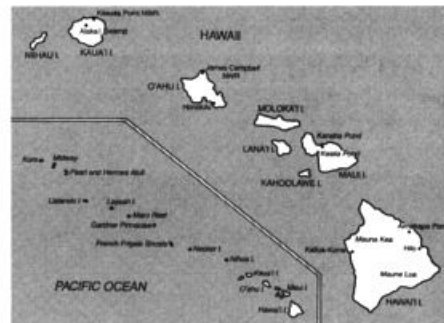


hawaiian islands region



A Gray-tailed Tattler at Sand Island, Midway Atoll, on 4 June. A very rare straggler in Hawaii, it was seen in the company of a small group of Wandering Tattlers. Photograph HRBP-1238/Bert McKee

ROBERT L. PYLE

Summer rainfall was spotty in the main islands, with the year's accumulation still below normal in some areas. Drought was especially persistent on Kaua'i, but the drier spring in the normally wet Alaka'i may have helped bring about a very successful nesting season there for native forest birds. Season highlights included Little Terns and Least Terns laying eggs on Midway and continued successful breeding of captive-released Puaiohi.

Abbreviations: H. (Hawai'i Island); K. (Kaua'i Island); M. (Maui Island); O. (O'ahu Island).

PETRELS THROUGH SHOREBIRDS

Counts of *endangered* Hawaiian (Dark-rumped) Petrels observed flying over Kilauea Pt., K., in early evening ranged from three to eight through the summer (CM). The **Kermadec Petrel** at Kilauea Pt. since May remained at least into August. A partial survey of rarely-visited Molokini islet between Maui and Lana'i 8 Jun found four Bulwer's Petrels in burrows and 80 Wedge-

tailed Shearwaters, including 36 on eggs; altogether 504 Wedge-tailed burrows appeared active and 76 others were inactive (FD). Up to four *threatened* Newell's (Townsend's) Shearwaters were heard calling around the Kilauea Pt. N.W.R. headquarters building through the summer; the species may have been breeding there as in the past 2 years (CM). Repeating the survey taken after hurricane *Iniki* in 1992, a radar survey for Newell's Shearwaters on Kaua'i in June corroborated the continued downward trend in numbers retrieved in the annual autumn fallout and confirmed that *Iniki* probably had a serious impact on Newell's and their nesting habitat from which they have not yet recovered (TT).

Red-tailed Tropicbirds have long been seen around Makapu'u Pt., O., and nesting is regular on Manana islet just offshore of O'ahu's s.e. coast where three adults were flying (MW). Well observed 19 Jun, an early full-grown Red-tailed chick as well as a younger chick with an adult in a nearby cavity—35 m above the ocean in the rock cliffs between Lana'i Lookout and Halone Pt.—provided ample evidence that this

species nests on O'ahu itself (MW). The survey team approaching Molokini islet between Maui and Lana'i 8 Jun counted 43 Great Frigatebirds roosting on the slopes (FD). Frigatebirds do not breed in or near the main islands but do nest in good numbers in the n.w. Hawaiian Is. Numerous Great Frigatebirds, primarily males, observed inland over e. and s.e. Kaua'i during the last 2 weeks of July were presumably moving from breeding colonies in the n.w. islands to roosting sites on islets off O'ahu and Maui. An imm. Great Frigatebird was seen diving (unsuccessfully) for a high-flying 'Apapane over Kawai'oi Stream in the Alaka'i.

Single Great Blue Herons, unusual stragglers to Hawaii, were observed at Kealia Pond N.W.R., M., 14 & 15 Jun (MN) and at Amorient Aquafarm, O., 4 Jul (PD). A very rare straggler to Hawaii, a White-faced Ibis found at Kealia Pond 26–30 Jul (MN) might have been one of two which had been residing for many months at Kona W.T.P and Cyanotech Pond on nearby Hawai'i but which had disappeared by at least 23 Aug (AE).

The small group of *endangered* Nene transported to Kilauea Pt. N.W.R., K., several years ago has bred successfully each winter. Counts this summer of 21 on 12 Jun and up to 46 on 18 Jul (CM) were the highest yet recorded. Four young unbanded Nene sighted in June above Maalaea, M., were offspring from around 70 captive birds released in the w. Maui mountains since 1994. Another pair there produced three hatchlings this year. The current captive-derived Maui population of around 54 birds seems to be flourishing—far from the current wild Nene on Haleakala Mt. (JM).

