

Hawaii, was found at a stock pond off of Keanakolu Rd. high on the slope of Mauna Kea, H., Dec. 8 (TS). At Kealia Pond, M., two ♂ Ruddies were seen well Dec. 18 & 19 and Jan. 26, and two ♀ Ruddies were with them Dec. 19 (P&HB). But the bird of the year was an **Oldsquaw** in fine winter plumage, first seen Dec. 4 near Haleiwa, O. (S.Scott); it moved to nearby Loko Ea Pond and remained easily observable (m.ob.) to at least early February. A vagrant collected years ago at Midway is the only prior state record. This winter certainly produced the most exciting and spectacular duck-watching in recent memory.

Osprey to Owls

An Osprey was reported at Menehune Fish-pond, K., Feb. 19 (DK). A juv. N. Harrier, rare in Hawaii, was observed near Paliku Cabin in Haleakala Crater, M. on several dates through December (P&HB), and the imm. harrier at Midway reported last season remained to at least Jan. 1 (SR).

Several Com. (Hawaiian) Moorhens (*Endangered*) have moved into the new wetland sanctuary area at the upper end of Kaelepulu Pond in Kailua, O. A pair with two–three downy chicks was seen there Jan. 22 & 29 (LT). Some of the unusual shorebird species from fall remained into winter, and some new ones were reported. A Killdeer, very rare in Hawaii, was at Amorient Aquafarm and adjoining Kii Ponds from Dec. 4 to at least early February (PD, EV, LT). Common Snipe were reported on O'ahu—four through the winter at J.C.N.W.R. and three at Waipi'o Pen., PD *et al.*—and also on Maui—two at Kanaha Pond Dec. 28 (P&HB) and one at the pond along Hansen Rd., Jan. 29 (TS).

Chestnut-bellied Sandgrouse have not been reported in recent years, but they turned up this season at their favored haunt on the cement plant road s. of Waimea, H. Eight–ten were on the ground Jan. 4 (KI). Short-eared Owls, likely from Asia, usually appear at Midway Atoll in winter, but none showed up this season (SR).

Endemic Hawaiian Passerines

Ten state and federal biologists surveyed transects throughout the prime forest areas of the Alaka'i region of Kauai for 7 full working days Feb. 22–Mar. 3. Their report of 18 visual or audio encounters with Puaiohi (PC, JD, TS) was encouraging. This is the only one of Kauai's *Endangered* forestbird species that has been seen in recent years. The biologists found *none* of the 4 other critically *Endangered* species, which have not been confidently reported since the late 1980's. Among the more common species, the Apapane and Iiwi, which feed

and dwell mostly in the canopy, were down significantly in number, perhaps because of severe damage to canopy trees from hurricane *Iniki* a year-and-half earlier (PC). The outlook for Kauai's scarcer endemic forestbirds is grim, and getting grimmer.

On O'ahu, some interesting counts of Com. Amakihi were made on various trails in the Ko'olau Mts. In mid-December, 24 were found along the Ko'olau Crest trail in 3 days of hiking, and 52 along the full length of Aiea Trail from the crest to the park (EV). CBCs included 27 on Manoa Cliffs Trail and 12 on Manana Trail (PD), and 18 were found on lower Aiea Trail Jan. 11 (PD). Apapane counts on the same dates were 137 and 101 on the Ko'olau Crest and Aiea Trails, 23 at Manoa Cliffs, 14 at Manana, and 32 at lower Aiea (PD). Counts on Poamoho Trail (n. of most of the other trails) Jan. 5 totaled 20 Apapane and only 2 Amakihi (PD). Seldom do we have an array of counts like this in such a short period on O'ahu.

Other Passerines

Hwamei are being reported again on O'ahu after almost disappearing in recent decades. One was heard in upper Kahana Valley about Dec. 17 (EV); five were recorded on Manana Trail for the CBC Dec. 26 (PD) and three on Aiea Trail Jan. 11 (PD). Red-billed Leiothrix are continuing their comeback on O'ahu. Counts of 12 on Manoa Cliffs Trail Dec. 13 (PD), 18 on Aiea Trail Dec. 19 (EV), and 17 on Manana Trail Dec. 26 (PD) were reported. At least 10 Yellow-faced Grassquits were observed on Manana Trail, O., Dec. 21 (TS), and 15 were reported there Dec. 26 (PD). The ♂ Great-tailed Grackle was still at Sand Island Park, O., Dec. 26, being chased by mynas (PBr). Two Orange-cheeked Waxbills were seen Jan. 10 at Wai'alea Iki Park in e. Honolulu (PD), an interesting locality for this scarce species.

