

Hawaiian Islands Region

ROBERT L. PYLE

Unusually strong northeasterly trade winds persisted for an extended period in late fall, perhaps a factor in the stranding of five times the normal number of young shearwaters on O'ahu beaches this season. Several rare visitor species turned up in the islands, but numbers of the commoner species of shorebird and duck visitors arriving by end of November continued to be lower than had been normal five-ten years ago.

Abbreviations: H. (*Hawai'i I.*); J.C.N.W.R. (*James Campbell N.W.R., O'ahu*); K. (*Kauai I.*); M. (*Maui I.*); O. (*O'ahu I.*).

Petrels to Egrets

One Christmas Shearwater and three larger shearwaters identified by the observer as probably Pink-footeds were observed with Wedge-tailed Shearwaters 13 mi off Hilo, H., Aug. 6 (KI). A huge number of Wedge-tailed Shearwaters, mostly juveniles, were found stranded on O'ahu beaches this fall and were turned in to Sea Life Park. More than 1200 had been received at the Park through early December, compared to 150-250 in a normal fall (MB). About 75% of them were healthy, and were banded and released promptly. No explanation for the large numbers has been offered, but unusually strong tradewinds persisting for several weeks in late fall may have been a factor in blowing juveniles from the offshore nesting islets directly to O'ahu's e. coast. An unusually large number of road-killed Wedge-taileds were also reported in e. O'ahu this fall, particularly during the last week of November (EV) when winds were strong. On Kaua'i, meanwhile, the fallout of young Newell Shearwaters (*Threatened*) was only 1031 by season's end, down for the 3rd consecutive year (TT). The lower numbers are suspected to be a residual effect from the passage of hurricane *Iniki* in September 1992, during which a portion of the breeding adults were lost. Replacement of these sexually mature adults may take 4-5 years (TT). Other species recovered during this autumn's fallout on Kaua'i included eight Hawaiian (Dark-rumped) Petrels (*Endangered*) and

one juv. Band-rumped Storm-Petrel (TT), indicating that small populations of these scarce species are still breeding on Kaua'i. Three Band-rumped Storm-Petrels were reported Aug. 6 at sea 13 mi off Hilo, H. (KI).

Fourteen Masked Boobies seen on Moku Manu islet off O'ahu in late afternoon Oct. 3 was an unusually high count (EV). A White-tailed Tropicbird was observed Oct. 23 flying at about 9000 ft high above Hanawi Natural Area Reserve (6700 ft) on the upper slope of Haleakala Mt., M. (RC). One Red-tailed Tropicbird was seen during the Audubon field trip Sept. 18 flying over Ki'i Unit, J.C.N.W.R. (LT), an interesting locality for this species. Individual Cattle Egrets are observed occasionally at small atolls far from the Main Hawaiian Islands, but some unusually high counts were reported this fall. At Laysan I., far up the chain of N.W. Hawaiian Islands, one was first seen Sept. 14 and three had arrived there by Nov. 2 (U.S.F.W.S.). And at tiny Johnston Atoll, 700 mi s.w. of Honolulu, one-two were seen during early November, building up to four Nov. 20 and six Dec. 3 (U.S.F.W.S.).

Ducks to Quails

One Fulvous Whistling-Duck observed at Ki'i Unit, J.C.N.W.R., Nov. 26 (LT, PD) was the first report of this species in nearly a year. A small breeding population of more than 2 dozen adults was established at Ki'i for a number of years, but declined steadily during 1993 and had disappeared by early January 1944. The small group of Nene (Hawaiian Goose, *Endangered*) introduced a few years ago to Kilauea Point N.W.R. continued to prosper, with 3 nests underway by November's end (KV). A flock of six White-fronted Geese, rare in Hawaii, appeared at Hanalei N.W.R., K., Nov. 11 and was still there in early December (CD). One Canada Goose was seen with them Nov. 15-25. The ♀ Blue-winged Teal overwintering at Ki'i Unit, J.C.N.W.R. was seen there Nov. 1 (PB), and a female and a male were there together Nov. 26 (LT, PD). Other scarce migrant species arriving in late fall included two ♂ Cinnamon Teal at Waipi'o Pen., O., Nov. 8 (MO), a Eur. Wigeon at Laysan I., Oct. 3-Nov. 3 (U.S.F.W.S.), and single ♀ Ring-necked Ducks at Paialoa Pond, Moloka'i, Nov. 11 (PD, RLP) and at Punamano Unit, J.C.N.W.R., Nov. 26 (PD, LT). A first-year ♂ Tufted Duck was seen well at Kaelepu Pond in Kailua, O., Oct. 23 (LT, RLP).

