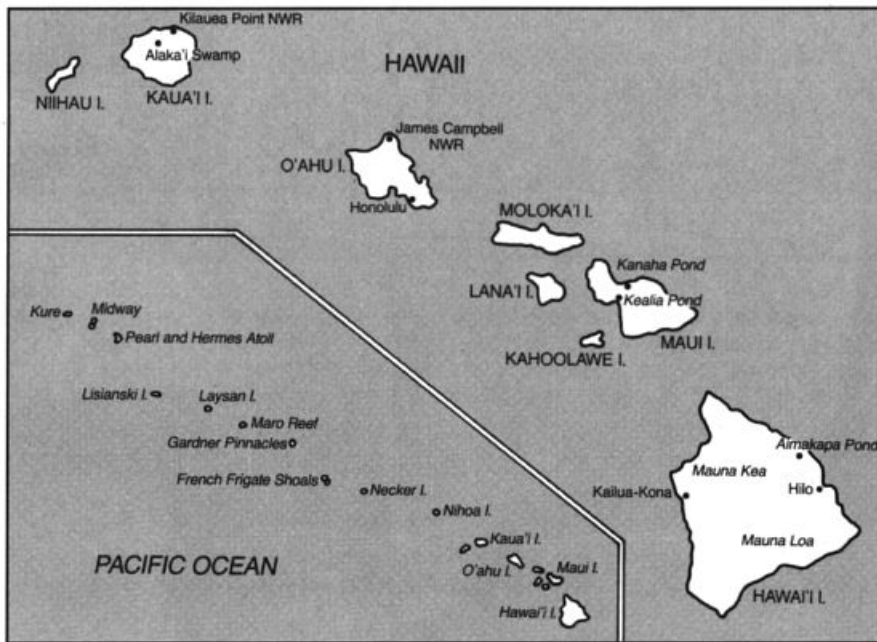


# hawaiian islands



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**R**ainfall was heavier than normal at most locations over the summer. That has helped ease the ongoing drought, but rainfall for the year remains below normal at all locations. Tropical Storm *Daniel* passed north of Hawai'i Island on 31 Jul, but the storm had little effect on weather over the islands.

**Abbreviations:** Chevron (Chevron Refinery at Kalaeloa, O'ahu); Hanalei (Hanalei N.W.R., Kaua'i); Honouliuli (Honouliuli Unit of Pearl Harbor N.W.R., O'ahu); Kealia (Kealia Pond N.W.R., Maui); Kii (Kii Unit of Jas. Campbell N.W.R., O'ahu); K.P. (Kilauea Point N.W.R., Kaua'i); Waiawa (Waiawa Unit of Pearl Harbor N.W.R., O'ahu).

## ALBATROSSES THROUGH TERNS

One adult Laysan Albatross and one chick seen through 23 Jul were the only birds remaining at the breeding colony at K.P.

(CM). An unusually large group of 15,000–20,000 Wedge-tailed Shearwaters were seen flying ahead of a rain shower offshore of K.P. (CM). A Kermadec Petrel seen regularly at K.P. throughout the season (CM) is almost certainly the same individual that has appeared the past three years. At least one ad. Masked Booby and one sub-adult were observed regularly at K.P. 1–20 Jul (CM). Masked Boobies are rarely reported away from O'ahu in the main islands.

A group of 24 captive-raised Hawaiian Geese (*Endangered*) released at Hanalei in early April had all survived through the end of July (CM, TT). Seventy-eight Hawaiian Geese at Crater Hill, K.P., 27 Jul (CM) was an unusually high count for anywhere in the state. A late Northern Shoveler at Hanalei 1 Jun (CM) was not seen again. A Green-winged Teal was found there 17 Jul (CM), an unusually late date.

Seven Hawaiian Coot chicks (*Endangered*) hatched at Chevron 2 Jun (GS). All 7 were still present through 31 Jul, the first nesting record at that location. A second pair of Hawaiian Coots was observed building a nest 16 Jun. By 7 Jul, there were four eggs in the nest (GS).

