

Birds of the Maldive Islands, Indian Ocean

J. S. ASH and ALI SHAFEEG

An annotated checklist of the birds of the Maldive Islands, Indian Ocean, includes 147 species, of which details of 35 additions are included. New information has resulted principally from field observations in 1984 and 1993, and from an examination of a collection of bird photographs formed by Mr Ahamed Shafeeg. The White-eyed Gull *Larus leucophthalmus* is new for the Oriental Region.

The main purposes of this paper are threefold: first, to present an updated annotated checklist for the birds of the Maldives; second, to report the occurrence of many new species to the Maldives resulting from an examination of a large series of photographs collected by Mr Ahamed Shafeeg (father of A. S.) of birds captured in the Maldives and brought alive to Malé; and third, to record observations made on two visits by J. S. A. in 1984 and 1993.

The background to the ornithology of the Maldives has been given by Phillips (1963), together with a detailed description of the geography and ecology of the archipelago, so that it is unnecessary to repeat it here. One point emphasised by Phillips was that relatively few observations had been made on the Maldives prior to his visit, and after 1963 there was no improvement. A temporary flush of observations resulted from personnel working at the British base on Gamu (Seenu Atoll), and the recent upsurge in tourism will inevitably result in an increase in observers.

A number of factors have changed in the Maldives, mostly to the detriment of both resident and visiting birds. Perhaps the most important of these is the development of tourism resulting in a major ecological impact on an increasing number of islands; an increase in the amount of boat traffic and movement of people within the archipelago, resulting in increased disturbance to previously little visited islands; and an increase in affluence, with its concomitant increase in leisure time, resulting in yet more persecution of birds and the means to obtain them. Unfortunately, persecution of birds has always been intense in the Maldives, but this is apparently now made worse by the rapidly increasing human population, currently with an annual growth rate of 3.4%, combined with a major reduction in infantile mortality. In the past the harvesting of eggs and chicks as food presumably took place to supplement the otherwise unvarying diet of fish as animal protein. Keeping a wide range of species of captured birds as pets and toys has long been, and still is, a very popular pastime in the Maldives. Presumably there has been severe deforestation of the Maldives in the past, as on the Chagos Archipelago (Bourne 1971), but it is regrettable to see that it still continues where trees remain.

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The government's earlier policy to eliminate the endemic subspecies of the House Crow *Corvus splendens maledivicus*, which is very often a pest, would, if successful, inevitably have resulted in the elimination of its avian parasite, the Asian Koel *Eudynamis scolopacea*. However, the crow's absence could have a beneficial effect in permitting many other species to spread and breed successfully (e.g. the Common White-Tern *Gygis alba*), and also on allowing visiting raptors to remain and exert some measure of control over other troublesome pests such as House Rats *Rattus rattus* and Indian Flying-foxes *Pteropus giganteus*. The Ministry of Fisheries and Agriculture's policy now is to contain the crow's population within acceptable numbers. No doubt a large measure of crow control could be obtained by reducing the amount of food made available to them in terms of human food remains and fish garbage, together with an improvement in sanitary conditions. A certain amount of nest destruction might also be carried out at critical periods in the breeding cycle.

Under the present system, where tourism is being encouraged (e.g. the number of islands set aside as tourist resorts has increased from four in 1974 to 70 in 1994), the development of wildlife as an added attraction could be of great importance - as has been demonstrated in so many other countries. Following the visit in 1993 recommendations were made to the government (Appendix 3) suggesting that a conservation-oriented policy of habitat and wildlife protection could be developed, with one object being the increase of large colonies of seabirds. Persecution of these has become so great that it seems doubtful if many young birds of any species now survive. At the same time a very large trade seems to have developed in recent years in the marketing of wild birds as 'pets'. This is based on the capture of young colonial seabirds, and the trapping and netting of any other available birds, of which waders are probably at greatest risk. Flightless flocks of waders and terns are a common sight in the house compounds of most villages in the Maldives. It would seem that considerable colonies of breeding seabirds such as terns, boobies, shearwaters, frigatebirds and tropicbirds could be built up very quickly if the persecution of both adults and young ceased, and breeding colonies were given close protection. Similarly, the conservation of turtles could provide a further important attraction.

Much of the trade in birds passes through the resort islands, possibly because of the frequent contacts they maintain with the capital Malé. The possibility that birds are being exported from the Maldives was not established on the 1993 visit, but birds are certainly imported, particularly from Sri Lanka. Apparently the crews of many merchant vessels visiting Maldivian waters carry birds with them, and the significance of this custom may not be appreciated in the assessment of records of unusual vagrants in this region.

The photographs by Ahamed Shafeeg were of birds provided by islanders, mostly fishermen, and were captured within the Maldives, where fishermen

remain within territorial waters. Bird-catching parties also travel to uninhabited islands for the express purpose of netting birds. Some information was obtained on the market values of birds and these are included in Table 1. The exchange rate in 1994 was 17 Maldivian rupees (Rs) to £1 sterling (approximately Rs 11 = US\$1.00).

	Catchers' value	Retail value
NORTHERN PINTAIL		10
GARGANEY		50
FERRUGINOUS POCHARD		50
EURASIAN HOOPOE		40
INDIAN CUCKOO		40
ASIAN KOEL		25
ROSE-RINGED PARAKEET		100
COMMON SWIFT		60
ROCK PIGEON		25
ORIENTAL TURTLE-DOVE		25
WHITE-BREASTED WATERHEN		15
WATERCOCK		40
COMMON MOORHEN		60
COMMON SNIPE		80
WHIMBREL		100
EURASIAN CURLEW		150
COMMON GREENSHANK		150
COMMON SANDPIPER		20
RUDDY TURNSTONE	20-30	40
CURLEW SANDPIPER		50
SPOONBILL SANDPIPER		50-60
GREY PLOVER	200	
BLACK-WINGED STILT		150
CRAB PLOVER		150-500
ANTARCTIC SKUA		200
GULLS		1000-1500
LESSER CRESTED-TERN		25
GREAT CRESTED-TERN		60
ROSEATE TERN	10	25
BLACK-NAPE TERN		20
SOOTY TERN		60
BROWN NODDY		20
WHITE-TAILED TROPICBIRD	60	
RED-FOOTED BOOBY		100
LITTLE EGRET		150
CATTLE EGRET		1984: 150 1993: 900
GREAT WHITE PELICAN		150
SPOT-BILLED PELICAN		150
GREATER FLAMINGO		1500
COMMON MYNA		300

Table 1. Market value of certain birds

Following the name of each species, the local Maldivian name, where known, is included in parentheses. However, names sometimes vary between atolls, and spelling is often highly variable. Subspecies are given where they are established from collected specimens. Next, also given in parentheses are the observations by J.S.A. for visits from 21 April to 14 May 1984 to the northern atolls (Ash 1984b), and from 4-18 November 1993 to the southern atolls; the latter with Richard Howard and Alick Moore with the Bat Conservation Trust Expedition (Ash *et al.* in prep.), as are also the notes on the photographs by Mr Ahamed Shafeeg. Then follows a brief summary of the species' status in the Maldives, together with a list of the islands and/or atolls from which they are recorded - the latter are italicized if the species is known to have bred there (months of the year are given in lower-case Roman numerals); and lastly a list of the relevant references to the published and unpublished literature. Many of the earlier records are imprecise as to dates, and often localities. In order to avoid much repetition the references under each species are mentioned by numbers only. Much difficulty was experienced with atoll names in the Maldives, and it is hoped that the map and the list of names in Appendices 1 and 2 will help to identify the various old and new names, bearing in mind the absence of an agreed consensus of opinion on the spelling of names.

The first list of the birds of the Maldives by Gadow and Gardiner (1903) included 24 species; Phillips' visit in 1956-1957 increased this total to 63 (Phillips and Sims 1958b) and, following a further visit and more observations, the total reached 112 (Phillips 1963). Additions since then result in a total of 147 species. The outstanding collection of photographs formed by Mr Ahamed Shafeeg of the Council for Research on Maldivian History and Culture deserves special mention. There are 12 species represented in these photographs for which there are no other Maldivian records. Part of this collection remains unexamined, so that more additions can be expected.

ANNOTATED LIST

DOMESTIC FOWL *Gallus gallus* (male: Haa; female: Kukulhu). (Feral populations appeared to be established on *K. Vilingili* in 1984, and there were several birds and a pair with a brood on uninhabited *M. Boahuraa* on 7 November 1993. They are said to occur in a feral and domesticated state throughout the Maldives. Refs 6, 13.

COTTON PYGMY-GOOSE *Nettapus coromandelianus* (no local name). *N. c. coromandelianus*. One in xii and several in x on *S. Gamu*. Said also to be imported from Sri Lanka and India. Refs 25, 33.

NORTHERN SHOVELER *Anas clypeata* (Reyru; no specific name). (In 1993: *L. Maandhoo*, one on 11 November and *L. Maabaidhoo*, one caged on 14

November.) Reported to be a regular winter visitor with up to seven together, xi-i. Also recorded *Seenu Atoll*. Refs 6, 25, 32, 33.

NORTHERN PINTAIL *Anas acuta* (Ilifathi reyru). (A bird captured in 1982 on *Baa Atoll* was photographed [Shafeeg].) Rare visitor recorded three or more times in x, xii, i. Also recorded *Seenu Atoll*. Refs 25, 32, 33.

GARGANEY *Anas querquedula* (Kuburu reyru). (A bird captured in 1982 on *Baa Atoll* was photographed [Shafeeg]. In 1993: *M. Muli*, a caged bird on 7 November had been brought from *K. Malé* eight years previously. *L. Maandhoo*, one on 10 November and four on 11 November.) Reported as being a regular winter visitor in flocks of up to 25 birds, ix-i. Also reported *B. Hithaadhoo*; *Seenu Atoll*. Refs 6, 25, 27, 32, 33.

COMMON TEAL *Anas crecca* (no local name). *A. c. crecca*. An occasional winter visitor in flocks of up to 10 birds. Recorded *K. Malé*; *Baa Atoll*; *Shaviyani Atoll*; *Seenu Atoll* in x, and others unspecified. Other dates are unavailable. Refs 2, 14, 25, 27, 33.

FERRUGINOUS POCHARD *Aythya nyroca* (Rathu reyru). (1993: two on 10 November on *L. Maandhoo*. Vagrant, with only one previous record in xi on *S. Gamu*, although Ahamed Shafeeg refers to it as a common migrant xi-i. Refs 6, 25, 32, 33.

TUFTED DUCK *Aythya fuligula* (Ran rathu reyru). (A captured bird, for which there are no details of date or locality, was photographed [Shafeeg].) Reported to be a fairly frequent winter visitor xi-i. Also recorded: *K. Malé*. Refs 2, 25, 27, 32.

EURASIAN HOOPOE *Upupa epops* (Funaagandu dhooni). *U. e. epops*. (A bird captured at *K. Malé* in 1981 was photographed [Shafeeg].) A previous record in autumn on *S. Gamu* and a captured bird on *R. Kadholhudhoo* in October 1990 (*R. C. Anderson*). Refs 3, 4, 32, 33.

