

2017

Species Present in the Barachois



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Key:

- Ex** Exotic
- En** Endemic
- In** Invasive
- Na** Native to Mauritius
- M** Native to Mascarene

Chapter 1: Sedentary Birds

Scientific Name: *Zosterops mauritianus*

Local Name: Zwazo maniok / Pic-Pic

English Name: Mauritius Grey White-eye



Brief description:

It is an endemic species of Mauritius, its size is about 10 cm. It is mainly in groups. It can be found all over the island as it is the most widespread endemic bird in Mauritius. It feeds on insects, nectar and berries. It has a grey and white plumage. It is the only endemic bird in Mauritius that is not classified as endangered.

Conservation Status: LC (Least Concern)

Order: Passeriformes

Family : Zosteropidae

Scientific Name: *Foudia rubra* (rare in the barchois)

Local Name: Cardinal de Maurice

English Name: Mauritius Fody



Brief description:

It is an endemic species, his size is about 14 cm. During the breeding season, unlike the red fody (*Foudia madagascariensis*), it does not become entirely red but there is just its head that becomes red in order to attract the females to mate. The female remains olive green all year round as the female cardinal of Madagascar. It is found on the "Ile aux Aigrettes" and in the national park of the gorges of black river and exceptionally to the barchois when it made the crossing between the "ile aux aigrettes" and the barchois. It feeds mainly on insects, nectar and occasionally fruits and eggs from other native or exotic birds.

Conservation Status: Endangered now and in 1994 Critical Endangered

Order: Passeriformes

Family: Ploceidae

Scientific Name: *Butorides striatus*

Local Name: Gasse

English Name: Striated Heron / Green-backed Heron



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Brief description:

It is a native bird, it inhabits the tropical regions of Asia, Africa, America and Oceania, its size is about 40 cm. It is a solitary and monogamous bird. It is found in the wetlands of the island since its diet consists mainly of fish, amphibians, insects, molluscs, crustaceans, small birds and worms. Its plumage is mainly gray, with a yellow beak and a neck that can lie down as it pleases.

Conservation Status: LC (Least Concern)

Order: Péléciformes

Family: Ardeidae



Scientific Name: *Foudia Madagascariensis*

Local Name: Cardinal

English Name: Madagascar Fody / Red Fody



Ci-contre la femelle cardinal

Ci-contre le mâle cardinal



Brief description:

This is an invasive exotic species originating in Madagascar, it measures about 14 cm. The males develop bright red plumage during the breeding season (in summer), while the females remain with greenish gray-tinged plumage. It is often confused with the cardinal of Mauritius (*Foudia rubra*) which is endemic and threatened. The cardinal is very common in the island, and is found everywhere. It feeds mainly on seeds, insects, spiders and nectar.

Conservation Status: LC (Least Concern)

Order: Passeriformes

Family: Ploceidae

En

EX

In

Na

M

Scientific Name: *Nesoenas picturata*

Local Name: Pigeon ramier

English Name: Madagascar Turtle Dove



En

Ex

In

Na

M

Brief description:

It is an exotic species originating in Madagascar, its size is about 28 cm. It can be confused with the pink pigeon (*Nesoenas mayeri*) which is endemic to Mauritius, because of its pinkish plumage on its wings and neck. It is found throughout the island, most often in forested areas and around human settlements. The pigeon of Madagascar has no sexual dimorphism. Its diet consists of seeds and fruits.

Conservation Status: LC (Least Concern)

Order: Columbiformes

Family: Columbidae

Scientific Name: *Acridotheres tristis*

Local Name: Martin

English Name: Common Mynah



En

EX

In

Na

M

Brief description:

It is an invasive species originating in Asia, it size is about 25 cm. It was introduced to Mauritius in the 18th century to control the locust population. It is considered one of the most invasive species in the world. It is found everywhere on the island. It is omnivorous, very territorial in times of reproduction. The rest of the year they meet in very noisy groups especially in the dormitories. It makes its nest with all that it finds and often those are brilliant papers.