Most of the 17 Pacific Golden-Plovers overwintering at Midway were in complete basic plumage, several had partial alternate plumage, and only two injured adults were in nearly complete alternate plumage. Adult plovers in full alternate plumage in the Region as early as early June may well be failed breeders returning early

from the Arctic rather than overwintering birds; these included eight ad. Pacific Golden-Plovers arriving 10 Jun at Midway (PP) and nine plovers in alternate plumage first seen 9 Jun at Hanalei N.W.R., K. (CM). *Endangered* Hawaiian (Black-necked) Stilts at Roland Pond in s.w. O'ahu had a good year, fledging 35–40 young successfully

SA The unprecedented occurrence of **Little Terns** (*Sterna albifrons*) and **Least Terns** (*S. antillarum*) reported together at Sand I., Midway, last season became even more interesting in June. The five terns present from 20 Jun onward were often seen together by numerous observers. All soon agreed that two were Littles and three were Leasts—based on frequent comparative observations of distinctive vocalizations, size, tail length, white vs. gray rump and tail, and other subtle plumage differences (PP). In early July, observers discovered a Little Tern nest with eggs near the catchment basin, but a week later it was flooded out by heavy rains. During mid-July, a Least Tern nest with eggs was discovered in the vicinity, and soon afterward observers identified a 2nd Little Tern nest with eggs only 5 m from the Least Tern nest. Unfortunately, the Least Tern nest vanished for unknown reasons, but the 2nd Little Tern nest was still being monitored in late July (BC). Full details of occurrence, identification, and nesting of these terns at Midway will be published elsewhere (PP).

The only known previous record of either species nesting in the Hawaiian Is. was of birds in the late 1980s breeding at Pearl and Hermes Reef and believed at the time to be probable Little Terns (Conant et al., 1991, *Pacific Science* 45: 348–354). After observing the terns at Midway in June, Conant stated that the birds that had bred at Pearl and Hermes were indeed the same species as those identified at Midway as Little Terns. The mingling of these two species, one from Asia and one from America, both in breeding plumage when they are more easily distinguished, is exceptionally interesting. Their concurrent nesting a few meters apart at Midway in the central Pacific Ocean documents large breeding range expansions for both.

(KE). Stilts at Kealia Pond N.W.R., M., increased as water levels dropped, providing a high count of 324 on 21 Jul (MN). A **Gray-tailed Tattler**, a very rare straggler in Hawaii, was observed closely and well with six Wandering Tattlers at Sand I., Midway, 4–6 Jun (PP, ph. BM).

NATIVE HAWAIIAN PASSERINES

An 'Elepaio, now scarce and localized on O'ahu, was observed on Aiea Ridge trail 19 Jun (DK). The captive-released *endangered* Puaiohi that commenced breeding this spring on Kaua'i continued auspiciously into summer. By late June eggs had appeared in 15 nests, 16 chicks had hatched, and five young had survived to fledge successfully. Unfortunately, rats depredated five large nestlings and two adult females by late July (JF). Nevertheless, these events mark the first time that an endangered Hawaiian forest bird has been raised in captivity and released and then has survived to breed and fledge young in the wild—a major landmark for captive propagation in Hawaii (AL).

One U.S. Geological Survey field biologist working on a public access trail in

Koke'e-Alaka'i, K., in one day (9 Jun) saw adults and at least one juvenile of every native forest bird species known still to be extant on Kaua'i—a remarkable achievement! Species observed were 'Elepaio, Puaiohi, Kaua'i 'Amakihi, 'Anianiau, 'Akikiki, 'Akeke'e, 'Apapane, and 'Iwi (JF). Species missed—and considered to be uncertainly extant—were Kama'o, Nukupu'u, and 'O'u. In a 1960 survey Richardson and Bowles found all these plus 'O'o'a'a and Kaua'i (Greater) 'Akialoa, which comprised all the native forest birds known historically from Kaua'i.

Contributors: Bruce Casler, Reginald David, Arleone Dibben, Peter Donaldson, Fern Duvall, Karen Evans, Jeff Foster, David Kuhn, Alan Leiberman, Bert McKee, John Medeiros, Christian Melgar, Mike Nishimoto, Donna O'Daniel, Thane Pratt, Peter Pyle, Judy Ramseyer, Mike Silbernagel, Tom Telfer, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Michael Walther.

Robert L. Pyle, 1314 Kalakaua Ave. No. 1010, Honolulu, HI 96826



west indies region

ROBERT L. NORTON

Summer season in the West Indies is generally the leanest period for reporting the comings and goings of non-resident birds. However, this summer we had some unusually early or late occurrences which may have preceded nesting and potential changes in Regional breeding status. Only reports from Bermuda, Grand Bahama, and the Dominican Republic had sufficient detail to be included in this column at this time.

Abbreviations: BA (*Bahamas*); BE (*Bermuda*).

GREBES THROUGH SISKINS

Pied-billed Grebes nested at Somerset Long Bay Reserve, BE (DW), one of the few times they have done so in recent years. A report of Brown Pelican in mid-June from Chubb



Cay in the Berry Is., BA (SS), suggests wandering either of Florida birds from across the Gulf Stream or of resident birds—but from where? A possible breeding occurrence of Great Blue Heron at Compton's Pond (DW) would be a first for Bermuda if confirmed. Green Herons at Compton's Pond on 14 Jul acted as if they were courting; their documented nesting would also be a first record for Bermuda. The White Ibis reported for several seasons at Devonshire Marsh, BE, remained present (AD); 12 White Ibis were noted 12–19 Jun at Chubb