

Pital 26 Jun (OK, KZ, EG-T) was the first ever reported in Dept. Chalatenango.

**WOODPECKERS THROUGH JAYS**

The taxonomy of the *Centurus* subgenus of woodpeckers is complex, with ill-defined species limits, extensive geographical variation, and, not surprisingly, frequent hybridization between some forms in their zones of overlap. The Golden-fronted and Hoffmann's Woodpeckers are two such species (or are they subspecies?). They are known to hybridize only in one small area of s. Honduras where their ranges overlap along one river drainage. In Dept. Morazán, El Salvador, 50 km to the nw., OK obtained photographs, a specimen, and written descriptions of several presumed hybrids on 6 Jun and 19 Jul. Hoffmann's has yet to be recorded in El Salvador. A Western Wood-Pewee at Perquín, Dept. Morazán 17 Jul (OK) was probably an early fall migrant or wanderer, as it was in an area where the species is not known to breed. A Fork-tailed Flycatcher in Punta Gorda 13 Jul (LJ) was in an area of Belize where it does not breed and is rarely seen. The population in Belize is not known to be migratory, but a migrant from farther n. in Mexico or from South America (nominate *savanna* is a long-distance austral migrant) cannot be ruled out.

The Lovely Cotinga was recorded on the Pacific slope of Costa Rica for the first time when one was found at Los Llanos, 3 km sw. of Santa Elena (near Monteverde) on 31 Jul (CG). A Bare-necked Umbrellabird at La Selva 28 Jul (EC) was the first reported from the lowlands this season. In Costa Rica, an isolated population of White-throated Magpie-Jays has been established around Dominical for about 10 years. There are no reports from Quepos, Savegre, Damas and other frequently birded areas between Dominical and the nw. (Nicoya Pen., Guanacaste), where they are common. In Jun, small groups of birds were seen in several locations down the coast from Dominical as far as Bahía Ballena N.P. (BN), suggesting that the population may have expanded in that direction, but interestingly, not in the other direction to cover the existing population gap.

**SWALLOWS THROUGH BLACKBIRDS**

The Purple Martin is the earliest fall migrant in much of Central America. One in Belize City on 19 Jun (PC) was quite early, even for this species, but still not the earliest date on record. The first Purple Martin was not recorded in Costa Rica until nearly a month later—17 Jul (JA, IA, EC) near La Selva. The Barn Swallow is also one of the earliest fall migrants, but one at Puente Colima, El Salvador 25 Jun (OK, KZ) may have been summering, or lost. The first southbound

migrants (6) in Belize were seen 19 Jul (MM), and they were being seen frequently a week later. The earliest fall date on record for Belize is 9 Jul. Two more firsts for Dept. Morazán were 11 singing male Brown-backed Solitaires found 5 km ne. of Perquín 6–7 Jun (OK) and 3 White-throated Robins at Cerro Cacahuatique 11 Jul (KZ, JdL).

A Yellow-throated Warbler at La Montañona, Dept. Chalatenango 27 Jul (OK) was only the 4th ever recorded in *El Salvador*. Several species of warblers begin arriving in Jul. Four this year matched or established the earliest arrival dates on record for Belize: Black-and-white Warbler, 23 Jul (PB); Prothonotary Warbler, 28 Jul (PH); Worm-eating Warbler, 29 Jul (MMA); and Louisiana Waterthrush, 14 Jul (MM). A Louisiana Waterthrush on 24 Jul (OK) was the earliest yet for El Salvador. Two singing male Slate-throated Redstarts 7 Jun (OK) 5 km ne. of Perquín established the first records of this species from Dept. Morazán. Four Elegant Euphonias at Cerro Cacahuatique, Dept. Morazán 13 Jul (OK) were a pleasant surprise, as