Conservation Status: LC (Least Concern)

Order: Passeriformes

Family: Sturnidae

Scientific Name: *Pycnonotus jocosus*

Local Name: Condé

English Name: Red-whiskered Bulbul



En

EX

In

Na

M

Brief description:

It is an invasive species introduced in the 19th century and originating in India, its size is about 19 cm. It is found in all the habitats of the island. It is recognizable by its black crest and red cheeks. Its diet consists of fruits, nectar and a wide variety of insects. Due to its diet it allows the dissemination of the seeds of exotic plant species on the whole island.

Conservation Status: LC (Least Concern)

Order: Passeriformes

Family: Pycnonotidae

Scientific Name: *Estrilda astrild*

Local Name: Bengali

English Name: Common Waxbill



En

Ex

In

Na

M

Brief description:

Bengali is an exotic species originating in sub-Saharan Africa, its size is about 10 cm. It is recognized by its small size and its red mask, which extends on either side of each eye. It is a very fierce bird and therefore difficult to approach. A gregarious and sociable bird, it moves in a band in search of seeds. Its diet consists mainly of seeds but also of insects during the rainy season. It can be found in all open environments such as fields and grasslands.

Conservation Status: LC (Least Concern)

Order: Passeriformes

Family: Estrildidae

Scientific Name: *Ploceus cucullatus*

Local Name: Serin du cap

English Name: Village Weaver



Brief description:

It is an exotic species native to sub-Saharan Africa, its size is about 15 cm. It is recognized by its yellow color and its black head. It builds complex nests skillfully woven with grass and leaf tips, with an entry down and hanging from the branches. He will build several nests on the same tree and the female will choose the most beautiful so it is a colonial breeder. It is usually found on the outskirts of villages and in lightly wooded areas.

Conservation Status: LC (Least Concern)

Order: Passeriformes

Family: Ploceidae

Scientific Name: *Phaethon lepturus*

Local Name: Paille-en-queue

English Name: White-tailed Tropicbird



En

EX

In

Na

M

Brief description:

It is a species native to Mauritius, its size is about 43 cm. It is easily recognized by its long white tail. It is mainly found along the sea. It feeds on small fish, especially flying fish, squid and occasionally crustaceans. It captures its prey by making a dive in flight for the flying fish. It does not always live in a colony and nests most often in crevasses, in cliffs or in tree cavities.

Conservation Status: LC (Least Concern)

Order: Phaethontiformes

Family: Phaethontidae

Scientific Name: *Sterna hirundo*

Local Name: Sterne pierregarin

English Name: Common Tern



Brief description:

It is a highly migratory coastal seabird that nests in much of Europe, Asia and North America. It is quite common to see it in summer, its size is about 33 cm. It winters on the coasts of South Africa, South America, India, the Arabian Peninsula, Southeast Asia and Australia. Its diet consists of small fish and occasionally planktonic crustaceans and insects.

Conservation Status: LC (Least Concern)

Order: Charadriiformes

Family: Laridae



Scientific Name: *Geopelia striata*

Local Name: Petite tourterelle

English Name: Zebra Dove / Barred Ground Dove



En

Ex

In

Na

M

Brief description:

It is an exotic species native to Southeast Asia and Australia. Its size is about 20 cm. It has no sexual dimorphism. It is widespread throughout the island and is found in various habitats such as fields, lightly wooded areas, villages and islets. It feeds on small grasses, seeds, insects and small invertebrates.

Conservation Status: LC (Least Concern)

Order: Columbiformes

Family: Columbidae

Scientific Name: *Streptopelia chinensis*

Local Name: Grosse tourterelle

English Name: Spotted Dove



En

Ex

In

Na

M

Brief description:

It is an exotic species native to the south-east of Asia. Its size is about 30 cm. It evolves in pairs or in small groups on the ground looking for its food which consists of seeds, fruits fallen to the ground and sometimes insects. It has no sexual dimorphism. It is found in lightly wooded areas, gardens and villages.