Hawaiian Stilts (*Endangered*) had good nesting seasons at Kealia (MN), Honouliuli (MSi), and Chevron (PD, GS), but nesting

success was poor at Waiawa and Kii (MSi). It is often difficult to distinguish over-summering shorebirds from early migrants, but fall migrants were clearly arriving by late July. Forty-one Pacific Golden-Plovers were at Waiawa 26 Jul (GF), and 101 were counted at Kii 30 Jul. (PD). A Semipalmated Plover was seen at Kii 27 Jul (MSi). One to four Bristle-thighed Curlews at Kii through the summer (MSi) were probably over-summering, but the 7 seen on 30 Jul (PD) probably included some returning migrants. A summer-plumaged Sanderling was at Kinikini Ditch, Kaua'i, 21 Jul (CM).

The only gulls reported over the summer season were a Ring-billed Gull at Kinikini Ditch Jun 19 (CM), a Laughing Gull at Ele'ele Harbor, Kaua'i, 26 Jun (JD), and a Franklin's Gull at Midway in mid-Jul (PP). Gulls are uncommon in the Hawaiian Islands, especially in summer.

**SA** A boat trip from Kaua'i to Lehua Rock 19 Jun produced some of the most unusual sightings of the season. Lehua is a small rocky island off the n. coast of Ni'ihau, about 18 miles w. of Kaua'i. A sub-adult Great Blue Heron was spotted on Lehua (DK, ph. †CM), a most unusual location. A **South Polar Skua** was observed chasing shearwaters about 3 miles sw. of Kaua'i (†CM). A medium-gray tern about 5 miles w. of Kaua'i did not appear to be a Gray-backed Tern, the only medium-gray tern breeding in the main Hawaiian Islands, but was not seen clearly enough to allow a positive identification (†CM). One Christmas Shearwater, 22 Band-rumped Storm Petrels, and 15–20 Newell's Shearwaters were also reported.

Little Terns nested on Midway Island again this summer, following last summer's first nesting record. Three chicks were present in mid-Jul (NH). Single Least Terns were observed at Waiawa 3 Jun and at Honouliuli 6 Jun and 6 Jul (KH, MSi, VY). Single small terns at Kealia 1 & 10 Jun (MN) were not seen well enough to determine the species.

## PARROTS THROUGH PASSERINES

Six Rose-ringed Parakeets were observed in downtown Honolulu 14 Jun, and 10–15 were reported at the same location 20 Jul (MO). This introduced species has been established on the main Hawaiian Islands since at least 1988, but distribution and numbers are poorly known.

Forty-eight active nests of the Guam Swiftlet (*Endangered*) were found on a visit to the breeding colony in N. Halawa Valley, O'ahu, 11 Jul (DS, GS, EV), suggesting at least 96 adults in the colony. This is the only known nesting site in the Hawaiian Islands. Both the number of nests and the apparent number of adults are much higher than any previous counts. The Guam Swiftlet is native to the Mariana Islands, and the birds on Oahu are descendants of birds transplanted from Guam in the early 1960s.

The introduced Japanese Bush-Warbler continues to expand its range on Hawai'i Island. Over 20 were reported in early Jun in Kawainui Valley near the north end of the island. (KB *vide* TP).

**SA** A Maui Parrotbill chick (*Endangered*) hatched 21 Jul at the Keauhou Bird Conservation Center, Hawai'i I., the first time this species has been bred in captivity.