INDIAN ROLLER *Coracias benghalensis* (no local name). Rare winter visitor with two records in xi on *Seenu Atoll*. Ref 33.

[COMMON KINGFISHER *Alcedo atthis* (no local name). An unidentified kingfisher, possibly this species, was seen at *K. Lhosfushi* in i. Ref 21, 22.]

BLUE-TAILED BEE-EATER *Merops philippinus* (no local name). (1993: two on 16 November on *A. Hurasdhoo* clearly identified as this species and not Blue-cheeked Bee-eater *M. persicus*. The first record for the Maldives. Ref 6.

EUROPEAN BEE-EATER *Merops apiaster* (no local name). Recorded once overwintering on *S. Gamu*, i-iii. This is apparently a unique winter record outside Africa. Refs 2, 25, 33.

INDIAN CUCKOO *Cuculus micropterus* (Fuggahu guraa). A record of one on *K. Vilingili* in ii is the only published record. Ahamed Shafeeg states that it occurs in most years either singly or in groups of two or three, arriving in easterly winds. Ref 13.

COMMON CUCKOO *Cuculus canorus* (Fuggahu guraa). A regular winter visitor recorded from S. Gamu in ix-i. Ahamed Shafeeg states that formerly it came with easterly winds, but that there have been very few in recent years. Refs 2, 25, 32, 33.

[BANDED BAY CUCKOO *Cacomantis sonneratii* (Fuggahu guraa). A bird fitting the description of this species was seen and photographed one autumn in the late 1960s on S. Gamu, but little detail is available and the record is best treated as unconfirmed. Ref 33.]

GREY-BELLIED CUCKOO *Cacomantis passerinus* (Fuggahu guraa). Rare winter visitor with two records in xi and i, on S. Gamu. Refs 2, 25, 33.

ASIAN KOEL *Eudynamis scolopacea* (male Kaalhukoeli; female Dindin koeli). *E. s. scolopacea*. (Common and widespread in April and May 1984, and in November 1993, even on islands where there are no House Crows, so that they must wander a great deal. Noted on: K. Malé, K. Vilingili, K. Biyaadhoo and K. Guraadhoo; H. A. Maafahi, H. A. Maarandhoo and H. A. Vashafaru, where there was still a juvenile with basal feather sheaths on 6 May 1984 [Ash]; M. Mullah; L. Maamendhoo, L. Maandhoo, L. Hithadhoo, L. Mendhoo, L. South Athahedha, L. Fares, L. Vadinolhu, L. North Athahedha, L. Isdhoo (where also a juvenile and two pulli on 14 November 1993), L. Maabaidhoo; Dh. Dhoores; A. Feridhoo.) Also recorded: Baa/Haa, Noonu/Shaviyani and Lhaviyani Atolls; K. Hulhule, K. Malé (but no longer breeds); S. Gamu in x-i. Ahamed Shafeeg states that they are resident and widespread in moderate numbers throughout the archipelago, parasitising the House Crow. Refs 2, 4, 5, 6, 12, 13, 14, 21, 22, 25, 27, 33.

[ROSE-RINGED PARAKEET *Psittacula krameri* (Bodu guraa). (A captured male on Kaafu Atoll in 1981 had been imported and was photographed [Shafeeg].) Ahamed Shafeeg states that the above and the following are imported by man and later escape or are released; recently some resort islands have been introducing free-flying birds. Refs 4, 6, 32.]

[PARAKEET *Psittacula* and/or HANGING-PARROT *Loriculus*. (Two seen briefly at K. Malé on 21 April 1984 [Ash], and another on L. Maandhoo on 12 November 1993.) There are many reports over the years from various islands of unidentified parakeets, which suggest that there is a small resident population or that immigrants occur. Only one of those seen has been identified satisfactorily, and the circumstances of its occurrence verified (see *P. krameri* above). Refs 2, 4, 6, 14, 25, 27, 32.]

HIMALAYAN SWIFTLET *Collocalia brevirostris* (Forikey). An occasional winter visitor with four records in xi-i on K. Malé and S. Gamu. Refs 25, 27, 33.

WHITE-THROATED NEEDLETAIL *Hirundapus caudacutus* (Forikey). One record in x on Seenu Atoll. Ref 33.

COMMON SWIFT *Apus apus* (Forikey). A regular visitor, ix-xi and iv-v, to S. Gamu. Refs 2, 25, 33.

PALLID SWIFT *Apus pallidus* (Forikey). Rare winter visitor with two records in ix and x on Seenu Atoll. Ref 33.

LITTLE SWIFT *Apus affinis* (Kuda forikey). An irregular winter visitor with about six records on S. Gamu. Refs 2, 25, 33.

SHORT-EARED OWL *Asio flammeus* (Bakamoonu). Irregular northern winter visitor, sometimes in considerable numbers, x-iv. Owls are considered bad omens and are killed on sight. Recorded from B. Goidhoo Fehen Fuladhoo, N. Kedhikolhu, K. Malé, and Seenu and Gaafu Alifu/Gaafu Dhaalu Atolls. Refs 2, 14, 25, 27, 33.

ROCK PIGEON *Columba livia*. (Feral populations were recorded in November 1993: six on M. Mullah; two on L. Maamendhoo, 12 on L. Maandhoo, three on L. Kalhaidhoo; one on A. Feridhoo. Ref 6.)

EUROPEAN TURTLE-DOVE *Streptopelia turtur* (Valukotharu). (A bird captured on Vaavu Atoll in 1981 was photographed [Shafeeg].) Not otherwise recorded south-east of Pakistan. Refs 2, 32.

ORIENTAL TURTLE-DOVE *Streptopelia orientalis* (Valukotharu). An irregular winter visitor, recorded on Seenu Atoll in ix and x. Ref 33.

SPOTTED DOVE *Streptopelia chinensis* (no local name). (One heard, but not seen, in thick cover on A. Hurasdhoo on 16 November 1993). No previous record for the Maldives. Ref 6.]

[EMERALD DOVE *Chalcophaps indica* (Valukotharu). A bird, possibly of this species, was recorded on K. Vilingili in ii. Ref 13.]

WHITE-BREASTED WATERHEN *Amaurornis phoenicurus* (Kan'bili). *A. p. phoenicurus*, *A. p. maldivus*. (Common and widespread in April-May 1984 on K. Kurumba, K. Vilingili and K. Guraadhoo; H. A. Dhidhdhoo and H. A. Maarandhoo [Ash]. 1993: one on 6 November on M. Muli; 10 and five on 10 and 11 November, of which one was alive in a snare, on L. Maandhoo.) Widespread resident in all the atolls. Breeds v-x. Also recorded: Kaafu Atoll; K. Hulhule, K. Gaagadu, K. Himmafushi, K. Gaafaru; Alifu Atoll; Lhaviyani Atoll; Seenu Atoll. Refs 2, 4, 5, 6, 12, 13, 14, 25, 26, 27, 33.

WATERCOCK *Gallinula cinerea* (Kulhee kukulhu). Apparently an uncommon resident or breeding visitor (vi-vii). Recorded Kaafu Atoll and Seenu Atoll, and on Sh. Maakadoodhoo by Ahamed Shafeeg. Refs 2, 25, 27, 32, 33.

COMMON MOORHEN *Gallinula chloropus* (Olhuvalu kabili). (A nest with two eggs and the pair of adults, on Gn. Fua Mulaku in August 1983, were photographed [Shafeeg]). Ahamed Shafeeg stated that this species was first found there in 1945, and that it had never been seen elsewhere in the Maldives. Ref 6, 32.

COMMON COOT *Fulica atra* (no local name). One captured on Baa Atoll in 1981 was photographed [Shafeeg]. This is the only record from the Maldives. Ref 32.

PINTAIL SNIPE *Gallinago stenura* (Dhushin ilolhi). Apparently a regular winter visitor, xi-i, in moderate numbers in parties of up to six. Recorded: K. Hulhule; Seenu Atoll. Refs 2, 25, 27, 33.

SWINHOLE'S SNIPE *Gallinago megala* (Dhushin ilolhi). A winter visitor recorded once only on S. Meedhoo in xii. Refs 25, 33.

COMMON SNIPE *Gallinago gallinago* (Dhushin ilolhi). *G. g. gallinago*. Apparently a regular winter visitor recorded in x-i, from Seenu Atoll only. Refs 2, 12, 14, 25, 33.

BLACK-TAILED GODWIT *Limosa limosa* (Eshunga ilolhi). (One captured in K. Malé in 1980 was photographed [Shafeeg].) This would appear to be the only record for the Maldives; although Ali and Ripley (1984) refer to it as a vagrant there, the original record cannot be traced. Refs 2, 4, 32.

BAR-TAILED GODWIT *Limosa lapponica* (Bulhi thun'bi ilolhi). *L. l. lapponica*. (A bird captured on K. Malé in 1983 was photographed [Shafeeg]. In 1993: L. Hithadhoo, one caged on 12 November; L. Kunahandhoo, two on 12 November; L. Fares, one on 13 November; L. Kalhaidhoo, one on 15 November.) Apparently an annual visitor in small numbers, vi-i. Refs 2, 4, 6, 25, 27, 32, 33.

WHIMBREL *Numenius phaeopus* (Bulhi thubi). *N. p. phaeopus*. (Captured birds on K. Malé in 1981 and 1983 were photographed [Shafeeg]. In 1984: singly on K. Hulhule on 21 April and on K. Vilingili on 13 May 1984; one on H. A. Dhidhdhoo, 3 May 1984 [Ash]. In 1993, M. Muli, one caged on 7 November; M. Mullah, one caged on 8 November. L. Maandhoo, two on 10 November, six on 11 November, and five on 12 November; L. Hithadhoo, two caged on 12 November; L. Kunahandhoo, 10 and four caged on 12 November; L. South Athahedha, three on 12 November; L. North Athahedha, two on 13 November; L. Fares, two on 13 November; L. Maabaidhoo, two caged on 14 November, and one on 15 November.) Regular winter visitor, viii-iii, and many oversummer. Also recorded: Seenu, Raa/Baa and Noonu/Shaviyani Atolls. Refs 2, 4, 6, 12, 13, 14, 22, 25, 27, 32, 33.

EURASIAN CURLEW *Numenius arquata* (Bodu bulhi thubi). *N. a. orientalis*. (A bird captured on 25 March 1982 on Lh. Naifaru was photographed [Shafeeg]. In 1993 on L. Hithadhoo, four caged on 12 November; L. Kunahandhoo, two on 12 November; L. Fares, one on 13 November; L. Maabaidhoo, one on 15 November; Dh. Dhoores, one on 16 November.) A regular winter visitor in small numbers; some oversummer. Also recorded on K. Lankanfushi; S. Gamu and S. Hithadhoo. Refs 2, 4, 6, 8, 12, 20, 25, 27, 32, 33.

COMMON REDSHANK *Tringa totanus* (Rathafai ilolhi). *T. t. totanus*. A regular winter visitor in small numbers, ix-iii. Recorded on K. Malé and Seenu Atoll. Refs 2, 25, 27, 33.

