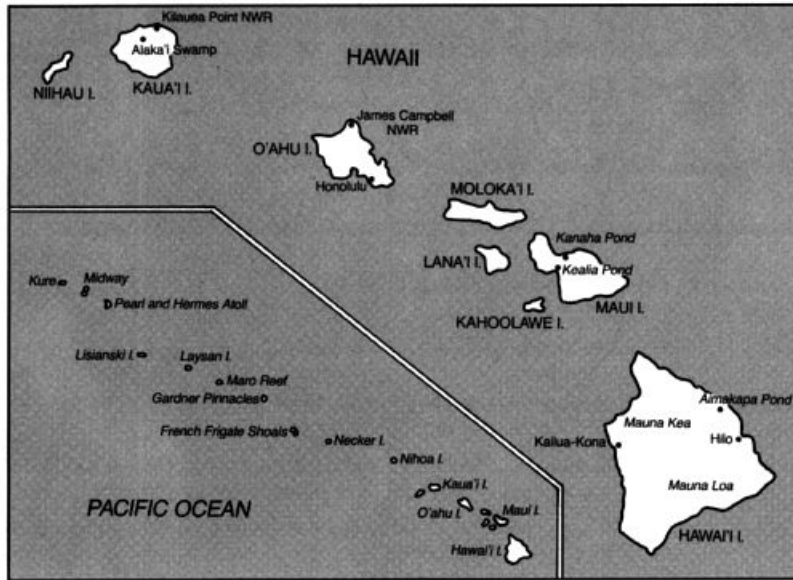


# Hawaiian Islands



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**T**orrential rains fell over Maui and the Big Island in late October and early November, boosting the year's rainfall totals above average for many sites on the east side of the Big Island. Despite a wetter than normal summer and fall, rainfall remained below normal for the year over most other areas of the main Hawaiian Islands. Many wetland areas were dry at the beginning of the season, but conditions improved later. One of the two ponds at Honouliuli was refilled in late August and several ponds at Kii were refilled in late September. The newly refilled ponds attracted a good variety of migrants. Heavy rains on Midway Atoll in late November flooded many areas and submerged over 100 Laysan Albatross nests. The sugar mill at Kekaha, K.i, closed on 17 November. Wastewater from the mill had been pumped into settling ponds that provided habitat for a variety of wetland birds. When the mill closed, the ponds dried.

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

## Albatrosses Through Herons

Thousands of Laysan and Black-footed Albatrosses returned to Midway Atoll by mid-Nov (KL). One Black-footed, a bird banded 6 May 1958, may be the oldest of its species ever documented (KL). Two Short-tailed Albatrosses, a yellow-banded female and a blue-banded male, returned to their usual spots on separate islands on Midway (KL).

A Kermadec Petrel at K.P.N.W.R. since spring was last seen 11 Sep (CM). A Leach's Storm-Petrel was seen well on a boat trip between Kaua'i and Lehua Rock 8 Sep (PD, CM, KP). Six Band-rumped Storm-Petrels were seen on the same trip (DK et al.). Band-rumped Storm-Petrels are seen regularly in Hawaiian waters and are presumed to nest in the islands, but their nesting grounds have never been discovered, despite renewed efforts to locate them this year (DK). A Tristram's Storm-Petrel was found on Midway 18 Oct (KL). Red-tailed Tropicbirds departed K.P. in early Oct, about three weeks earlier than usual (*vide* DP).

A Great Blue Heron was found on Lehua, a small rocky island near Ni'ihau 8 Sep (PD, DK, CM, KP); it was almost certainly the same bird seen there 19 Jun.

## Ducks Through Rails

Numbers of migrant waterfowl were low. The largest flock of any one species was 98 Northern Shovelers at Kii 29 Nov (MSi). A pair of Garganey were at Kii 21 Oct–29 Nov (PD, DP et al.). Another was at Hanalei 19 Nov (CM). Numbers of bay ducks seemed especially low. The largest flock reported, at Kii 24 Nov, contained one Ring-necked Duck, one Greater Scaup, and 5 Lesser Scaup (PD). Two Canvasbacks, uncommon in Hawaii, were at Kealia mid-Oct+ (MN).

A Peregrine Falcon was reported in the Kilauea Point area, K., late Oct+ (CM, v.o.) Peregrines are rare but regular in Hawaii from fall through spring. A **Sora** in Kona 4–22 Sep (KU, vt. RD, in press) furnished the first documented record for Hawaii. A Sora was seen briefly 10 Feb 1992 at the Waipio Settling Ponds, O., but the sighting was never published (†PD). Prior to these reports, there had been no records of any rails in Hawaii since the endemic ones became extinct over 50 years ago.

## Shorebirds Through Terns

**SA** An outbreak of avian botulism at Kealia, which may have begun during the summer, continued into mid-Nov. Over 100 birds are believed to have died. During the outbreak, the refuge was pumped as dry as possible. Large numbers of shorebirds visited the drying ponds but there was little habitat for ducks. High counts of shorebirds included 651 Hawaiian Stilts 16 Aug, 583 Pacific Golden-Plovers 15 Sep, and 121 Sanderlings 17 Nov (MN). By mid-Nov the outbreak had subsided and, thanks to heavy rainfall, water levels were rising again. As the water rose, the shorebirds dispersed and the numbers of ducks increased (MN, in press).

