habits: The common noddy is an oceanic bird which visits land to roost and nest. It flies with steady wing-beats, and occasionally soars. It hovers over the sea and makes shallow plunges to seize prey such as fish and squid.

Voice: It makes a harsh, repetitive call sounding like kar-r-r-rk.

Breeding: The common noddy nests in trees on Niue Island, building a bulky nest of twigs. A single buff-coloured egg with dark brown blotches is laid. The extent of the breeding season on Niue is unknown.

Gogo

Talahauaga: Ko e vahega manulele nofo tumau he motu a nai, mo e maeke ke kitia hololoa ke he falu a magaaho.

Hagahaga he tino: Ko e vahega manulele tino vahaloto a nai (38 e senetimita), kaki unoko e tau fulu he tino, eke ke tatai mo e falu a manulele tahi, ka e loloa e tau fulu he matale mo e i luga he ulu, uli e gutu mo e loa, ka e kaki lau olive unoko e tau hui mo e tau lapalapa hui.

Tau aga mahani mau: Ko e vahega manulele nai, ko e manulele kua fa mahani ke totou fakalataha mo e tau vahega manulele he moana hokulo. Ko e tau vahega manulele nai ne fa lele mai ki luga he motu, ke tutu mo e okioki ai ki luga he tau tapunu akau, mo e kati fata ai foki. Fa mahani ke lele fano mo e tau pekau kua fakaleleva mo e fakapaagi fano he pulagi ke he falu a magaaho. Fa felele hifo taha ke he kili tahi he falu a magaaho mo e uku hifo ki loto he tahi ke moua e falu a ika ke kai.

Tau vahega motu ne nofo ai: Ko e vahega manulele nai, ne fa kitia hololoa ke he tau atumotu mafana he moana Atalanatika. moana Initia, pihia foki mo e moana Pasifika, maeke foki ke hoko atu ke he tau atumotu makalili. Fa mahani lahi foki e vahega manulele nai mo e tau atumotu he lotouho-faahi toga he moana Pasifika. Fanafanau fufua ai foki ke he tau atumotu ko Fisi, Samoa, pihia foki mo Tonga.

Haana a leo: Matila mo e fulufuluola e leo he vahega manulele nei - "Kar-r-r-rk".

Fanauaga: Fa mahani ke kati fata i luga he tau akau i Niue, ha kua ha ha i ai e tau fata lalahi, taute aki e tau lala akau. Ko e tau fufua he vahega manulele nai, lanu kaki unoko ka e hiki fakahaga e lanu ia. Nakai la iloa mahino e tau magahala ke fanafanau fufua ai e vahega manulele nai.

Common Noddy



Photo: TDC/Jameson



Photo: TDC/Jameson

Greater Frigatebird

Fregata minor

Status: An uncommon visitor, though over 30 have been seen hovering over the island at one time.

Description: This is a large seabird (93 cm), with distinctive long pointed wings and a long deeply forked tail. Males are entirely black, sometimes with a purple/green sheen; females are black with a buff bar on the upper wing and a white breast and throat; immatures are dark brown above with their under-parts, head and neck white, with a rusty tinge over the breast.

Range: greater frigatebird are widespread in the tropical Pacific, Indian and Atlantic oceans, breeding on some Fijian islands of the south-central Pacific region.

Habits: Adept gliders, these birds are often seen soaring for long periods on motionless, bent wings, especially on up-drafts along cliffs. However, they also show great manoeuvrability and speed when pursuing other seabirds which they harass to force them to drop or disgorge food. Other food is snatched from the sea surface or ground by birds in flight. The manu folau are known as hurricane birds because their appearance is supposed to forewarn of bad weather approaching.

Voice: They are usually silent in flight away from their nesting colonies.

Manu folau

Talahauaga: Nakai fa mahani ke kitia fakahanoa e vahega manulele nai i Niue. Pete ia, liga lata mo e 30 e tau tau he mole atu, ne kitia ai e vahega manulele pehe nai, ne lele takai i Niue he taha magaaho.

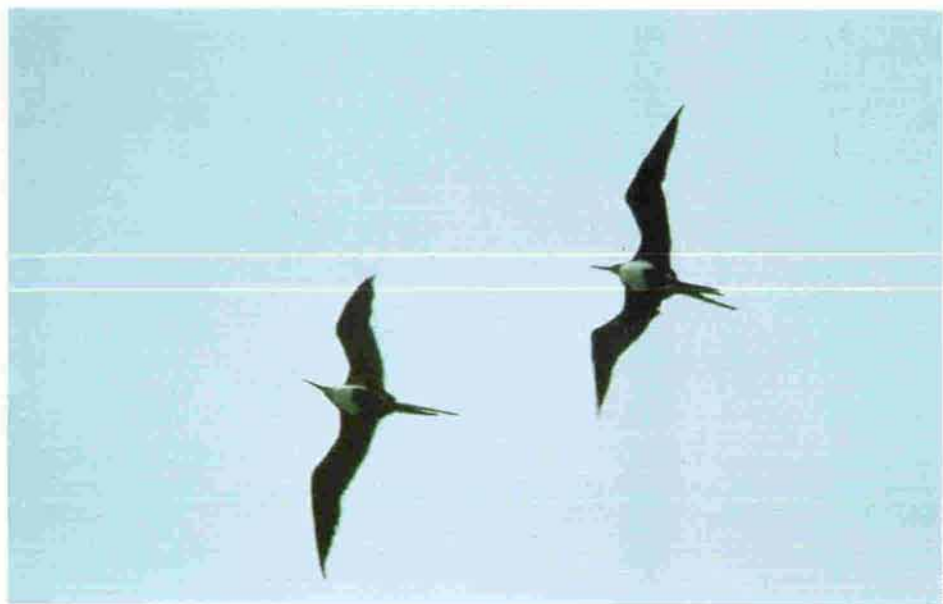
Hagahaga he tino: Ko e vahega manulele tino lahi (93 e senetimita), matila mo e loloa e tau pekau, mo e loa mo e matamatila foki e hiku. Ko e tau manulele taane, kua uli oti e tau fulu he tino, ka ko e falu kua kitia ki ai, kua fapogi/lanu laukou e kikila he haana a tau fulu, ka koe tau manulele fifine, kua uli e tau fulu he tino mo e ila uli e tau fulu he tau pekau, pihia foki e tau fulu he vala ki luga he tau pekau, ka e tea katoa e ao mo e kakia. Ka ko e tau punua ikiiki, kua kaki katoa e tino, ka e tea katoa e ao, pihia mo e lalo tua ulu, ka e eke ke kikila e tau fulu he ao fatafata.

Tau vahega motu ne nofo ai: Mahani ke kitia hololoa he tau atumotu mafana he moana Initia, moana Pasifika, mo e moana Atlantic. Fa fanau ai he falu a atumotu i Fiti, ke he faahi lalo, tata atu ke he lotouho he moana Pasifika.

Tau aga mahani mau: Ko e vahega manulele nai, fa mahani ke lele tokoluga, mo e fa fakakakapu hololoa e tau pekau, mo e lele totonu mo e totomo, vave lahi ke kitia he tau kaukau tahi. Ka ko e vahega manulele, fa mahani ke lele mafiti foki, mo e lutu tumau e tau pekau he tau magaaho ka ita ai a ia, po ke tutuli atu ke he falu a vahega manulele ke fakalavelave atu ki ai, mua atu ka kitia e ia e ha mena kai he gutu he falu a manulele. Ka e maeke foki he vahega manulele nai ke lele hifo taha ke he kili tahi mo e uku hake ai falu a ika ikiiki, po ke moua ai foki falu a manulele mo haana kai. Iloa ai foki pehe, ko e vahega manulele nai, ku fa mahani ke eke mo fakamailoga ke lata mo e tau magahala afa, ha ko e mena ka kitia e vahega manulele nai kua lele fano ai ke he pulagi, mua atu ke he tau loto maaga, ti iloa ai kua tata mai e tau matagi afa ke he motu, mo e kua lata foki ke nonofo tauteute ke lata ai.

Haana a leo: Fa mahani ke lele totonu po ke lele totomo, mo e nakai fai leo hoha ka logona ai, mo e fa lele mamao mai he mena ne toka ai haana a fata po ke ofaga.

Adults in flight.



Juvenile frigate bird.



Wedge-tailed shearwater

Puffinus pacificus chlororhynchus

Status: Resident, uncommon, may not now nest on Niue.

Description: This is a large shearwater (44 cm). The plumage is brown to black-brown, the bill is dark-lead coloured with a black tip, and the legs, webs and toes are white-flesh-coloured.

Range: The wedge-tailed shearwater is common throughout the tropical and subtropical Pacific and Indian Oceans, where it breeds on many islands, including some of the Fijian, Tongan and Samoan islands. It is commonly seen at sea in the region.

Habits: This is a bird of offshore and open ocean seas. Its flight consists of slow shallow flapping interspersed with long glides. Although sometimes seen in flight along coastlines by day, it mainly flies inland and lands at colonies by night. It is occasionally heard calling in flight at night over villages of Niue from December to February.

Voice: The wedge-tailed shearwater can be very vocal at night, particularly at or over breeding colonies. It makes a variety of wails, screams and groans similar to the calls of cats or a crying baby.

Breeding: A colonial nesting bird, the kalagi usually nests in burrows, but occasionally under vegetation. Egg-laying probably occurs in December, with the young departing in May. In the early 1970s, two small colonies were known of on sea-cliffs near Namukulu and Vaiea. Birds were nesting in crevices and under clumps of grass. This would result in the eggs and young being particularly vulnerable to predation by rats, cats and dogs. However, much of the ground in the coastal forest is very rough and difficult to access, even for dogs and cats, so it is likely that small colonies of wedge-tailed shearwater still survive.

Kalagi

Talahauaga: Ko e vahega manulele nofo mau he motu nai, kae nakai fa mahani ke kitia fakahanoa. Liga nakai katifata po ke fanafanau fufua i Niue he vaha nai.

Hagahaga he tino: Ko e vahega manulele tino lahi (44 e senetimita).

Lanu kaki e tau fulu he tino, mo e eke ke uli kaki e falu a fulu. Lanu tuga e vala pili e gutu, ka e uli e matahiku he gutu. Keke e tau hui, mo e tea tuga e magakakano e tau matahiki.

Tau vahega motu ne fa nofo ai: Kitia mau e vahega manulele nai ke he tau atumotu mafana po ke tau atumotu nakai makalili lahi he moana Pasifika, pihia foki mo e moana Initia. Fanafanau ai foki ke he loga he tau atumotu tuga a Fiti, Tonga mo Samoa. Fa mahani ke kitia hololoa ke he tau kaukau tahi he tau atumotu na i luga.

Tau aga mahani mau: Ko e vahega manulele nai, kua mahani ke nofo lahi i uta he motu, pihia foki mo e moana laulahi. Ko e haana tau tapakau he magaaho ka lele ai, kua maeke ke logona e pakapaka, mo e kitia foki he magaaho ka fakapaagi ai e tau tapakau. Pete ni he fa kitia he falu a magaaho he aho, ha ne lele fano ai he pulagi po ke tau kaukau tahi, ko e vahega manulele nai, kua fa mahani lahi ke lele fano i loto he motu he tau magaaho pouli, mo e fa hifo ai foki mo e tu he kekeleke he tau po pouli. Haha i ai foki he falu a magaaho he po, ka lele fano ai a ia he tau loto maaga mo e kaa fakaleo lahi ai, mua atu ke he atu mahina Tesemo ke hoko atu ke he mahina Fepuali.

Haana a leo: Maeke ke logona lahi haana a leo kaa matila ka po, mua atu he tau magaaho ka lele fano ai a ia he haana a ofaga kua fa mahani ke nofo ai. Fa mahani ke kaa mo e tagi fakakehekehe haana a tau vahega leo, teitei ke tatai mo e leo he pusi po ke leo tagi he tamatote.

Fanauaga: Ko e vahega manulele nai, kua fa mahani ke nofo mau he haana a ofaga, mua atu ke he tau pu akau. Ka e maeke foki he falu a magaaho ke kati fata ai ki lalo he tau mena malu he tau vao. Ko e magahala ka fanau ai e ia e tau fufua haana, ko e atu mahina Tesemo mo e fofole ai haana a punua he mahina Me. Ko e mataulu he tau 1970, ne kitia ai ua e fata he manulele nai, ne toka ai ke he kaukau tahi he maaga ko



Wedgetailed Shearwater



MASCALAPA

Namukulu, pihia foki he maaga ko Vaiea. Maeke foki he vahega manulele nai ke talaga fata i lalo po ke i loto he tau liu ana po ke tau maihi, pihia foki ke he putupuuga he tau pupu po ke tau motie. Ko e mena haia, ati maeke ai he tau manu huifa tuga e tau pusi mo e tau kuli, po ke tau kuma foki, ke kai mounou e tau fufua ke he falu a magaaho. Ka e pete ia, ha kua lahi e tule mo e hagahaga kelea e tau nonofoaga he tau vahega manulele nai, ke he tau feutu, kua nakai maeke mukamuka ke he tau manu huifa tuga e tau pusi mo e tau kuli ke hohoko atu ki ai. Ko e mena haia ati mau agaia ai e falu he tau ofaga he tau manulele nai, ko e tau kalagi mo e momoui agaia a lautolu he vaha nai.

White-tailed Tropicbird

Phaethon lepturus

Status: Resident, common

Description: The white-tailed tropicbird is a moderate-sized seabird (76 cm). It has mainly white feathers, including its characteristic long tail streamers. The eyebrow stripe, the bar on the upper wing and outer primaries are black. The bill is yellow and the short, webbed feet are black. Juveniles have black barring over the back and rump and lack the long central tail feathers.

Range: The white-tailed tropicbird is a common species of the tropical Atlantic, Indian and Pacific oceans. The subspecies, *P. l. dorothae*, occurs in the Pacific including Niue and breeds on most island groups in the tropical western and central Pacific.