MARSH SANDPIPER *Tringa stagnatilis* (Furedhdhe ilolhi). An irregular visitor, ix and x recorded from Seenu Atoll. Ref 33.

COMMON GREENSHANK *Tringa nebularia* (Chon chon ilolhi). (One, Maafahi on 1 May 1984 [Ash]. In 1993 on M. Muli, one caged on 12 November; L. Hithadhoo, one caged on 12 November; L. Kunahandhoo, one seen, and two caged, on 12 November.) A northern visitor in moderate numbers, up to nine together; some oversummer. Also recorded: K. Malé and G. A. Vilingili (one captured individual seen on 7 February 1994 by R. C. Anderson); Noonu/Shaviyani Atolls. Refs 2, 3, 4, 6, 12, 22, 25, 27, 33.

WOOD SANDPIPER *Tringa glareola* (Fidhan ilolhi). Annual winter visitor viii-ii, in small numbers up to six together. Recorded: K. Malé; S. Gamu. Refs 2, 25, 27, 33.

TEREK SANDPIPER *Tringa cinerea* (no local name). (In 1993, L. Fares, three on 13 November; L. Hithadhoo, two caged on 12 November.) An irregular winter visitor with several records on S. Gamu in xi and xii. Refs 6, 25, 33.

COMMON SANDPIPER *Tringa hypoleucos* (Findhana). (Two, K. Kan'doomaafushi on 27 April and single birds on H. A. Maafahi and H. A. Maarandhoo on 1 and 5 May 1984, respectively [Ash]. 1993 summary: 36 birds on nine days, 4-16 November, on K. Malé; M. Muli; L. Maandhoo, L. Kunahandhoo, L. South and North Athahedha, L. Fares, L. Vadinolhu, L. Bodufinolhu, L. Isdhoo and one caged on L. Kunahandhoo; Dh. Dhoores.) Regular winter visitor in moderate numbers viii-v to all atolls. Also recorded: K. Hulhule, K. Malé and K. Vilingili; Seenu Atoll. Refs 2, 4, 6, 12, 13, 14, 25, 27, 33.

RUDDY TURNSTONE *Arenaria interpres* (Rathafai). *A. i. interpres*. (Seven captured birds on K. Malé were photographed together in 1983 [Shafeeg]; three and one on H. A. Dhidhdhoo on 1 and 6 May respectively, and one on H. A. Maarandhoo on 4-5 May 1984 [Ash]. In 1993, M. Boahuraa, one on 6 November. L. Maandhoo, two on 10 November; L. Fonadhoo, one on 10 November; L. Maandhoo, two on 11 November; L. South Athahedha, six on 13 November; L. North Athahedha, three on 13 November; L. Fares, four on 13 November. Also a total of 26 caged: one M. Muli, one M. Mullah, 10 L. Hithadhoo, 21 L. Kunahandhoo, and one L. Fares, two A. Feridhoo.) Winter visitor in flocks of up to 200; some oversummer. Also recorded: K. Malé; Alifu Atoll; Lhaviyani Atoll; S. Gamu. Refs 2, 4, 6, 8, 12, 14, 22, 25, 27, 32, 33.

SANDERLING *Calidris alba* (Kirru bondun). Rather uncommon winter visitor to S. Gamu only, x-iii. Refs 2, 12, 25, 33.

LITTLE STINT *Calidris minuta* (Kirru bondun). (1993: L. Maabaidhoo, one caged on 14 November.) A regular winter visitor in small numbers xi-i. Recorded K. Malé and S. Gamu. Refs 2, 6, 25, 27, 33.

TEMMINCK'S STINT *Calidris temminckii* (Kirru bondun). A few apparently on passage on S. Gamu, v and x-xi. Refs 2, 25, 27, 33.

LONG-TOED STINT *Calidris subminuta* (Kirru bondun). Apparently a winter visitor in small numbers to S. Gamu, x-ii. Refs 2, 25, 33.

DUNLIN *Calidris alpina* (Kirru bondun). *C. a. alpina*. (1993: L. Fares, one on 13 November.) Probably a winter visitor in small numbers to S. Gamu, xi-ii. Refs 2, 6, 12, 25, 33.

CURLEW SANDPIPER *Calidris ferruginea* (Bondana ilolhi). (In 1993 on L. Maamendhoo, one caged on 10 November; L. Kunahandhoo, two on 12 November.) Winter visitor in large numbers, in flocks of up to 500 birds, and some oversummer, v-iii. Recorded also: S. Gamu. Refs 2, 6, 12, 25, 27, 33.

SPOONBILL SANDPIPER *Eurynorhynchus pygmeus* (Samsaa dhooni). Ahamed Shafeeg states that it was observed three times on S. Gamu in 1964, and on Haa Alifu and Haa Dhaalu Atolls in the same year. No photographs or further details are available, so the records are unacceptable, unfortunately. Ref. 32.]

RUFF *Philomachus pugnax* (no local name). Rare winter visitor, with three records x-xi on S. Gamu. Refs 2, 25, 33.

EURASIAN OYSTERCATCHER *Haematopus ostralegus* (no local name). (1993: Laamu Atoll: one caged on 12 November had been caught locally.) The first record for the Maldives. Ref 6.

BLACK-WINGED STILT *Himantopus himantopus* (Theyravaa ilolhi). (A bird captured on K. Malé in 1982 was photographed [Shafeeg].) Uncommon visitor with five records, of which one in xi. Also recorded: S. Gamu. Refs 2, 25, 32, 33.

PACIFIC GOLDEN-PLOVER *Pluvialis fulva* (Bilehmaa dhushin). (A bird trapped on Raa Atoll in 1981 was photographed [Shafeeg]. In 1993, L. Kunahandhoo, one on 12 November; L. Hithadhoo, one caged on 12 November.) A common winter visitor in flocks of up to 50 birds. Also recorded: K. Malé; S. Gamu; N. Bodulhaimendhoo. Refs 2, 4, 6, 12, 14, 25, 27, 32, 33.

GREY PLOVER *Pluvialis squatarola* (Alaka). (One, H. A. Dhidhdhoo on 1 May 1984 [Ash]. In 1993, on M. Muli, one caged on 7 November. L. Hithadhoo, three caged, and a further two caged on L. Kunahandhoo, on 12 November; singly on L. Fares, L. South Athahedha and L. Bodufinolhu on 13 November; L. Maabaidhoo, two, and one caged, on 14 November; Dh. Dhoores, one on 15 November.) A common winter visitor, and some oversummer. Also recorded from K. Malé; S. Gamu; H. A. Dhidhdhoo. Refs 2, 6, 12, 21, 25, 27, 33.

COMMON RINGED PLOVER *Charadrius hiaticula* (An'goti bon'dana). *C. h. tundrae*. An annual winter visitor in small numbers, x-iii. Recorded: K. Malé and S. Gamu. Refs 2, 25, 27, 33.

LITTLE RINGED PLOVER *Charadrius dubius* (Findon). *C. d. jerdoni*. Probably an annual winter visitor in small numbers, although only known from S. Gamu, xi-ii. Refs 25, 33.

KENTISH PLOVER *Charadrius alexandrinus* (Kiru bon'dana). Occasional in winter, x-ii on S. Gamu. Refs 2, 25, 33.

MONGOLIAN PLOVER *Charadrius mongolus* (Findon). *C. m. atrifrons*. (One on H. A. Dhidhdhoo on 6 May 1984 [Ash]. In 1993, L. Kunahandhoo, one caged on 12 November.) Common regular winter visitor, viii-v. Also recorded: K. Malé; S. Gamu; Lhaviyani Atoll. Refs 2, 4, 6, 25, 27, 33.

GREATER SAND PLOVER *Charadrius leschenaultii* ('Valu bon'dana). (In 1993, L. Hithadhoo, one caged and L. Kunahandhoo, one caged, on 12 November; L. Fares, seven on 13 November; L. Bodufinolhu, one on 13 November.) Regular winter visitor in small numbers, viii-iv; also v and vi. Also recorded from K. Dhoonidhoo; S. Gamu. Refs 2, 6, 25, 27, 33.

CASPIAN PLOVER *Charadrius asiaticus* (no local name). Only recorded once: S. Gamu. Refs 2, 25, 33.

SOCIABLE LAPWING *Vanellus gregarius* (no local name). One certain record only, on Seenu Atoll, ix. Refs 25, 27, 33.

CRAB PLOVER *Dromas ardeola* (Eshungu on Seenu, Theyravai on Malé, Moola lumba a juvenile on Malé). (A bird captured on K. Malé in 1981 was photographed [Shafeeg]. In 1984: two on H. A. Dhidhdhoo on 2 May and two on H. A. Bibera on 6 May [Ash]. In 1993 on M. Muli, two on 7 November, two caged on 8 November. L. Kunahandhoo, nine and one caged on 12 November; L. Hithadhoo, one caged on 12 November; L. Ziyaaraifushi, six on 13 November.) Common and widespread and possibly resident, recorded xii-i and v-vi, viii. Also recorded: Sh. Funadhoo; Gaafu Alifu/Gaafu Dhaalu Atolls; Alifu Atoll; and on Th. Omadhoo. Refs 2, 3, 4, 6, 14, 22, 25, 27, 32, 33.

ORIENTAL PRATINCOLE *Glareola maldivarum* (Almalu guraa). Common visitor x-iii in flocks of up to 25, and occasionally breeds in xii, on S. Gamu. Refs 2, 25, 33.

ANTARCTIC/BROWN/SOUTH POLAR SKUA *Catharacta antarctica/lonnbergii/maccormicki* (Kukulhumaadhooni). At least 11 birds reported. (Five birds captured on K. Malé consisted of two adult *lonnbergii* and an unidentifiable bird in 1983 which were photographed [Shafeeg]. Two *maccormicki* without details were also photographed [Shafeeg]. A pinioned bird on 27 April 1984 on K. Kan'doomaafushi was stated to have been captured five years earlier, and was identified at the time as *antarctica* [Ash].) Three unidentified to species, of which one was on S. Gamu in 1961, and two single birds were seen by J. Belien in 1983 and 1984 (localities unknown). Two specifically unidentified pinioned birds were on K. Malé in January 1994 (R. C. Anderson). Refs 2, 3, 4, 25, 31, 32, 33.

WHITE-EYED GULL *Larus leucophthalmus* (Boyahguirey dhooni). One collected in June 1879 was the first record for the Maldives and the Oriental Region. (A second example, an adult captured in 1983 at an unknown locality, was photographed [Shafeeg].) Ahamed Shafeeg states that one or two birds are captured almost every year by fishermen, and sometimes sailors of merchant vessels bring them in. Refs 29, 32.

SOOTY GULL *Larus hemprichii* (Boyahguirey dhooni). (An immature captured at an unknown locality and on an unknown date was photographed [Shafeeg].) Ahamed Shafeeg states that in some years one or two birds come to the Maldives, and also that sometimes sailors bring them in. Refs 4, 32.

