

unusually late. Bruner was surprised to find two Bristle-thigheds mingling with people at Haleiwa Beach Park, O., Sept. 17. At Hanapepe airstrip, K., four Bristle-thigheds were found Sept. 29 (DK), and one—two were reported there regularly through Nov. 30 (v.o.). A Buff-breasted Sandpiper, very rare vagrant in Hawaii, was studied closely in early September by Refuge staff at Tern I., F.F.S. (MW *et al.*). Detailed descriptive notes were provided.

A strange tern in nearly basic plumage was observed well by 4 observers independently on different dates in late September & Oct. 1 at Aimakapa Pond & Reef, H. (DP, EV, RD, KK). All judged it to be a *Chlidonias*, one favoring a White-winged Tern, the others believing it more likely a Whiskered Tern. Detailed descriptive notes were provided by two observers. Neither species has been recorded previously in Hawaii.

Sandgrouse to Estrilids

Chestnut-bellied Sandgrouse introduced on Hawai'i I. years ago still persist near Waimea. Seven were found Oct. 5 back of the W. Hawaii Cement Plant off of Hwy. 190 (KK), and four were observed Oct. 28 in flight along Hwy 190 3 mi s. of Waimea (WS). Rose-ringed Parakeets continue to hang on in s. Kaua'i. Seventeen were reported flying over a yard in Omao, K., Aug. 14 (DJ), and seven were seen Nov. 17 in a yard in Lawai (RLP), a few km from Omao. They appear regularly in the National Tropical Botanical Gardens just s. of Lawai, where six were reported Oct. 12 (*vide* DJ) and one was seen Nov. 15 (RLP). The only known nesting site in Hawaii for Gray Swiftlets is at the end of a blind aqueduct tunnel at the head of N. Halawa Valley, O., a site very difficult to reach. A visit there Aug. 25 found 11 occupied nests (5 with single eggs, 5 with single chicks, one with an adult) and 5 more nests unoccupied (TC, DW). The species has persisted in this area since several hundred were released on O'ahu during the early 1960's.

O'ahu Elepaio were recorded this fall at several favored localities. Five were found in N. Halawa Valley Aug. 25 (TC); one Sept. 3 (PD) and three Oct. 7 (EV) on Kuliouou Trail; and one on Woodlawn Trail Oct. 24 (EV). The O'ahu Elepaio has decreased alarmingly in recent decades, and is now an active candidate for Endangered listing. The Puaiohi (critically *Endangered*) is under active study by National Biological Service personnel in the Alaka'i area of Kaua'i. From recent color banding work they estimate a population this fall of around 20 individuals in

their study area, including some juveniles (TS). Another sighting of the very rare Maui Nukupuu (extremely *Endangered*) was recorded by a National Biological Service biologist on the n. slope of Haleakala Mt., Sept. 14 (MR). Akikiki (formerly Kaua'i "Creeper") were observed several times this fall on the Alaka'i, Mohihi, and Pihea Trails out of Koke'e, K., including 15 recorded during 3 days Sept. 26–28 deeper into the Alaka'i area (DK). Iwi have been rare on O'ahu in recent decades, and have not been reported in the Ko'olau Mts. for several years. It was thus remarkable when three were discovered in one spot off the Schofield-Waikane Trail in the central Ko'olau Dec. 5 (*vide* TP), and six were seen and heard the next day at the same place (EV). This group will be monitored regularly through the winter.

An ad. Red-crested Cardinal was observed Aug. 23 with Nutmeg Mannikins on Camp 10 Road at Kawaikoi Stream near Koke'e, K. (TS), an unexpected locality for this species, which is not abundant on Kaua'i. Seven Orange-cheeked Waxbills were reported at Kealia N.W.R., M. (MN), a new locality for them on Maui, where the species has been local and rarely observed. Java Sparrows are common on the Kona side of Hawai'i I., but three–four seen Aug. 8 on the University campus in Hilo (KI) is one of the first reports from across the island on the windward side. And two Java Sparrows observed Aug. 5 at Kalihwai in n. Kaua'i (DJ) may have come from the population at Princeville 5 km away.

Contributors:

Francis Benevides, Phil Bruner, Tonnie Casey, Reginald David, Cris Dippel, Peter Donaldson, Kamal Islam, Dean Jamieson, Karen Kluge, David Kuhn, Mike Nishimoto, Mike Ord, Doug Pratt, Thane Pratt, Michelle Reynolds, William Smith, Tom Snetsinger, Lance Tanino, Tom Telfer, Eric VanderWerf, Mark Webber, Friederike Woog.

—Robert L. Pyle, 741 N. Kalaeo Ave., Kailua, HI 96734.