Single Ospreys, an unusual straggler to Hawaii, were reported this fall on 3 islands: at Honouliuli (PD), Mokuieia (DH), and near Diamond Head (*fide* EV) on O'ahu; at Waimea and Poipu Beach on Kaua'i (*fide* TT); and at Kihei on Maui (TP). All sightings were in November. An ad. ♀ N. Har-

rier, a very rare vagrant in Hawaii, was observed well at Ki'i Unit, J.C.N.W.R., Nov. 26 (PD, LT) and 28 (EV). One Japanese Quail, resident on some islands but very difficult to locate, was found in a meadow near Kilauea, K., Oct. 16 (DP *et al.*). One Gambel Quail was seen along Keanekeolu Rd on the slope of Mauna Kea, H., Sept. 22 (EV). This is the only locality in Hawaii, other than Kaho'olawe I., where this species has been reported a few times in recent years

Plovers to Sandgrouse

A Black-bellied Plover, an uncommon winter visitor to Hawaii, remained at W. Loch Shores Park, O., from Aug. 6 (TS) through at least Nov. 28 (EV). Other single Black-bellieds were reported during fall at Waikoloa Hotel Pond, H. (TS), Kealia Pond, M. (TS, EV), and near Waialua, O. (EV). A Killdeer, rare vagrant to Hawaii, was seen Oct. 29 (RLP) & Nov. 6 (PD) in a nearly dry pond at the former Amorient Aquafarm, O. Other rare visitors included a Greater Yellowlegs at Ki'i Unit, J.C.N.W.R., Nov. 12 (MO) and possibly another at Kealia N.W.R., M., Nov. 24 (U.S.F.W.S.), and a vagrant Whimbrel at Laysan I., Nov. 1 (U.S.F.W.S.). Bristle-thighed Curlews were reported at several unusual sites this fall. Single birds were found at Hanapepe airstrip, K., Aug. 12 (KI) and Oct. 13 (DP *et al.*), at Kaena Pt., O., Aug. 16, increasing to three in October (DH); at Mo'omomi Preserve, Moloka'i, Aug. 28 (JA); and a late one at Nuupia Pond W.M.A., Nov. 2 & 3 (LT). One was seen at their regular haunt at Kahuku Pt. Pond, O., Aug. 14 & 15 (RLP). One Bar-tailed Godwit, another scarce visitor here, appeared at French Frigate Shoals Oct. 2 & 3 (U.S.F.W.S.). One-two Sharp-tailed Sandpipers were reported at several localities, but eight arrived at Laysan I., Sept. 25 and had increased to 12 in mid-October (U.S.F.W.S.). The most notable shorebird this season was Curlew Sandpiper, which had been recorded fewer than 5 times previously in Hawaii. One on Laysan I., Oct. 1 was photographed and well-described (U.S.F.W.S.). Later, one was studied well at Waialua Settling Ponds Nov. 6-10 (PD, LT, EV *et al.*), then moved to Waipi'o Pen., O., by Nov. 12 (MO). Also, a Red-necked Phalarope, much rarer in Hawaii, was observed together with a Red Phalarope at Laysan Oct. 18 (U.S.F.W.S.).

A first-winter Franklin Gull, rarely seen in Hawaii in fall, was found at the water treatment pond at Maunalani Hotel, H., Sept. 10 (RD, TM), and seen there again Sept. 17 (TS). Other gull stragglers reported during the last week or two of November included a Bonaparte's and a Ring-billed at Ki'i Unit, O., another Ring-billed at Waiakea Pond in

Hilo, H., and single Glaucous-wingeds at Laysan I. and at Pa'akai Pond in Nu'upia Ponds W.M.A. One winter-plumaged Com. Tern was watched fishing at Aimakapa Reef, H., Aug. 8 (KI), and a Least Tern was observed (TS) and photographed (CH) Sept. 10 & 11 at Aimakapa Pond, H. A Black Tern, an exceptionally rare vagrant in Hawaii, was seen in flight at Kealia Pond, M., Sept. 5 (EV); and one was watched foraging for 10 minutes at Nu'upia Ponds W.M.A., O., Oct. 3 (EV, DP). Five Chestnut-bellied Sandgrouse, seen well on the ground and in flight along W. Hawaii Cement Rd., H., Oct. 12 (DP, RLP) indicated that this species still does appear at this favored locality, at least irregularly.

