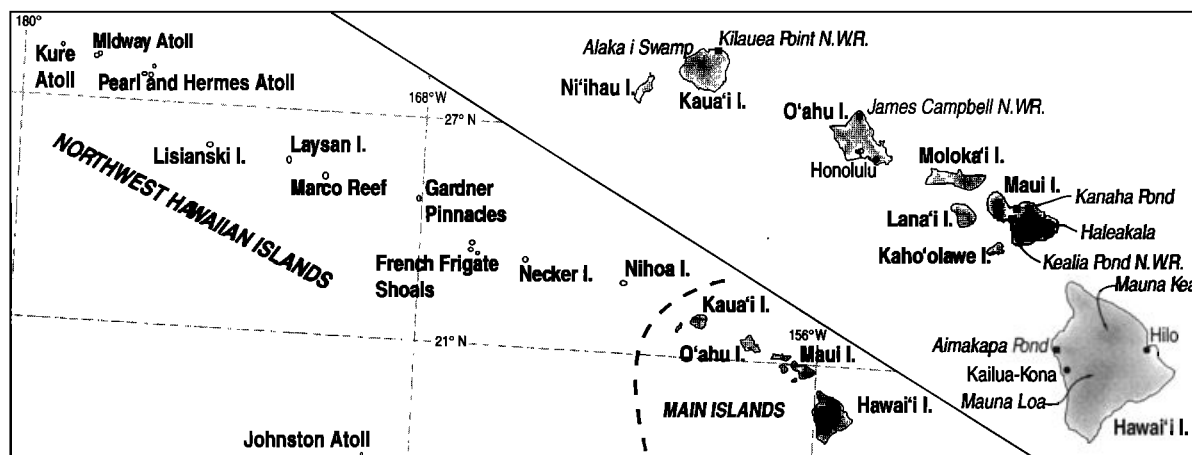


Hawaiian Islands



Robert L. Pyle

1314 Kalakaua Avenue, #1010
Honolulu, Hawaii 96826
(rplyle@hawaii.rr.com)

Peter Donaldson

2375 Ahakapu Street
Pearl City, Hawaii 96782
(pdonaldson@hawaii.rr.com)

Summer is usually the quietest season in the Hawaiian Islands, and this year was no exception. Observer coverage was typical for summer. All of the pelagic reports we received were from boat trips off Kaua'i and Lehua I. There were few reports of unusual species. One very rare shorebird was reported, but its identification is uncertain. After the first wet winter and spring in several years, June and July were typically dry.

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.); Kokee (Koke'e S.P., Kaua'i I.); K.P. (Kilauea Pt. N.W.R., Kaua'i I.); M. (Maui I.); O. (O'ahu I.); T. (Threatened Species); Waiawa (Waiawa Unit of Pearl Harbor N.W.R., O'ahu I.); Waikamoi (Waikamoi Preserve, Maui I.).

ALBATROSSES THROUGH RAILS

One Laysan Albatross was observed circling Kawaihae Harbor, H. 11 Jul (JB). This is unusually late for a Laysan near the main islands and an unusual location. One

Hawaiian Petrel (E.) was spotted on a pelagic trip from Kaua'i to Lehua 6 Jul (EV), and 3 were seen 26 Jul (DK). Bulwer's Petrels were seen on three Kaua'i to Lehua trips: 5 birds 11 Jun (DK), 1 on 6 Jul (EV) and 5 on 26 Jul (DK). Single Christmas Shearwaters were observed between Kaua'i and Lehua 11 Jun and 26 Jul (DK). Newell's Shearwater (T.) reports included 4 between Kaua'i and Lehua 11 Jun (DK), 5 on 6 Jul (EV), and 3 on 26 Jul (DK). One Newell's was found dead near Kekaha, K. 9 Jul, and one was heard calling near Kekaha 11 Jul (JD). Two Band-rumped Storm-Petrels were seen between Kaua'i and Lehua 11 Jun (DK), 4 on 6 Jul (EV), 3 on 8 Jul (EV), and 7 on 26 Jul (DK). The Band-rumped observed 26 Jul included a flock of 4 birds. Most reports of Band-rumped Storm-Petrels near the Hawaiian Islands are of single birds.

A Great Blue Heron was reported raiding fishponds in Hawaiian Acres, H. The bird was last observed 15 Jun (ph. JB). All herons and egrets except Cattle Egrets and Black-crowned Night-Herons are uncommon or rare in the Hawaiian Islands. Gray Francolins were heard near Honouliuli 22 Jun and 20 & 27 Jul (PD). Gray Francolins had never been reported from sw. O'ahu till Dec 2001, but they have been found regularly since then. Hawaiian Coots' (E.) numbers were low except at Honouliuli, where over 150 were counted on several censuses and active nesting continued Jul+ (PD).