Conservation Status: LC (Least Concern)

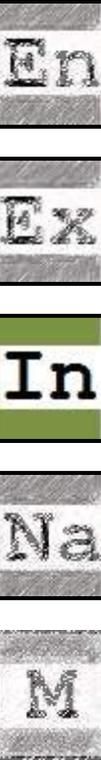
Order: Columbiformes

Family: Columbidae

Scientific Name: *Columba livia*

Local Name: Pigeon

English Name: Feral pigeon / Rock Dove



Brief description:

It is an invasive species. Its size is about 32 cm. The pigeon is one of the birds common to the world and as in the whole world one will find it most often in the cities and around the human dwellings. Its plumage can be of several colors. It is a gregarious species that often gather in large numbers when they feed. This pigeon can be eaten by the local population.

Conservation Status: LC (Least Concern)

Order: Columbiformes

Family: Columbidae

Scientific Name: *Passer domesticus*

Local Name: Moineau

English Name: House Sparrow



En

EX

In

Na

M

Brief description:

It is an invasive species this size is about 14 cm. It is recognized because the male is going to be darker with the head brown and black than the female is going to be clearer. The species is widespread throughout the island, mainly in human-inhabited areas. Its diet consists mainly of seeds and small insects.

Conservation Status: LC (Least Concern)

Order: Passeriformes

Family: Passeridae

Scientific Name: *Corvus splendens*

Local Name: Corbeau

English Name: House Crow



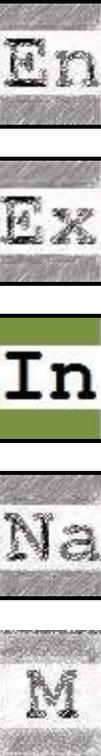
Brief description:

It is an invasive species native to southern Asia that size is about 45 cm. It is recognized by its size and its entirely black plumage. He is omnivorous he eats all like insects, small reptiles, invertebrates, seeds, carrion and waste in towns and villages. It nests close to human habitations, often building its nest in trees, but also in artificial structures such as buildings or pylons.

Conservation Status: LC (Least Concern)

Order: Passeriformes

Family: Corvidae



Scientific Name: *Francolinus pondicerianus*

Local Name: Perdrix

English Name: Grey Francolin



En

Ex

In

Na

M

Brief description:

It is an exotic species introduced to Mauritius from India in the middle of the 18th century, its size is about 35 cm. It is widely distributed in Mauritius, it is usually found feeding on the ground around cane plantations, and in the undergrowth of grassy and lightly wooded areas. Its diet is based on seeds, insects, especially termites and beetles. It is used by the population as game.

Conservation Status: LC (Least Concern)

Order: Galliformes

Family: Phasianidae

Scientific Name: *Nesoenas mayeri* (rare in the barachois)

Local Name: Pigeon rose

English Name: Pink Pigeon



Brief description:

The pink pigeon is an endemic species of Mauritius that measures about 37 cm. In 1986, there were only about a dozen Pigeons from the ponds that lived in pigeon Wood, near a white basin. Thanks to an intensive restoration program, the population currently numbers about 400 individuals. It is found mainly in the Black River Gorge National Park and the Egrets Island. It feeds on leaves, fruits and seeds of native and introduced plants. In addition to a slightly duller plumage for the female, both sexes have the same morphology. It is a monogamous species that has only one partner to screw, if the male or the female die it will not reproduce with another one.

Conservation Status: EN (Endangered)

Order: Columbiformes

Family: Columbidae

Scientific Name: *Zosterops chloronothos* (rare in the barachois)

Local Name: Zwaso linet

English Name: Mauritius Olive White-eye



Brief description:

The Zwaso linet is an endemic species of Mauritius and is the smallest bird of the island, it measures about 10 cm. It is one of the rarest of the island. Its population is currently about 300 individuals. It is found mainly in the Black River Gorge National Park and the Egrets Island. This small passerine can be very aggressive towards other birds of its species, but it is very affectionate towards its / her partner. It feeds on nectar, berries and insects.