YELLOW-LEGGED GULL *Larus cachinnans* (Boyahguirey dhooni). (Two adults captured on K. Malé in 1981 and 1982 had pale grey mantles and yellow legs, and there was a third without date from Laamu Atoll; all were photographed [Shafeeg] and are assumed to relate to this species. An immature on S. Gamu on 29 September 1970 was either this species or *fuscus* (ref 33), and a similar bird but without details was photographed [Shafeeg].) Refs 4, 32, 33.

LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL *Larus fuscus* (no local name). (An adult captured on Laamu Atoll in 1981 was photographed [Shafeeg].) This is the only record from the Maldives. Refs 4, 31, 32.

HERRING/LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL *Larus argentatus/fuscus*. (An adult which was either *L. f. fuscus* or *L. a. heuglini* without details, was photographed [Shafeeg].) Refs 4, 32.

GREAT BLACK-HEADED GULL *Larus ichthyaetus* (Boakalhu gohorukey). (A near-adult captured in 1983 on Laamu Atoll was photographed [Shafeeg].) This is the only record from the Maldives. Refs 4, 31, 32.

BROWN-HEADED GULL *Larus brunnicephalus* (Boyahguirey dhooni). (One captured on K. Malé in 1981 and another on Gn. Fua Mulaku in 1983 were photographed [Shafeeg].) These are the only records from the Maldives. Refs 4, 31, 32.

COMMON BLACK-HEADED GULL *Larus ridibundus* (Boyahguirey dhooni). (The following birds captured on K. Malé were photographed [Shafeeg]: a) adult in 1981; b) one in 1982 - identification uncertain but probably this species rather than *L. brunnicephalus*; c) one immature in 1983; d) an undated adult from an unrecorded locality.) There is only one previous record of this occasional visitor, from S. Gamu. Refs 2, 4, 25, 32, 33.

GULL-BILLED TERN *Sterna nilotica* (Kanifulhu dhooni). *S. n. nilotica*. Only seen singly, or in small numbers, occasionally, i, iii, iv, ix, xii, but reported to breed iii-iv. Also recorded: K. Malé; Seenu Atoll. Refs 2, 25, 27, 31, 33.

CASPIAN TERN *Sterna caspia* (Miyaremü dhooni). Uncommon visitor, iv, ix-xi and i, up to four together, recorded K. Kassarfaru and Seenu Atoll. Refs 2, 25, 27, 31, 33.

LESSER CRESTED TERN *Sterna bengalensis* (Ainmathee gaa dhooni). *S. b. bengalensis*. (In 1993, K. Eboodhoo, one on 4 November; M. Mulah, 1-5 on 9 November; L. Ziyaaraifushi, 25 on 13 November and atoll reef, 10 on 14 November; Dhaalu Atoll one on 15 November, Dhoores, one on 16 November, and off Dhoores, two on 16 November.) Apparently resident in moderate numbers, but only reported x-v. Also recorded: K. Thulhaagiri and K. Vihamanafushi (*Kaafu* Atoll); Seenu and Alifu Atolls. Refs 2, 4, 6, 25, 27, 31, 33.

GREAT CRESTED TERN *Sterna bergii* (Bodu gaa dhooni). *S. b. velox*. (One on H. A. Dhidhdhoo on 2 May 1984 [Ash]. In 1993: K. Malé, one on 4 November; K. Giraavaru, two on 17 November, K. Eboodhoo, 11 on 4 November; K. Dhigufinolhu, one on 4 November. Off Kaafu Atoll: 15 on 4 November. K. Muli, 10 on 7 November; M. Mulah, 50+ on 9 November, and off M. Mulah, 13 on 9 November; L. Fares, two on 13 November and L. Ziyaaraifushi, two plus on 13 November; Dhaalu Atoll: three on 15 November; A. Hurasdhoo, one on 16 November.) Apparently resident and widespread in small numbers; Maldivians state that they breed on K. Foojaadi in iv. Also recorded: K. Hulhule, K. Vihamanaafushi and K. Dhoonidhoo; Seenu, Alifu, and Lhaviyani Atolls. Refs 2, 4, 6, 22, 25, 27, 31, 33.

ROSEATE TERN *Sterna dougallii* (Valla). *S. d. korustes*. (In 1993 seven caged birds, six on L. Hithadhoo and one on L. Kunahandhoo on 12 November.) Frequently seen and reported to breed K. Foojaadi, iii-v. Ahamed Shafeeg stated in 1993 that it bred throughout the Maldives. Refs 2, 25, 27, 31.

BLACK-NAPED TERN *Sterna sumatrana* (Kiru dhooni). *S. s. mathewsi*. (1984: widespread in small numbers, maximum 14 together in April-May. Noted on K. Furannafushi (where stated to breed on an adjoining islet), K. Gulhi, K. Lankanfinolhu, K. Kagi, K. Bandos; Lh. Hinnavaru; H. A. Dhidhdhoo, H. A. Filladhoo, H. A. Vashafaru; N. Huiyani, N. Vattaru [Ash]. In 1993: one on 5 November on K. Biyaadhoo. Vattaru Channel: five on 5 November. Meemu Atoll: 40+ (breeding?) on 9 November. L. Ziyaaraifushi, 20+ on 13 November, where breeding colony with only one clutch of one egg and two half-grown young were surviving. Off Alifu Atoll: six on 16 November. K. Grawa and off K. Malé, single birds on 17 November.) The most abundant and widespread tern, present throughout the year, sometimes in large flocks; breeds iii-v. Also recorded: K. Foojaadi; S. Gamu, S. Bushy Islet and S. Tern Islet; Alifu, Lhaviyani and Noonu/Shaviyani Atolls. Refs 2, 4, 6, 8, 14, 20, 22, 23, 25, 27, 28, 31, 33.

COMMON TERN *Sterna hirundo* (Kirra dhooni). *S. h. tibetana*. (Fifteen adults and one immature on H. A. Bibera on 6 May 1984 [Ash]. In 1993, an immature photographed on L. Maandhoo on 10 November. The identification of a number of caged birds, possibly of this species, was not established.) Previously the only other substantiated records were from

Seenu Atoll, where it is an irregular winter visitor x-ii. Dr. R. C. Anderson has found many in January and February 1994 in the 1° Channel, and probably some of the other reports of flocks of terns at sea belong here. Refs 3, 6, 25, 32, 33.

LITTLE TERN *Sterna albifrons* (Bodu dhooni). *S. a. albifrons*. One record only from Seenu Atoll in xi. Refs 2, 25, 33.

SAUNDERS'S TERN *Sterna saundersi* (Bon'dhu dhooni). (In 1993, all small terns were regarded as this species rather than *albifrons*. K. Biyaadhoo, one on 5 November; M. Muli, five on 6 November, 10+ on 7 November, and 25 on 8 November; L. Kunahandhoo, one caged on 12 November.) Numerous resident throughout the Maldives, reported breeding in iii and iv. Recorded from K. Foojaadi; Seenu Atoll. Refs 2, 6, 25, 27, 31, 33.

WHITE-CHEEKED TERN *Sterna repressa* (no local name). (One captured on Meemu Atoll in 1983, and another without details, were photographed [Shafeeg]. In 1993: a first-winter bird on 11 November on L. Maandhoo.) Possibly an overlooked species owing to confusion in non-breeding plumages with *S. hirundo* and *S. dougallii*. Refs 6, 32.

BRIDLED TERN *Sterna anaethetus* (Vaali). (In 1993, M. Muli, two probables on 6 November; L. Kunahandhoo, one caged on 12 November.) Reported to visit the Maldives in iii and iv to breed on K. Foojaadi, although there was a captured juvenile on K. Vilingili in ii; recorded S. Gamu in ii and vi. Refs 2, 3, 6, 25, 27, 31, 33.

SOOTY TERN *Sterna fuscata* (Valli; Baidu in the north). (In 1993, Vattaru Channel, 200+ on 5 November; Meemu Atoll, four on 9 November; Kudahuvadu Channel, 40 on 9 November; Veimandu Channel, 42 on 15 November; Dhaalu Atoll: one on 15 November, three on 16 November.) Previously only recorded from Seenu Atoll, where reported to breed iii and iv. Refs 2, 6, 14, 25, 27, 31, 33.

WHITE-WINGED TERN *Chlidonias leucopterus* (Kiru dhooni). (In 1993, L. Maandhoo, one on 12 November.) One near L. Maavah on 2 October 1992 (R. C. Anderson). The above are the only records away from Seenu Atoll, where it is a fairly regular winter visitor in small numbers, up to six together. Refs 2, 3, 6, 25, 33.

BROWN NODDY *Anous stolidus* (Maaraga). *A. s. pileatus*. (A captured bird on K. Malé in 1980 was photographed [Shafeeg]; four off K. Malé on 27 April, and three at K. Gaafaru, 29 April 1984 [Ash]. In 1993, M. Muli, one caged on 7 November; L. Maabaidhoo, two on 15 November; Veimandu Channel, six on 15 November; Dhaalu Atoll: 40 on 15 November; off Alifu Atoll, 11 on 16 November; Alifu/Malé Channel, 24 on 17 November.) Common in large numbers throughout the year; Maldivians report breeding but only one definite record known, vi-vii. Also recorded K. Thulhaagiri, K. Medhufinolhu; Gaafu Alifu/Gaafu Dhaalu Atolls; Seenu Atoll: Gamu and Bushy Islet. Refs 2, 4, 6, 8, 11, 12, 20, 22, 25, 27, 31, 32, 33.

LESSER NODDY *Anous tenuirostris* (Kurangi). (One captured on Gaafu Alifu/Gaafu Dhaalu Atoll in 1980 was photographed [Shafeeg]; four at K. Maahaa Reef on 8 May 1984 [Ash]. In 1993: off M. Raiymandhoo, one on 5 November; L. Ziyaaraifushi, 11 on 13 November, L. Vadinolhu, one caught at night on 13 November (wing length 233 mm); Dhaalu Atoll, two on 15 November, Dh. Dhoores, one on 16 November; K. Grawa, three on 17 November.) The 1899 record of breeding *A. minutus* on B. Mabaru is considered to belong here, *contra* Phillips (1963); and Harrison (1983) stated that *A. tenuirostris* breeds on the Maldives. These appear to be the only records from the Maldives, until Dr R. C. Anderson noted it in 1993 as widespread throughout the Maldives, although it is much less common than the Brown Noddy. Refs 2, 3, 4, 6, 14, 16, 25, 31, 32.

COMMON WHITE-TERN *Gygis alba* (Kadhu valu dhooni). *G. a. monte*. Apparently arrived this century to breed on Seenu Atoll, where it breeds commonly throughout the year. Recorded S. Gamu and S. Maradhoo, and recently recorded Gnyaviyani Atoll in November 1993, where regarded as being commonest xii-iii (R. C. Anderson). Refs 2, 3, 8, 12, 20, 25, 27, 31, 33.

OSPREY *Pandion haliaetus* (no local name). Vagrant. Once in vii and once in xii at S. Gamu, and by Dr R. C. Anderson on A. Dhagathi on 30 January 1993. Refs 2, 3, 25, 33.