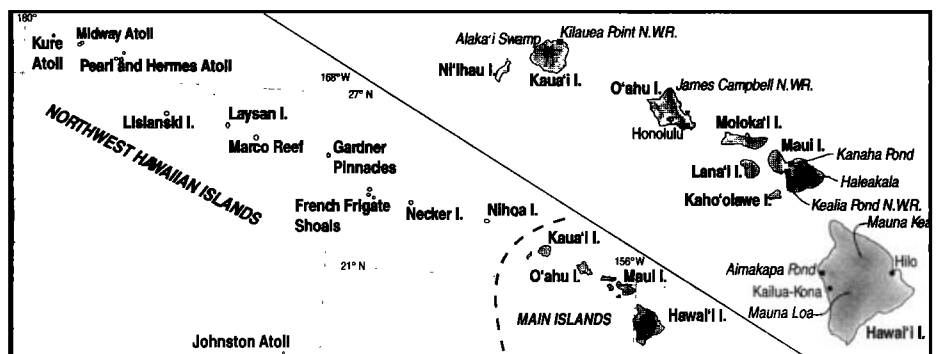
this species is rarely reported in El Salvador.

In Costa Rica, the Melodious Blackbird has been expanding its range southward for several decades, presumably in response to deforestation and human settlement. First recorded in the mid-1980s, it is now common in nw. Costa Rica. One was at Escaleras at the extreme s. edge of the species's range on 16 Jun (BN). Several male Bar-winged Orioles were found at La Montañona 23–27 Jul (OK), establishing the first records for Dept. Chalatenango. The first 2 Orchard Orioles of the season were at Playa Guapil near Dominical on 26 Jul (JRZ).

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# Hawaiian Islands



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It has been a quiet summer in the Hawaiian Islands. A long drought continues. Most areas of Kauai and Oahu received above normal rainfall in June, and the east side of the Big Island received above-normal rainfall in July, but rainfall for the year remains well below normal. There were few reports of rare species or unusual numbers. Reintroduced Hawaiian Geese seem to be doing well, but the plight of

the Hawaiian Crow is desperate.

**Abbreviations:** E. (Endangered Species); H. (Hawai'i I.); Hakalau (Hakalau N.W.R., 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 (Ki'i Unit of Jas. Campbell N.W.R., O'ahu I.); K.P. (Kilauea Pt. 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.); T. (Threatened Species).

### PETRELS THROUGH TROPICBIRDS

One Bulwer's Petrel was found on Popo'a I. in early Jun (DS). This small island off O'ahu has been used to launch Fourth of Jul fireworks despite the presence of nesting seabirds. This year, the fireworks were fired from a floating barge instead. At sunrise 19 Jul, Wedge-tailed Shearwaters were flying past La'ie Pt., O. at the rate of 20 per minute. Over 300 birds were seen (PD). One Red-tailed Tropicbird was seen at Kii 28 Jun (MS), a location where they are seldom reported. Fourteen Red-tailed Tropicbirds were counted near Ako'ako'a Pt., H. 15 Jul. This is twice the number seen there a year earlier (RP).

### HERONS THROUGH PHEASANTS

A Snowy or Little Egret was observed from a distance at Hanalei 28 Jul (†MRo). The bird was not seen well enough to determine which of those species it was. There are no previous records of Snowy or Little Egrets on Kaua'i. A Cattle Egret was observed on Midway 28 Jun & 1 Jul (JH). Cattle Egrets are rare on the nw. Hawaiian Islands. There were 350 Cattle Egrets, an unusually high count, on newly planted lawns at a park in cen. O'ahu 19 Jul (DB).

Reintroduced Hawaiian Geese (Nene) (E.) have been doing well at Hakalau. Three goslings hatched in Jan, and 3 hatched in May had survived into Jul+ (JJ). Seventeen captive-raised birds were released on the refuge in Jun, bringing the total number of Nene in the area to around 40. Some of these birds have dispersed as far as 12 mi from the release site and joined a previously established flock (JJ). A Brant observed at Kealia during the spring was still present 6 & 21 Jun (MN).

