

NEW BIRDS IN THE PHILATELIC AVIARY

Charles E. Braun, BU1364

New Birds



TROPICAL SHEARWATER, *Puffinus bailloni* Procellariidae
Cook Islands, 2018 May 4, Sc#1594b, \$4.80

Length: 11 to 13 inches, sexes alike, marine. Blackish above and white below with pink legs.

Habitat: Marine offshore. Breeds on oceanic islands,

Range: Mascarene Islands, Indian Ocean.

Reference: del Hoyo, J., A. Elliott, and J. Sargatal, Eds. *Handbook of the Birds of the World, Volume 1*.

NEW ZEALAND STORM-PETREL, *Fregetta maoriana* Oceanitidae
Sierra Leone, 2016 December 29, Sc#4056c, 6000le

Length: 7 inches, sexes alike, marine and pelagic. Brownish gray above and white below with a dark breast band and white supercilium.

Habitat: Marine and pelagic away from land. Breeds on isolated islands.

Range: New Zealand area.

Reference: del Hoyo, J., A. Elliott, and J. Sargatal, Eds. *Handbook of the Birds of the World, Volume 1*.



†**MAURITIUS RED RAIL *Aphanapteryx bonasia*** Rallidae
Sierra Leone, 2018 February 27, Sc#4670b, 9800le

Length: 25 inches, sexes alike, resident. Reddish with hair-like feathers. Extinct in the late 17th century.

Habitat: Wetlands.

Range: Mauritius.

Reference: del Hoyo, J., A. Elliott, and J. Sargatal, Eds. *Handbook of the Birds of the World, Volume 7*.

RED-BREASTED DOTTEREL, *Charadrius obscurus* Charadriidae
New Zealand, 2017 August 2, Sc#2742, \$3.30

Length: 10 to 11 inches, sexes alike, resident. Brown above and white below with an orange-buff breast and white superciliary.

Habitat: Breeds inland, otherwise coastal.

Range: New Zealand.

Reference: del Hoyo, J., A. Elliott, and J. Sargatal, Eds. *Handbook of the Birds of the World, Volume 3*.



RUDDY QUAIL-DOVE, *Geotrygon montana* Columbidae
Guinea, 2019 November 16, not yet cataloged, SS 50000fr

Length: 9 to 11 inches, resident. Chestnut above and purple-pink below with a buff belly, fawn stripe below the eye and rose or purplish red around the eye. The female is olive-brown above.

Habitat: Lowland humid forest.

Range: West Indies and Mexico to northeastern Argentina.

Reference: del Hoyo, J., A. Elliott, and J. Sargatal, Eds. *Handbook of the Birds of the World, Volume 4*.



LESSER MASKED OWL, *Tyto sororcula* Tytonidae
Suriname, 2019 April 10, Sc#1561a, (\$1.50) (inscr. "C")

Length: 12 inches, sexes alike, resident. Mottled brownish above and dark-spotted whitish below with pale legs.

Habitat: Forest.

Range: Seram, Buru, Larat, and Yamdena islands, Indonesia.

Reference: del Hoyo, J., A. Elliott, and J. Sargatal, Eds. *Handbook of the Birds of the World, Volume 5*.



SNOWY-BELLIED HUMMINGBIRD, *Amazilia edward* Trochilidae
Central African Republic, 2019 October 21, not yet cataloged, 900fr

Length: 3 to 4 inches, sexes similar, resident. Bronze-green to coppery above and white below with a golden green head and breast.

Habitat: Open and semi-open areas.

Range: Southwestern Costa Rica and Panama.

Reference: del Hoyo, J., A. Elliott, and J. Sargatal, Eds. *Handbook of the Birds of the World, Volume 5*.

TALAMANCA HUMMINGBIRD, *Eugenes spectabilis* Trochilidae
Central African Republic, 2019 October 21, not yet cataloged, 900fr

Length: 4 to 5 inches, resident. The male (shown) is green with an iridescent purple crown, a white spot behind the eye and a pale green breast band. The female is grayish below and lacks the purple crown.