ORIENTAL HONEY-BUZZARD *Pernis ptilorhyncus* (Bodu baazu). *P. p. orientalis*. Regular winter visitor, commonest xi-i, though some oversummer. Also recorded S. Gamu, and K. Malé and K. Vilingili. Refs 3, 13, 25, 33.

WESTERN MARSH-HARRIER *Circus aeruginosus* (Ehada). Reported to be a regular winter visitor, recorded x-ii on K. Hulhule and S. Gamu. Refs 2, 25, 27, 33.

PALLED HARRIER *Circus macrourus* (Baazu). Regular winter visitor in varying numbers, x-ii. Recorded: S. Gamu; Lhaviyani Atoll; northern atolls. Refs 2, 14, 25, 27, 33.

MONTAGU'S HARRIER *Circus pygargus* (Baazu). Common winter visitor x-iii, together with an unknown number of unidentified 'ringtails' on S. Gamu and on northern atolls. Refs 2, 14, 25, 27, 33.

[COMMON BUZZARD *Buteo buteo* (Baazu). A rare winter visitor with several records (one in i) at S. Gamu, presumed to relate to this species; also Gaafu Alifu/Gaafu Dhaalu Atoll. Refs 25, 32.]

LESSER KESTREL *Falco naumanni* (Dhon surumuthi). *F. n. naumanni*. Probably an annual winter visitor in small numbers, x-ii on S. Gamu. Refs 2, 25, 33.

COMMON KESTREL *Falco tinnunculus* (no local name). *F. t. tinnunculus*. An annual visitor in moderate numbers, x-v on K. Hulhule, K. Vilingili and K. Gaafaru; Alifu Atoll; S. Gamu. Refs 2, 12, 14, 25, 27, 33.

- AMUR FALCON *Falco amurensis* (Surumuthi). Winter visitor in small numbers xi-iii, with four or more records from S. Gamu. Refs 2, 25, 33.
- EURASIAN HOBBY *Falco subbuteo* (no local name). (In 1993, L. Isdhoo, one on 14 November (A. M. Hutson).) Regular visitor, xi-v. Ref 6, 33.
- PEREGRINE FALCON *Falco peregrinus* (Baazu). Infrequent winter visitor, recorded five times ix-xii on S. Gamu. Two in xii were identified as Eleonora's Falcon *F. eleonorae* in Duncan (1973) but are listed as *peregrinus* in Strickland and Jenner (1978): Refs 2, 12, 25, 33.
- WHITE-TAILED TROPICBIRD *Phaethon lepturus* (Dhan'difuludhooni). *P. l. lepturus*. (Two over K. Kaashidhoo and two on sea nearby, 8 May 1984 [Ash]; 18 captured birds (16 adults, two juveniles) photographed together on Baa Atoll on 20 November 1983 [Shafeeg]. In 1993, L. Maandhoo, three plus on 10 November, four plus on 11 November, including two birds entering presumed nesting holes high in *Barringtonia* trees, and two on 12 November; L. North Athahedha, one on 13 November.) Formerly plentiful resident apparently throughout the Maldives, now decreasing. Breeds xi-i, and probably later (iii, vii). Also recorded: K. Malé and K. Thaburudhoo; B. Thulhaadhoo and B. Hibalhidhoo, Gaafu Alifu/Gaafu Dhaalu, Lhaviyani and Seenu Atolls. Dr R. C. Anderson noted eggs and chicks on G. A. Hithaadhoo on 20 August 1994. Refs 2, 3, 4, 6, 14, 25, 27, 31, 32, 33.
- MASKED BOOBY *Sula dactylatra* (Hudhu maadhoni). (A captured adult on Gaafu Alifu/Gaafu Dhaalu Atoll in 1982 was photographed [Shafeeg].) Rare visitor, 1-2 recorded on four occasions, viii and xi: K. Kassanfaru Reef; S. Gamu; one in K. Malé market on 30 August 1993 (R. C. Anderson). Locally reported breeding (young observed) on Gaafu Alifu Atoll unconfirmed. Refs 2, 3, 25, 27, 31, 32, 33.
- RED-FOOTED BOOBY *Sula sula* (Kadu heda maadhoni). (One subadult captured in 1983 at K. Malé was photographed [Shafeeg].) Dr R. C. Anderson photographed captured individuals at A. Ukulhas on 15 September 1992 and on Gnyaviyani Atoll on 6 November 1993. A local report of breeding on Gaafu Alifu Atoll has not been confirmed. Refs 3, 4, 31, 32.
- BROWN BOOBY *Sula leucogaster* (Kalhu maadhoni). *S. l. plotus*. (Two captured at K. Malé, one in 1981 and the other in 1983, photographed by Shafeeg, proved to be an adult and a juvenile.) A fairly common visitor, most frequently xii-ii. Also recorded: Lhaviyani Atoll; K. Kassanfaru Reef; and a captured bird at B. Thulhaadhoo on 19 August 1992 (R. C. Anderson). Refs 2, 3, 4, 25, 27, 31, 32, 33.
- LITTLE EGRET *Egretta garzetta* (Kuda lagana). (In 1993, L. Maandhoo, one on 12 November; L. Kunahandhoo, one on 12 November; L. Isdhoo, one on 14 November; L. Maabaidhoo, one caged on 14 November. A. Feridhoo, one caged on 17 November.) Uncommon winter visitor recorded about eight times; also on B. Eydafushi; S. Hulhudhoo. Refs 2, 6, 14, 25, 27, 33.

- [WESTERN REEF-EGRET *Egretta gularis* (Bodu raabodhi). Ahamed Shafeeg states one arrived with Cattle Egrets in 1990 and was photographed on B. Thulhaadhoo; others had been reported elsewhere earlier. The photograph has not been examined and no description is available. Ref 32.]
- GREY HERON *Ardea cinerea* (Alhi maakanaa). *A. c. rectirostris*. (One to four noted in April-May 1984 on K. Bandos, K. Hulhule, K. Gaafaru, K. Malé, K. Gulhi, K. Maafushi, K. Guraadhoo and K. Kan'doomaafushi; Lh. Hinnavaru; N. Huivani; H. A. Dhidhdhoo, H. A. Thakandhoo and H. A. Utheemu; H. Dh. Kumundhoo [Ash]. In 1993, 1-11 noted (total of 72): on K. Dhigufinolhu, K. Biyaadhoo; M. Muli, M. Mulah; Th. Fahala; L. Maandhoo (10), L. Kunahandhoo, L. North and South Athahedha, L. Fares, L. Ziyaaraifushi, L. Thundudhoshu, L. Isdhoo (11), L. Maabaidhoo, L. Hurasdhoo (with two nests - one with two half-grown pulli in a lone tall *Ficus*), and A. Feridhoo (only one captured bird seen.) Plentiful and resident throughout. Occupied nests found vi-ii. Also recorded: R. Bodufaru; K. Malé, K. Vilingili and K. Gaafaru; S. Gamu and S. Hithaadhoo, and Alifu Atoll. Refs 2, 4, 6, 8, 12, 13, 14, 20, 21, 22, 25, 27, 33.
- PURPLE HERON *Ardea purpurea* (Dhabu maakanaa). (In 1993, a caged bird on L. Hithaadhoo on 12 November.) Probably a frequent visitor, at least eight records of 1-7 birds in vii and x-i, all except one from Seenu Atoll. Refs 6, 12, 25, 33.
- GREAT EGRET *Casmerodius albus* (Laganaa). *C. a. modestus*. (1984: one, H. A. Dhidhdhoo, 1 May 1984 [Ash]. 1993: a caged bird on L. Hithaadhoo on 12 November.) Only three records of winter visitors, but Maldivians state that it is frequent and Ali and Ripley (1987) list it as occurring in the Maldives. Also recorded S. Gamu. Refs 2, 4, 6, 25, 33.
- INTERMEDIATE EGRET *Mesophoyx intermedia* (no local name). (A captured bird on K. Malé in 1982 was photographed [Shafeeg]. In 1993 a caged bird was photographed on L. Kunahandhoo on 12 November. The first records for the Maldives.) Ref 2, 6, 32.
- CATTLE EGRET *Bubulcus ibis* (Iruvaa hudhu). (A captive bird on 21 April 1984 in K. Malé, where there were 11 birds in May [Ash]. In 1993, two on M. Mulah on 8 November; L. Kadhdhoo, one on 10 November, L. Maandhoo, one on 10 November, L. Hithaadhoo, one, and L. Kunahandhoo one caged, on 12 November; Dh. Ribudhoo, one caged on 16 November.) A regular visitor, arriving in small flocks in x-xi until iii-v; possibly bred Seenu Atoll in ix. Also recorded: K. Dhiffushi and Seenu Atoll. Refs 2, 6, 12, 13, 25, 27, 32, 33.
- INDIAN POND-HERON *Ardeola grayii* (Huvadhoo raabodhi). *A. g. grayii*; *A. g. phillipsi*. (In 1993, L. Isdhoo, two on 14 November. It is not known if these were migrant nominate *grayii*, of which there have been two previous records further north in the archipelago, or an extension of range of the resident race *phillipsi*, abundant on the two southerly atolls of Seenu and

Gaafu Alifu/Gaafu Dhaalu.) *A. g. grayii* is a straggler collected at Lhaviyani Atoll, and three pond-herons reported at K. Vilingili in ii probably belong here; *phillipsi* is confined to the southern atolls, where it is an abundant resident. Breeding activity in x-ii. In addition recorded: *Seenu* and Gaafu Alifu/Gaafu Dhaalu Atolls. Refs 2, 6, 12, 13, 25, 27, 28, 30, 33.

STRIATED HERON *Butorides striatus* (Dhivehi raabodhi). *B. s. didii* and *B. s. albidulus*. (In 1984, one to three noted in April-May 1984 on K. Kurumba Resort and K. Kan'doomaafushi; H. A. Dhidhdhoo and H. A. Maarandhoo [Ash]. In 1993, widely distributed with 54 individuals on M. Muli; L. Maandhoo, L. Mendhoo, L. Kunahandhoo, L. Fares, L. Isdhoo, L. North Athahedha, L. Vadinolhu, L. Maabaidhoo, L. Hurasdhoo; A. Feridhoo. Presumably all *didii*, with many birds, especially on Laamu Atoll, being pale grey to whitish.) Common resident throughout the archipelago, but probably decreasing. *B. s. didii* is the race reported from the northern and central atolls, while *albidulus* is reported to be confined to the southern. Also recorded Kaafu Atoll: K. Malé, K. Vilingili, K. Hulhule and K. Guraadhoo; Seenu Atoll: S. Hithaadhoo and S. Gamu; Gaafu Alifu/Gaafu Dhaalu Atoll. Breeds x-xi. Refs 2, 4, 6, 7, 8, 12, 13, 14, 20, 21, 22, 25, 26, 27, 33.

BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON *Nycticorax nycticorax* (Raabodhi). (A bird captured on Kaafu Atoll in 1983 was photographed [Shafeeg].) This is the only record from the Maldives. Ref 32.