Conservation Status: CR (Critically Endangered)

Order: Passeriformes

Family: Zosteropidae

Scientific Name: *Phedina borbonica*

Local Name: Grosse hirondelle

English Name: Mascarene Swallow



En

EX

In

Na

M

Brief description:

This is an endemic species of the Mascarenes, it measures about 14 cm. It is most commonly found in coastal areas, particularly in the south and west. It is distinguished from the small swallow (*Collocalia francica*) by being a little bigger, it has the back of a darker brown, wider and shorter wings and a striated breast. It feeds on insects in flight, and nests from September to October. The nest which consists of twigs, feathers and seaweed is built in hollows of rocks, under bridges or other buildings and sometimes even in boats anchored to the edge of the littoral.

Conservation Status: LC (Least Concern)

Order: Passeriformes

Family: Hirundinidae

Scientific Name: *Serinus mozambicus*

Local Name: Serin du pays

English Name: Yellow-fronted canary



En

Ex

In

Na

M

Brief description:

It is an exotic species originating in sub-Saharan Africa, it measures about 12 cm. It is one of the most sought-after snails in the world as a bird in a cage. It was introduced as such in Mauritius during the 18th century. It is now widely spread in both islands, it prefers grassy and lightly wooded areas.

Conservation Status: LC (Least Concern)

Order: Passeriformes

Family: Fringillidae

Scientific Name: *Streptopelia senegalensis*

Local Name: Tourterelle maillé

English Name: Laughing Dove / Palm Dove



Brief description:

It is an exotic species native to Africa and southwestern Asia, it measures about 23 cm. She was accidentally released to Mauritius about 25 years ago by a bird park. A population is now established in the southwest of the island, particularly in bushy areas or around human settlements. Generally, in pairs or in small groups, it feeds on fallen seeds, plant material and small insects.

Conservation Status: LC (Least Concern)

Order: Columbiformes

Family: Columbidae



Chapter 2: The Wader Birds

Scientific Name: *Numenius phaeopus*

Local Name: Corbijeau

English Name: Whimbrel



Brief description:

It is a native wader, which comes to our coasts in the summer because it is a palearctic wader which nests generally in the subarctic part of North America, Europe and Asia. This is a migratory species that winters on our coasts and on the coasts of Africa, South America and South Asia. It is found in summer and even winter in wetland and coastal areas. It feeds on crustaceans, molluscs, large aquatic worms and sometimes fish. It is recognized by its curved beak.

Conservation Status: LC (Least Concern)



Order: Charadriiformes

Family: Scolopacidae

Scientific Name: *Charadrius leschenaultii*

Local Name: Pluvier de Leschenault

English Name: Greater Sandplover



Brief description:

It is a migratory species that nests in the semi-deserts of Turkey and east through Central Asia. Its size is about 25 cm. It generally migrates to the sandy beaches of eastern Africa, southern Asia and Australasia for winters (around September to April). So, we will find it during this period in Mauritius therefore in summer and we can observe it in the wetlands of the island. During this period, it feeds mainly on marine invertebrates such as molluscs, worms and crustaceans

Conservation Status: LC (Least Concern)

Order: Charadriiformes

Family: Charadriidae



Scientific Name: *Pluvialis squatarola*

Local Name: Pluvier argenté

English Name: Grey Plover



Brief description:

It is a migratory species that nests in the Arctic Islands and across northern Alaska, Canada and Russia. Its size is about 30 cm. It is a long-distance migrant that is found in off-breeding season in coastal areas throughout the world. Therefore, in summer it is found in the wetlands and coastal areas of the island. This wader is a gregarious species that feeds on marine worms, mollusc and sometimes insects.