Two to three small plovers on Midway were reported as either Semipalmated or Common Ringed Plovers. Reports of these species, and the spotted and Solitary Sandpipers (see below) uncommon to rare in Hawaii and difficult to separate from each other, were accompanied by little or no documentation. A Solitary Sandpiper was reported at Opauea Pond, H., 6 Oct. A Wandering Tattler at Waiakea Pond, H., 11 Nov (TP) was color-banded Jul 1999 in Alaska and had been previ-

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ously observed at Waiakea Pond Aug 1999–Jan 2000 (TP, v.o.). Spotted Sandpipers were reported at Kealia 1 Sep, Aimakapa Pond, H., 1 Sep, and Kealakehe W.T.P., H., 8 Sep.

By 18 Nov Bristle-thighed Curlews at Kii built to 26 (PD), the largest number recorded on O'ahu and maybe the highest number ever recorded in the main Hawaiian Islands. A Whimbrel of the North American subspecies was at Kii 3 Sep+ (PD); it was probably the same individual that has appeared at Kii each fall since 1997. The outstanding shorebird rarity was a **Black-tailed Godwit** at Kanaha Pond, M., 26 Oct–late Nov (MF, vt. RR, DP, m.ob., in press), providing the first record of this species in the Hawaiian Islands. Many observers got close looks at the bird before it moved to a less-accessible location at Kealia in late Nov (MN, LT).

A Red-necked Stint in breeding plumage was at the Kekaha Mill Ponds, K., 29 Aug–7 Sep (†DK, CM). A non-breeding-plumaged Red-necked was at Kealia 28 Oct+ (DP, et al.). A juvenile Semipalmated Sandpiper was at Waiawa 12 Oct (†PD). A juvenile Short-billed Dowitcher was at Honouliuli 24 Aug (†PD). Single Ruffs were reported on Midway late Oct+ (KL) and at Kualoa Park, O., 23 Sep (JV). These species are all rare in Hawaii. One or two Lesser Yellowlegs were on Kaua'i late Aug+ (DK, CM). One Least Sandpiper was on Midway late Oct–late Nov (KL, no details). One Wilson's Phalarope was at Hanalei 5–12 Sep (ph. CM). These three species had been considered regular migrants in the main Hawaiian Islands but seem to have become less regular since 1995.

Four **Black-headed Gulls** were seen on Midway in Nov. Two were later found dead and salvaged for the Bishop Museum (KL). There are 7 previous reports for Hawaii, but half have few supporting details. One first-winter Herring Gull of the *vega* subspecies was on Midway late Oct+ (KL). Only 2 gulls were reported from the main islands: Ring-billed Gulls at Kinikini Ditch, K., 27 Oct (JD) and at Hilo 21 Nov (DL).

A first-year Common Tern was seen well off Kalaeloa, O., 20 Oct (DP et al.). A Caspian Tern was seen at Kauai Lagoons, K., 26 Nov (CM). Both species are rare in Hawaii. A Blue-gray Noddy was reported flying past the 19th floor of a Honolulu office building 8 Aug (MO, few details). This species has not previously been recorded in the main Hawaiian Islands.

### Doves Through Passerines

Mourning Doves were thought to be established only on the Big Island. Recently, they have been reported regularly along the s. coast

of Maui (FD, LT). In s. Kaua'i they have become a pest in cornfields and are being shot by wildlife services (TT). On 4 Aug, around 75 Rose-ringed Parakeets were seen near Central Union Church (MO, RPy), and dozens were found in Oahu Cemetery 18 & 20 Oct (PD, DP et al.). Both locations are in downtown Honolulu. Rose-ringed appear to be well established in the area.

No Hawaiian Crows were found on the McCandless Ranch, H., 1 Nov (DP et al.). A mated pair that had been frequenting the ranch have not been seen there for several months (*fide* DP).

Kaua'i 'Amakihi, 'Anianiau, 'Akeke' e, 'Apapane, 'I'iwi, and 'Elepaio were seen well on a hike in the Kokee area, K., 23 Oct, but no Puaiohi or 'Akikiki, were found (DP et al.) There is concern that 'Akikiki numbers may be declining significantly (DP, GK). A sub-adult male Maui Parrotbill and 2–3 'Akohehohe were at Waikamoi Preserve, M., 27 Oct (DP et al.) Another Maui Parrotbill was seen at a different location in Waikamoi the same day (CG).

Lavender Waxbills appear to be increasing in numbers and expanding their range southward on the w. side of the Big Island. Over 30 were reported mid-Nov at Hawaiian Ocean View Estates, near the s. tip of the island (JL). A few Red-cheeked Cordonbleu and Black-rumped Waxbills, uncommon and local, were seen near Pu'uana'hulu, H., 31 Oct (DP et al.) Two African Silverbills, rarely reported on O'ahu, were seen at Ewa Beach 14 Aug (PD).

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