YELLOW BITTERN *Ixobrychus sinensis* (Dhonraabodhi). (A bird captured on Seenu Atoll in 1987 was photographed by Shafeeg.) A rare visitor recorded twice on S. Meedhoo. Refs 25, 32, 33.

CINNAMON BITTERN *Ixobrychus cinnamomeus* (Rathu raabodhi). (A bird captured without details of date or locality was photographed by Shafeeg.) An occasional visitor recorded about four times; once on Toddu Islet, west of K. Malé and three times on Seenu Atoll in iii, viii, x, xii. Refs 2, 25, 27, 32, 33.

BLACK BITTERN *Dupetor flavicollis* (Kalhu raabodhi). *D. f. flavicollis*. Infrequent visitor with about four records of 1-3 birds, i, iii, iv, xii. Also recorded: K. Malé and K. Vilingili; Seenu Atoll twice. Refs 25, 27, 33.

GREAT BITTERN *Botaurus stellaris* (no local name). A rare vagrant seen on three days, x-xii, on S. Gamu. Refs 25, 33.

GREATER FLAMINGO *Phoenicopterus ruber* (Gudu guda dhooni). (One caught Haa Alifu Atoll, undated, was photographed [Shafeeg].) Ahamed Shafeeg states that it occurs sporadically and that it is well-established in local folklore. Ref 32.

GLOSSY IBIS *Plegadis falcinellus* (Kalhu bulhi thubi). Rare visitor to S. Gamu in i and x. Refs 2, 25, 33.

EURASIAN SPOONBILL *Platalea leucorodia* (Dheyfai dhooni). Twice caught in Vaavu Atoll, according to Ahamed Shafeeg, once in the 1950s and again in 1984. Ref 32.

GREAT WHITE PELICAN *Pelecanus onocrotalus* (Hudhu girubaa dhooni). (An adult captured in Shaviyani Atoll in 1974 was brought to Malé and photographed [Shafeeg].) Ahamed Shafeeg reports observing two in 1962. Ref 32.

[SPOT-BILLED PELICAN *Pelecanus philippensis* (Alhigirubaa dhooni). Ahamed Shafeeg reports this as a rare visitor, with a maximum of five together, the first two observed in 1962. However, no details are available. Ref 32.]

GREAT FRIGATEBIRD *Fregata minor* (Maa hoara). A frequent visitor, recorded i, v, vi, xii, from K. Malé; Seenu Atoll; Gaafu Alifu Atoll; L. Hithadhoo; Baa Atoll; Gnyaviyani Atoll. Refs 2, 3, 25, 27, 31, 33.

LESSER FRIGATEBIRD *Fregata ariel* (Hoara). *F. a. iredalei*. (In 1993, Vattaru Channel, one on 5 November. M. Mulah, two on 9 November; L. Maandhoo, one on 10 November and two on 11 November, L. Kunahandhoo, one on 12 November, L. Maabaidhoo, two on 15 November.) Plentiful around most atolls and probably resident on some. Breeding x and xi (ref 14). Also recorded: *B. Olhugiri* and *B. Thulhaadhoo*; Gaafu Alifu/Gaafu Dhaalu Atoll; S. Gamu; Gnyaviyani Atoll. Refs 2, 3, 6, 8, 12, 14, 25, 27, 31, 33.

BULWER'S PETREL *Bulweria bulwerii* (Hoagula). Very rare visitor: one on S. Feydhoo in viii. Refs 2, 9, 24, 25, 33.

WEDGE-TAILED SHEARWATER *Puffinus pacificus* (Bodu hoagulhaa). (One off Sh. Maagoodhoo on 30 April 1984 [Ash]). A frequent visitor, sometimes plentiful, iii-vii. Also recorded between Seenu and Gaafu Dhaalu Atolls. Frequents adjoining sea areas, iv-x. Refs 2, 4, 25, 27, 31, 33.

FLESH-FOOTED SHEARWATER *Puffinus carneipes* (Maa hoagulhaa). (One captured 26 May 1982, K. Malé was photographed [Shafeeg].) Small numbers in the south, iii-v, vii and x, in the Equatorial Channel between Seenu and Gaafu Dhaalu Atolls, and dozens in July 1991 in the channels between Laamu and Thaa and between Thaa and Dhaalu (R. C. Anderson). Refs 2, 3, 11, 15, 25, 27, 31, 33.

AUDUBON'S SHEARWATER *Puffinus lherminieri* (Dhivehi hoagulhaa). *P. l. bailloni* (*P. l. persicus* according to ref. 14). (Two between Shaviyani and Noonu Atolls, 30 April 1984; two, one and one between Shaviyani and Kaafu Atolls, 6 May 1984 [Ash]. Two birds captured at K. Malé in 1983, were photographed [Shafeeg]. In 1993: off M. Raiymandhoo, two on 5 November; M. Kureli, one on 9 November; Dh. Dhoors, two heard, probably this species (A. M. Hutson). Stated to breed on Meemu Atoll, on all small islands from M. Kolhufushi north-east to M. Raiymandhoo.) A frequent and widespread visitor, sometimes in large numbers, but possibly decreasing; breeds xii-ii, perhaps throughout the year. Also recorded: great numbers bred Lh. Dhiffushi and Lh. Olhuvelfushi; reported to breed on G. A. Hithaadhoo; observed in small numbers in the Equatorial Channel. Refs 2, 3, 4, 6, 9, 14, 18, 25, 27, 31, 32, 33.

- WILSON'S STORM-PETREL *Oceanites oceanicus* (Kadukabaa). (In 1993, one flew south off Faafu Atoll on 16 November; a late bird.) Large numbers occur iv-x in the seas surrounding the atolls. Refs 6, 25, 27, 31, 33.
- WHITE-FACED STORM-PETREL *Pelagodroma marina* (no local name). Very rare visitor: one found dead Seenu Atoll in vii, and one seen in the 1° Channel in August 1994 (R. C. Anderson). Ref 3, 33.
- WHITE-BELLIED STORM-PETREL *Fregetta grallaria* (no local name). One definite and a probable in the 1° Channel in August 1994 (R. C. Anderson). No previous record from the Maldives. Ref 3.
- RUFIOUS-TAILED SHRIKE *Lanius isabellinus* (no local name). A rare visitor recorded only in 1975 on Seenu Atoll. Ref 33.
- BROWN SHRIKE *Lanius cristatus* (no local name). A winter visitor with about six records, xi-i on S. Gamu. Refs 2, 25, 33.
- HOUSE CROW *Corvus splendens* (Kaalhu). *C. s. maledivicus*. (The endemic subspecies is now absent from many islands in the central Maldives, following the government's former policy, now rescinded, for its total extermination as a major pest of fruit and cereal crops and in fish-drying procedures. It was noted as follows, with some estimated populations in 1984 in parentheses: K. Kan'doomaafushi (16), K. Guraadhoo (16) and K. Gaafaru; Lh. Hinnavaru (200); N. Huivani; Sh. Firubaidhoo; H. Dh. Kuburudhoo; H. A. Dhidhdhoo (?250), H. A. Thakandhoo and H. A. Vashafaru (?100); H. Dh. Kumundhoo; Sh. Lhaimagu. Several were feeding newly fledged young in the northern atolls in early May 1984. Crows commuted over c.10 kms of sea between H. A. Dhidhdhoo and H. A. Vashafaru [Ash]. In 1993, K. Biyaadhoo, two on 4 November and four on 5 November; M. Muli, 20 on 5 and 6 November, and two carrying nesting material on 8 November; M. Boahuraa, one on 5 and 6 November; M. Mullah, 27 on 8 November; L. Maamendhoo, 20+ on 10 November, L. Maandhoo, 100 on 10 November, L. Hithadhoo, three on 12 November, L. Mendhoo, four on 12 November, L. South Athahedha, three on 13 November, L. Fares, 15 on 13 November, L. Vadinolhu, one on 13 November, L. North Athahedha, four plus on 13 November, L. Isdhoo, 30 on 14 November, L. Maabaidhoo, 200 on 15 November. Dhaalu Atoll: small islet, one on 15 November; Dh. Dhoores, one on 15 November; Dh. Ribudhoo, five on 15 November. A. Feridhoo, 30+ on 17 November.) With the above exceptions it is resident and abundant throughout the archipelago except in Seenu Atoll and the islands from which it has been removed recently. Breeds i, iv-ix, xii, and probably all months. Also recorded: K. Vilingili and K. Malé, Gaafu Alifu/Gaafu Dhaalu Atoll. Refs 2, 4, 5, 6, 13, 14, 19, 21, 22, 25, 27, 28.
- EURASIAN GOLDEN-ORIOLE *Oriolus oriolus* (no local name). Rare passage migrant with two records on Seenu Atoll in x. Ref 33.

- ASIAN PARADISE-FLYCATCHER *Terpsiphone paradisi* (no local name). Two records in x and xi on S. Gamu. Refs 2, 25, 33.
- EYEBROWED THRUSH *Turdus obscurus* (no local name). (A bird captured at M. Musaru in 1983 was photographed [Shafeeg].) This is the only record for the Maldives. Refs 4, 32.
- INDIAN ROBIN *Saxicoloides fulicata* (no local name). One record in xi on Seenu Atoll. Ref 33.
- NORTHERN WHEATEAR *Oenanthe oenanthe* (no local name). One record in x on Seenu Atoll. Ref 33.
- PIED WHEATEAR *Oenanthe pleschanka* (no local name). Irregular winter visitor with six records on S. Gamu, x-xii. Refs 2, 25, 33.
- ISABELLINE WHEATEAR *Oenanthe isabellina* (no local name). A fairly regular autumn visitor, with eight records, x-xii, on S. Gamu. Refs 2, 25, 33.
- COMMON STARLING *Sturnus vulgaris* (no local name). One on Seenu Atoll in i. Refs 2, 17, 25, 33.
- COMMON MYNA *Acridotheres tristis* (Mainaa). This species became established on K. Malé through the release of cage-birds prior to 1939. The population of c.200 died out during World War II during a period of acute local food shortage (Ahamed Shafeeg). Only one record since, on K. Vilingili, in spite of the statement that it is well established in the Maldives (Ali and Ripley 1987). Refs 2, 13, 32.
- SAND MARTIN *Riparia riparia* (Forikey). A regular winter visitor and passage migrant, ix-xi and v on S. Gamu. Refs 25, 33.
- PLAIN MARTIN *Riparia paludicola* (Forikey). One record in xi on Seenu Atoll. Ref 33.
- BARN SWALLOW *Hirundo rustica* (Forikey). *H. r. gutturalis*. A northern winter visitor annually, ix-ii, in small numbers. Reported: K. Malé, K. Vilingili; S. Gamu; Gnyaviyani Atoll. Refs 2, 3, 13, 14, 22, 25, 27, 33.
- NORTHERN HOUSE-MARTIN *Delichon urbica* (Forikey). (One, H. A. Maarandhoo, on 4 May 1984. It soon attracted the company of six House Crows, with which it played in elaborate aerobatics for at least half an hour. Identification as *D. urbica*, rather than Asian House-Martin *D. dasypus*, is claimed with confidence [Ash].) Irregular winter visitor, x-ii, sometimes in moderate numbers. Also recorded: K. Malé and K. Hulhule; S. Gamu. Refs 2, 4, 12, 14, 23, 25, 27, 33.
- [WARBLER *Phylloscopus* (no local name). One recorded on Seenu Atoll in x was considered by the observer to be a Willow Warbler *P. trochilus*, but this seems very unlikely to be correct, given that there is only one record for the species from the Indian subcontinent. Ref 33.]
- HOUSE SPARROW *Passer domesticus* (Gay kurulla, a Sinhalese name). (One to three seen often in two sites in K. Malé in April and May 1984. The males had a broad black throat line above a conspicuously large black breast patch,

and had a striking call rendered as a plaintive 'schweet' [Ash.] Ahamed Shafeeg observed the establishment of this species in K. Malé, which commenced in 1962 when a local resident began to release surplus birds he was rearing in captivity. This was continued over the years, leading to the build-up of a large resident population, which was augmented by c. 100 birds that arrived with a grain ship from Sri Lanka in around 1980. This population was almost entirely exterminated by a German rodent control team in around 1981, but it is now building up again with a present population of c. 200 mainly based in the port area. There are no other records from the Maldives. Ref 4, 32.