Conservation Status: LC (Least Concern)

Order: Charadriiformes

Family: Charadriidae

En

Ex

In

Na

M

Scientific Name: *Tringa nebularia*

Local Name: Chevalier aboyeur

English Name: Common Greenshank



En

Ex

In

Na

M

Brief description:

It is a Palearctic migratory wader nesting in northern Scotland and across northern Europe and Asia. Its size is about 35 cm. It generally winters in Africa, under the Indian continent and in Australasia. So, it is found in Mauritius in summer in coastal and humid areas. Its diet consists mainly of crustaceans, annelids, molluscs, amphibians, small fish and occasionally small rodents.

Conservation Status: LC (Least Concern)

Order: Charadriiformes

Family: Scolopacidae

Scientific Name: *Arenaria interpres*

Local Name: Tournepierre

English Name: Ruddy Turnstone



En

EX

In

Na

M

Brief description:

It is a Palearctic migratory limb that nests in the northern part of Eurasia and North America. Its size is about 22cm. It migrates south into large colonies to overwinter on the coasts in almost the whole world. So, it is found in Mauritius in summer in coastal and humid areas. As the name suggests, it turns stones with its beak to find its food. It feeds mainly on small invertebrates, insects, crustaceans, molluscs and annelids.

Conservation Status: LC (Least Concern)

Order: Charadriiformes

Family: Scolopacidae

Scientific Name: *Actitis hypoleucos*

Local Name: Chevalier guignette

English Name: Common Sandpiper



Brief description:

It is a Palearctic migratory limb that nests across almost all of Europe and subtropical Asia. Its size is about 20 cm. It migrates to Africa, South Asia and Australia for the southern summer. So, it is found in summer in the coastal and humid areas of the island. Its diet consists mainly of insects, insect larvae, molluscs, snails, crustaceans, annelids, and sometimes frogs, toads, tadpoles, small fish and vegetable matter.

Conservation Status: LC (Least Concern)

Order: Charadriiformes

Family: Scolopacidae



Scientific Name: *Calidris ferruginea*

Local Name: Bécasseau cocorli

English Name: Curlew Sandpiper



Brief description:

It is a Palearctic migratory wader that nests in the tundra of Arctic Siberia, and his size is about 21 cm. It is gregarious and highly migratory, wintering mainly in Africa, but also in South Asia and Australia. Outside the breeding season it feeds on marine worms, molluscs, crustaceans and sometimes insects and seeds.

Conservation Status: LC (Least Concern)

Order: Charadriiformes

Family: Scolopacidae

En

Ex

In

Na

M

Scientific Name: *Calidris alba*

Local Name: Bécasseau sanderling

English Name: Sanderling



Brief description:

It is a Palearctic migratory wader that nests through extreme areas of the Arctic. This long-distance migrant travel mainly by following roads at sea or along the coasts, making stops at privileged sites. It winters on the coasts of Africa, South America and Australia, sometimes forming large colonies. It will be found in Mauritius in summer in coastal and humid areas. Its diet consists of small molluscs, crustaceans, marine worms, insects and sometimes fish and carrion.

Conservation Status: LC (Least Concern)

Order: Charadriiformes

Family: Scolopacidae

En

Ex

In

Na

M

Scientific Name: *Limosa lapponica*

Local Name: Barge Rousse

English Name: Bar-tailed Godwit



Brief description:

It is a Palearctic wader, which rarely comes to our shores in the summer, and that size is about 40 cm. It is the world record holder of the longest known non-stop migration. It traveled about 11,600km between Alaska and New Zealand in about nine days. Having carried out this crossing it is the animal which makes the longest known journey without feeding. Its diet consists of annelids, molluscs, crustaceans, but also larvae of tipulas and worms, and sometimes amphibians and small fish.

Conservation Status: LC (Least Concern)

Order: Charadriiformes

Family: Scolopacidae



Scientific Name: *Xenus cinereus*

Local Name: Chevalier bargette

English Name: Terek Sandpiper



En

EX

In

Na

M

Brief description:

It is a Palearctic wader nesting at the water's edge in the Taiga, from Finland to the east across northern Siberia. It is a rare visitor to the coasts of Mauritius. Its size is about 25 cm. It migrates in the south in winters to the coasts of East Africa, South Asia and Australia. It feeds mainly on several varieties of insects, small molluscs, crustaceans and annelids.