Habits: White-tailed tropicbirds are seen foraging offshore, where they plunge dive for small fish and squid. They are very common over Niue most days, flying slowly and gracefully above forest, and occasionally below the tree tops in clearings and forest. During courtship flights, pairs fly in unison with much calling, sometimes going into steep dives from high in the sky.

Voice: Tick, rattle and short harsh notes are given frequently in courtship flights.

Breeding: Pairs nest individually, mainly in hollow tree trunks and branches and in bunches of epiphytes on trees. Occasionally tuaki in cliff crevices on Niue. They have a long nesting season, with eggs or chicks present from at least February to December.

Tuaki

Talahauaga: Ko e vahega manulele nofo mau he motu nai, mo e fa kitia hololoa foki.

Hagahaga he tino: Ko e taha a nai he tau vahega manulele nofo mau he tahi, nakai lahi mahaki haana a tino (76 e senetimita), Tea e tau fulu he tino katoa, ti tea foki e tau fulu loloa he haana a hiku. Avaava haana a tau tuamata, fai fakamailoaga ila uli foki he faahi ki luga he haana tau tapakau, ka e uli e tau fulufulu i loto he tau lalo pekau. Ago e gutu mo e uli keke/kuku e tau hui. ko e haana a tau punua, kua fai ila uli e tau fulu he patu tua, ne hifo ke he hiku. Ka e nakai fai fulu loloa e hiku.

Tau vahega motu ne nofo ai: Ko e vahega manulele fa kitia hololoa ke he tau atumotu mafana he moana Atlantic, moana Initia mo e moana Pasifika. Ko e vahega tuaki (*P. l. dorothae*) kua ha ha i Niue he vaha nai, kua ha ha i ai foki ke he falu a atumotu he Pasifika, mua atu ke he tau motu he lotouho he moana Pasifika.

Tau aga mahani mau: Fa mahani ke lele hifo ki tahi ke kumi kai. Uku hifo a ia ke he uho toka ke moua ai falu a ika ikiiki mo haana kai. Fa kitia hololoa e vahega manulele nai i Niue he tau aho oti. Lele fakaeneene mo e totonu i luga he tau vao uhi mo e kitia i loto he tau tapunu akau he tau vao uhi. Ko e tau magahala ka taute kapitiga taane ai e tau manulele fifine he vahega manulele pehe nai, kua fa mahani ke fakatau felele toko ua tumau, mo e logona ai foki mai i a lau e tau leo kolokete fiafia he o he pulagi, mo e fakapaagi hifo ki lalo he falu a magaaho.

Haana a leo: Fa mahani ke fakapaka tumau e tau tapakau mo e fakakoo tumau foki e gutu mo e kolokete fakaleo lahi, mo e fatiaki tumau pihia, mua atu he tau magaaho ka felele fano ai a ia mo e haana kapitiga/hoa taane.

Fanauaga: Fa mahani ke kati fata kehe ni e manulele nai, mua atu ki loto he tau magamaga akau po ke tau pu akau tokoluga, po ke i luga he tau vihi akau. Falu a magaaho, kua fa mahani foki e vahega manulele nai ke taute fata i loto he tau ana he tau feutu i Niue. Fa mahani ke leva lahi e fakapulu e ia haana a tau fufua he vaha ka fakapulu ai, mo e fakapapa e tau fufua haana he tau atu mahina Fepuali ke he mahina Tesemo.

White-tailed Tropicbird



Photo: C. J. Smith



Photo: T. G. Anderson

White Tern

Gygis alba

Status: Resident, common

Description: This is a small (30 cm) white tern, with a slightly forked tail and wings that appear translucent in flight from below. The eye has a ring of black feathers around it and the heavy, pointed bill is blue at the base and black at the tip. Immatures differ from adults in being mottled brown over the back, lacking the eye ring, but having a black spot behind the eye.

Range: The white tern has a circum-equatorial range and breeds on many tropical islands, including the majority of Polynesian islands.

Habits: The white tern has a light, graceful flight. It feeds at sea on fish, squid and crustaceans by diving or picking them from the surface. It is often solitary, but occasionally two to five birds are seen cavorting in flight over forest during courtship. At Niue, the white tern is present throughout the year and over all parts of the island.

Voice: It gives a variety of calls, including a harsh, raspy grrich-grrich-grrich.

Breeding: White tern nest in trees, mainly of mature forest. A single egg, blue-green with many brown-black streaks over it, is laid in a shallow depression on a bare branch. The extent of the breeding season is unknown on Niue, but is probably several months long. White terns flying inland with fish in their bills are frequently seen when chicks are present.

Taketake

Talahauaga: Ko e vahega manulele nofo mau he motu a nai, mo e fa kitia hololoa foki i Niue he tau vaha oti.

Hagahaga he tino: Ko e vahega manulele tino tote (30 e senetimita), Tea e tau fulu he tino, eke ke tutuhi hake ki luga e tau fulu he hiku, pihia mo e tau fulu he tau pekau, mo e eke foki ke kalopalopa e tau fulu ka kitia hake i kekekele, he magaaho ka lele ai. Ha ha i ai e ila veliveli he tau fulu uli he tau paka mata, ti lahi mo e matila e gutu. Lanu tahi e matafu he gutu, ka e uli e matahiku. Nakai tatai e tau fulu he tau punua mo e tau vahega manulele kua motua, ha kua ilaila kaki e tau fulu he tau punua, mua atu ke he tau fulu he tua, mo e nakai fai ila veliveli he tau mata, ka e taha e ila uli i tua he tau mata he tau punua.

Tau vahega motu ne nofo ai: Ko e vahega manulele nai, ko e manulele fa mahani ke nofo he uhouho he tau atumotu tata atu ke he lotouho he lalolagi, mo e fanafanau ke he tau atumotu mafana he lalolagi, mo e aofia ai foki e loga he tau vahega motu Polinesia.

Tau aga mahani mau: Ko e vahega manulele pehe nai, fa mahani ke lele totonu mo e nakai logona ha leo he tau pekau ka lele. Moua haana a tau mena kai mai he tofia, ko e tau ika mo e falu a manu tahi. Fa mahani ke o fuhifuhi ka felele fano he pulagi, ka e maeke foki he falu a magaaho ke o taki tokoua ke hoko atu ke he toko 5 he taha e magaaho, mua atu ka felele fano i luga he pulagi po ke i luga he tau vao uhi.

Haana a leo: Ha ha i ai e tau vahega leo kehekehe ka logona mai he vahega manulele nai, ke tuga ka kolokese mai "grich-grich-grich".

Fanauaga: Fa mahani e manulele nai ko e taketake ke kati fata mo e fanau i luga he tau akau, mua atu ke he tau vao uhi. Taha ni e fufua ka fanau he taha e magaaho. Ko e lanu he fufua, ko e lanu moana- lanu laukou, mo e loga foki e tau avaava kaki uli kua ha ha i ai. Fa mahani ke fanau he tau pu akau he tau magamaga akau tokanoa. Nakai iloa mahino po ke magahala fe tonu kua fanau fufua ai e taketake i Niue, ka e ligaliga ua po ke tolu e mahina ka fanau fufua ai a ia. Fa kitia hololoa e taketake ka lele hake mai he tahi mo e ika kua kakati he haana a gutu, ke lata mo e haana a tau punua ha ne fakatali mai kia ia.

White Tern



John G. Fisher



Illustration: Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture, Jamaica

Rare accidental visitors recorded in Niue

Collared Kingfisher

Halcyon chloris

Status: Vagrant, unconfirmed record in 1990 by S. Talagi

Description: This kingfisher is blue and white (20 cm) with a conspicuous, heavy bill. The bill is black, except that the lower mandible is white with a black cutting edge. The bird is turquoise-blue above and has a greenish wash to the back and rump. The under-parts are white, often with a brown wash. A white eyebrow, and a black and turquoise eyestripe extend from the bill to the back of the neck and are separated from the turquoise back by a white collar.

Range: The collared kingfisher is a widespread species, occurring from the Red Sea eastwards to Australia and western Polynesia. It is common on Fiji, Tonga and American Samoa.

Habits: This kingfisher inhabits a wide range of habitats including reefs, villages and rainforests. It frequently scans for prey from an elevated perch, such as power or telephone wires, from which it flies down on short, rapidly beating wings to snatch an item. Having returned to its perch, the kingfisher flails its prey against the perch and swallows it whole. The collared kingfisher feeds predominantly on large insects, but also takes worms, crabs, fish, lizards and birds' eggs and nestlings.

Voice: This is quite a noisy bird, giving a loud, high pitched kip-kip-kip, and a drawn out kreeeeep.

Kolata

Talahauaga: Ha ha i ai e taha talahauaga ne fakamau hifo ai e S. Talagi he tau 1990, hagai ke he vahega manulele nai, ka e nakai la fai fakamooliaga ia ke omoi aki e talahauaga ia, hagai ke he kitiaga he vahega manulele nai.

Hagahaga he tino: Ha ha i ai ua e vahega manulele pehe nai, taha ne lanu moana e tau fulu, ti taha foki ne tea e tau fulu (20 e senetimita), mo e ha i ai foki e haana a gutu ku, kitia noa e hi mo e fekefeke. Uli e gutu, ka e tea e laugutu lalo mo e uli e mata - gutu tonu he gutu. Lanu moana kikila e tau fulu he vala ki luga he tino, ka e lanu laukou mea e tau fulu he tua mo e vala ki tua ne hifo ke he tau hui. Tea e tau fulu he ao, ka e ha ha i ai foki e tau fulu kaki mea. Tea e tau fulu mata, uli mo e kikila e tau fulu he tau ava mata, ke kamata mai he gutu ke hoko atu ke he tua kakia, tuga kua vevehe aki e e tau fulu kikila tuga e kola e kakia mai he tua.

Tau vahega motu ne nofo ai: Ko e vahega manulele nai, ko e manulele kua fa kitia ke he loga he tau atumotu, ke kamata mai he Tahiti Kula, ke he Faahia uta ha Ausetalia, mo e tau Atumotu he faahia lalo he Atu Polinesia. Kua fa mahani ke logona mo e kitia mau ke he tau atumotu ko Fiti, Tonga mo Amerika Samoa.

Tau aga mahani mau: Ko e vahega manulele nai, ne nofo a ia ke he loga he tau vahega nofoaga, tuga e tau kaukau tahi, tau loto maaga, pihia foki mo e tau vao uhi. Fa mafiti lahi a ia ke kumi po ke takahao ke moua falu a manulele po ke ha vahega moko ke kai, mua atu ke he tau magaaho ka tutu hifo i luga he tau pou kavehila po ke tau pou telefoni, mo e fakatalitali ai ke ono hifo fakaave ki lalo mo e fakapapakapa haana a tau pekau mo e lali ke moua fakatepe ha moko ke lata mo ia. Ka liu lele hake a ia ke he haana a tuaga, kua kakati hake foki e ia e moko ka moua e ia mo e folofua ai ke he manava. Ko e vahega manulele nai, kua fa mahani ke kumi hokoia ke he tau vahega moko tino lalahi ke lata mo ia, ka e maeke foki a ia ke kai e tau vahega moko ikiiki he kekekele, tau manu momoui tuga e tau kalahimu, tau ika ikiiki mai he tahi, tau mokotaliga mo e falu a fufua manulele ikiiki.

Haana a leo: Ko e vahega manulele fa fakahoha lahi e leo kaeke ke tagi, fakaleo matila ki luga, tuga e - "Kip-Kip-Kip" mo e totoho fakaleo lahi e - "Kreeeeep—."

Eurasian Curlew

Numenius arquata

Status: Migrant, rare vagrant

Description: This species is a large (55 cm) curlew, having a long downcurved bill, and a mostly white back and rump that are prominent in flight. The head, neck and breast are a pale brown, streaked dark brown, and the chin is whitish. The feathers of the upper parts have greyish-brown centres in the non-breeding season, with paler grey-brown fringes. The tail is greyish and barred olive-brown and the belly is whitish, with the flanks prominently streaked. The bill is brownish-black with a pinkish base to the lower mandible, and the legs are bluish-grey.

Range: During the breeding season, the Eurasian curlew is found from southern Russia east through central Asia to northern China and Mongolia. It migrates to eastern Africa and throughout southern Asia for winter, with the occasional vagrant reaching northern and western Australia. The bird seen on Niue in September 1972 was far from its normal non-breeding season range; it was the first record of the species in Polynesia.

Habits: It feeds largely by deep probing in intertidal mud or damp soil, but will pick food from the surface. Foods are mainly worms, crabs and molluscs.

Voice: A cour-loo is given as a contact call, and a rapid tyuyuyuyu when alarmed.

Kiu elasiana

Talahauaga: Ko e vahega manulele fano fenoga mai he taha motu ke he taha motu, ka ko e vahega manulele nakai fa hau fakahanoa ki Niue tali mai.

Hagahaga he tino: Ko e vahega manulele nai, ko e manulele tino lahi (55 e senetimita), loa e gutu mo e maloku hifo ki lalo, tea oti e tau fulu he patu tua, pihia mo e matafu hiku, tuga kua maeke ke kitia noa ka lele. Kaki mama mo e eke ke kaki unoko e tau fulu he ulu, kakia mo e fuga fatafata ka e tea e tau fulu he lalo gutu. Efuefu-kaki e tau fulu i loto he vala ki luga he ulu, he magahala ka nakai fanafanau fufua ai e vahega manulele nai, ka e efuefu-kaki e tau matahiku he tau fulu he tau kaukau ki fafo he tau pekau. Efuefu mo e avaava kaki-olive e tau fulu he hiku, ka e tea e tau fulu he kupu manava mo e ivaiva e tau fulu he tau faahi. Kaki-uli e gutu, mo e pakatea e matafu he pakagutu ki lalo, ka e efuefu - lanu tahi e tau hui.

