

the same period was far below average. A Prothonotary Warbler, a casual straggler to California, was on Pt. Loma in San Diego May 27 (JW). Only four Ovenbirds were reported, with one at Iron Mt. Pumping Plant in s.e. *San Bernardino*, May 13 (MAP), single individuals at Gallileo Hill Park May 27 (DMcD) & 31 (RHa), and the 4th along the coast on Pt. Loma in San Diego June 10 (REW), this being far less than in recent years. A N. Waterthrush at S C R.E., Apr. 22 (BL) had probably wintered in that area. Six N. Waterthrushes at desert oases in *Kern* and *Riverside* between May 11–June 3 were also far less than expected. A **Louisiana Waterthrush** in Yucca Valley, *San Bernardino*, June 7–10 (EAC, MAP) was the 7th to be found in California. A Kentucky Warbler, a rarity in California at any time of the year, was on Pt. Loma in San Diego May 28 (GLR). Five Hooded Warblers, with single birds inland at Twentynine Palms May 14 (EAC), Gallileo Hill Park the same day (RS), at Fort Piute in extreme e. *San Bernardino* May 28 (MSM), and along the coast in Solana Beach, *San Diego*, May 20 (PAG) and near the Santa Ynez R. mouth June 2 (BrH), furnished an average number for this time of the year. A Canada Warbler, exceptional in spring, was at Iron Mt. Pumping Plant June 4 (MAP). A Painted Redstart at Morongo Valley, *San Bernardino*, Apr. 18–19 (AB) was at a location where previously recorded in spring, but one in Encinitas, *San Diego*, May 24 (DWA) was along the coast where virtually unknown at this time of the year.

Tanagers to Finches

A wintering Hepatic Tanager in Sylmar, *Los Angeles*, was still present Mar. 8 (CB). Only two Summer Tanagers were reported away from areas of normal occurrence, this being far fewer than normal. Ten Rose-breasted Grosbeaks scattered throughout the Region between May 15–June 10 was close to the average number for this time of the year, but 15 Indigo Buntings during the same period was less than expected. Two Dickcissels were found, with a male inland at F.C.R., May 27 (MAP, BDS) and another male along the coast in Montana de Oro S.P., *San Luis Obispo*, June 4–5 (DB).

A Black-throated Sparrow in Torrey Pines S.P., *San Diego*, Mar. 26 (SS) was on the immediate coast, where unexpected. A Swamp Sparrow in San Simeon, *San Luis Obispo*, Apr. 16 (RR) was the latest of the wintering birds. A Chestnut-collared Longspur on the Los Alamitos A.F.R.C., *Orange*, Mar. 14 (BED) was unusual considering the time of the year.

Only two Bobolinks were reported, with a female at the Santa Ynez R. mouth May 21

(BrH) and a male there June 4 (BrH), this being far less than expected. A ♂ Bronzed Cowbird near Tecopa, *Inyo*, May 27 (DR) was the northernmost reported this spring. A N. (Baltimore) Oriole in Orange Mar. 7 (JEP) was undoubtedly wintering locally, but single males near Westmorland, *Imperial*, May 20 (RHi), on Pt. Loma in San Diego May 22–25 (DWA), near Tecopa May 27 (DR), and at Los Osos, *San Luis Obispo*, May 30 (SH) were spring vagrants.

The **Black Rosy-Finch** found in Aspendell, *Inyo*, Feb. 11 was still present Apr. 1 (NF).

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Hawaiian Island Region

ROBERT L. PYLE

Below normal rainfall with weak and less persistent trade winds continued through the spring, affecting the Main Islands and particularly parts of Hawai'i Island, which is suffering its worst drought condition in two decades. Relief is not likely before late fall, when the winter wetter season is due to return.

Abbreviations: F.F.S. (*French Frigate Shoals*); H. (*Hawai'i I.*); K. (*Kaua'i I.*); M. (*Mau'i I.*); O. (*O'ahu I.*).