YELLOW WAGTAIL *Motacilla flava* (Fenfoa dhooni). Irregular winter visitor in small numbers, x-xii, and sometimes iii-iv, probably mainly on passage, on K. Malé, S. Gamu and once on a ship 72 kms south of Seenu Atoll. Refs 2, 12, 25, 27, 33.

GREY WAGTAIL *Motacilla cinerea* (no local name). Two records of single northern migrants in xi and xii on S. Gamu. Refs 2, 25, 33.

TREE PIPIT *Anthus trivialis* (Dhon fenfoah dhooni). *A. t. trivialis*. One record of a single bird in xii on K. Malé. Refs 2, 25, 27.

RED-THROATED PIPIT *Anthus cervinus* (Mushi fenfoah dhooni). Autumn passage migrant and winter visitor in small numbers recorded at least five times, ix-xii, on K. Malé and S. Gamu. Probably an annual visitor. Refs 2, 25, 27, 33.

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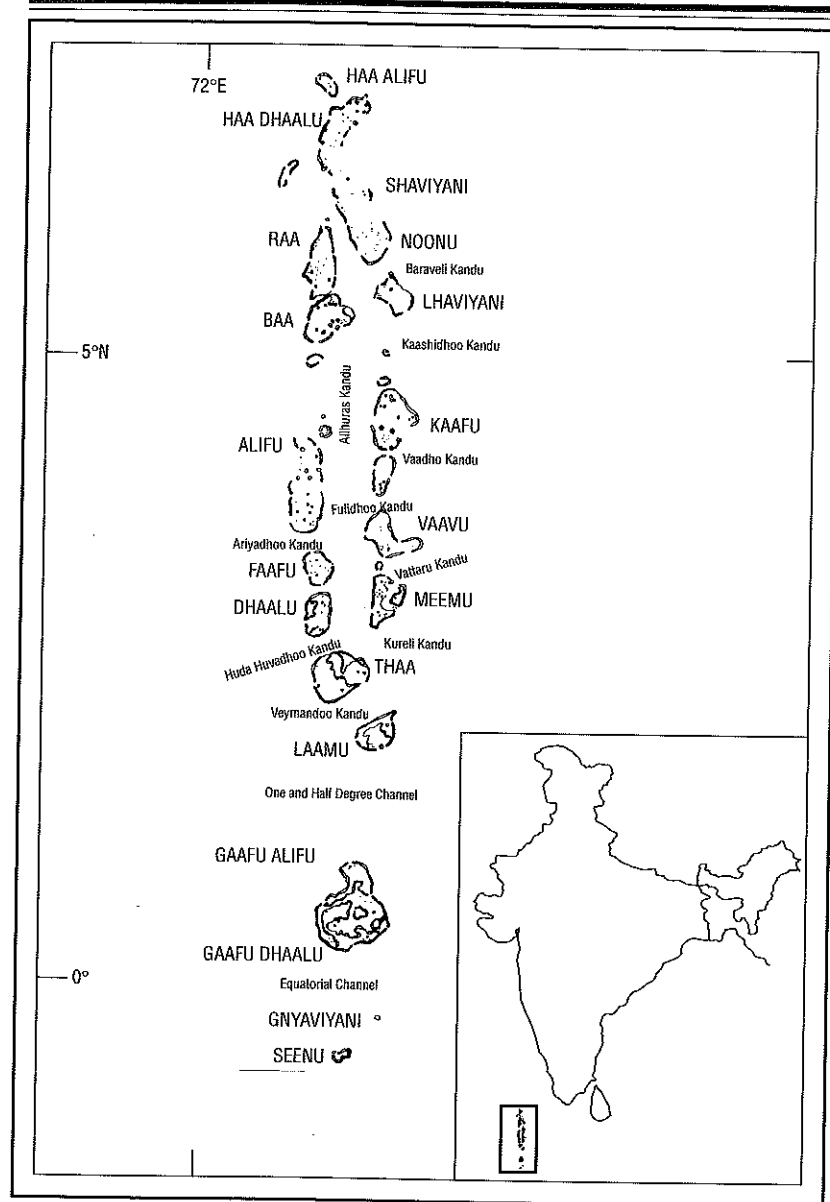


Figure 1. The Maldivian Islands

APPENDIX 1

NAMES OF MALDIVIAN ATOLLS

Each atoll generally has two names: an older 'geographical' name referring to the atoll feature, and a newer 'code' name referring to the administrative unit. There are 26 natural atolls but only 19 administrative units - some units cover two atolls, but some of the large atolls are divided into two units (the capital Malé is regarded as a twentieth). The two systems are equally correct and both are current at present. However, the code name is becoming increasingly popular and is used particularly by younger people. Some atolls seem to be known regularly by their code name (e.g. Dhaalu), others by their geographical name (e.g. Alifu). There seem to be no rules as to which name system is used, except that they should not be mixed. One authority is said to use geographical names for scientific papers, whilst another apparently uses the code name because it is simpler. The code system is named after the Maldivian alphabet, and the atolls are named from north to south. There is enormous variation in spelling, presumably because it is not necessarily clear how to transcribe the Maldivian script into our alphabet (the presence or absence of 'u' at the end of a word is particularly variable).

A third, separate, naming system is based on the latin alphabet ('letter' in the list below). Administrative units are assigned letters from A to S starting from the north; Malé town is assigned the letter 'T'. This system is used for a few special applications, for example in boat registrations.

'Atholhu' is 'atoll', 'Uthuruburi' is north part and comes after the name, and 'Dhekunuburi' is south part and also comes after the name; however, the English names are used below. The spellings used are from an island and atoll compendium currently being compiled by Hassaa Maniku. Atoll code names (in italics in the left hand column) are used in the systematic list. A cross reference to all synonyms is provided in the following list.

Letter	Atoll and code names*	Latitude	Geographical names and synonyms
	Addu	0°35'S	Seenu
I	<i>Alifu</i> (A)	4°00'N	Ari, Rasdu and Thoddu
	Ari	3°50'N	part of Alifu
F	<i>Baa</i> (B)	5°10'N	Malosmadulu South & Goifulhafenchdhoo
M	<i>Dhaalu</i> (Dh)	2°50'N	Nilandu South
L	<i>Faafu</i> (F)	3°15'N	Nilandu North
	Fadiifolu (Fadippolu, Fadifoli)	5°25'N	Lhaviyani
	Felidu	3°30'N	part of Vaavu
	Fua Mulaku (Fuvah Mulaku)	0°15'S	Gnyaviyani
	Gaafaru	4°45'N	part of Kaafu
P	<i>Gaafu Alifu</i> (GA)	0°40'N	Huvadu (Suvadiva) North
Q	<i>Gaafu Dhaalu</i> (GDh)	0°20'N	Huvadu (Suvadiva) South
R	<i>Gnyaviyani</i> (Gn)	0°15'S	Fuvah Mulaku
	Goidhoo Fehen Fuihadhoo	4°53'N	part of Baa
A	<i>Haa Alifu</i> (HA)	6°50'N	Tiladunmathi North & Ihavandhippolhu
B	<i>Haa Dhaalu</i> (HDh)	6°40'N	Tiladunmathi South & Makunudu
	Haddunmati	2°00'N	Laamu
	Horsburgh	4°53'N	Goifulhafenchdhoo
	Huvadu (Huvadhoo)	0°30'N	Gaafu Alifu & Gaafu Dhaalu
	Ihavandhippolhu	7°00'N	part of Haa Alifu
H	<i>Kaafu</i> (K)	4°20'N	Malé North and South, Kaashidoo & Gaafaru
	Kaashidhoo	4°58'N	part of Kaafu
	Kolumadulu	2°25'N	Thaa
O	<i>Laamu</i> (L)	2°00'N	Haddunmati
G	<i>Lhaviyani</i> (Lh)	5°25'N	Faadhippolu
	Maamakunudhoo	6°25'N	part of Haa Dhaalu
	Malé North and South	4°20'N	part of Kaafu
	Malosmadulu North	5°40'N	Raa
	Malosmadulu South	5°10'N	part of Baa

K	<i>Meemu</i> (M)	3°00'N	Mulaku
	Miladunmadulu North	6°15'N	Shaviyani
	Miladunmadulu South	5°50'N	Noonu
	Mulaku	3°00'N	Meemu
D	Nilandhoo North	3°15'N	Faafu
	Nilandhoo South	2°50'N	Dhaalu
	<i>Noonu</i> (N)	5°50'N	Miladunmadulu South
E	North Malé	4°20'N	part of Kaafu
	<i>Raa</i> (R)	5°40'N	Malosmadulu North
S	Rasdu	4°17'N	part of Alifu
	<i>Seenu</i> (S)	0°35'S	Addu
C	<i>Shaviyani</i> (Sh)	6°15'N	Miladunmadulu North
	South Malé	4°00'N	part of Kaafu
	Suvadiva (Huvadu) North	0°40'N	Gaafu Alifu
	Suvadiva (Huvadu) South	0°20'N	Gaafu Dhaalu
N	<i>Thaa</i> (Th)	2°25'N	Kolumadulu
	Thiladunmathi	6°40'N	Haa Alifu & Haa Dhaalu
	Thoddoo	4°25'N	part of Alifu
	Tiladunmati North	6°50'N	part of Haa Alifu
	Tiladunmati South	6°40'N	part of Haa Dhaalu
J	<i>Vaavu</i> (V)	3°30'N	Felidu & Vattaru
	Vattaru	3°15'N	part of Vaavu

* Italicised names are the present code names which are based on the Maldivian alphabet (its relevant letters are shown alongside each one). All the atolls lie close to 73°E.