Tau vahega motu ne nofo ai: Ko e magahala ka fanafanau fufua ai e vahega manulele nai, kua fa kitia ai ke he tau atumotu ke he faahi ki toga ha Lusua mo e faahi uta ke hoko atu ki Asia uho, ke hoko atu foki ki Saina tokelau mo Mogokolia. Lele atu foki ke he faahi uta ha Afelika, ke hoko atu ki Asia Toga he tau magahala makalili, mo e lele fakahaga foki ato hoko ke he faahi lalo ha Ausetalia. Ko e vahega manulele nai, ne kitia ai i Niue he mahina Sepetema 1972, mo e ko e magahala nakai fanafanau a ia he vahega manulele nai. Ko e e laia foki he kitia e vahega manulele nai ke he tau atumotu Polinesia he tali mai.

Tau aga mahani mau: Fa mahani ke moua haana a tau mena kai he uku mo e ketu hifo ki loto he tau pelapela, po ke tau kelekele palapala, ka e moua foki e falu a mena kai haana ke he fuga kelekele. Ko e haana a tau mena kai ne mahuiga lahi ki ai, ko e tau uaga, pihia mo e tau manu tuga e tau kalahimu mo e tau mena momoui he tahi, tuga e tau fua alili.

Haana a leo: Kua maeke ke logona e leo tauhea po ke tagi he vahega manulele nai, tuga e leo kouu-loo, ka e logona foki e leo/tagi 'tyuyuyuyu', mua atu kaeke kua logona ha leo kua kehe, po ke ka fakafo fua.

Pectoral Sandpiper

Calidris melanotos

Status: Migrant, rare vagrant

Description: This sandpiper is a medium-sized shorebird (22 cm). In the non-breeding season, the upper parts and crown are buff brown, streaked dark brown. The chin is white while the neck, throat and breast are buff-brown, heavily streaked in dark brown, forming a dark pectoral band which ends abruptly against the white flanks and abdomen. The bill is blackish, and yellowish-green at the base; it is as long as the head, and is slightly downcurved at the tip. The legs are olive-green to yellowish-green.

Range: This species breeds along the arctic tundra of Siberia, Alaska and Canada, and most spend the non-breeding season in South America. However, small numbers migrate south along the eastern Asiatic coasts, a few reaching as far south as Australia and New Zealand. Pectoral sandpipers do not normally remain long on any of the South West Pacific islands in the non-breeding season (September-April). The species has only been recorded once on Niue, in September 1972.

Habits: The pectoral sandpiper inhabits coastal lagoon and estuarine marshes elsewhere, but on Niue it can be expected to associate with other shorebirds, such as those foraging over the Niue Sports Club grounds or roosting with the kiu flock on the airport runway. This sandpiper eats a wide range of insects, worms, small crustaceans and molluscs.

Voice: It is usually silent, but may give a clear, husky trrit, prrrt, or kreek when flushed.

Sanipepa

Talahauaga: Ko e vahega manulele faifano mai he taha motu ke he taha motu, ka e nakai fa kitia hololoa i Niue.

Hagahaga he tino: Ko e vahega manulele tino vahaloto (22 e senetimita). He tau magahala ka nakai fanafanau ai e vahega manulele nai, ko e haana a tau fulu he vala ki luga he ulu, kua kaki mo e eke ke kaki unoko. Ka e tea e tau fulu he kakia, lalo gutu mo e fuga fatafata, ti eke foki e falu a fulu ke kaki unoko, mua atu ke he tau fulu he vala he tino ne tata atu ke he fuga fatafata, mo e to hoko atu ke he vala he kupu manava, ne ha ha i ai foki e iva tea. Ko e gutu kua uli e tau fulu kua ha ha i ai, ka e ago-lanu laukou e matafu he gutu. Loa e gutu, pihia ni mo e ulu, ka e eke ke keu hifo ki lalo he matahiku he gutu. Ko e tau hui kua lanu lauakau oive mo e eke ke ago-lanu laukou.

Tau vahega motu ne nofo ai: Ko e vahega manulele nai, kua fanafanau ai ke he tau atumotu tata atu ke he Pole Tokelau, ke he faahi ki Siberia, Alaska, mo Kanata, ka e mahani foki ke oatu mo e nonofo ai i Amelika Toga he tau magahala ka nakai fanafanau ai. Ka e ha ha i ai falu kua fenoga atu ke he tau atumotu he faahi ki toga - uta ke he tau kaukau tahi he tau atumotu Asia, mo e oatu fakahaga ai e falu ato hohoko atu ke he faahi toga ha Ausetalia mo Niu Silani. Ko e tau vahega manulele nai, ne nakai fa mahani ke nonofo leva ai kehe tau atumotu he faahi toga ki lalo he moana Pasifika he tau magahala ka nakai fanafanau ai (Sepetema-Apelila). Na lagataha laia e kitia ai e vahega manulele nai i Niue he mahina Sepetema 1972.

Tau aga mahani mau: Ko e vahega manulele nai, ko e mena mahani ke nofo ai he tau kaukau tahi mo e i loto he tau vai namo hokulo he falu a motu. Ka e i Niue, ne kitia ai e vahega manulele nai he o fakalataha mo e falu a vahega manulele tahi, tuga e tau vahega manulele ne fa kitia mau ke he fonua taute mena fakafiafia i Fonuakua po ke nonofo fakalataha foki mo e tau fuifui kiu he tapa male vakalele. Ko e tau vahega manulele nai foki, kua fa mahani ke kai he tau moko kekelele, tau uaga mo e tau manu momoui he tahi.

Haana a leo: Ko e vahega manulele nakai fa mahani ke tagi fakaleo lahi po ke fakahoha, ka e maeke ke tagi kii ka lele fakatepetepe.

Eastern Bar-tailed Godwit

Limosa lapponica

Status: Migrant, rare vagrant

Description: This is a large (40 cm), long-legged shorebird with a slightly upturned bill. In the non-breeding season, the upper parts are a mottled grey and brown, the feathers having dark shaft streaks and whitish margins. The tail is brown, barred white. The sides of the head and flanks are irregularly and indistinctly barred grey-brown. The bill is flesh pink on the basal half, grading to blackish at the tip, and the legs are dark greenish-grey. In breeding plumage the head, neck and under-parts are reddish chestnut, and the upper parts streaked blackish-brown. In flight, a faint wing bar is often evident.

Range: This godwit breeds in north-eastern Siberia and much of Alaska. It spends the non-breeding season in southern China, Taiwan, Philippines, Borneo, Moluccas, Papua New Guinea, Australia and New Zealand. It is a common visitor throughout Micronesia and Fiji, but is uncommon further east, including Niue. One specimen was found on Niue in 1972.

Habits: A gregarious species, forming large flocks with other shorebirds, this godwit usually inhabits tidal areas, probing deeply into mud flats or wet sand in search of crustaceans, molluscs or worms. Godwits roost on sandbanks and spits at high tide. However, on tropical Pacific islands it feeds in tidal pools, rocky beaches or over reefs.

Voice: A clear, double call kew-kew, ku-wit or kirruc is usual.

Kotouiti

Talahauaga: Ko e vahega manulele faifano a nai mai he taha motu ke he taha motu. Ka e nakai maeke ke kitia fakahanoa.

Hagahaga he tino: Ko e vahega manulele alaga loloa mo e tino lahi a nai (40 e senetimita). Ko e vahega manulele nofo he tahi, maloku hake ki luga e gutu. He tau magahala ka nakai fanafanau fufua ai, kua efuefu mo e kaki e tau fulu he faahi ki luga he ulu, unoko e ka mo e tea e tau kalakala he tau fulu. Kaki e tau fulu he hiku mo e avaava tea. Ko e paka he ulu mo e tau faahi he tino katoa, kua avaava efuefu - kaki, ka e nakai mahino mitaki he kitia. Pakatea e gutu kamata he vala ne hifo ki lalo he matafu he gutu, ka e avaava, eke ke uli e matagutu he gutu. Lanu laukou - efuefu unoko e tau hui. Ko e tau magahala ka fanau fufua ai, melo kula e tau fulu he ulu, kaka mo e ao, ka e avaava uli - kaki e tau fulu he vala he tino ne hake ki luga he ulu. Ka lele e vahega manulele nai, kua kitia maali e avaava he tau pekau.

Tau vahega motu ne nofo ai: Ko e vahega manulele nai, kua fanau fufua he faahi tokelau ki uta he motu ko Siberia, pihia foki e lahi he motu ko Alaska. Ka e nofo he magahala ka nakai fanau fufua ai he tau motu ke he faahi ki toga ha Saina, Taiwan, Filipaina, Poneo, Moluccas, Niu Kini, Ausetalia mo Niu Silani. Fa mahani ke finatu hololoa e vahega manulele nai ke he tau atumotu Maikolonesia mo Fiti, ka e nakai kitia fakahanoa ke he tau atumotu he faahi uta he moana Pasifika, pihia foki mo Niue.

Tau aga mahani mau: Fa mahani e vahega manulele nei, ke o fuhifuhi, maeke foki ke o fakalataha mo e falu a manulele tahi ke he falu a magaaho. Fa mahani ke lele hifo mai ke he fuga kelekele mo e ketu po ke keli ai e tau luo pelapela hokulo po ke tau mata oneone pukepuke ke kumi manu tahi tuga e tau kamakama ke kai, po ke tau mena momoui he tahi tuga e tau fua alili, po ke tau moko mo e tau uaga. Fa nonofo foki e tau vahega manulele nai he tau kaukau feutu vaitafe po ke tau mata-vailele he magaaho ka puke lahi ai. Ka e he tau atumotu mafana he moana Pasifika ne mahani foki e tau vahega manulele nai ke nonofo he tau loloto i tahi, mo e nonofo foki he tau mataafaga tule mo e tau kaukau feutu.

Haana a leo: Leo lahi mo e matila e vahega manulele nai ka tagi po ke ui lagaua pehe "Kew-kew" po ke "ku-wit" po ke "Kerrue-Kirru"

Southern Black-backed Gull

Larus dominicanus

Status: Rare accidental visitor

Description: This species of large gull (60 cm) has two very dissimilar plumages, which relate to age, and intermediate plumages occur as individuals mature. The adult has a black back and upper portions of the wings, the rest of the plumage being white. The bill is yellow to orange-yellow, with an orange or red spot at the tip of the lower mandible, and the legs and feet are yellow-green to orange. In contrast, the entire plumage of fledglings is dark brown mottled with buff and white, the bills are black, and the legs and feet are brown. The under-parts of a two-year old black-backed gull are mainly white, with the head, neck and upper chest white spotted with brown, and the back mottled black and brown. The bill is pale yellow, and the legs and feet are blue-brown. By its third year, this gull looks like an adult but usually has some brown mottling on the head, neck and upper breast.

Range: This is a temperate and subantarctic gull which is common in New Zealand and Tasmania. However, vagrants are very rarely seen in the tropical Pacific. One immature bird was seen on Niue in July 1994 and two others have been seen since 1990.

Habits: This species may appear in any habitat, except closed forest or scrub. It particularly favours habitats where it can scavenge food, such as at rubbish tips and by following fishing boats. It eats a variety of foods including shellfish, fish, invertebrates, small reptiles and mammals, birds eggs and young, offal, carrion and peoples' food scraps.

Voice: It gives a variety of calls, but single gulls are usually silent.

Taketake tua uli

Talahauaga: Ko e vahega manulele nakai kitia hololoa ke he motu nai, mo e hau laga taha noa ni ki Niue he falu a magahala.

Hagahaga he tino: Ko e vahega manulele nai, ko e manulele tino lahi (60 e senetimita), kua ha ha i ai ua e vahega fulu kua nakai tatai e tau lanu, kua maeke foki ke iloa ai e tau magahala takitaha he moui he vahega manulele nai. Ko e tau vahega fulu vahaloto kua maeke ke tutupu mai ai he magahala ka kamata motua fakahaga ai. Ko e tau vahega manulele kua hokotia e motua he haana a tino, kua ha ha i ai e tau fulu uli he tua, pihia mo e vala ki luga he tau pekau, ka e tea e tau vala oti ne toe he tino. Ago e gutu mo e eke foki ke ago fuamoli. Ha ha i ai foki e ila ago po ke ila kula he laugutu lalo, ka e ago lanu laukou, eke ke lanu fuamoli e tau hui mo e tau lapalapa hui. Ka e kehe foki e tau fulu he tau punua he vahega manulele nai, ha kua kaki unoko e tau fulu katoa, mo e ila tea, eke ke ago falu a fulu, uli e gutu mo e kaki e tau hui, pihia mo e tau lapalapa hui. Ka katoa e ua e tau he moui ai e vahega manulele nai, kua tea katoa e tau fulu he fatafata, nikiniki tea mo e kaki e tau fulu he ulu, kokia mo e vala ki luga he fatafata, ka e ilaila uli e tau fulu he patu tua, eke ke kaki e falu a fulu. Ago mama e gutu ka e lanu-moana kaki e tau hui mo e tau lapalapa hui. Ka hokotia e tau manu nai ke he tolu e tau tau he moui, kua eke tuai a ia he magaaho na mo manulele kua katoatoa e motua he tino. Maeke ke kitia ha kua ha ha i ai falu a fulu kikila kaki he ulu, kaki foki e tau fulu he kokia mo e vala ki luga he fatafata.

Tau vahega motu ne nofo ai: Ko e vahega manulele fa mahani ke nofo he tau vahega motu makalili tata atu ke he Antarctica, tuga a Niu Silani mo Tasamania. Ka e pete ia, kua maeke foki he tau manulele nai, ke o fano ai, ka e nakai fa kitia hololoa ke he tau atumotu mafana he atu Pasifika. Taha e vahega manulele pehe nai, ne kitia ai i Niue he mahina Iulai, 1994, ka e tote agaia haana a tino he magaaho tonu na. Ua foki e vahega manulele pehe nai, ne kitia foki ai i Niue he tau 1990.