Albatross to Frigatebirds

In the thriving Laysan Albatross colony at Kilauea Point N.W.R., 24 chicks were banded from 91 nests started, a good high percentage. Six more chicks were banded in nests outside the refuge. All are expected to fledge successfully in early summer. Black-footed Albatross were observed again this season flying past Kilauea Point; one seen Mar. 5, two Mar. 13, and four Mar. 14 (KV). Black-footed are reported in the Main Islands much more rarely than Laysans now, in contrast to several decades ago when Black-footeds were seen regularly just off Honolulu harbor.

Two Black-footeds were observed Apr. 13 during an all-day pelagic trip from Honolulu out to fish aggregation buoys 10–13 mi offshore. Other Procellariids reported during this unusually productive pelagic trip included two Mottled Petrels, two Hawaiian (Dark-rumped) Petrels (*Endangered*), an unidentified *Pterodroma* possibly a Black-winged Petrel, one Bulwer Petrel, and estimated 300 Wedge-tailed Shearwaters, 50 Sooty Shearwaters (an unusually high count), and two Newell Shearwaters (Threatened) (PP, EV, RLP *et al.*). One Mottled and one Black-winged petrel were also reported at sea Apr. 18 between Maro Reef and Gardner Pinnacles (JM) in the Northwest Hawaiian Islands. Later, while heading eastward s. of Ni'ihau and Kaua'i Apr. 23, Marks counted 41 Newell Shearwaters ("conservative" count) during the day, but observed no Band-rumped Storm-Petrels, which are thought to nest on Kaua'i.

Lydgate Beach Park on the e. shore of Kaua'i was found to be a good observation point for seabirds in late afternoon during April (KW). One Hawaiian Petrel was clearly observed flying 100 ft offshore Apr. 22. Newell Shearwaters were seen several evenings flying across the beach headed inland; highest count was 24 in an hour or so Apr. 22 (KW). More than 200 birds, mostly Wedge-tailed Shearwaters possibly with a few others among them, were seen well offshore in late afternoon of Apr. 22 & 23 (windy, cloudy), but birds were very scarce Apr. 20 & 25 (mild weather). Lydgate Park has good public access. One ♀ Lesser Frigatebird remained at Tern I., F.F.S. throughout the season, and one male was also observed there May 9 & 21.

Goose to Terns

Thirty-two young Nene (Hawaiian Goose, *Endangered*) from the state propagation facility at Olinda, M. were released in February and April at isolated Nualolo Aina on Kaua'i's n.w. coast in an attempt to establish a 3rd wild population on that island. Within weeks, the majority of birds had dispersed into small groups, including four which traveled 26 mi across the island to Westin Lagoons near Lihue (TT). The original Kipu Kai population in s.e. Kaua'i is now estimated at 130 birds, and the group transplanted to Kilauea Point N.W.R. in n.e. Kaua'i now numbers 35. The 20 goslings fledged this year at Kipu Kai and the three at Kilauea Pt. were disappointingly few, probably resulting from the unusually dry conditions and some predation (TT). Northern

Pintails wintering at Kealia Pond N.W.R., M. decreased steadily in bi-weekly counts from 46 Mar. 1 to none May 16, and N. Shovelers went from 12 to none (MN).

Straggler Ospreys reported on 3 Main Islands in recent seasons were still present this spring: One was seen at Kahalu'u field pond, O., Apr. 30 (EV); one at Kealia Pond N.W.R., M., Mar. 15 and May 3 (MN); and one on Kaua'i at Poipu May 1 and several times during May at Puu Lau Res. near Koke'e (*vide* TT).

Up to three Black-bellied Plovers were still at Kealia Pond N.W.R., M. through the spring, the last one seen May 3 (MN). The Greater Yellowlegs wintering at Kealia Pond was reported again Mar. 1 & 15 (MN) and Apr. 11–12 (PP). A bird studied well at Kanaha Pond, M., Mar. 23 was identified as a Gray-tailed Tattler (good †, SM). A Bristle-thighed Curlew was found again Apr. 14 at Hanalei airstrip, K. (PP *et al.*), where one has been seen off and one in recent seasons. A flock of 81 Ruddy Turnstones in breeding plumage was at Lydgate Beach Park, K., Apr. 24 (KW). One Red-necked Phalarope, very rare in Hawaii, turned up at Laysan I., Mar. 29 & 31 (JM). Two Red Phalaropes were reported off Kaho'olawe I., Mar. 26 (SM), and one about 15 mi off Honolulu Apr. 13 (PP, EV).