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West Indies Region

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Correspondence from resident observers from Bermuda and Barbados highlight this season's report. And observations from several localities in the Dominican Republic in December provide some insight on endemic species distributions and winter populations of certain neotropical migrant warblers, which appeared to be in low numbers. Comparisons to earlier Christmas Bird Counts in the Dominican Republic may shed interesting light on this trend.

Precipitation measured at the Virgin Islands National Park at Cruz Bay, St. John, United States Virgin Islands, during the period was 36% below average (December -31%, January unavailable, February -46%). A sustained drought during this season implied that migrant landbirds anticipating normal insects, fruit, or nectar resources would be set back by an energy imbalance through a depressed food chain. Shorebirds and waterfowl using salt ponds and ephemeral pools would also have been low in numbers at this latitude.

Although our Barbados correspondent suggested that "there were no significant weather systems which affected the area," one wonders to what extent a protracted 1993–1994 El Niño effect contributed to Barbados' lack of shorebird rarities this year, or reduced migrant numbers elsewhere.

The continued presence of Western Reef-Heron and Little Egrets at Graeme Hall Swamp, Barbados, and other sites in the Lesser Antilles suggests that these species may be on the verge of becoming established colonizers in the West Indies, rather than occasional or lingering vagrants from Africa.

Many may already know of the death of one of the Region's greatest champions of West Indian birdlife, Gabriel Charles, MBE, of St. Lucia. Charles was not only a friend and a contributor to the Region's reports, but a tireless proponent of studying the common birds of his homeland, as well as forestalling the extinction of a national symbol. He believed that studying the life of the St. Lucia Oriole might reveal secrets of the decline of some of the lesser-known birds of St. Lucia and, indeed, among the cohorts of the Windward Islands. We will miss Charles and his energy deeply.

Abbreviations: Ab (*Abaco*); GB (*Grand Bahama*); Ba (*Bahamas*); DR (*Dominican Republic*); PR (*Puerto Rico*); St. J. (*St. Johns*); VI (*Virgin Islands*); Be (*Bermuda*); Bd (*Barbados*); DR (*Dominican Republic*)

Storm-Petrels to Terns

A storm-petrel was noted off Barbados Dec. 12 (MF, EM), but positive identification was withheld pending more details. Other pelagics that date included eight Pomarine Jaegers about 3 mi off the n. coast. Eight Roseate Spoonbills were noted at Jaragua N.P., DR Dec. 15 (JB *et al.*). A single Glossy Ibis was noted at the Treasure Cay golf course pond, Ab February 20 (PWS *et al.*), representing perhaps the first record for that island. A single Am. (Caribbean) Coot remained at Barbados until Jan. 9 (MF, EM), where several others had been noted during autumn. A ♀ N. Shoveler and a N. Pintail were noted at Forster's pond, Bd from December–January. Two Tufted Ducks were reported (EA, AD) from Bermuda Dec. 5, providing the first records from that island. A sub-ad. Lesser Black-backed Gull was seen at New Plymouth Harbour, Green Turtle Cay, Ab Feb. 19 (PWS *et al.*) for probably the first Bahamas record. A first-winter Black-headed Gull was noted (MF, EM) at Congo Road, Bd Dec. 5 for perhaps the first record there, and a first-winter Ring-billed Gull was reported (S&PT) at Cruz Bay, St. J., Dec. 8, where wintering gulls are becoming routine. Surprisingly, there were no gulls seen by the Smiths at San Juan Harbor, or elsewhere in Puerto Rico, January 12–16; some are generally associated with the heavy cruise ship traffic.

Pigeons to Orioles

Plain Pigeons, locally endangered in the Greater Antilles, were noted (JB *et al.*) at 2

interior Dominican Republic locations Dec. 15–16, Aceitillar Pine Forest and near Bahoruco N.P.; there were two at Cidra, PR Jan. 12 (PW&SS). Eighty Hispaniolan Parrots were also noted Dec. 16 near Bahoruco N.P., and 16 Hispaniolan Parakeets were seen at Aceitillar Pine Forest, DR Dec. 15. Six species of exotic psitticines were noted in Puerto Rico in mid-January, mostly at San German (PW&SS).