Tau aga mahani mau: Ko e vahega manulele pehe nai, kua maeke ke kitia ke he ha nofoaga, ka e kehe mai he tau vao uhi mo e tau tafagafaga. Fiafia lahi e vahega manulele nai ke nofo he tau nonofoaga ke maeke a ia ke moua ai e tau mena kai loga, tuga e tau luo tolo otaota po ke fa mahani foki ke mumui atu he tau vakatoga ka o ai he moana.

Fa mahani foki e tau manulele pehe nai, ke kai e tau vahega mena kai kehekehe, ke aofia ai foki e tau ika mo e tau mena momoui he tahi, tuga e tau alili, tau moko motu, tau mokotaliga ikiiki, tau gakuu manu huifa, tau manu he tau vao uhi, tuga e tau kalahimu, tau fufua manulele mo e tau punua manulele ikiiki, tau vala manu he tau manu mamate mo e tau otaota mena kai he tau tagata.

Haana a leo: Fa mahani ke kehekehe e tau vahega leo tagi/ui he vahega manulele nai, ka e ka o takitokotaha e vahega manulele nai, nakai fa mahani ke logona ai ha leo.

Giant Petrel

Macronectes sp.

Status: Rare accidental visitor in 1970

Description: The giant petrel is a huge seabird (93 cm) of stocky proportions, including its bill. Although two plumages occur—white with irregular brown spots or entirely dark brown—only juveniles of the dark plumage have been recorded in the tropical Pacific.

Range: These are found widely throughout the southern hemisphere, but seldom venture north of 30°S (Norfolk Island, Kermadec Islands). They breed on sub-Antarctic islands and islands off the Antarctic mainland.

Habits: The giant petrel usually remains at sea, having a soaring flight with occasional flaps. It will approach boats and come near land to scavenge food, but it has been generally only recorded ashore in the tropics when dead or dying.

Voice: Guttural and growling calls are heard when competing for food; bill-snaps are seen when threatened.

Petelela tupua

Talahauaga: Nakai fa mahani ke kitia fakahanoa e vahega manulele nai i Niue. Ka e fa kitia lavea he tau 1970.

Hagahaga he tino: Ko e vahega manulele nofo mau he tahi, lahi e tino (93 e senetimita), mo e loloa e tau alaga, pihia mo e gutu. Kaki, eke ke uli-kaki e tau fulu he tino katoa, ka e lanu-vala pili unoko e haana a gutu, eke ke uli e matahiku he gutu. Tea tuga e magakakano haana a tau hui mo e alo koku ki loto e tau matahui.

Tau vehega motu ne nofo ai: Fa kitia hololoa e vahega manulele nai, ke he tau atumotu he faahi ki toga he lalolagi, ka e kitia lagataha ke he tau atumotu he faahi ki tokelau (tuga a Norfolk Island, Kermadec Islands). Fanau ai foki he tau atumotu he vahaloto mai he motu lahi he Antarctica.

Tau aga mahani mau: Mahani lahi ke nofo he tau tahi, mo e fakakakapu haana a tau tapakau ka lele, mo e fakapakapaka foki he falu a magaaho. Maeke ke lele fakatata atu ke he tau vakatoga ka o ai he moana po ke lele hake taha mai ki uta he motu, ke kumi kai, ka ko e kitia ni e manulele nai i uta he tau motu mafana kaeke kua lololele po ke mate.

Haana a leo: Fa mahani ke faka-koo mo e leo tomumu ka vale po ke fulukovi, haalo fano e tau pekau he kumi kai, mo e hafagi/pa haana a gutu ka logona taha leo kua kehe.

Birds of the south-central Pacific region that may appear on Niue in future

Landbirds

Pacific Swallow

Hirundo tahitica

Description: A small, dark swallow with a forked tail (13 cm), the Pacific swallow is blue-black above with a metallic sheen, while the under-parts are brownish-grey. The forehead, chin and throat are reddish-brown. The Pacific swallow can be readily distinguished from the swiftlet by the former's lack of a white rump patch.

Range: This swallow is widespread in the Pacific but, in the south-central Pacific it is absent from Samoa and much of Tonga.

Habits: It has a direct, graceful flight, rarely far above water or the ground. It takes flying insects. The Pacific swallow is found in

lowland habitats, especially coastal sites such as seacliffs, estuaries and along rivers and streams. It differs from the white-rumped swiftlet by regularly perching on wires, fence posts and bare branches.

Voice: It has a barely audible warbling song.



Folofua Pasifika

Hagahaga he tino: Ko e vahega manulele nai, ko e manulele tino tote, unoko e tau fulu he tino, mo e mata matila mo e tutuhi ki luga e tau fulu he hiku (13 e senetimita). Lanu moana-uli e tau fulu he vala ki luga he tino mo e kikila foki e falu a fulu, ka e kaki-efuefu e tau fulu he ao i lalo. Ko e tau fulu he matale, lalo kumukumu mo e lalo kakia, kua kaki-kula. Ko e vahega manulele nai ko e folofua Pasifika, kua maeke ke kitia mahino e kehe mai he vahega manulele kua fakahigoa ko e pekapeka, ha kua nakai fai fulu tea he vala ke he hiku, ke tuga e pekapeka.

Tau vahega motu ne nofo ai: Kua fa mahani e vahega manulele nai, ke kitia hololoa ke he tau atumotu he moana Pasifika. Ka e pete ia, kua nakai mahani ke kitia ai e vahega manulele nai i Samoa, mo e pihia foki ke he lahi he atumotu ko Tonga.

Tau aga mahani mau: Ko e vahega manulele, maeke ke lele fakahako mo e lele totonu he pulagi, nakai mahani lahi ke lele tokoluga i luga he tahi, po ke pihia foki he fuga kelekele. Maeke he vahega manulele nai ke moua e tau vahega moko felele ke lata mo ia. Fa mahani e vahega manulele nai ke kitia tumau mo e nofo ai ke he tau vao tafagafaga, mua atu ke he tau kaukau tahi, tuga e tau matafeutu tokoluga, tau mata tafetafe he tau vailele po ke tahi pihia foki ke he tau vailele po ke tau namo hokulo. Kua maeke ke kehe foki e vahega manulele nai, mai he vahega manulele kua fakahigoa ko e Pekapeka ha ko e manulele nai, kua fa mahani hokoia ke tu ai i luga he tau uaea ka tau ai ki luga, tau pou tokoluga he tau pa viko takai mo e tau la akau tokanoa.

Haana a leo: Fa mahani e vahega manulele nai ke logona mai e falu a leo tuga ko e tagata lologo fanafana mo e nakai logona lahi ke he loga he tau magaaho.

Australasian Harrier

Circus approximans

Description: This harrier is a long-legged, long-tailed hawk (55 cm) with long, broad wings. The eyes, base of the bill and legs are yellow, and the strongly hooked bill is black. There is great variation in plumage colour, with colours becoming lighter with age. First-year birds tend to be chocolate brown all over. Older birds are brown, with lighter brown under-parts becoming more streaked with white each year until they are white with brown streaks and white rump.

Range: The Australasian harrier is present in Australia, New Zealand, Melanesia and some islands of Polynesia. It occurs widely in the Fijian and Tongan island groups, but only occasionally straggles to Samoa.

Habits: Although it prefers to hunt over open country, this harrier can be found hunting over all habitats, including water and tall rainforest. Its characteristic hunting flight involves slow, pronounced wing beats interspersed with gliding. When gliding, the wings are held slightly above the back in a broad shallow V, with the wingtips markedly 'fingered'. It eats birds and their eggs and nestlings, lizards, frogs, rodents, large insects and carrion, plus fish snatched from the water surface.

Voice: Generally silent when solitary, otherwise a whistled psi.



Photo: P. Kain

Haleva ausetalia

Hagahaga he tino: Ko e vahega manulele hui loloa, ti loloa foki mo e tau fulu he hiku (55 e senetimita) loloa mo e lau lalahi foki e tau pekau. Ago e tau pumata, pihia mo e matafu he gutu mo e tauhui, ka e uli e gutu mo e makoku tuga e matau. Ha ha i ai loga e tau lanu kehekehe kua kitia ke he tau fulu, maeke foki ke hikihiki fakahaga e lanu he tau fulu, fakalata ke he tupuaki he haana tino. Ko e tau vahega manulele kua katoa e taki taha e tau katoa tali he fanau, kua kaki tuga e lole koko ha lautolu a tau fulu he tino katoa. Ka ko e tau vahega manulele kua hototia e motua, kua kitia e kehe ha kua kikila fakahaga e tau fulu kaki he tau tino, mua atu e kikila pihia ke he tau fulu he ao i lalo. Kua kitia tumau e hikiaga ia he tau fulu mai he tau takitaha, ato hokotia e motua, ti kitia agataha e tea mo e kaki he tau fulu he tino, ka e tea foki e tau fulu he vala ne hifo ke he muimui.

Tau vahega motu ne nofo ai: Ko e vahega manulele nai, kua fakahigoa ko e 'Haleva Ausetalia' kua nofo ai i Ausetalia, Niu Silani, tau atumotu Melanesia mo e falu a atumotu Polinesia. Kua kitia ai e loga lahi e tau vahega manulele nai i Fiti mo Tonga, ka e nakai mahani ke kitia hololoa i Samoa.

Tau aga mahani mau: Pete ni kua mahani lahi e vahega manulele nai, ke oatu ke he tau vao tokanoa mo e kumi kai mai i ai, ka kua maeke foki e vahega manulele nai ke kumi kai ai ke he tau nonofoaga kehekehe, aofia ai foki e tau vai namo mo e tau vao uhi. Ko e aga kitia mau ke he vahega manulele nai he magaaho ka lele atu ai ke kumi kai, ha kua maeke he haana tau pekau ke lele fakaeneene, pihia foki mo e fakakakapu he haana a tau pekau he falu a magaaho mo e fakamaafo ai foki mo e nakai fakahoha. Ko e maagaho ka fakakakapu ai haana a tau pekau, kua tuku hake e ia haana a tau pekau loloa fakatote ki tua, ke tuga e matatohi V mo e kitia maali foki e tau matahiku pekau haana kua tutuhi mai ki fafo. Kua kai e ia e tau manulele mo e ha lautolu a tau fufua, pihia mo e tau fata ne fanau ai. Kai ai foki mo e tau mokotaliga, tau lane, mo e falu a vahega manu pihia mo e tau moko kekekele, pihia foki mo e tau ika ka moua e lautolu, ki luga he fuga vai po ke tahi.

Haana a leo: Fa mahani ke nakai logona ha leo fakahoha mai he vahega manulele nai, kaeke ke lele fano ai. Ka e ha ha i ai e falu a magaaho ka tagi ai tuga e leo mafu - "psi".

European Starling

Sturnus vulgaris

Description: Adult European starlings are blackish, with a metallic green and purple sheen, and many buff spots at the feather tips. The spots gradually wear away so that the starlings become mainly a glossy black. The sharp-pointed bill is yellow in the breeding season, and brownish otherwise. Its short tail and pointed wings are characteristic. Fledglings are a uniform pale brown, with a pale throat, streaky belly and a blackish bill.

Range: This starling is a native of Eurasia and northern Africa, but it has been introduced to many temperate countries including New Zealand and Australia. It is present on some islands of Fiji and Tonga.

Habits: The European starling has a fast flight with occasional glides. It gathers together in noisy flocks to feed. This starling is omnivorous, spending much time walking over lawns and paddocks in search of insects and worms. In addition, it will take small lizards, crabs and other invertebrates from beaches and reefs, food scraps about towns, homes and dumps, and a wide variety of fruit. While it prefers to forage in open areas of man-modified habitats, flocks will fly some distance into forest to feed on ripe fruit in the canopy. In many countries it is a pest, taking stock food and damaging fruit crops.

Voice: It is a noisy bird, giving a variety of whistles. However, it is capable of mimicking the calls and songs of other species.



Photo: C. J. T. 1994

Miti palagi

Hagahaga he tino: Ko e vahega manulele kua fakahigoa ko e miti palagi, kaeke ke hokotia e lahi, kua uli e tau fulu he tino katoa, mo e lanu laukou kikila e falu a fulu. Loga foki e tau ilaila ago he matahiku he tau fulu. Ko e tau ilaila nai, to maeke ke galo kehe fakahaga, ha ko e magaaho ka hokotia ai e lahi he vahega manulele nai, to toe ni ko e tau fulu uli kikila he tino katoa haana. Koe gutu he vahega manulele nai, kua ago oti, ti matila mo e loa foki he magahala ka fanau fufua ai, ko e lahi he tau magaaho, kua kaki e tau fulu he tino katoa. Ku e hiku mo e matila e tua, hoe e tau pekau, kua eke mo tau fakamailoga ke kitia mitaki ai e vahega manulele nai. Ko e e tau fulu he tau punua ikiiki kua tatai oti - kaki mama, pihia foki mo e tau fulu he lalo kakia, avaava e tau fulu he manava mo e uli e gutu.

Tau aga mahani mau: Ko e vahega manulele nai, kua mahani ke lele mafiti mo e fai magaaho ke fakakakapu ai e tau pekau. Kua mahani foki ke tolo aulao mo e fakapotopoto fakalataha he magaaho ka kai ai, mo e fakahoha fakaleo lalahi. Ko e vahega miti palagi nai, kua fa mahani ke kai noa ni he ha mena ka moua, mo e lahi foki he haana a tau maagaho ka fakamole ai ke evaeva fano i loto he tau male mo e tau pa povi, ke kumi moko kelekele ke kai. Maeke foki he vahega manulele nai ke kai e tau mokotaliga ikiiki, tau manutotolu tuga e tau kalahimu, mo e falu he tau mena momoui kua nonofo ai he tau mataafaga mo e tau uluulu. Kai foki e ia e tau mena kai ka toe ke he tau ligiaga veve he tau maaga mo e tau taone, pihia mo e tau kaina. Kai foki he vahega manulele nai e tau fua lakau momoho. Ha kua mahani e miti palagi nai, ke hetu mo e ketu moko he tau mena tokanoa, mua atu ke he tau gahuaaga he tau tagata, maeke foki he tau fuifui ke felele tokoluga mo e felele mamao ke hohoko atu ke he tau vao motua, ke kumi fua lakau momoho, he tau mena ne nonofo ai a lautolu. Ko e falu motu, ne eke foki e vahega manulele nai mo manulele fakalavelave mo e kai moumou e tau fua lakau momoho mo e tau kai he tau manu.