Habitat: Humid cloud-forest and open areas.

Range: Costa Rica and western Panama.

Reference: del Hoyo, J., A. Elliott, and J. Sargatal, Eds. *Handbook of the Birds of the World, Volume 5*.



CARNABY'S BLACK- COCKATOO, *Calyptorhynchus latirostris* Cacatuidae
Suriname, 2019 October 9, not yet cataloged, \$14

Length: 22 to 24 inches, sexes similar, resident. Dusky black with off-white ear patches and a white central tail.

Habitat: Heath, shrubs, and eucalypt woods.

Range: Southwestern Australia.

Reference: del Hoyo, J., A. Elliott, and J. Sargatal, Eds. *Handbook of the Birds of the World, Volume 4*.



YELLOW-TAILED BLACK-COCKATOO, *Calyptorhynchus funereus* Cacatuidae
Suriname, 2019 October 9, not yet cataloged, \$11

Length: 22 to 24 inches, resident. The male (shown) is dusky black with yellow ear patches, a yellow central tail and a dark bill. The female has a bone-colored bill.

Habitat: Coastal heath, woodland, forest, and plantations.

Range: Southeastern Australia.

Reference: del Hoyo, J., A. Elliott, and J. Sargatal, Eds. *Handbook of the Birds of the World, Volume 4*.



VISAYAN BROADBILL, *Eurylaimus samarensis* Eurylaimidae\ Philippines, 2019 November 11, not yet cataloged, 25p

Length: 6 inches, resident. The male (shown) is purple above and lilac below with a purple crown, black wings and blue around the eyes. The female is white below.

Habitat: Primary forest.

Range, Samar, Leyte, and Bohol islands, Philippines.

Reference: del Hoyo, J., A. Elliott, and J. Sargatal, Eds. *Handbook of the Birds of the World, Volume 8.*

ROTE MYZOMELA, *Myzomela irianawidodoae* Meliphagidae

Indonesia, 2019 November 5, not yet cataloged, 3000r

Length: 4 inches, resident. The male (shown) is black above and ashy gray below with a dark red hood and rump and a dark breast. The female is gray-brown above and pale gray below.

Habitat: Forest and forest edges.

Range: Rote Island, Indonesia.

Reference: Prawiradilaga, D. M., P. Baveja, and F. Rheindt. 2017.



LESSER RACKET-TAILED DRONGO, *Dicrurus remifer* Dicruridae

Togo, 2019 November 5, not yet cataloged, SS 3300fr (Bot margin)

Length: 10 inches plus a 6-inch tail, sexes alike, resident. All glossy black.

Habitat: Forest, clearings, and open woodlands.

Range: Northern India to Vietnam and Java.

Reference: del Hoyo, J., A. Elliott, and J. Sargatal, Eds. *Handbook of the Birds of the World, Volume 14.*



ASHY DRONGO, *Dicrurus leucophaeus* Dicruridae

Togo, 2019 November 5, not yet cataloged, 800fr & SS 3300fr

Length: 10 to 12 inches, sexes similar, migratory. Gray, paler below with a forked tail.

Habitat: Highland forest.

Range: Breeds from the Himalayas and northern China to the Philippines, Sumatra, and Borneo. Winters from India and southern China to the Philippines, Sumatra, and Borneo.

Reference: del Hoyo, J., A. Elliott, and J. Sargatal, Eds. *Handbook of the Birds of the World, Volume 14.*



CHESTNUT-FACED BABBLER, *Zosterornis whiteheadi* Zosteropidae

Philippines, 2019 November 11, not yet cataloged, MS 25p (L margin)

Length: 6 inches, sexes similar, resident. Grayish brown above and yellow below with a dull chestnut face and a pale gray crown.

Habitat: Montane forest and scrub.

Range: Luzon, Philippines.