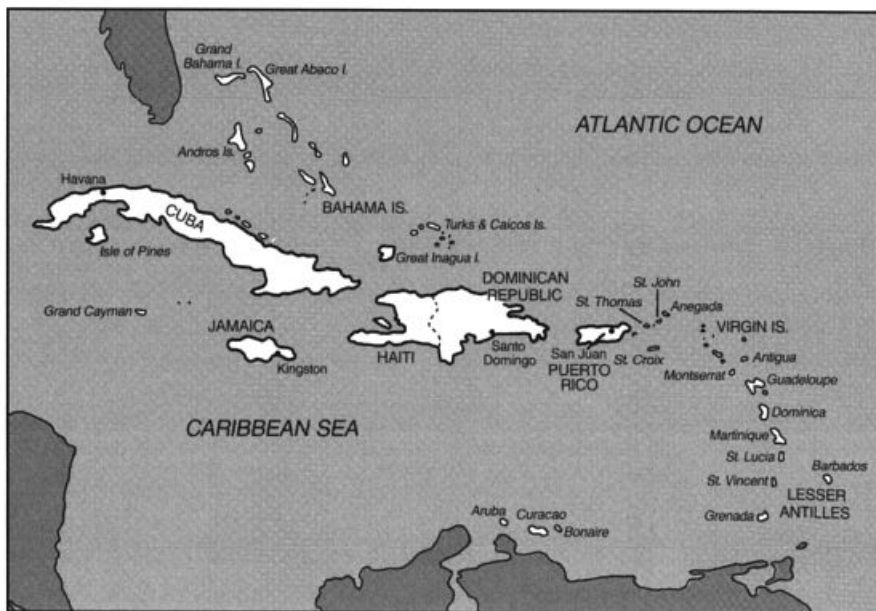
Maui 'Amakihi have been reported recently along the Hana Highway, Maui, near sea level (*vide* DP, LT). The presence of these native forest birds at lower elevations is encouraging. It may be an indication these species are becoming better adapted to mosquito-borne diseases prevalent at low elevations.

Single Saffron Finches were seen in three locations in Hilo, Hawai'i I., and two were seen in Honoka'a, Hawai'i I., 11 Jun (TP). These exotics have been abundant on the leeward (w.) side of Hawai'i I. for years. They now appear to be spreading northward along the windward (e.) side of the island.

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# west indies



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**A**s Andrew Dobson of Bermuda aptly describes, this season is the nadir for bird activity. The other seasons offer those willing to explore the pond, beach, woodland, marsh, and horizon a prize or a reward for their efforts. Migrants are the spice of an otherwise common fare, the unforgettable intruder in neighborhood harmony, the unexpected tryst of bird and watcher. One should always be prepared for the spring straggler and the early fall transient. One might (or perhaps should) also ask if there is story in these trends. Who is watching that horizon? So, for those dedicated summer season birders, these birds are for you.

The tropical, breeding season extends beyond this short reporting period; however, there are few reports of indigenous birds and their habitats from contributors during this time. The ever-quiet summer season in the West Indies still has a few surprises or gifts to those who are persistent. For example, the elusive Grenada Dove was seen in the Mt. Hartman area and provides an opportunity yet for those willing to make the best of two trips if nec-

essary, once in the morning or in the afternoon. Next time you are in Cuba, check out the Playa Largo region, where C&SG managed to find all five quail-dove species. Another species that is somewhat troubled is the West Indian Whistling-Duck, although it may not seem like it at Grand Cayman, where hundreds of birds are being fed by a local farmer. This conservation effort may be responsible for emigrants populating other areas and keeping the gene pool healthy.

No early season cyclone activity disturbed birds or birders, but the lull may have contributed to wider spread or longer migrant stays in the Lesser Antilles; a La Niña effect? Finally, thanks to Mark Gawn, who recently returned to Canada from an extended stay in Barbados where he helped to contribute much to the remarkable records and Martin Frost's reports.

**Abbreviations:** Bd. (Barbados); Be. (Bermuda); Cu. (Cuba); G.C. (Grand Cayman I.); Ha. (Haiti); Ja. (Jamaica); P.R. (Puerto Rico).

## PETRELS THROUGH TERNS

The last date of departure for resident Cahow from Nonsuch Is., Be., was 10 Jul. Cory's and Greater Shearwaters could be still be seen passing northeastwards off