Tau vahega motu ne nonofo ai: Ko e vahega manulele nai, kua mahani ke nonofo mau he motu ko

Silvereye

Zosterops lateralis

Description: The silvereye is a small (10 cm), active, mainly olive green bird with a prominent white eye ring. Except for a grey upper back, the upper parts of this bird are mainly olive green. The throat, breast and vent area are tinged yellow, the flanks brownish, and the belly white.

Range: The silvereye is a widely distributed species being found in Australia, New Zealand, New Caledonia and the Fiji archipelago.

Habits: This species is typically found in flocks, individuals regularly calling to one another. It has a rapid and direct, slightly undulating flight. Silvereyes glean insects, caterpillars and spiders from trunks, branches and foliage, and take nectar and ripe fruit. They can be found in all vegetated habitats, feeding from ground level up to the top of the canopy of tall rainforest trees.

Voice: The contact call is a plaintive and repeated tzeee; the song is a rambling series of musical whistles which may be sustained for several minutes.



Photo: C. Smith/Science Photo Library

Mata siliva

Hagahaga he tino: Ko e vahega manulele tino tote a nai, (10 e senetimita), tino alaala mo e lanu laukou olive e tau fulu he tino katoa, mo e tea e tau fulu kua vikotakai he tau mata. Kua lanu laukou olive e tau fulu he tino katoa, ka e kehe mai e tau fulu he vala ki luga he tua, ha kua efuefu e tau fulu kua ha ha i ai. Ago e tau fulu he lalo kakia, fatafata mo e muimui, kaki e tau fulu he tau faahi he tino, mo e tea e tau fulu he kupu manava.

Tau vahega motu ne nofo ai: Ko e vahega manulele nai, kua maeke ke kitia mo e nofo ai ke he loga e tau atumotu kehekehe, ke tuga a Ausetalia mo Niu Silani, Niu Kaledonia mo e tau atumotu i Fiti.

Tau aga mahani mau: Fa mahani lahi e vahega manulele nai, ke nonofo fuhifuhi fakalataha, mo e fetauheaaki e taha manulele ke he taha manulele. Mafiti e lele he vahega manulele nai, mo e lele fakahako mai he taha akau ke he taha akau. Fa moua he mata siliva e tau moko ikiiki, tau ketapila mo e tau kufani ka toli hake a lautolu ki luga he tau akau. Kai foki he vahega manulele nai e tau puke humelie mai he tau fiti lakau mo e tau fua lakau momoho. Fa nonofo tumau he tau fonua maala mo e tau vao liu tutupu hake foou. Maeke he vahega manulele nai ke o hifo mai ke he fuga kekekele ke kumi kai ai, po ke toli hake foki ke he tau akau tokoluga he tau vao uhi ke kumi kai ai.

Haana a leo: Fa logona mahino e leo tagi he vahega manulele nai, mo e fa tauui tumau - "tzee". Kua fatiaki tumau haana a leo mafu ke he loga he tau magaaho.

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Eurasia mo e tau motu he Faahi tokelau i Aferika, ka e taatu ai fakamui ke he tau atumoutu makalili ko Niu Silani mo Ausetalia. Kua ha ha i ai foki e vahega manulele nai he falu a motu i Fiti mo Tonga.

Haana a leo: Ko e vahega manulele nai, kua fa logona lahi haana a leo, mo e kehekehe foki e tau vahega leo kua fa logona ai. Maeke foki e vahega manulele nai, ke fifitaki e tau leo he falu a vahega manulele kehekehe.

Common Myna

Acridotheres tristis

Description: This is a stocky (24 cm), conspicuous bird because of its striking colouration, loud calls and the fact that it generally occurs about villages and towns. The head, nape and throat are black, the belly, under-tail coverts, tail tip and wing patches (evident only in flight) are white, and the rest of the feathering is brown. The bill, bare skin below and behind the eyes and the legs are yellow.



Range: The common myna is native to India and South Asia. It was introduced to several islands in the Pacific, including some of the Fiji, Cook and Society Islands to control insect pests in sugar crops.

Habits: It is usually found in people-modified habitats such as farm paddocks, coconut plantations, gardens, sports grounds and streets. Although it is omnivorous it eats mainly insects, often feeding with cattle and perching on their backs. In addition, it will eat ripe fruit, grain and peoples' food scraps. Common mynas often gather in noisy flocks and have a deliberate flight with strong wingbeats. They are hole-nesters and will forcibly evict other species from holes they can get into, breaking eggs and throwing out young.

Voice: It has a raucous range of whistling, screeching and chuckling calls that are given softly or loud and harshly.

Mina kaina

Hagahaga he tino: Ko e vahega manulele alaga mao a nai (24 e senetimita), nakai uka e vahega manulele nai ke kitia mo e iloa, ha kua kitia mahino e haana a tau fulu pihia mo e logonaaga ke he haana a leo, mo e fa mahani ke nofo foki he tau loto maaga mo e tau taone. Uli e tau fulu he ulu, tua mo e kakia, pihia foki mo e lalo kakia, ka ko e tau fulu he manava, i lalo he matafu hiku, matahiku he hiku mo e tau ilaila he tau pekau (ne fa kitia noa he tau magaaho ka lele ai) kua tea katoa mo e ha ha i ai foki e falu a fulu kaki i ai. Nakai fai fulu e haana a gutu, ka ko e kili hokoia ne kitia noa mai, pihia fakahaga ke hoko hifo ke he lalo gutu mo e i tua foki he tau mata, mo e ago oti e tau hui.

Tau vahega motu ne nofo ai: Ko e vahega manulele nai, ko e Mina Kaina, ko e manulele fa nofo tumau i Initia mo Asia Toga. Ko e vahega manulele tamai ke he tau atumotu he moana Pasifika he tau vaha fakamui, ke he tau motu tuga a Fiti, Atu Kuki Aelani mo Tahiti, kua tamai pauaki ke tamate aki e tau moko kelea ne fa kai e tau to gau ke lata mo e tauteaga he suka.

Tau aga mahani mau: Fa mahani e vahega manulele nai, ke nonofo he tau gahuaaga, tuga e tau puhala tu talaga foou po ke tau taaga fale foou, pihia foki mo e tau fonua toka manu, tau ulu niuniu lalahi, tau fonua maala, tau male taute mena fakafiafia mo e tau loto maaga. Pete ni ko e vahega manulele kai fakahanoa a nai, ko e haana a tau mena kai mahuiga ko e tau moko kekelele, vave lahi a lautolu ke tolo auloa he tau mena ne fa nonofo ai e tau povi mo e fa mahani ke tutu ai foki ke he tau tua he tau povi. Maeke foki he vahega manulele nai, ke kai e tau fua lakau momoho, tau sega saito, pihia mo e tau mena kai ka tiaki he tau tagata. Ko e vahega manulele nai ko e Mina kua fa mahani ke tolo auloa mo e fakapotopoto fakalataha ke he taha e mena, mo e taute ai e tau leo fakahoha, ti maeke foki ke logona noa e kapukapu he tau pekau ka kamata lele hake ke he pulagi. Fa mahani ke kati fata i loto he tau liu luo, ti fa mahani pule lahi foki, ke vega mai ki fafo e falu a vahega manulele mai he tau luo ne fa fanau fufua ai, ka e kai e lautolu e tau fufua ne toka ai po ke pihia foki e tau punua ikiiki, ne fa vega mai e lautolu ki fafo mai he tau fata.

Red-vented Bulbul

Pycnonotus cafer

Description: This bird is small (20 cm), readily recognised by its mainly dark plumage, erectile crest, white rump and red vent area. The head, neck, wings and tail (but for the white tail tip) are black-brown, and the back, lower breast and belly are dark grey with pale scalloping. The bill and legs are black. Juveniles are brown and have an inconspicuous orange vent.



Range: A native of India, the red-vented bulbul has been introduced to several island groups in the Pacific including Fiji, Tonga and Samoa.

Habits: It is a sociable species, often gathering in noisy flocks. It usually occurs in people-modified places such as towns, villages and farms, where it often perches on power lines, fences and houses. The bulk of the bulbul's diet is soft fruit and berries, and it also takes nectar, insects and small lizards. It is the feeding on fruit that brings it into conflict with gardeners and farmers. Bulbuls occasionally clash with other small birds, especially the Polynesian triller.

Voice: The red-vented bulbul gives a variety of low-pitched chirps and whistles: chiwheer, chip-burr, pee-pro and pee-pee-plo. It also has an elaborate song of flute-like notes.

Pulupulu pu-kula

Hagahaga he tino: Ko e vahega manulele tino tote a nai (20 e senetimita) kua maeke ke iloa mahino, ha ko e vahega manulele lanu unoko e tau fulu, mo e tu hako hake e fefe he ulu, mo e tea e tau fulu he vala ke he hiku, ne toka tonu ai e veliveli kula. Uli-kaki e tau fulu he ulu, kakia, tau pekau mo e hiku, ka e tea e tau matahiku he tau fulu he hiku. Efuefu unoko e tau fulu he vala ke he fatafata mo e manava, mo e ha ha i ai foki falu a fulu kua eke ke kikila. Uli e gutu, ti pihia foki mo e tau hui. Ko e tau punua ikiiki, kua kaki oti e tau fulu he tino mo e ha ha i ai foki e veliveli lanu fuamoli he hiku, ka e nakai kitia mahino.

Tau vahega motu ne nofo ai: Ko e vahega manulele nofo mau i Initia a nai, ka e fakahokotia mai e vahega manulele nai, tuga kua fakahigoa ai ko e pulupulu pu kula ke he falu he tau atumotu he Pasifika, ke aofia ai tau motu ha Fiti, Tonga mo Samoa.

Tau aga mahani mau: Ko e vahega manulele lalata lahi a nai, ti fa mahani ke tolo po ke fakapotopoto fakalataha tumau ke he taha e nonofoaga, mo e taute ai foki e tau leo fakahoha kehekehe. Fa mahani ke nonofo aulua he tau matatepu kua keli mo e talaga foou he tau tagata, ke tuga e tau tugafale nonofo, tau loto maaga mo e tau taone foou, pihia moe tau fonua gahua. Mahani lahi foki e vahega manulele nai, ke tutu holo ai he tau kave telefoni mo e tau pou kave hila mo e tau matapatu fale talaga foou. Ko e tau vahega mena kai kua mahuiga lahi ki ai e vahega manulele nai, ko e tau fua akau momoho, pihia mo e tau hani humelie mai he tau huhua fiti lakau, tau mokotaliga mo e falu a moko ikiiki. Ko e vahega manulele fiafia lahi ke kai fua lakau momoho, kua eke ai foki e aga ia mo mena faitaua lahi mo e tau tagata gahua fonua mo lautolu kua to lakau kai. Ka e fa mahani foki e vahega manulele nai ke latau ai mo e falu a manulele foki, tuga e Heahea.

Haana a leo: Ko e vahega manulele nai, kua maeke ke logona ai e tau faga leo kehekehe, mua atu ke he vahega leo mafu fakaeneene, tuga e - "chiwheer, chip-burr, pee-plo" mo "pee-pee-plo". Maeke foki ke logona mai ai e falu a leo kua tuga e tagi he kitala ka ulo.

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Haana a leo: Kua maeke ke logona e leo fulukovi mo e tagi mafu kii mo e koa ka tauhea maeke foki ke leo lahi po ke leo tote moe leo fulukovi he falu a magaaho.

Jungle Myna

Acridotheres fuscus

Description: This is a mainly black-grey bird (21 cm) with a distinctive short tuft above the nostrils. It is sooty grey above, with a black head and tail, and dark grey throat and upper breast. The tail tip, mid-belly, under-tail and a patch on each wing are white. The bill and legs are yellow. The jungle myna looks quite similar to the common myna and they form mixed flocks, but the jungle myna can be distinguished by its tuft above the nostrils, lack of yellow skin below and behind the eye, and its generally grey feathering.

Range: The jungle myna is native to India and through Burma to the Malay Peninsula. It was introduced to a few islands in the Pacific, including the Fijian and Samoan groups, to combat caterpillars in crops.

Habits: These are much the same as those of the common myna, being gregarious, noisy and confined mainly to rural habitats, despite its common name.

Voice: It has a variety of chuckles, whistles and screeches, like the common myna.



Mina vao

Hagahaga he tino: Ko e vahega manulele tino tote, lahi ke he uli-efuefu e tau fulu he haana a tino (21 e senetimita), mo e kitia maali e tau fulu ne tutupu mai i loto he haana a tau pu ihu. Efuefu uli e tau fulu he vala ki luga he haana a tino, ka e uli katoa e tau fulu he ulu, pihia mo e hiku, efuefu unoko e tau fulu he lalo kakia mo e vala ki luga he fatafata. Ka ko e matahiku he hiku, kupu manava, i lalo he hiku, pihia mo e ila he tau pekau ne ua, kua tea oti e tau fulu i ai. Ka e ago e gutu mo e tau hui. Ko e mina vao nai, kua teitei ni ke tatai mo e vahega manulele kua fakahigoa ko e mina kaina, ti maeke ia lautolu ke fio auloa mo e nonofo fakalataha ke he taha mena, ka ko e mena ni ne kehekehe ai a laua, ha kua fai fulu e tau pu ihu he mina vao.

Nakai kitia maali mai e kili ago mo e ai fai fulu ago e lalo gutu mo e tau ava mata ke tuga e mina kaina, mo e efuefu katoa e tau fulu he tino.