West Indies Region

ROBERT NORTON

This was a very active hurricane season, with several islands from St. Lucia north to the Virgin Islands directly affected by major storms such as *Iris*, *Luis*, and *Marilyn*. Bermuda had several close calls, too. On tropical storm *Iris'* sortie through the northern Lesser Antilles, it blew down a tent-city and closed Montserrat's airport, where the population was evacuating because of continued temblors, volcanic explosions, and a growing lava dome. Hurricane *Luis*, a Category 4 storm with 140 mph winds, devastated Antigua and St. Martin September 5, and Category 3 hurricane *Marilyn* followed 11 days later, ripping up St. Thomas. Rainfall usually measured by the United States Park Service at Cruz Bay, St. John, United States Virgin Islands, was unavailable.

Reports covering the geographic extremes of the Region from Bermuda to the northeast and Isla de San Andres (formerly St. Andrews) to the southwest give a very good cross-section of the Region. And observations from Abaco, North Andros, Bahamas, Puerto Rico, St. John, Antigua, and Grand Cayman uphold fall-out records and wave dates across Region. Even brief visits to ornithologically little-known places such as Isla de San Andres help make important contributions to our understanding of changing resident and migrant bird status.

The report from Bermuda was extensive, and gives a sense of fall migration as it might be observed along the southwest tropical Atlantic (Florida and the Bahamas) or the Greater Antilles. It appears that a major avian fallout occurred at Bermuda and western Puerto Rico during the last days of September and the first days of October, with unusual numbers and species recorded. Thirty-seven species of wood warblers were recorded from Bermuda between August 2–October 17. Five waterbirds and six landbirds either tied or broke early dates at Bermuda, and many vagrants reappeared after long hiatuses, *i.e.*, Northern Saw-whet Owl. Given the consistent, high level of birding activity and results there, this island should be considered for a continuous-effort monitoring and banding station.

Abbreviations: Ab (*Abaco, Bahamas*); Ag (*Antigua*); Ba (*Bahamas*); Be (*Bermuda*), GC (*Grand Cayman*); ISA (*Isla de San*



Soar with the eagles. Roar with the grizzlies. Frolic with the sea lions



(And save 43% while you're at it.)

Joining the National Audubon Society opens up a world of discovery. As a member of the nation's most respected wildlife organization, you'll have the chance to experience firsthand the wonders of nature. To share your concerns for the environment. And to look forward to an impressive range of benefits.

AUDUBON magazine. Your passport to fascinating articles and photographs that heighten your awareness of our great natural wonders. Members receive a year (six bimonthly issues) of this award-winning publication.

Free membership in your local Audubon chapter. Participate in conservation and wildlife programs,

including field trips and excursions. **Travel opportunities with Audubon.** Here are vacations that truly reflect your interest, from the icy mountains of Antarctica to the giant turtles of Galapagos. All led by experts in their field. **A strong voice in Congress.** Audubon is your voice on vital environmental issues. **Plus many more exciting benefits.**

A FREE Backpack! Our roomy backpack with the distinctive Audubon logo is yours free with receipt of membership dues. It is our way of welcoming you to the incredible world of Audubon!



Save \$15 on Membership & Receive a FREE Backpack

YES, I care!

Enter my one year membership in the National Audubon Society at a special rate of \$20. That is \$15 off the regular membership dues.

Name (please print) _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Payment enclosed Bill me 5FNR8

Make checks payable to National Audubon Society, P.O. Box 51000, Boulder, CO 80321-1000.

Florida residents please add 6% sales tax. Allow 6-8 weeks for delivery of first issue, and 8-10 weeks (upon receipt of payment) for delivery of backpack. Membership dues include \$10 for AUDUBON magazine. Canadian members add \$10 for postage and GST. Basic membership dues are \$35.

National Audubon Society



Andres); NAN (*N. Andros, Bahamas*); PR (*Puerto Rico*); StJ (*St. John, U.S. Virgin Is.*)

Grebes to Terns

An Eared Grebe seen at Spittal Pond, Be Aug. 10 (EA) provided a first record for the island; it was still in breeding plumage and stayed long enough, Sept. 20, to show plumage changes (*vide AD*). A Sooty Shearwater seen at Castle Harbour, Be Aug. 2 (DBW) was considered the earliest fall record there. A Cory's Shearwater released from a cruise ship at Bermuda Oct. 6 (AD) may have been a storm stowaway. A White Ibis provided only the 3rd fall record for Bermuda Aug. 18 (DBW). An Am. Black Duck reported at Spittal Pond, Be Sept. 9 eclipsed the previous first fall date by 23 days. On Sept. 21, Bracey recorded perhaps the first Limpkin for Abaco, Ba. Few records of this species are reported from the Bahamas. A single Snowy Plover, a local breeder in the n. Lesser Antilles was noted at Dickenson Bay beach, Ag Sept. 3 (J&CT). An Am. Avocet seen at Bermuda Oct. 29 (EA) was the 7th record on the island. A European race Whimbrel (*N. p. phaeopus*) was noted at Bermuda Aug. 26 (EA), and only the 5th record for Bermuda of Hudsonian Godwit was seen Sept. 17 (DBW). A Marbled Godwit on St. John during Aug. 9–16 (D&BW *in litt. via AK*) would be a first St. John record, the earliest fall report for the Region, and only the 4th record for the e. Puerto Rico Bank. A single Upland Sandpiper was seen at Cabo Rojo N.W.R., PR Oct. 4 (MB). A Ruff seen at Bermuda Aug. 16 (AD) was considered the earliest report there. A Great Black-backed Gull was noted at Bermuda Oct. 2, and Lesser Black-backed Gull seen Oct. 22 were first fall reports of these increasingly common species. A moribund Brown Noddy

was found at St. George's Harbour, Be Oct. 11 for the earliest fall record there.