Reference: del Hoyo, J., A. Elliott, and J. Sargatal, Eds. *Handbook of the Birds of the World, Volume 12.*





CHESTNUT-TAILED STARLING, *Sturnia malabarica* Sturnidae
Togo, 2019 August 30, not yet cataloged, 800fr

Length: 8 inches, sexes alike, resident. Silver-gray above and cinnamon-brown or whitish below with a pale streaky head and neck.

Habitat: Open areas and plantations.

Range: India to southern China and Vietnam.

Reference: del Hoyo, J., A. Elliott, and J. Sargatal, Eds. *Handbook of the Birds of the World, Volume 14.*



BLACK-BREASTED WEAVER, *Ploceus benghalensis* Ploceidae
Togo, 2019 August 30, not yet cataloged, 800fr

Length: 6 inches, resident. The male (shown) is dark brown above and creamy below with a golden-yellow crown and a gray-brown throat. The female is dark-streaked gray-brown above and creamy below with a light brown breast and yellow neck patch.

Habitat: Grassy areas.

Range: Eastern Pakistan to Bangladesh.

Reference: del Hoyo, J., A. Elliott, and J. Sargatal, Eds. *Handbook of the Birds of the World, Volume 15.*



TAVETA GOLDEN WEAVER, *Ploceus castaneiceps* Ploceidae
Togo, 2019 August 30, not yet cataloged, SS 3300fr

Length: 6 inches, resident. The male (shown) is olive-yellow above and golden-yellow below with a yellow-orange crown and a chestnut-orange collar. The female is greenish above and off-white below with a pale yellow breast.

Habitat: Breeds in swampy lowlands, otherwise in drier bush country.

Range: South-central Kenya and northeastern Tanzania,

Reference: del Hoyo, J., A. Elliott, and J. Sargatal, Eds. *Handbook of the Birds of the World, Volume 13.*

LAVENDER WAXBILL, *Estrilda caerulescens* Estrildidae
Togo, 2019 August 30, not yet cataloged, SS 3300fr

Length: 4 inches, sexes similar, resident. Pearly gray with a black eye streak and a red rump and upper tail.

Habitat: Thickets and thicket edges.

Range: Senegal to the Central African Republic.

Reference: del Hoyo, J., A. Elliott, and J. Sargatal, Eds. *Handbook of the Birds of the World, Volume 15.*



BLACK-HEADED WAXBILL, *Estrilda atricapilla* Estrildidae
Togo, 2019 August 30, not yet cataloged, 800fr (previously on a Staffa local)

Length: 4 inches, sexes similar, resident. Black-barred grayish above and gray below with a black crown and nape and red flanks and rump.

Habitat: Grassy areas.

Range: Southern Cameroon to northeastern Angola.

Reference: del Hoyo, J., A. Elliott, and J. Sargatal, Eds. *Handbook of the Birds of the World, Volume 15.*



CAPE SPARROW, *Passer melanurus* Passeridae
Togo, 2019 November 5, not yet cataloged, SS 3300fr (LL margin)

Length: 6 inches, resident. The male (shown) is chestnut above and white below with a white-bordered black face, black crown, and black throat. The female has a gray crown, face, and throat.

Habitat: Semi-arid savanna and light woodland.

Range: Southwestern Angola to South Africa.

Reference: del Hoyo, J., A. Elliott, and J. Sargatal, Eds. *Handbook of the Birds of the World, Volume 14.*



BLANFORD'S SNOWFINCH, *Montifringilla blanfordi* Passeridae
Togo, 2019 November 5, not yet cataloged, SS 3300fr (R)

Length: 6 inches, sexes alike, resident. Sandy brown above and white below with a patterned black-and-white face.

Habitat: Sandy plains and grassy steppes.

Range: Northern Nepal and Sikkim to northern China.