Pomarine Jaegers are regular in winter in waters around the Main Islands, but Long-tailed Jaegers have been recorded in Hawaii only 5 times and Parasitics only once—during an ocean voyage nearly 200 mi from the islands. Thus, it was an outstanding event when all 3 jaeger species were seen on one

pelagic trip Apr. 13. Along with 10 Pomarines during the trip, one **Parasitic Jaeger** was found 5 mi off Honolulu, and one **Long-tailed Jaeger** was about 8 mi off Maili Pt., n.w. of Honolulu (PP, EV; written † for both species from both observers). The winter-plumaged Black Tern (accidental in Hawaii) wintering on Laysan I. was still there Apr. 15 (JM).

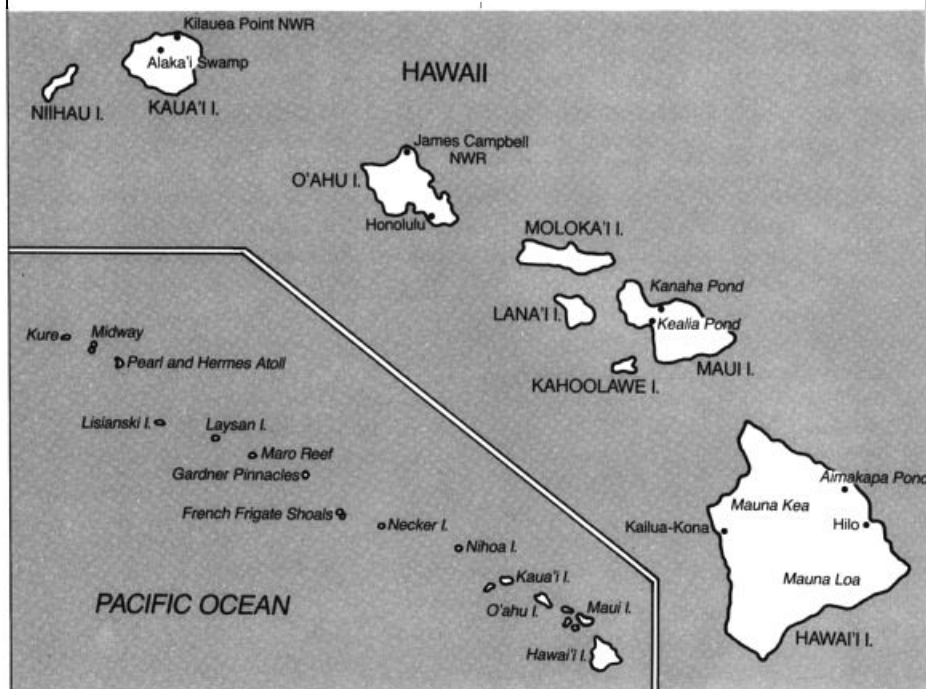
Passerines

Red-whiskered Bulbuls (as opposed to the abundant Red-vented Bulbuls) have slowly spread throughout most of Honolulu proper, but have been reported only sparingly across the Ko'olau Mts. on the windward side of O'ahu, mostly in the Kailua-Kane'ohe area. This spring 2 observers reported sightings on the windward side. One was spotted Mar. 22 on Ko'olau-poko Trail back of Maunawili (LP), and up to four were seen Mar. 19–23 in the Kokokahi areas of Kane'ohe (LT). Both sites are in Kailua-Kane'ohe, not far from Ho'omaluhia Gardens, where a small population of Red-whiskered has been resident and breeding since the late 1980s (MM).