SHOREBIRDS THROUGH TERNS

Hawaiian (Black-necked) Stilt (E.) nesting continued unusually late. Nests with eggs were found 27 Jul at Kii and Honouliuli

(PD). Nesting success appeared pretty good on O'ahu (PD, MS). Since some Pacific Golden-Plovers, Wandering Tattlers, and Ruddy Turnstones are present in Hawaii all summer, it can be hard to detect the earliest fall migrants. Some migrant Pacific Golden-Plovers may have arrived as early as late Jun. Two Pacific Golden-Plovers in partial breeding plumage were seen at Kii 22 Jun (PD). Sixteen Pacific Golden-Plovers were counted at the Waipio Soccer Park, O. 30 Jun (PD)—the first ones in that location for several weeks. There was a big jump in shorebird numbers after mid-Jul. On Jul 20, 33 Pacific Golden-Plovers and 82 Ruddy Turnstones were counted at Kii (PD). A Semipalmated Plover was spotted at Kii 15 (MS) & 20 Jul (PD).

No oversummering Bristle-thighed Curlews were reported in the main islands. The first report of the season was one bird that flew over the observer while he was surfing at Honoli'i, H. 17 Jul (JF). One Bristle-thighed was at Kii 27 Jul (PD). Summer is not the best season for rarities in Hawaii, but one outstanding shorebird rarity turned up on French Frigate Shoals. A large curlew with a very long bill was photographed 3 (ph. SC) & 10 Jun (ph. BB). The bird was probably a **Far Eastern Curlew**, but the observers did not describe the bird's underwings or rump and the photographs do not show these features, so there is a remote possibility the bird could be a Long-billed Curlew. There is only one previous report of a Far Eastern Curlew in Hawaii, and there are no reports of Long-billed Curlews, so either species would be very unusual.

A Franklin's Gull was observed on French

SALehua is a small, rocky island—a state seabird sanctuary—about 8 km n. of Ni‘ihau. The island is uninhabited and infrequently visited. There has been little information about birdlife on Lehua. Eric VanderWerf surveyed birds on the island 19–21 Feb and returned 6–8 Jul. Highlights of the July survey were 4 Laysan Albatross chicks, an estimated 23,000 Wedge-tailed Shearwater nests, 6 Bulwer’s Petrel nests, a probable Band-rumped Storm-Petrel heard calling, and 2 Cattle Egret nests. Large numbers of Sooty Terns and Brown Noddies nest on many of the small, uninhabited islands in the Hawaiian chain. It is interesting that there were so few on Lehua. The following table summarizes the two surveys.

Species	Type of count	19–21 Feb 2002	6–8 Jul 2002
Black-footed Albatross	adults	31	0
	chicks	8	0
Laysan Albatross	adults	50	0
	chicks	9	4
Wedge-tailed Shearwater	nests	0	23,000
Christmas Shearwater	adults	0	2
Bulwer’s Petrel	nests	0	6
	carcasses	0	3
Band-rumped Storm-Petrel	adults	0	1
Red-tailed Tropicbird	adults	76	150
	nests	2	40
Brown Booby	adults	303	
	nests	12	369
Red-footed Booby	adults	4288	
	nests	0	1294
Great Frigatebird	adults	38	326
Cattle Egret	adults	19	9
	nests	0	2
Peregrine Falcon	adults	1	0
Pacific Golden-Plover	adults	6	0
Wandering Tattler	adults	0	1
Ruddy Turnstone	adults	9	8
Glaucous-winged Gull	adults	1	0
Gray-backed Tern	adults	0	1
Sooty Tern	adults	2	0
Brown Noddy	adults	1	0
Black Noddy	adults	136	405
Zebra Dove	bones	1	
House Finch	adults	0	2
Nutmeg Mannikin	adults	0	20

Frigate Shoals 27 May—13 Jun, when the bird was found dead (GN). We also received an interesting report of Franklin’s Gulls at Palmyra Atoll N.W.R., about 1600 km s. of the main Hawaiian Islands. Ad. Franklin’s Gulls were seen there several times 30 Apr—17 Jul (CD). The peak count was of 9 birds 1 Jun. Gulls are uncommon in the Hawaiian Islands. Most of the gulls reported are subad birds seen from fall through spring. The exception is Franklin’s Gull. Most Franklin’s are ad. birds in breeding plumage seen from late spring to early summer.

PASSERINES

A Maui Parrotbill (E.) was spotted in Waikamoi 8 Jun (DR) in an area where the species has often been reported. Parrotbills were also found in mesic forest at the west edge of their range 6 May and 10 & 13 Jun. One ad. and a begging juv. were observed (JF). ‘Akikiki were scarce, but on 2 Jul, 7 were seen in Kokee along one of the trails (HK), and 2 were seen along another trail (DK). After being nearly silent in Apr and May, Akiapola’au (E.) at Hakalau suddenly started singing and courting in Jun (LP). Three nests were located at Hakalau in Jun (LP). One, possibly 2 ‘Akohekohe (E.) were found in Waikamoi 8 Jun (DR). One ‘Akohekohe was found in the Makawao Forest Reserve, M. 17 Jun (JF). There have been very few reports of ‘Akohekohe from that area.

Contributors: Brenda Becker, Jack Brauher, Chad Castle, Suzanne Canja, Reg David, Jim Denny, Chris Depkin, Peter Donaldson, Jeff Foster, Jack Jeffrey, Harvey King, David Kuhn, Dan Lindsay, Glynnis Nakai, Mike Nishimoto, Mike Ord, Rob Pacheco, Liba Pejar, John Polhemus, Thane Pratt, Robert Pyle (RPy), Dan Richards, Mike Silbernagle, Dave Smith, Lance Tanino, Francis Toldi, Eric VanderWerf, Michael Walther.