Conservation Status: LC (Least Concern)

Order: Charadriiformes

Family: Scolopacidae

Scientific Name: *Dromas ardeola*

Local Name: Drome ardéole

English Name: Crab plover



En

EX

In

Na

M

Brief description:

This wader is difficult to confuse as it has long legs and a massive black beak. Its size is about 40 cm. It nests in the region of the Arabian Sea, the Gulf of Oman, the Persian Gulf and the Red Sea. From August to October it migrates to the south of the Indian Ocean, from East Africa to Sri Lanka, including Madagascar and the islands of the Indian Ocean. Its diet consists mainly of crab, but also other crustaceans, small molluscs and sea worms.

Conservation Status: LC (Least Concern)

Order: Charadriiformes

Family: Dromadidae

Scientific Name: *Bulbulcus ibis* (Rare in Mauritius)

Local Name: Héron garde-boeufs

English Name: Western cattle egret



En

EX

In

Na

M

Brief description:

It is a white stocky bird, decorated with feathers of buff color during the breeding season, which nests in colonies, usually near water bodies and often with other waders. The nest is a platform of branches placed in trees or shrubs. Unlike most other herons, it feeds on relatively dry grassy habitats, often accompanying livestock or other large mammals, feeding on insects and small vertebrates disturbed by these animals. Some populations are migratory and others disperse immediately after the breeding season.

Conservation Status: LC (Least Concern)

Order: Pelecaniformes

Family: Ardeidae

Scientific Name: *Egretta dimorpha* (Rare in Mauritius)

Local Name: Aigrette dimorphe

English Name: Dimorphic egret



Brief description:

The dimorphic egret is a native species that comes exceptionally in Mauritius, it measures about 60cm. It occurs in all wetlands with shallow waters with a predilection for brackish waters. The Dimorphic Egret feeds on small fish, frogs, aquatic insects and small crustaceans. It nests in eastern Africa (from southern Kenya to northern Mozambique), and Madagascar.

Conservation Status: LC (Least Concern)

Order: Pelecaniformes

Family: Ardeidae



Scientific Name: *Numenius arquata* (Rare in Mauritius)

Local Name: Courlis Cendré

English Name: Eurasian curlew



Brief description:

It is the largest wader of its kind, a length of 49-57 centimeters and a wingspan of 1 m. It is mainly of a greyish brown, with a white back and a very long and curved beak (longer in adult female). Most of the time, it is observed on coastal wetlands with mudflats (slikkes) and sandbanks at low tide, in large estuaries, and in tropical mangroves.

Conservation Status: NT (Near Threatened)

Order: Charadriiformes

Family: Scolopacidae

En

EX

In

Na

M

Scientific Name: *Ardéola idae* (Rare in Mauritius)

Local Name: Crabier Blanc

English Name: Malagasy pond heron



Brief description:

It is a small heron of 45 to 48 cm with no sexual dimorphism. Discrete species, which are most often found on the solitary hunt, more rarely in small groups of three to eight individuals. Its activity is mainly diurnal and more particularly centered on the morning and twilight hours. It most often stands motionless at the edge of aquatic vegetation, often a little concealed, over floating vegetation or in shallow water. It is gregarious on resting sites, and often associated with other species of Ardeidae. It mainly feeds on amphibians and fish, but also on insects and other small invertebrates.

Conservation Status: EN (Endangered)

Order: Pelecaniformes

Family: Ardeidae

Scientific Name: *Calidris minuta* (Rare in Mauritius)

Local Name: Bécasseau minute

English Name: Little stint



Brief description:

This sandpiper measures 12 to 14 cm. Its legs are black and do not have a palm. Primary feathers show short to medium projection. It nests on dry soils near marshy areas and coastal lagoons in biotopes where the Dwarf Willow is often present. In migration, it frequents the mudflats and coastal lagoons but also the inland water bodies. It feeds on moving on the mudflats and pecking quickly. Sometimes it probes the substrate.