The continuing search for Elepaio on O'ahu (current candidate for *Endangered* listing) yielded an encouraging count of 25 and 2 nests in Pia Valley back of e. Honolulu Mar. 5, and 13 in Waikane Valley on the windward side May 2 (EV). In 3 one-week surveys in Alaka'i Swamp, K. during April and May, numerous encounters with Puaiohi (*Endangered*) were attributed to probably four separate adults, one juvenile, and one fledgling. One recently active nest and one old nest were found (TC, AL). The breeding season for Palila (*Endangered*) on Mauna Kea, H., was mediocre at best this year, in response to a mediocre crop of mamane flowers and pods. Nine nests with eggs or chicks were being followed at the end of May, with 3 additional nests awaiting eggs (*vide* TT).

Three Akiapolaau (*Endangered*) were reported in a kipuka on Powerline Rd. off Saddle Rd., H., May 11 (DS), a good locality for this species. At least four and possibly six Akikiki (Kaua'i Creeper) observed on Alaka'i Swamp Trail, K., near the stream crossing (TS) represented an unusually high count for recent years. At Hakalau Forest N.W.R., H., Hawaii Akepa (*Endangered*) and Hawaii Creeper had poor nesting seasons, ending earlier than normal, probably resulting from the prolonged drought conditions there (EV). Other endemic landbirds probably also had reduced nesting seasons, although Elepaio nesting seemed to be going on normally at Hakalau (EV).

Three Java Sparrows were reported during March at a feeder e. of Kaunakakai,



Moloka'i (HJ), an island not yet colonized by this species.

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West Indies Region

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The ornithological news this period must be viewed through weather-watchers eyes. The rainfall deficit January to May 1995, as measured in the Virgin Islands archipelago (*i.e.* Cruz Bay, St. John, United States Virgin Islands since 1878) was an incredible 61 percent below average. The spring period experienced a "hellacious" drought, with 75 percent below-average precipitation (March, -48 percent; April, -98 percent; and May, -74 percent). Water rationing went into effect in both San Juan, Puerto Rico, according to Williams, and Vieques, Puerto Rico, where Gemmill reported a dearth of herons and egrets, as well as neotropical migrants. Pierce *et al.* found fewer Masked Boobies nesting than expected this spring in the Virgin Islands, reported P. William Smith, perhaps as a result of fewer fish. And Williams reported that warmer water temperatures in Puerto Rico probably affected coral bleaching in the Caribbean, albeit to a lesser degree than in the recent past.

It's difficult to imagine how the Region's landbirds can manage to sustain their populations when resources are nonexistent. Social behavior of otherwise gregarious species

may breakdown (Morton 1982; Norton 1993; Tramer and Tramer 1979). Long droughts force wetland species to emigrate to islands where ponds and sloughs still afford nesting and feeding opportunities. Landbird vagrancy has been detected (Norton and Hobbs 1987) when the Region suffers periodic droughts. Without fresh water outwellings, plankton blooms cannot augment fish populations in neritic check waters supporting breeding seabirds.

Abbreviations: BE (*Bermuda*), CI (*Cayman Is.*); DM (*Dominica*); MN (*Monserrat*); NV (*Nevis*); PR (*Puerto Rico*), StL (*St. Lucia*); StT (*St. Thomas, United States Virgin Is.*)

Shearwaters to Terns

A Cory's Shearwater was seen off Coopers I., BE March 21 (SD) during migration. A White-tailed Tropicbird noted April 28 was Gemmill's first at Vieques, PR in 11 years of spring and winter surveys. Several Masked Ducks, males and females, were seen at a small pond at Grand Anse, StL May 30 (PW&SAS, MW), which may represent the southern-most breeding station in the Lesser Antilles.

A Peregrine Falcon seen at Hamilton, BE Mar. 15 (LM) provided only the 2nd spring record for the island. A Merlin was seen at Montpelier Plantation Inn, NV Mar. 29 and Apr. 2 (JF) for one of few reports from that island. A Whimbrel noted at Vieques, PR Apr. 27 (DG, EL) was among lingering shorebirds, which also included a Stilt and Least sandpipers, Semipalmated Plover, and Ruddy Turnstones.