Tau vahega motu ne nofo ai: Ko e mina vao nai, ko e vahega manulele nofo mau i Initia, mo e nofo ai foki i Burma ke hoko atu ke he Peninsula i Malaya. Kua kitia mo e iloa maali, ko e mena tamai la ia fakamui e vahega manulele nai ke he Pasifika mo e moua ai i Fiti, mo Samoa lalo, ke tamate aki e tau moko ketapila ne fae kai moumou e tau fua he fonua.

Tau aga mahani mau: Kua tatai lahi ni e tau aga he vahega manulele nai ko e mina vao mo e mina kaina. Kua kai noa ni ha mena ka moua, lahi e fakahoha he tau leo tagi ka nonofo auloa, mo e vave lahi ke tolo auloa mo e nonofo he tau gahuaga he tau tagata mo e tau loto maaga. Pete ni kua fakakehekehe ha laua a tau higoa.

Haana a leo: Tatai ai e logonaaga he tau leo tagi fakahoha he mina vao nai mo e mina kaina.

Seabirds

Lesser Frigatebird

Fregata ariel

Description: The lesser frigate bird is a large, mainly dark seabird with long pointed wings and a deeply forked tail that spends much time soaring on motionless, bent wings. This species is very similar in appearance to the greater frigatebird. Although the lesser (76 cm) is the smaller of the two, this difference is only useful when mixed flocks occur. Distinguishing between the species is best restricted to when clear sightings of adult characteristics are possible. Adult male lesser frigatebirds are black with white patches on the flanks, compared with the entirely black adult male greater frigatebirds. The adult female lesser frigatebird has a white breast and belly; elsewhere it is black, including the throat. In contrast, the adult female greater frigatebird is black with a white breast and throat. The immatures of the two species are often difficult to distinguish, and resemble female greater frigatebirds.

Range: The lesser frigatebird disperses throughout the tropical Pacific south of 15°N, and visits nearly every island group in the south-central Pacific. It is the more common of the two species in the region, and breeds on Rose Atoll of American Samoa, and the islands of Fiji and Tonga.

Habits: As for greater frigatebird.

Voice: It is usually silent away from the nest.



Manu folau tino tote

Hagahaga he tino: Ko e vahega manulele nai, ko e manulele tino tote, ko e taha foki he tau vahega manulele tahi, uli katoa e tino mo e loloa e tau pekau, ka e matila e tau hoe he hiku, tuga kua fa fakaaoga e ia ke lele fano ai mo e fakapaagi fano ai he pulagi mo e nakai fagahuatia e tau pekau he tau magaaho ka lele ai he pulagi. Ko e taha faga vahega manulele pehe nai foki, pete ni he tote hifo e tino (76 e senetimita), ha ko e vahega manulele tote a ia he faga manulele nai, kua maeke ni ke kitia e fekehekehe aki ha laua, kaeke ke nonofo fakalataha he taha e mena. Ko e mena maeke ni ke kitia mitaki e fekehekehe aki he tau faga manulele nai, he magaaho ka kitita tata atu ki ai, mo e mahani foki mo e ha laua a tau aga mahani ai. Ko e vahega manulele pehe nai, ka hokotia e motua, kua maeke ke kitia mitaki e manulele taane he faga tote hifo, ha kua uli oti e tau fulu haana tuga mo e ha ha i ai foki e ila tea he tau faahi, ka fakataai atu ke he vahega manulele taane he faga tino lahi he tau manutahi pehe nai. Ko e vahega manulele fifine he faga manulele pehe nai, kua tea e tau fulu he fuga fatafata mo e manava, ka e uli e tau fulu he tino katoa, pihia mo e lalo kakia. Ko e faga manulele tino lahi he vahega manulele nai, ka hokotia e lahi, kua uli mo e tea e tau fulu he fuga fatafata, pihia mo e lalo kakia. Ka ko e tau punua ikiiki he tau faga manulele ua nai, kua nakai mukamuka ke kitia e kehekehe, ha kua tatai ua ni mo e faga manulele fifine ka e tino lahi mai he vahega manulele tahi pehe nai.

Tau vahega motu ne nofo ai: Ko e faga tino tote he vahega manulele tahi pehe nai, kua nonofo holo ai he tau atumotu mafana he Pasifika ke he faahi toga, lata mo e 150 ke he faahi tokelau, mo e fa fenoga atu foki ke he tau motu oti he faahi toga - uho he moana Pasifika. Ti ko e faga manulele tino tote pehe nai, ne fa kitia tumau (mai he tau faga manulele ne ua) he tau atumotu he faahi moana nai, mo e fanau ai he motu ko Rose mai he tau atumotu ha Amelika Samoa, pihia foki mo e falu a motu he tau motu ikiiki ha Fiti mo Tonga.

Tau aga mahani mau: T'atai ni e tau mahani mo e tau aga he faga manulele tino tote nai mo e tau aga he faga manulele tino lahi he vahega manulele tahi nai.

Haana a leo: Fa mahani ke lele fakatotomo mo e nakai fai leo e vahega manulele nai, kaeke ke lele kehe mai he haana a fata.

Bridled Tern

Sterna anaethetus

Description: A medium-sized grey and white tern (40 cm), with a deeply forked tail. It is similar to the sooty tern, but has brown-grey upper parts and grey tinged under-parts. The diagnostic features are the white forehead and the white below the black eyestripe: both extending beyond the eye.

Range: This species is a vagrant to the south-central Pacific, with the closest breeding sites being in Australia, the Solomons and Bismarck archipelago.

Habits: The bridled tern has a buoyant flight, and feeds on small fish and squid by making shallow dives to snatch them from just below the surface.

Voice: A distinctive yapping or laughing call is usual.



Photo: R. G. Anderson

Taketake ulu kofu

Hagahaga he tino: Ko e vahega manulele tino vahaloto a nai (40 e senetimita), efuefu mo e tea e tau fulu he tino, mo e matila e tau foto he tau fulu he hiku. Fetataiaki lahi mo e hagahaga he vahega manulele kua fakahigoa ko e taketake uli, ka e kehe ni ha kua kaki efuefu e tau fulu he vahega manulele nai, he vala ki luga he tino, mo e melomelo efuefu e tau fulu he ao. Ka ko e fakamailoga ke kitia mitaki ai e vahega manulele nai, kua fakahigoa ai ko e taketake ulu kofu, ha kua tea e tau fulu he matale, pihia moe tau fulu tea i lalo hifo he tau fulu ava uli he tau mata, kua matutaki fakalataha atu mo e molea e tau mata. (tuga e kofu tea kua kofu aki haana a ulu).

Tau vahega motu ne nofo ai: Ko e vahega manulele nai, kua fa mahani ke o fano mai he taha motu ke he taha motu he tau atumotu he faahi toga-uho he moana Pasifika, mo e maeke ai foki ke iloa ki ai, ko e tau motu ne fanau fufua ai a lautolu, ko Ausetalia mo e atumotu Solomona, pihia foki moe motu ko Bismarck.

Tau aga mahani mau: Ko e vahega manulele nai, tuga kua faka higoa ai ko e taketake Ulukofu, ko e mena maeke ia ia ke lele hifo moe nofo ai he tahi mo e maeke foki ke moua ai e tau ika ikiiki moe falu a mena momoui he tahi ke lata mo ia.

Haana a leo: Ko e vahega manulele nai, kua maeke ke logona noa e haana a leo, tuga ko e tagata tutala tumau mo e kata tumau foki ka logona.

Sooty Tern

Sterna fuscata

Description: This medium-sized tern (43 cm) is coloured black and white with a long forked tail. The upper parts are dark brown-black, and the under-parts white. The white forehead extending to just above the eye and the black eye stripe running to the base of the beak are diagnostic features. Juveniles are dark sooty brown with buff feather edgings on their upper parts, and a white belly.

Range: The sooty tern is widely distributed and common in the tropical Pacific, where it breeds on most island groups including Fiji, Tonga and Samoa.

Habits: A highly gregarious tern when feeding, it spends much of the non-breeding season far from land. It feeds on small fish and zooplankton which are taken by making surface dives after hovering overhead. The sooty tern has a light buoyant flight with slow deliberate wing beats.

Voice: A harsh screeching kree-a-reek or wide-awake is heard.



PHOTOGRAPH BY

Taketake uli

Hagahaga he tino: Ko e vahega manulele tino vahaloto a nai (43 e senetimita), uli mo e tea e tau fulu he tino, ti loloa mo e foto matila e tau fulu he hiku. Uli-Kaki unoko e tau fulu he vala ki luga he tino. Tea e tau fulu he matale, pihia ke hoko atu ke he tau tauga mata, ka e uli e tau ava mata, ke hoko atu ke he matafu he gutu, tuga kua eke mo fakamailoga ke kitia mitaki ai e kehe he vahega manulele nai mai he falu a vahega manulele. Ko e haana a tau punua ikiiki, kua unokouli-kaki mo e melomelo ago e tau kalakala he tau fulu he tino katoa, ka e tea e tau fulu he manava.

Tau vahega motu ne nofo ai: Ko e vahega manulele nai, kua maeke ke kitia tumau ke he loga he tau atumotu mafana he moana Pasifika, ha ko e tau motu haia ne fanau fufua ai a lautolu, mua atu ke he tau atumotu ha Fiti, Tonga mo Samoa.

Tau aga mahani mau: Ko e vahega manulele nai, kua mahani lahi ke tolo fakalataha mo e fakapotopoto auloa ke he taha e mena, he magaaho ka kai ai a lautolu. Fa mahani foki he tau magahala ka nakai fanau fufua ai a lautolu ke oatu fakamamao mai he motu ki moana. Ko e ha lautolu a tau mena kai mahuiga, ko e tau ika ikiiki mai he tofia, pihia mo e falu a manu tolo mai he fuga kelekele, kaeke ke moua e lautolu he tau magaaho ka lele hifo ai ke he kelekele fakamafiti mo e kakati hake ai ke he gutu mo e liu lele kehe fakaave ai. Ko e vahega manulele nai, he magaaho ka lele fano ai a ia he pulagi, kua lele ni fakaeneene mo e fakatatai atu e tau pekau haana ke he fiafia he haana a lele.

Haana a leo: Kua matila mo e logona lahi e haana a leo ka tagi, tuga e "Kree-a-reek" po ke "wide awake".

Masked Booby

Sula dactylatra

Description: This is a large booby (81 cm) with a black tail. The adults are white with blackish-brown flight and tail feathers, plus a black face. The bill is robust, pointed and yellowish. The legs and feet are variable in colour from grey to olive. Juveniles are mainly brown-black above with much white mottling, especially about the base of the neck. Their underparts are mainly white, speckled with brown, and the bill is grey.

Range: The masked booby may be seen anywhere over tropical and subtropical Pacific seas. It breeds on atolls and rocky offshore islets of many island groups in the south-central Pacific, including those of Fiji and Samoa, but not Tonga. It is the least tolerant of human habitation of all the boobies, and as a ground-nesting species it is vulnerable to predatory mammals.

Habits: Boobies are strong fliers, with powerful wing beats interspersed with short glides. They usually fly about 7-10 metres above the water, diving from the air with considerable speed into the water to capture fish. Masked boobies usually feed well offshore. Boobies often feed in large flocks and these are occasionally used by Pacific islanders to locate schools of fish. Frigatebirds often harass boobies to obtain their food.

Voice: Invariably quiet away from the nesting grounds.



Photo: R. C. Anderson

Puupi gutumalu

Hagahaga he tino: Ko e vahega manulele tino lahi a nai, (81 e senetimita) mo e uli e tau fulu he hiku. Ko e tau manulele kua hokotia e lahi he vahega manulele nai, kua tea mo e uli-kaki e tau fulu he tau pekau, pihia mo e tau fulu he hiku, ka e uli e tau fulu he tau mata. Matila mo e mao e gutu, ti ago e gutu katoa. Kua fa kehekehe e lanu he tau hui mo e tau lapalapa hui, efuefu - eke ke lanu lau olive. Ko e tau punua ikiiki, kua lahi ke he kaki-uli e tau fulu he vala ki luga he ulu, mo e ha ha i ai foki e tau ilaila, mua atu ke he tau fulu he matafu kakia. Ko e tau fulu he ao katoa, kua tea mo e fiofio aki e tau fulu kaki, ka e efuefu e gutu.

Tau vahega motu ne nofo ai: Ko e vahega manulele nai, kua maeke ke kitia ke he ha motu he tau vahega motu mafana pihia, mo e tau vahega motu nakai makalili lahi he moana Pasifika. Kua fanau fufua ai ke he tau atumotu tokolalo mo e tau matamaka he tau tahi tokanoa he loga he tau motu ikiiki he faahi toga - uho he moana Pasifika, ke aofia ai e tau atumotu ha Fiti mo Samoa, ka e nakai kitia i Tonga. Ko e mena nakai mahani e vahega manulele nai ke nofo he tau atumotu nofo tagata, mo e ko e vahega manulele nai, kua fa mahani ke fanau fufua ai ke he fuga kekekele, kua hagahaga kelea lahi ke he tau manu huifa ne fa o fano he fuga kekekele.

Tau aga mahani mau : Ko e vahega manulele nai, kua malolo lahi he lele, ha ko e haana a tau pekau malolo lahi mo e fa fakakakapu he tau magaaho ka lele ai. Fa mahani ke lele ai ke he 7-10 e mita he tokoluga hake mai he puke tahi, ti maeke foki ke ukutoka mafiti ki loto he tahi, ke moua e falu a ika ke lata mo ia. Ko e vahega manulele nai kua fa moua hololoa haana a tau ika ke kai mai he tau magamoana tokanoa. Ko e vahega manulele nai foki, kua mahani ke tolo auloa mo e o fuhifuhi fakalataha ke kumi kai ai, ko e kakano foki haia, ati eke ai mo mahaniaga mau he tau tagata futi ika he tau atumotu he moana Pasifika, ke mumuitua atu ke he tau vahega manulele pehe nai, kaeke ke kitia atu i moana, ha kua iloa e lautolu, ko e tau fuifui ika foki haia ha ne mumui tua atu ki ai e tau manulele. Fa mahani e tau vahega manulele nai kua fakahigoa ko e Manu Folau ke fakalavelave po ke lali ke fofo e tau ika mai he vahega manulele nai.