A resident Short-eared Owl was noted Dec. 19 near rice plantations in the Dominican Republic (JB *et al.*), and a Least Poorwill was reported Dec. 20 (JB *et al.*) for one of the few reports of this endemic nightjar. A ♀ Chuck-will's-widow provided a great scope view at Francis Bay Pond Trail, St. J., Dec. 4 (S&PT). A ♀ Ruby-throated Hummingbird was seen at Norman's Castle, Ab Feb. 20 (PWS *et al.*), representing possibly the first from that island and the latest winter record. P.W. Smith suggests that this hummingbird is probably under-reported in the Bahamas. Perhaps its presence is masked by the abundance of resident Bahama Woodstar and Cuban Emerald.

One of the last places in the West Indies where significant numbers of Golden Swallows may be seen is the interior highlands of the Dominican Republic, where 12 swallows were reported Dec. 15 at Aceitillar Pine Forest and eight Dec. 16 near Bahoruco N.P. (JB *et al.*). The Jamaican subspecies seems to be declining in spite of increased monitoring. A large contingent of swallows—including >50 Cliff, >30 Barn, and one Bank—descended upon St. J., Dec. 9; one N. Rough-winged Swallow was seen Dec. 3 (S&PT). A sub-ad. Tree Swallow was noted among wire-resting Barn and Bank swallows at Cienga Tiburones, PR Jan 15 (PW&SS).

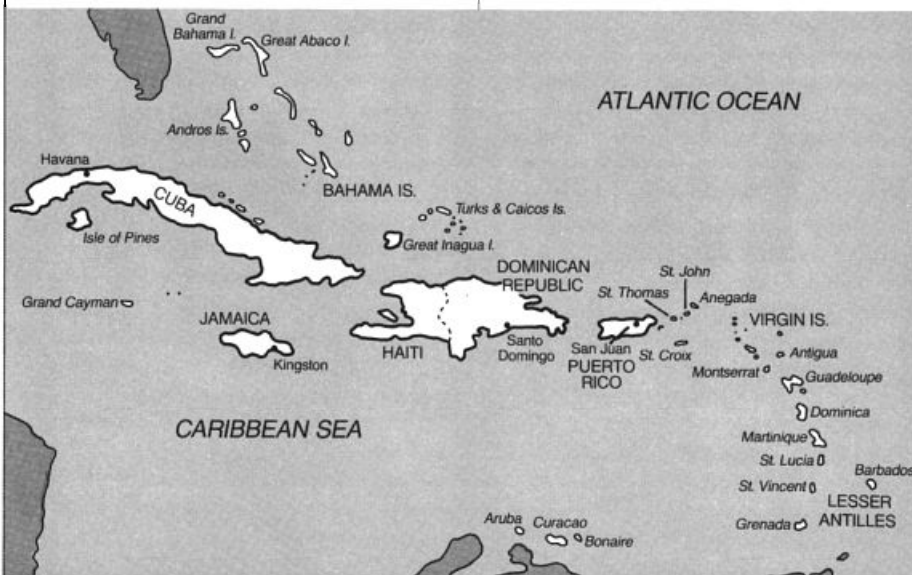
Six Green-tailed Ground Warblers were

noted Dec. 15–19 in various locations of the Dominican Republic, suggesting a healthy distribution of this Hispaniolan endemic. A single White-winged Warbler noted Dec. 16 at Bahoruco N.P., DR (JB *et al.*) was one of very few records of this endemic reported to the Regional editor. A Prothonotary Warbler was noted at Barbados Jan. 9 (MF, EM) at Graeme Hall Swamp. The Beatons recorded an impressive 19 neotropical migrant warblers from Grand Bahama during the first 3 days of November. Among them was a Swainson's Warbler seen at Grand Nov. 1 (G&BB), perhaps the only record from that island and rarely reported from the Region. Other warblers included resident species: 15 Olive-capped, one Yellow-throated, four Pine warblers, and three Bahama Yellowthroats. A Chestnut-sided Warbler was seen at Caneel Hill Trail, St. J., Dec. 9 for one of the few reports from the Virgin Islands. The threatened Barbados race of the Yellow "Mangrove" Warbler appears to be holding on, if not increasing, locally (MF, EM); approximately 40 pairs have been counted at Graeme Hall Swamp. Six Rufous-collared Sparrows were noted (JB *et al.*) at Cordillera Central, DR Dec. 19. Four Antillean Siskins and a single White-winged Crossbill, one of the West Indies' and Hispaniola's most unusual resident birds, were heard (*vide* JB *et al.*) Dec. 16 near Bahoruco N.P., DR. A Lincoln's Sparrow was "pushed" up at Norman's Castle, Ab Feb. 20 for perhaps only the 2nd record from there. An imm. White-crowned Sparrow was photographed (GB) at Grand Bahamas Nov. 2 for perhaps the first time, though the species is not unknown from the Bahamas (Brudenell-Bruce 1975). A N. (Baltimore) Oriole was noted at Caneel Bay, St. J., Dec. 9 (S&PT).