Passerines

Seven young Alala (Hawaiian Crow, critically *Endangered*) were released successfully into the wild in the McCandless Ranch area of Hawai'i I. during October. Four of these had been hatched in the captive flock at Olinda, M., and the other three had been raised from eggs collected from the wild flock. Two other chicks raised from wild eggs were transferred to the captive flock at Olinda to help broaden the very limited genetic base now hampering production in that flock. One ad. Puaiohi (*Endangered*) was seen again on Mohihi Ridge Trail, K., Nov. 25 (JD), but none of the other *Endangered* Kaua'i forestbirds has been positively sighted since the late 1980's. Maui Parrotbills (*Endangered*) continue to be reported occasionally along the main trail in Waikamoi Preserve, M. One—two were seen well there Sept. 4 (EV), two were there Oct. 6 (DP), and one (probably a male) was sighted

Oct. 18 (TS). The best news about *Endangered* Hawaii forestbirds was the sighting of both Nukupuu and Poouli on Maui. One ad. ♂ Nukupuu was seen briefly Oct. 20 during a U.S.F.W.S. survey trip (JJ), the first confirmed sighting of this species in recent years. During an earlier survey trip Aug. 30, two ad. and one juv. Poouli were seen in a family group, the latter begging and being fed by the adults (U.S.F.W.S.). Three brief detections of Poouli were recorded on 2 other dates during the 2 surveys. Sightings of both species were on the n.e. slope of Haleakala Mt., near where they had been last sighted a few years ago.

Warbling Silverbills were seen 3 times on O'ahu this season. Two birds were found at Kaneohe Marine Corps Base Oct. 23 (LT), five—ten were at Lyon Arboretum in Honolulu Nov. 13 (PB), and two were seen near Makapu'u Lighthouse Nov. 20 (PB). Silverbills are still rarely reported on O'ahu, although they have become common on several other islands.

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West Indies Region

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Late season tropical cyclones added much needed precipitation to the rainfall budget of many islands. Tropical Storm *Debbie*, which flooded St. Lucia in early September, brought larger than normal numbers of shorebirds to nearby Barbados. Strong easterly winds and fallout of Saharan dust at Barbados in late November raised doubts as to the origin of some migrants normally considered from eastern North America. As you notice the bold-faced records, recall their normal migration destination. Andrew Dobson of Bermuda wrote that no less than 14 early dates were broken this fall, and as many as 157 species were recorded by the end of October. Eric Amos' records over the last 25 years suggested that the first migrant wave was about six days early.

Abbreviations: Ba. (*Bahamas*); Bd. (*Barbados*); Be. (*Bermuda*) and Ma. (*Martinique*).

Pelicans to Terns

A Brown Pelican was noted at Andros, Ba., Oct. 14 (TW, BH), but it is not known whether it was of Cuban or Floridian origin. A small group of pelicans may have begun nesting in the n. Bahamas once again. A juv. Brown Booby was repeatedly seen along the w. coast of Bd., Sept. 28—Oct. 23 (MF, EM).

Neotropical Cormorants are making their presence known in the Bahamas (TW, BH) with sightings at New Providence (two birds) Oct. 6 and Bennett's Harbour, Cat Island, Oct. 8 (TW, BH). Two Reddish Egrets were noted Oct. 14 at Stanford Cr., Andros, and one on Old Bight, Cat Island, Oct. 8 (TW, BH). Seven West Indian Whistling-Ducks were seen at Andros, Ba., Oct. 14 (TW). A half-dozen Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks, probably of S. American origin, were seen at Christ Church, Bd., in mid-August; a single bird remained there until mid-October (MF, EM). An imm. N. Pintail was present at East Point, Bd., Oct. 30 (MF, EM), and two Ring-necked Ducks appeared there also Nov. 6—30. Up to five Lesser Scaup were present at Raedde Hall Swamp, Bd., Nov. 30. An ad. Guddy Duck was seen at Mangrove, Bd., in mid-August and probably again at Coles, Bd., Sept.