APPENDIX 2

List of islands mentioned in the text

The names conform as far as possible with the *Map of Maldives* (ref 1). Alternative spellings used in the cited references are also given, with the reference numbers given in parentheses.

Aligaa (Lhaviyani Atoll)
 Bandos (Kaafu Atoll)
 Baresdhoo (Laamu Atoll)
 Bibera (Haa Alifu)
 Biyaadhoo (Kaafu Atoll)
 Boahuraa (Meemu Atoll)
 Bodufaru (Raa Atoll)
 Bodufinolhu (Laamu Atoll)
 Bodulhaimendhoo (Noonu Atoll) = Bodu Mandu (14)
 Bushy Islet (Seenu Atoll) unnamed on map, = Kaduhira, Kanda Hera (23)
 Dhagathi (Alifu Atoll) = Dugati
 Dhidhdhoo (Haa Alifu Atoll) = Didhoo
 Dhiffushi (Kaafu Atoll) = Diffuri (27)
 Dhiffushi (Lhaviyani Atoll) = Difuri (14, 30)
 Dhigufinolhu (Kaafu Atoll)
 Dhoonidhoo (Kaafu Atoll) = Dunidu (27)
 Dhoores (Dhaalu Atoll)
 Eboodhoo (Kaafu Atoll) = Embudu
 Eydafushi (Baa Atoll) (14, 27) = Hedufuri
 Fahala (Thaa Atoll)
 Fares (Laamu Atoll)
 Feridhoo (Alifu Atoll)
 Feydhoo (Seenu Atoll) = Fedu (24)
 Filladhoo (Haa Alifu Atoll)
 Firubaidhoo (Shaviyani Atoll) = Firubaidoo
 Fonadhoo (Laamu Atoll)
 Foojaadi (Kaafu Atoll) = Fajarde (27)
 Foah Mulah (Gnyaviyani Atoll) = Fuah Malok, Furah Mulaku, Fua Malaku
 Fulhadhoo (Baa Atoll) = Furudu (14)
 Funadhoo (Shaviyani Atoll) = Furnadu (14, 27)
 Furannafushi (Kaafu) = Furunafushi, Foran Fushi
 Gaafaru (Kaafu Atoll) = Gaha Faro, Garo Faro
 Gamu (Seenu Atoll) = Gan (12, 25, 27, 33)
 Gardu Islet (Kaafu Atoll) (27) = ?Gandhoo
 Grawa (Kaafu Atoll) = ?Giraavaru
 Gulhi (Kaafu Atoll)
 Guraadhoo (Kaafu Atoll) = Guraidhoo, Guraidoo
 Hibalhidhoo (Baa Atoll) = Hebaridu (14)
 Himmafushi (Kaafu Atoll) = Himmafuffi (27), Hima Fushi
 Hinnavaru (Lhaviyani Atoll)
 Hithaadhoo (Baa Atoll) = Hithadhoo, Hittadu (20, 23), Hitadu (30)
 Hithaadhoo (Gaafu Alifu Atoll)
 Hithadhoo (Laamu Atoll)
 Huhimendhoo (Laamu Atoll)
 Huiyani (Noonu Atoll)
 Hulbule (Kaafu Atoll) = Hulule (26, 27)
 Hulbudhoo (Seenu Atoll) = Huludu (14)
 Hurasdhoo (Alifu Atoll) = Harasdhoo
 Isdhoo (Laamu Atoll) = Isdu
 Kadhdhoo (Laamu Atoll) = Kaddhoo, Kadhu
 Kagi (Kaafu Atoll)
 Kalhaidhoo (Laamu Atoll)
 Kadholhudhoo (Raa Atoll) = Kandeludhoo
 Kan'doomaafushi (Kaafu Atoll) = Kadoomaa Fushi, Kudumaa Fushi
 Kaashidhoo (Kaafu Atoll) = Kaasidoo
 Kassanfaru (Kaafu Atoll) = Kabsanfaru, Cassanfaru (27), Cassanfarra (27)

Kedhikolhu (Noonu Atoll) = Kendikolu (14)
 Kolhufushi (Meemu Atoll)
 Kuburudhoo (Haa Dhaalu Atoll) = Kuburudoo
 Kudafares (Laamu Atoll)
 Kumundhoo (Haa Dbaalu Atoll) = Kumundoo
 Kunahandhoo (Laamu Atoll) = Koonahandhoo
 Kureli (Meemu Atoll)
 Kurumba Resort (N.Malé Atoll) = Vihamanaafushi (?) Vihamanafushi, Wechhamanarfurri (27),
 Wechhamanarfurri (27)
 Landhoo (Noonu Atoll) = Landu (14)
 Lankanfinolhu (Kaafu Atoll)
 Lankanfushi (Kaafu Atoll) = Lankeumfurri (27), Lankconfurri (18)
 Lhaimagu (Shaviyani Atoll) = Lhoimagu
 Lhosfushi (Kaafu Atoll)
 Limbo kandu (Raa Atoll) (14)
 Maaugoodhoo (Shaviyani Atoll) = Maa Ugudu
 Maabaidhoo (Laamu Atoll)
 Maafahi (Haa Alifu Atoll)
 Maafushi (Kaafu Atoll) = Maagushi
 Maahaa Reef (Kaafu Atoll)
 Maakadoodhoo (Shaviyani Atoll)
 Maamendhoo (Laamu Atoll)
 Maamendhoo (Seenu Atoll) = Maradu (14, 20)
 Maandhoo (Laamu Atoll)
 Maarandhoo (Haa Alifu Atoll) = Marandhoo
 Maavah (Laamu Atoll) = Maarah
 Mabaruu (Baa Atoll)
 Madoovari (Baa Atoll) = Maduwari (14)
 Malé (Kaafu Atoll)
 Medhufinolhu (Kaafu Atoll) = Minueofinol (27)
 Meedhoo (Seenu Atoll) = Medu (25), Midu (14)
 Mendhoo (Laamu Atoll)
 Mulah (Meemu Atoll)
 Muli (Meemu Atoll)
 Musaru (Meemu Atoll)
 Naifaru (Lhaviyani Atoll)
 N. Athahedha (Laamu Atoll)
 Olhugiri (Baa Atoll) = Olugeri (14)
 Olhuvelifushi (Lhaviyani Atoll) = Olivelifuri (14)
 Omadhoo (Thaa Atoll) = Omadhu
 Othuveli (Laamu Atoll)
 Rajyandhoo (Meemu Atoll)
 Ribudhoo (Dhaalu Atoll)
 S. Athahedha (Laamu Atoll)
 Thaburudhoo (Kaafu Atoll) = Tambrudu (27)
 Tern Islet (Seenu Atoll) (unnamed on map)
 Thakandhoo (Haa Alifu Atoll) = Takandhoo
 Thulhaadhoo (Baa Atoll) = Thulhaadho, Tuladu (27), Turadu (14)
 Thulhaagiri (Kaafu Atoll) = Thulhagiri, Tulargiri (27)
 Thundudhoshu (Laamu Atoll) = Thundudhoshu Finolhu
 Toddu Islet (Kaafu Atoll) (27)
 Ukulhas (Alifu Atoll) = Ukuthas
 Utheemu (Haa Alifu Atoll)
 Vadinolhu (Laamu Atoll)
 Vashafaru (Haa Alifu Atoll) = Washafaru
 Vattaru (Noonu Atoll) = Wataru
 Vilingili (Kaafu Atoll) = Villingili, Viligili, Willingillie (27)
 Vilufushi (Thaa Atoll)
 Ziyaaraifushi (Laamu Atoll)

APPENDIX 3

CONSERVATION OF BIRDS IN THE MALDIVES

In order to conserve the wildlife, environment and natural beauty of the archipelago for the benefit of posterity, several early decisions and actions require to be undertaken by the Government of the Republic of the Maldives. Following a visit with the Bat Conservation Trust by the three undersigned ornithologists to the Maldives in November 1993, and by one of us with an FAO project in 1984, we propose the following recommendations for consideration regarding bird-life.

1. It is suggested that an experienced expatriate conservation/wildlife adviser should visit the Maldives for a period of up to one year to work with the government's personnel in drawing up a conservation management policy and plan for the whole archipelago.
2. What appears to be a major and widespread market in birds between the atolls and Malé, involving the import of birds from abroad, and the dispatch of birds from other atolls to Malé, needs to be fully investigated and assessed. It seems now to have reached a stage where possibly all seabirds of some species are being destroyed in the Maldives, and urgent legislation is required for their protection and to prevent their total loss.
3. As in many other countries, e.g. Seychelles, New Zealand, etc., breeding colonies of seabirds are an important tourist attraction being visited by increasing numbers of 'ecotourists'. Early action should be taken to survey and record all known present and previous breeding sites throughout the Maldives as a basis for an action plan. The importance of seabirds as indicators of fish presence is, of course, well-known.
4. Establish an educational conservation-awareness programme throughout the atolls, in collaboration with the conservation/wildlife adviser. This should be directed principally through the schools, but be supported by radio talks, television programmes, lecture tours, etc.
5. Before much international support or recognition can be expected the Maldives needs to provide convincing proof that it is serious in its intent to protect its wildlife and environment. At an early stage support should be received for a conservation/wildlife adviser through international aid and conservation agencies (e.g. WWF, IUCN, EC, RSPB, etc.). Effective action would do much to further the Maldives' image overseas, and also attract the increasing number of conservation-minded tourists.
6. Other potential sources of support and funding might include the following: the introduction of a 'conservation tax' of, say, 3-5% on all tourists' bills; Shell Chemicals through an environmental impact study following their seismic survey; various airlines serving the Maldives; the resort islands themselves, etc.
7. Restrictions will need to be imposed on the use by tourists of uninhabited islands in the neighbourhood of resorts. The establishment of reserves, or protected islands, could commence immediately, but in the first place should be confined to selected islands already known to hold breeding colonies of seabirds, or feeding areas for shorebirds. Public access to breeding colonies on relatively small islands needs to be controlled very carefully.
8. The marketing of birds could cease almost totally and immediately through the suppression of the bird market in Malé, the prevention of the resort islands being used as potential marketing channels (apparently currently being undertaken in connection with live lobster transfers), and through directives to Atoll chiefs to the communities under their control, particularly with regard to the wholesale capture of fledgling seabirds.
9. An on-site training programme could be developed by the conservation/wildlife adviser. Early thought also should be given towards appropriate training overseas for a Maldivian Wildlife officer and a Conservation Education Officer. It would obviously be of value for the national Wildlife Officer if a tour was arranged to the Seychelles or elsewhere to study the methods employed in their system of wildlife tourism management.
10. The presence of House Crows presents a problem on some islands. Where some control becomes necessary, an ecological approach to the problem is recommended. Suppression of their numbers could be greatly controlled by an improvement in sanitary conditions and better organised garbage disposal - both of which at present probably provide much of the birds' diet. An attempt is needed to suppress numbers to an acceptable level, rather than their total elimination.
11. There may be a need to seek alternative activities for the many people currently involved in bird persecution. Many might be required as bird-guides in tourism, and as wardens or guards on protected islands.

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 November 1993