Reference: del Hoyo, J., A. Elliott, and J. Sargatal, Eds. *Handbook of the Birds of the World, Volume 16.*

MACGILLIVRAY'S WARBLER, *Geothlypis tolmei* Parulidae

Mozambique, 2019 August 16, not yet cataloged, 116m

Length: 5 inches, migratory. The male (shown) is olive-green above and yellow below with a gray hood and white eye crescents. The female has a paler hood and a pale throat.

Habitat: Breeds in areas with a dense understory. Winters in dense scrub.

Range: Breeds from southeastern Alaska to central California. Winters from western Mexico to Panama.

Reference: del Hoyo, J., A. Elliott, and J. Sargatal, Eds. *Handbook of the Birds of the World, Volume 15.*



YELLOW-HOODED BLACKBIRD, *Chrysomus icterocephalus* ssp. *icterocephalus* Icteridae

Suriname, 2019 December 27, not yet cataloged, \$5

Length: 7 inches, sexes alike, resident. The subspecies shown is black with a yellow hood and black lores. The female is olive with a yellow throat and supercilium.

Habitat: Marshes, humid savannas, and mangroves.

Range: Along the Amazon from northeastern Peru and the South American coast north to Colombia.

Reference: del Hoyo, J., A. Elliott, and J. Sargatal, Eds. *Handbook of the Birds of the World, Volume 16.*

GREAT ROSEFINCH, *Carpodacus rubicilla* Fringillidae\

Azerbaijan, 2019 September 19, not yet cataloged, 0.5m

Length: 8 inches, resident. The male (shown) is red with a blackish brown back and wings. The female is dark-streaked gray-brown above and olive-streaked buff below.

Habitat: Sparsely vegetated alpine and subalpine areas.

Range Southwestern Russia to west-central China and northern Pakistan.

Reference: del Hoyo, J., A. Elliott, and J. Sargatal, Eds. *Handbook of the Birds of the World, Volume 15.*



TURQUOISE DACNIS, *Dacnis hartlaubi* Thraupidae
Colombia, 2018 August 27, Sc#1475a, 1000p

Length: 4 inches, resident. The male (shown) is turquoise-blue with a black eye stripe, back, wings, and tail. The female is dull brown above and grayish-buff below with a yellowish belly.

Habitat: Humid regions with heavy rainfall.

Range: Western and central Colombia.

Reference: del Hoyo, J., A. Elliott, and J. Sargatal, Eds. *Handbook of the Birds of the World, Volume 16*.



RARE ALBATROSS ON NEW SHEET

On 2 January 2020, the French Southern and Antarctic Territories (FSAT) issued a souvenir sheet containing one 110×87 mm stamp depicting a pair of Amsterdam Albatrosses (*Diomedea amsterdamensis*). This huge bird only breeds on Amsterdam Island in the southern Indian Ocean. It was first described in 1983, and was thought by some researchers to be a sub-species of the wandering albatross (*D. exulans*). DNA testing has revealed that it is indeed a separate species.

Although its breeding ground is well known, it is uncertain where it spends the rest of the year. Some possible sightings have been noted in Australia and New Zealand. Like all albatrosses it likely covers large areas as it travels. Because of its rarity (estimated at 130 birds), it is listed as critically endangered by the International Union for Conservation of Nature.

The bird weighs 4.8 to 8 kg (11–18 lb) and is 107 to 122 cm (42–48 in) long with a wingspan of 280 to 340 cm (110–130 in). The adult bird has chocolate brown upper parts and is white on its face mask, throat, lower breast, and belly. It has a broad brown breast band along with brown undertail coverts. Its pink bill has a dark tip and dark cutting edges, and its underwings are white except for the dark tip and the dark leading edge.

The Amsterdam Albatross has been depicted on six previous issues, all by FSAT, starting with a set of four wildlife stamps in 1985.

The sheet is captioned in French, “Lords of the Southern Seas, the pairs of great albatross faithful for life, find themselves after having spent a year crossing the ocean.” It was designed by Nadia Charles and printed by offset.