Addendum

Included in the winter season correspondence from Barbados were summer and fall 1993 records of note (MF, EM): a juv. Purple Gallinule at Cole's Oct. 24–Nov. 8; a Ruff Nov. 14 at Forster's and two Nov. 21; 4th island record of Collared Plover seen June 27 at Arch Pond, St. Lucia and at Green Pond July 25; an ad. non-breeding Sandwich Tern at Oistin's Bay Aug. 20–22; and a non-breeding ad. Black Tern at Oistin's Bay July 14–15 and possibly again Aug. 13, with an additional bird Aug. 21–Oct. 2. Early fall dates were recorded for Cliff and Bank swallows Sept. 9 at Christ Church.

Fall reports (AD) from Bermuda and Grand Bahama (G&BB) were received too late to be published in last season's report, but included some outstanding records:



three Fulvous Whistling Ducks at Bermuda Nov. 16 (AD); first Bermuda record of **Sandhill Crane** (ph.) Oct. 9–November; a **Virginia Rail** noted briefly by Giff Beaton—who monitors rallid distributions in the s.e. United States—in the open under good light conditions near Lucayan N.P., GB Nov. 4 for perhaps the 2nd record from the Region. Seven Roseate Spoonbills and a Gull-billed Tern were reported Nov. 1 (G&BB) at Freeport, GB; *six* records of N. Wheatear at Bermuda Oct. 2–Nov. 5 (AD, PH, PS, DW, PW); Bermuda's 8th record of **Townsend's Warbler** Sep. 15 (PW).

Fall season reports submitted to *AB* 46:1 are included here and highlight an extensive survey of Abacao and Green Turtle Cay, Bahamas (PS, WB, HL) November 16–19, 1990. Several new records for the island include W. Kingbird, Bahama Mockingbird, Blue Grosbeak, Chipping and House sparrows; and for the Bahamas, a **Great Black-backed Gull**. During winter 1991 the “inveterate” Com. Black-headed Gull was observed at Cabo Rojo, PR January 22 (SS, DS). This, or another, Com. Black-headed Gull has appeared at Cabo Rojo in w. Puerto Rico for several consecutive seasons.

On Andros, Ba, 12 species of migrant warblers were reported Jan. 26–February 2, 1991 (BS, RL). Other birds of note were a Roseate Spoonbill, four Fulvous Whistling-Ducks, two Bahama Swallows Jan. 28, and a Yellow-throated Vireo. Notable absences, according to Sorrie, were West Indian Whistling-Duck, Bahama Mockingbird,



Immature White-crowned Sparrow at Grand Bahama November 2, 1993. Photograph/Giff and Becky Beaton.

Yellow Warbler, Bahama Yellowthroat, and Red-winged Blackbird.

Migrant warblers were reported to be scarce at Eluethera, Ba, in late February 1991, which Siphron has covered in winter for 15 seasons. A Turkey Vulture was noted Feb. 21 for the first winter occurrence in the central part of that island. Ring-billed Gulls (17) were noted at Tarpum Bay, Eluethera, along with a single Laughing Gull. Pond water levels appeared to be higher in 1991 than in 1990, the driest year Siphron had witnessed. A ♂ Ring-necked Duck and a record 64 Short-billed Dowitchers were noted Feb. 19.

Corrigenda

Vol. 47:457; “small W. Indian race of the Double-crested Cormorant... at Paradise I., N.P. and ... Great Inagua” should read Neotropical Cormorant (ph).

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