Haana a leo: Fa mahani e vahega manulele nai, ke nakai fai leo fakahoha he tau magaaho ka lele kehe ai mai he fata.

Brown Booby

Sula leucogaster

Description: A strikingly marked brown and white booby (78 cm). The feathering is predominantly rich brown in colour, except for a white belly, vent and underwings. The bill is greyish-yellow and the feet yellowish, with the male's facial skin being blue and the female's yellow-green. Juveniles have the same plumage pattern as adults, but with the white replaced by light brown or buff. The juvenile masked booby looks similar to the adult brown booby, except that the former has mottled brown and white feathers over the back and lower neck. The juvenile brown booby is similar to the juvenile red-footed booby, but the latter is uniform brown below instead of being two-toned.

Range: The brown booby visits and breeds on all island groups of the tropical Pacific.

Habits: These are similar to the masked booby, except that the brown booby usually occurs individually or in pairs and generally feeds inshore.

Voice: These birds are silent at sea.



John J. Ross

Puupi kaki

Hagahaga he tino: Ko e vahega manulele nai, kua mukamuka ke kitia ha kua tokanoa e haana a tau fulu tea mo e kaki he tino katoa (78 e senetimita). Ko e haana a tau fulu kua kitia mahino e kaki, ka e kehe mai he tau fulu tea he manava, muimui, pihia mo e tau lalo pekau. Efuefu-ago e gutu, mo e ago e tau hui. Ka e lanu moana e tau fulumata he vahega manulele taane, ka e ago-lanu laukou e tau fulu mata he vahega manulele fifine. Ko e tau punua ikiiki kua tatai ni ha lautolu a tau fulu mo e tau vahega manulele kua hokotia e motua, ka ko e kehe ni ne maeke ke kitia ki ai, ha kua melomelo ago-kaki e tau fulu he tau punua ikiiki, ka e nakai tea hokoia. Ko e tau fulu he tau punua ikiiki he vahega manulele kua fakahigoa ko e puupi gutumalu kua tatai e hagahaga mo e tau fulu ke vahega manulele nai, kaeke kua hokotia e motua he tino. Ka koe mena ni ne kehe mai ai, ha kua fai ilaila kaki e tau fulu tea he tau punua ikiiki he puupi gutumalu, tuga kua kitia ai ke he haana a tua mo e lalo gutu. Ka e tatai e hagahaga he tino he tau punua ikiiki he vahega manulele ko e puupi kaki mo e hagahaga he tino he tau punua ikiiki he taha vahega manulele foki kua fakahigoa ko e puupi hui kula, ka ko e mena ni ne kehe ai a laua, ha kua kaki katoa e tau fulu he puupi hui kula, ke fakatatai atu ke he tau fulu he taha - ha kua ua e vahega fulu kua ha ha i ai.

Tau vahega motu ne nonofo ai: Ko e vahega manulele nai, ko e puupi kaki, kua kitia ai mo e fanau fufua ai foki ke he tau atumotu mafana oti he moana Pasifika.

Tau aga mahani mau: Tatai ni e tau aga mahani mau he vahega manulele nai, mo e vahega manulele kua fakahigoa ko e puupi gutumalu, ko e mena ni ne kehe mai ai ha kua fa mahani e vahega manulele ko e puupi kaki nai, ke o taki tokotaha po ke o takihoa ua ka felele fano he pulagi, mo e moua haana a tau mena kai ki luga he fuga kelekele.

Haana a leo: Fa mahani ke nakai logona ha leo mai he vahega manulele nai, he magaaho ka lele atu ai a ia ki tahi.

Red-footed Booby

Sula sula

Description: This is the smallest of the three boobies (71 cm) and occurs in four colour plumages. One plumage is white except for black flight feathers on the wings and a peach tinge over the head and neck. The brown plumage is brown all over. The white-tailed brown plumage is brown with the rump, belly and tail white, and the head is usually paler than in the brown plumage. In addition, there is the white-tailed, white-headed plumage which has the rest of the body brown. Adults have pink facial skin, blue bill, and bright red legs and feet. Juveniles are all brown with grey bills and feet. Distinguishing features from the other boobies are the red feet, and the white tails of the white plumages.



Range: The red-footed booby visits and breeds on nearly all tropical Pacific Island groups including Fiji, Samôa and Tonga. As a tree nester, the red-footed booby is relatively tolerant of human habitation.

Habits: These are much the same as for the masked booby, but it tends to prefer foraging in coastal waters where it flocks together in groups of up to 100 birds. It is known to catch flying fish while the fish are in flight.

Voice: Noisy chattering sounds are often given by feeding birds.

Puupi hui kula

Hagahaga he tino: Ko e vahega manulele kua mua atu e tino tote a nai, mai he tau faga puupi ne tolu (71 senitimita) mo e kitia ki ai, ko e fa la e vahega lanu kehekehe he tau fulu he tino. Ko e vahega fakamua, fulu tea oti e tino, ka ko e mena ni ne kehe ai, ha kua uli e tau fulu he tau pekau tuga kua fa kitia noa ka lele, mo e ha ha i ai e falu a fulu melomelo ago fua pisi i luga he ulu mo e kakia. Ko e vahega ke ua aki, kua kaki oti e tau fulu he tino. Ha ha i ai e vahega ke tolu aki, kua tea e tau fulu he hiku ka e kaki oti e tau fulu he tino mo e kehe e vala he tino ne hifo ke he tau hui, manava, mo e hiku ha kua tea e falu a fulu. Ko e tau fulu foki he ulu, kua ke he mai he tau fulu he vahega ke ua aki, ne fulu kaki oti e tino. Ko e vahega ke fakahiku aki, kua tea e tau fulu he hiku, pihia foki mo e tau fulu he ulu, ka e kaki e tau fulu he tino katoa. Ko e tau vahega manulele kua hokotia e lalahi, kua pakatea e kili he tau mata, lanumoana e gutu, ka e kula momoho e tau hui mo e tau lapalapa hui. Ko e tau punua ikiiki, kua kaki e tau fulu he tino katoa, ka e efuefu e tau hui mo e gutu. Kitia e kehe he vahega puupi nai, ha kua kula haana tau hui mo e tau lapalapa hui mai he fulu a vahega manulele pehe nai. Pihia foki ni e kehe he vahega manulele hiku tea, ha kua tea e tau fulu he hiku, ka fakatatai atu ke he falu a faga manulele pehe nai, tuga kua talahau i luga.

Tau vahega motu ne nofo ai: Ko e vahega manulele puupi hui kula nai, kua fa kitia mo e fanau fufua he loga he tau atumotu mafana he Pasifika, ke aofia ai e tau atumotu ha Fiti, Samoa mo Tonga. Ha ko e vahega manulele nai, kua fa mahani ke katifata ai i luga he tau akau tokoluga, kua naki fai fakalavelave atu e tau tagata momou ke he ha lautolu a tau nonofoaga.

Tau aga mahani mau: Tatai lahi e tau aga mahani ai he vahega manulele nai mo e vahega manulele kua fakahigoa ko puupi gutumalu, ka e pete he pihia, kua mahani e vahega manulele nai, ke kitia tumau ke he tau kaukau tahi, ha ne kumi moko ai ke lata mo ia, kua maeke ke nonofo fuhifuhi tokologa a lautolu - ke hoko ke he 100 e manulele he taha e fakapotopotoaga. Ko e iloaaga ki ai, ko e nonofo auloa pihia a lautolu he taha e mena, ke fakatalitali atu ke tapaki e tau ika tuga e tau hahave ka felele fano ai.

Haana a leo: Ko e vahega manulele leo lalahi mo e fakahoha tumau a nai, mua atu e fakahoha ke he tau manulele fifine he magaaho ka fagai ai ha lautolu a tau punua ikiiki.

Other avifauna also found on Niue

Fruit Bat or Flying Fox

Pteropus tonganus

Status: Resident, unknown numbers. It was apparently common at the turn of the century, when large flocks were seen flying overhead. The decreasing amount of primary rainforest, the reduction of tapu areas and the introduction of shotguns have definitely led to a profound reduction in peka on Niue.

Description: This is the only species of bat found on Niue. It looks like a typical flying fox that is found throughout the tropics. The back, rump, breast and body are a blackish colour, with the back being slightly darker and glossier. The mantle is very pale cream buff, with the sides of the neck slightly deeper in shade. The foreneck is a blackish colour, combined with seal brown. The space between the eyes is pale russet and the chin and throat are blackish.

Range: It is one of the most widespread of all the *Pteropus* species and is found throughout the South Pacific, including Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, Fiji, New Caledonia, American Samoa and Samoa, Cook Islands, Tonga, and Wallis and Futuna. The subspecies, *Pt. tonganus*, which occurs in Niue, is also found in Cook Islands, Fiji, Tonga, Wallis and Futuna and in the Samoan islands.

Habits: It is a nocturnal species, usually emerging to forage just before dusk and returning at dawn. The peka is a colonial species although they are usually only found in small roosting groups, with fewer than twenty bats. It is highly likely that the peka is responsible for pollination of some forest trees on the island, as it is on other Pacific islands. Peka don't eat only fruit; they also feed on nectar and pollen from a variety of trees as well, and appear to have favoured food, depending on the availability of their preferred food. High preference food includes the flowers of kapok, tuale, kafika and kolivao, and the fruits of mango, pao, ifi, tava, kanumea, tomato, fusi (banana) and fa (pandanus). (Leary and Aujare, 1994; Elmquist et al. 1991; Wodzicki and Felten, 1975)

Breeding: Little is known about its breeding habits. It is thought that the breeding season would be sometime between March and June.

Hunting: The peka is hunted for two months of the year, but mainly in December. They are shot as they pass over roads or tracks, when flying to and from their roost sites, during dusk and dawn. It is a very important traditional food source for the Niueans, but further information is urgently required about the status of the peka, its population and the impact that hunting has on it.

Peka

Tau Talahauaga mahani mau: Ko e peka, ko e vahega manu nofo mau he motu nai ko Niue, ka e nakai iloa po ke fiha e katoa. Ka e na mailoga mitaki e loga he vahega manu nai i Niue tali mai he magahal 100 tau kua mole atu, tuga he fa kitia mau ai hane felele fihifuhi fano iluga he motu nai. Ka e ha kua maeke ke kitia foki e tote hifo fakahaga he tau vao uhi i Niue ai nai ha ko e tau puhala gahua fonua he vaha nai, pihia mo mahanai tiaki fakahaga he tau vao-fakatapu (tau tauga) he tau mamatua i tuai mo e nakai fakatumau ke leveki atu ki ai, mua atu foki ha ko e tamaiaiga ke he motu nai e loga mo loga he tau kanavaakau fana, kua eke ai e tau mena oti pihia mo mena ke fakatofe hifo aki fakahaga e tau manu peka i Niue he vaha tonu nai mo e anoia.

Hagahaga he Tino: Ko e taha ni e vahega peka nai ni kua ha ha i Niue, tali mai fakamua Kua tatai lahi e peka nai mo e fokisi-lele, tuga kua fa kitia ke he tau atumotu mafana. Uli e tau fulufulu he tua he peka, pihia foki e kupu manava, fuga fatafata mo e tino katoa ka e mahomo atu e uli kikila ke he tau fulufulu he tua.

Ko e tau fulufulu he matafu kokia, kua ha ha i ai e tau fulufulu ata eke ke ago/kula mo e eke ke kikila foki. Ha ha i ai foki ni e tau fulufulu ago/kula, eke ke kakii ke he vahaloto he tau mata ka e uli katoa e lalo kumukumu, pihia foki mo e lalo kokia mo e alo gutu.

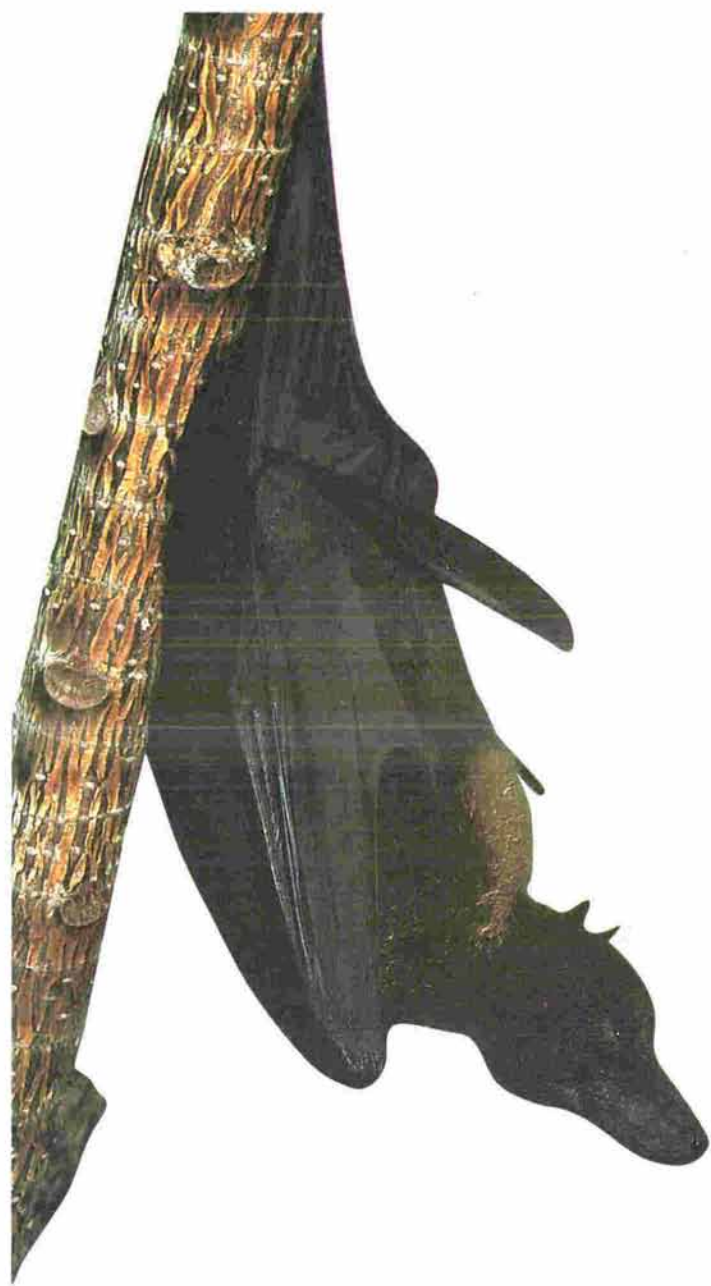
Tau Vahega Motu ne nofo ai: Ko e taha a nai he tau vahega peka kua tupu tolo maki mo e kitia fakaholo katoa ke he tau atu-motu he Moana Pasifika Toga, ke aofia ai a Papua Niukini, Atu Solomona, Vanuatu, Fisi, Niu Kaletonia, Amelika Samoa mo Samoa Katoa, Atu Kuki Aelani, Tonga, pihia mo Ualisi mo Futuna. Ka ko e vahega peka ni haia kua nofo mai i Niue mo e kitia ai foki ke he Atu Kuki Aelani, Fisi, Tonga, Ualisi mo Futuna, pihia foki mo e tau atumotu i Samoa.