Conservation Status: LC (Least Concern)

Order: Charadriiformes

Family: Scolopacidae

Scientific Name: *Tringa glareola* (Rare in Mauritius)

Local Name: Chevalier sylvain

English Name: Wood sandpiper



Brief description:

It is small (19 to 23 cm in length). It nests from the North Atlantic (Scandinavia) to the Pacific (Bering Sea). Born in Europe, it winters in South Africa and Madagascar and exceptionally on our coasts. Born in Siberia, he moved to South Asia and Australia. The species is breaking speed records: a ringed specimen traveled 1100 kilometers in a day.

Conservation Status: LC (Least Concern)

Order: Charadriiformes

Family: Scolopacidae



Scientific Name: *Tringa stagnatilis* (Rare in Mauritius)

Local Name: Chevalier stagnatile

English Name: Marsh sandpiper



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Brief description:

This is a migratory wader species that has a delicate silhouette that makes it look like a miniature wader. It measures about 26 cm. It feeds mainly on worms, insects, larvae and bivalves. In winter, the Marsh sandpiper settles on moist interior moors, fresh or brackish.

Conservation Status: LC (Least Concern)

Order: Charadriiformes

Family: Scolopacidae

Scientific Name: *Calidris tenuirostris* (Rare in Mauritius)

Local Name: Bécasseau d'anadyr

English Name: Great Knot



Brief description:

It is a migratory species, it is a wader that comes to winter exceptionally on the Mauritian coasts. It measures about 27 cm. It is one of the largest sandpipers, it has gray upper parts and chest, and gray back and neck streaked with dark gray. This sandpiper feeds mostly by probing the mud. Mingled with other waders, it assembles in important and dense rests.

Conservation Status: VU (Vulnerable)

Order: Charadriiformes

Family: Scolopacidae



Scientific Name: *Philomachus pugnax* (Rare in Mauritius)

Local Name: Chevalier combattant

English Name: Ruff



Brief description:

It nests in Eurasia and winters mainly in Africa and from time to time in Mauritius. The varied Fighter measures 21 to 32 cm in length with a wingspan from 28.5 to 31.5 cm and a mass between 70 and 150 g for the female and 130 to 230 g for the male. It is a wader, feeding mainly small invertebrates. This bird is still found in wetlands, whether in marshy areas, near fresh water bodies, in bogs or wet grasslands. He also enjoys the seaside, searching the intertidal mudflats (discovering at low tide).

Conservation Status: LC (Least Concern)

Order: Charadriiformes

Family: Scolopacidae

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Scientific Name: *Charadrius hiaticula* (Rare in Mauritius)

Local Name: Grand gravelot

English Name: Common ringed plover



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Brief description:

It is stockier and slightly larger than the Little Ringed Plover (*Charadrius dubius*). Its wings are crossed by a white bar while those of the neighboring species are uniform. In nuptial plumage, the Great Ringed Plover has the base of the beak and the orange legs. The diet of the large plover consists of invertebrates and annelids. Very nervous bird. Carefully runs the mudflats alternating fast walking and short break. At the seashore, the plover troops typically follow the back and forth movement of the water to find invertebrates in the seashore.

Conservation Status: LC (Least Concern)

Order: Charadriiformes

Family: Charadriidés

Scientific Name: *Charadrius mongolus* (Rare in Mauritius)

Local Name: Pluvier de mongolie

English Name: Lesser sand plover



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Brief description:

It is 19 to 21 cm long. It is a rather small wader but there are large variations in size between the subspecies. This species breeds in Asia and winters on the coasts of Africa and more rarely the Mauritian coasts. There is little information on the diet of this bird. In wintering places, these plovers mainly eat insects and crustaceans, crabs, amphipods, marine molluscs and especially bivalves. They also appreciate the sandworms they find on the beaches.

Conservation Status: LC (Least Concern)

Order: Charadriiformes

Family: Charadriidae

Bibliography

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