An Osprey was seen at Waiawa 28 Jun (MS). A large raptor seen on Kaho'olawe 19 Jul may also have been an Osprey (*fide* LT). Red Junglefowl or feral chickens were reported to be widespread on Kaua'i in Jul, with both gray-legged and yellow-legged birds from sea level to high elevations (†MRo). It has been assumed that gray-legged birds at high elevations are wild descendants of birds introduced to Hawaii by the Polynesians; while birds at lower elevations

(generally yellow-legged birds) are recent escapees. This report casts doubt on the idea that these birds can be separated. More reports would be useful.

### SHOREBIRDS THROUGH TERNS

Hawaiian (Black-necked) Stilt (E.) nesting was still going strong at the end of Jul. It is too early to say how the season will turn out overall, but more chicks had fledged at Kii by 31 Jul than fledged all last year (PD, MS et al.). There were some unusually high counts of oversummering

**SA** Only 2 Hawaiian Crows ('Alala) (E.), a mated pair, remain in the wild. The pair attempted to nest again this year but abandoned their nest in late Jun. The female is probably now too old to breed. She has laid no eggs since 1996. There is a population of captive Hawaiian Crows, but no captive-reared birds have survived for long when released in the wild. There are currently no plans to release any more captive birds (GK).

shorebirds this year. Around 100 Pacific Golden-Plovers were seen on Midway 1 Jun (LT). Even more unusual was a flock of 87 at Honouliuli 28 Jun (MS). There have been other counts of 100+ Pacific Golden-Plovers on the Northwest Hawaiian Islands in Jun, but the 87 birds at Honouliuli is by far the largest Jun count recorded on any of the main islands. Seven to 10 Bristle-thighed Curlews oversummered in the pasture behind Kii (MO, RPy et al.). A **Black-tailed Godwit** (the only one recorded in Hawai'i) remained at Kii Jun+ (PD et al.). A **Bar-tailed Godwit** at Hilo Airport Jun 12-19 (ph. TO) represented only the 2nd Jun record for Hawaii and the first on the main islands.

A Ring-billed Gull was observed at the Chevron Refinery, O. through 19 Jul (LG). Ring-billed Gulls are uncommon in Hawaii. A 2nd unidentified gull was there through 29 Jun (LG, ABW, H.A.S.). A Caspian Tern that has wandered around the islands for the last several months apparently remained on O'ahu in Jul. The bird was seen in Kane'ohe 10 Jul and at Kii 17-23 (GF) & 29 Jul (PD). One to 3 small *Sterna* terns remained on Midway Jun+ (LT, JH, WS). Two of the birds nested, and 3 eggs were seen 22 Jun (NG). These birds were reported as Least Terns, but no details were submitted. Both Little and Least Terns have nested on Midway. One small tern was photographed at Honouliuli 1 Jun (ph. KH, GF). The bird

appeared to be either a Least or Little Tern, but photos of the perched bird were not diagnostic. Least and/or Little Terns are rare but regular in Hawaii, but most records do not allow us to tell which species was observed.

### PASSERINES

Hawaii 'Elepaio and Oma'o juvs. were first spotted at Hakalau the last week of Jun, several weeks later than usual (JJ). Single Northern Mockingbirds were seen in sw Kaua'i 25 & 27 Jul (†MRo). Mockingbirds are seldom reported, so their status is hard to determine. 'Iwi and 'Apapane were virtually absent from the Pua 'Akala unit of Hakalau, probably due to the lack of lehua blossoms (JJ). 'Iwi were also reported to be hard to find on Kaua'i 27 Jul (MRo), and 'Apapane were also reported as being scarce on O'ahu (MW). Three Akiapola'au (E.) nests were located at Hakalau in Jun (LP). It is hoped that Akiapola'au eggs can be collected for captive-rearing efforts, but the nests discovered in Jun were near the tops of tall trees and none could be reached (JJ).

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