Tau Nonofoaga: Koe vahega peka nai, kua fa mahani ke tukufenoga fano hokoia he tau magaaho afiafi pouli ke kumi kai ai, ka lu atu foki ke he hana ofaga mahani ai he tau magaaho pogipogi kii. Ko e manu peka, ko e vahega manu nonofo aulao, ke tuga he fa kitia ki ai, kua tau fuhifuhi aulao he taha e matakavi, liga lata mo e 20 e peka he taha e tauaga peka pehe nai. Liga ni kua mooli e manatu ne pehe, ko e tau manu peka ne fa feutaaki e tau efu fitilakau he falu a akau he vao uhi, mo e maeke ai ke moua ai e tau fua akau, ke tuga he fa kitia foki ke he falu a atu-motu he moana Pasifika.

Kua iloa maali foki, ko e mena nakai ko e tau fua akau hokoia e tau mena kai he tau manu peka, ka e maeke foki ia lautolu ke kai e tau huhua humelie he tau fiti akau mai he falu a vehega akau kua mahuiga ke he tau peka, he tau magahala kua lata ki ai, po ke mafua pauaki. Ko e tau kai mahuiga he tau peka, kua aofia ai e tau fiti vavae, tau fiti tuali, kafika, kolivao, pihia mo e tau fua mago, pao, ifi, tava, kanumea, tomato, futi mo e tautua fa (Loary and Aujare 1994) (Elmgvist et al 1991, Wodzicki and Felten 1995).

Fanafanauaga: Nakai lahi e iloaaga ke he fanafanau aga he manu ko e peka. Ka e manatu ai pehe, ko e magahala fanafanau he peka, liga ko e vahaloto he atumahina Mati mo luni he tau tau takitaha.

Magahala Fanafana Peka ke kai: Ha ha i ai ua e mahina kua fa mahani ke fana ai he tau tagata Niue e peka ke kai ka e mahomo atu ke he mahina Tesemo he tau tau oti. Kua fa mahani ke fana pulagi ai e tau peka he tau matakavi mahuiga he tau puhala tu po ke tau hala loto/vao he tau magaaho afiafi pouli po ke tau magaaho pogipogi kii, ka oatu po ke liliu mai ai e tau peka he ha lautolu a tau tutuliaga kai. Ko e peka, ko e manu kai mahuiga ka gako ai e manu nai. Kua manako lahi agaia he magahala tonu nai ke moua falu a fakamatalaaga tonu hagaao ke he moui katoa he peka mo e kua lata foki ke taute e taha kumikumiaga pauaki, ke iloa ai po ke fiha e katoatoa he tau manu peka kua nonofo i Niue ainai, mo e ke iloa foki e tuaga hagahaga kelea he tau manu peka he motu nai kaeke ke fakatumau e mahani fanafana.



Niuean bird legends

The Kale and the Veka

The kale and the veka used to live together as friends. One day however the kale decided that he would divide up their food. so the kale spoke to his friend the veka.

"Those long leaves (sugar cane), those wide leaves (bananas) and those round leaves (talo) belong to me, but the rubbish that the flies eat, let that be your portion."

The veka was very angry at this, because the kale had only left him the poor food. He went down to the sea where he saw a giant clam. he climbed down to it and rubbing his feet on the back of the shell, sang to the kale.

"Come here and stretch your legs against this thing"

So the kale came down and pushed his legs inside the clam shell, at once the clam pressed together, closing up his shells. The veka then went up to the tops of the cliffs, and started his song.

"Sea come up a little, sea come quickly, cover up and kill the kale."

Before the veka had finished his song, the sea began to rise in large waves and the kale gradually disappeared as the sea rose, with only his head remaining above the water. This forced him to stretch out his legs, since the clam was still closed together. It is for this reason that the kale has long legs.

When the full tide came in however, the clam opened up his shell, allowing the kale to escape. At once the kale ran up the hill, chasing the veka until he caught him and scratched open the head of the veka. This is the reason why the head of the veka is divided, and he eats rubbish, while the kale eats sugar cane, bananas and talo, even up to this day.

The story of the naughty children and the Owl

In a village lived a family whose children were active and loved the outdoors. One day, as the mother was preparing to go out to the bush garden, she told the children to behave and obey all of her instructions. She told them to look after their younger brother and warned them of the consequences they would face if they were to disobey her.

As soon as the mother left for the garden, the children resumed their games and from time to time, they glanced at their younger brother, happily crawling around them.

They were so engrossed in their games that they forgot to heed their mother's warnings. Suddenly, an owl flew down and perched on top of a pandanus tree, to the annoyance of the children. The owl looked with beady eyes, peering at them. At first the children ignored it, hoping that it would fly away. After sometime it was still there, and they started to mock it, calling it names. "Lulu, lulu mata popoko.....!" ("Owl, owl with beady eyes.....!")

Before the children finished, the owl swooped down, grabbing the youngest with its mighty claws, lifted him up and flew away. The naughty children didn't know what to do, and started to cry in despair. They shouted at the owl and said that they were sorry, but the owl ignored them and flew away out of sight. They worried over their explanation of the disappearance of their brother and what they would say to their mother as soon as she returned from the garden.

When their mother did return, she was surprised to find her children quiet and well behaved. She asked what had happened and listened in horror as they tried to explain it. After some thought she came up with an idea. She said the next time that the owl returns, mock him and wait and see what happens. When he descends, be ready to strike him. They did this and the face of the owl was cut off. That is why nowadays you see the flat face of the owl.

Tau tala tuai ha Niue hagai ke he tau manulele

Ko e kale mo e veka

Ko e kale mo e veka, ko e tau kapitiga leoko a laua, ti fa mahani ke nonofo fakalataha. Ka e hoko ke he taha aho, kua manako ai e kale ke veveheua ha laua a tau mena kai, ati vagahau atu ai e kale ke he haana kapitiga ko veka pehe, "Ko e tau lau akau lau loloa i ko, (tau lau to) mo e tau lau akau lau lalahi (lau futi) mo e tau lau akau lau veliveli i ko, (lau talo) ko e haaku a ia, ka ko e tau otaota ne vo ai e tau lago, ko e tufaaga haau a ia ma veka". Kua ita lahi e veka ke he talahauaga ia, ha kua toka he kale e tau mena kai kelea hokoia, ke lara mo ia. Ne hifo ai a ia ki tahi he taha aho, mo e kitia ai e ia e gege mahaki foili. Kua uku hifo a ia ki lalo ke he mena ne toka ai e gege mo e goigo'i aki haana a tau hui e kili mao he gege, mo e uhu ai e ia e lologo hagai ke he kale, pehe, "Hau ke he na e, ma kale mo e fakaloloa hifo e tau hui haau ki loto he mena nai".

Ati finatu ai agataha e kale ke he mena tonu ia, mo e omoi hifo haana a tau hui ki loto he gege, ko e magaaho ia foki ne malopoti ai e gutu he gege, mo e pa ai haana tau faahi mao he gutu. Ko e magaaho ia ne liu toli hake ai e veka ki luga he feutu, mo e kamata ai ke uhu haana a lologo pehe "Hake mai taha ma tahi na e, hake mai fakamafiti ke lomoki ki lalo, mo e tamate a kale".

Ka e nakai la oti e lologo he veka, kua kamata e tahi ke hokohoko mo e fafati mai foki e tau peau lalahi mo e tokoluga, ati kamata agataha e kale ke tomo hifo fakahaga ki lao, ka e toe ni ko e ulu haana ne keakea hake ki luga mai he puke tahi. Ko e magaaho ia foki ne kamata e kale, ke mioi mo e akaaka fano fakamalolo, e haana a tau hui, ka kua malopoti agaia e gutu he gege. Ko e kakano foki haia ati kavalo loloa ai e tau hui he kale, ke hoko mai ke he aho nai.

Ka ko e magaaho ne hokohoko lahi ai e tahi, ne kamata foki e gege ke mahafagi haana a gutu, ati maeke ai agataha e tau hui he kale ke eke mai ki fafo he gutu he gege, mo e hola kehe ai a ia. Ko e magaaho ia foki ne poi hake fakamafiti e kale ki luga he feutu mo e tutuli atu e ia e veka, ato moua ai e ia e veka. Ne volu fakaavaava he kale e ulu he veka. Ko e kakano foki haia ati avaava ai e tau fulu he ulu he veka, ke hoko mai ke he vaha nai.

Tala ke he tau fanau mahani hemu mo e lulu

Ne nonofo he taha maaga e taha magafaoa, kua ha ha i ai foki e tau fanau tino hakahakau mo e fiafia ke fefeua tumai i fafo. Ka e hoko ke he taha aho, ne tauteute ai e matua fifine ke finatu ke he vao ke gahua he maala haana, ne poaki a ia ke he haana fanau ke nonofo taha mo e omaoma ke he tau poakiaga. Kua poaki atu a ia ke he fanau haana ke leveki fakamitaki e ha lautolu a tehina tote, mo e fakakite age foki e ia ki a lautolu e tau mena ka tutupu mai kaeke ke nakai omaoma a lautolu ke he tau poakiaga haana.

Ka e fakatemole atu e matua fifine he fano ke he vao, ka e kamata e tau fanau ke taute ha lautolu a tau fefeua, mo e kikite atu foki he falu a magaaho ke he ha lautolu a tehina tote, ha ne totolo fano ke he vahaloto ha lautolu. Ne mua ha lautolu a lavelave mo e manako ke fefeua, ati nimo ai ia lautolu ke he omaoma ke he tau poakiaga he matua fifine ha lautolu. Nakai la leva foki, ati hau agataha e lulu mo e tu ai ki luga he la fa, ati ita lahi ai a lautolu ke he lulu ia. Ne onono faka matapopoko atu e lulu ke he fanau, mai he mena ne tu ai. Ne nakai tupetupe e fanau ke he lulu nai he magaaho fakamua he manatu a lautolu to lele kehe fakaave e lulu mai he mena ne tu ai. Ka e ha kua tu leva e lulu he haana tuaga, ati kamata ai e fanau ke tau hea mo e eke fakakelea atu ke he lulu nai pehe, "Lulu, lulu matapopoko..."

Ha ne tau ui atu pihia e tau fanau ke he lulu, ati ita lahi ai e lulu ke he fanau, mo e lele hifo ai a ia ki lalo mo e hamuti hake e ha lautolu e tehina tote, mai he mena ne nofo ai, aki e haana a tau hui lalahi malolo. Ne nakai tuai iloa he tau fanau mahani liuliu nai ha mena ke taute ha ko e lekua ia ne tupu ke he ha lautolu a tehina tote. Kua kamata a lautolu ke tagi hake mo e momoko e tau lotu, ha ne tau ui atu fakaleo momoko ke he lulu mo e ole lalo ki ai. Ka e nakai ni maliu mai e lotu he lulu, ka kua lele kehe a ia mo e galo atu ai. Ne tupetupe e tau lotu he tau fanau, po ke talaage fefe e lautolu e lekua ne tupu ke he ha lautolu a tehina tote, ka liu mai ha lautolu a matua fifine he vao.

Kua hoko mai ha lautolu a matua fifine ke he kaina mai he vao, mo e ofo ai haana a lotu ha kua fakatutuku haana a fanau mo e nakai maeke taha ke vagavagahau atu kia ia. Ati huhu atu ai a ia kia lautolu, po ke heigoa kia e lekua kua tupu, ka e fakanogonogo atu a ia mo e momoko e lotu ke he ha lautolu a lali ke fakatukuogo atu ki a ia e lekau ne tupu. Ka e hoko ke he magaaho fakamui, ne tupu hake ai ke he lotu he matua fifine e taha manatu ita. Ne pulega atu e matua fifine ke he haana fanau, kaeke ke liu mai foki e lulu, ke tauhea eke fakakelea atu ki ai mo e tatao fakalahi atu ki ai. Ka lele hifo mai foki e lulu, ti hio aki e katoua matila e tau pu mata. Ati taute pihia ai he fanau, mo e mahio ua ai e tau mata he lulu. Ko e kakano haia, ati lapalapa noa ai e tua mata he lulu ke hoko mai ke he vaha nai.

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Gogo:

Fia kai toka fakaoti
To hifo ke pala haku na hui,
Fia kai toka fakaoti.
To moli foki a gogo
Hifo uku ika mai be moana
Ke fagai aki hana fanau.
To hake ke koli fakaagi agi.
Fia kai toka fakaoti.
To moli foki a Tuaki
Hifo uku ika mai be moana
Ke fagai aki hana fanau,
Fia kai toka fakaoti.