Doves to Orioles

White-winged Doves numbered six at ISA Nov. 17 (CM). Rock Doves seen at Antigua from Aug. 29–Sept. 4 (J&CT) are also established elsewhere in the West Indian fauna, *e.g.* St. Lucia (RLN). Five escaped parakeets, possibly *Aratinga* sp., seen at St. John's, Ag, Aug. 30 (J&CT) could become severe pests on agricultural plots. A Northern Saw-whet Owl appeared at Bermuda Nov. 8 (AD) for the first time since 1988. Three W. Indian Woodpeckers were seen on Grand Cayman Nov. 19 (CM). This species has not been reported from San Salvador, Ba for several years. The remoteness from the species core range, continued habitat loss on Grand Cayman, and other similarities of both stations portends further range reductions. Single Eastern Phoebes seen at Grand Bahama Nov. 25 & 26 (DL, CH, CF) provided perhaps only the 5th and 6th record for the Region and extend occurrence dates. More details are expected elsewhere.

A Ruby-crowned Kinglet seen at Bermuda Sept. 16 (JM) eclipsed the island early date by 19 days. A Ruby-crowned, as well as two Am. Robins and three Cedar Waxwings, were also at Grand Bahama from Nov. 24–26 (DL *et al.*). The first Brown Thrasher in 12 years at Bermuda was seen Oct. 7 (AD). A Red-eyed Vireo was netted at Cabo Rojo N.W.R., PR Sept. 29 (*vide MB*) for one of few confirmed records from the Puerto Rico Bank. A big movement of Red-eyes was apparently underway in late September, because Dobson reported >50 at Bermuda Oct. 3. Ten endemic St. Andrews Vireos were fairly common during Marantz's day visit to ISA Nov. 17. One Thick-billed and three Yucatan vireos were seen at North

Sound Estate, GC Nov. 19 (CM).

Fifteen Yellow (Golden) Warblers were seen at ISA in 3 hours Nov. 17 (CM). Given that island's remoteness, most — if not all — were probably endemic *D. p. flavida*. This is an encouraging report, because only a short distance n. is Isla de Providencia, where the endemic *D. p. armouri* has not been reported since perhaps the 1950s (Bond 1950), although it was looked for in 1972 (Russell *et al.* 1979). Eleven species of migrant warblers were also seen at ISA (CM) during this count period, including a first-record Blue-winged Warbler (Bond 1985; Pashley *et al.* 1988). Twelve species of migrant warblers were noted at South Sound Swamp and North Sound Estates, GC Nov. 19 (CM). A Kirtland's Warbler was seen Nov. 25 at Lucayan N.P., GB (DL *et al.*). Townsend's Warblers were reported from Bermuda Oct. 2 & 8 (EA, DBW). Dobson added that ten Townsend's have been reported from Bermuda in the last 20 years. Remarkable! Kentucky Warblers must have been early this fall; one tied the Bermuda early date Oct. 8 (JM), and one seen at Cabo Rojo N.W.R., PR Oct. 2 (MB) was still earlier and farther south. A Connecticut Warbler was netted at Cabo Rojo N.W.R., PR Oct. 12 (*vide MB*), a little more than a month after the season's first at Bermuda (*vide AD*). A Hooded Warbler seen Aug. 8 tied the earliest fall record at Bermuda. A Lark Sparrow Oct. 18 provided the 2nd record for Bermuda (JM). The occurrence of Shiny Cowbirds around settlements of the e. coast of North Andros, Ba the first week of August (MB) does not bode well for resident land birds. Bermuda's 6th fall record of Orchard Oriole Aug. 11 (DBW) was the earliest in 27 years. Three Jamaican Orioles were seen at ISA Nov. 17 (CM), which is closer to Central America than Jamaica. See a biogeographic or taxonomic link?

Addendum

Frances (*in litt. via JW*) confirmed that six apparently paired Eurasian Collared-Doves were in residence and displaying in April in Nevis.

Contributors (sub-regional editors in boldface): Eric Amos, Michael Baltz, Woody Bracey, Steven DeSilva, Andrew Dobson, John Edmonds, Craig Faanes, Julian Francis, J. Chris Haney, Peter Holms, Allan Keith, Dave Lee, Curtis Marantz, Jeremy Madeiros, Leila Medeiros, Ron Porter, Penny Soares, James and Cilla Tucker, David Wallace, Paul Watson, Jim Wiley, Daniel and Barbara Williams, and David B. Wingate.

—Robert L. Norton, 2601 NW 23rd Blvd., #218, Gainesville, FL 32605.

