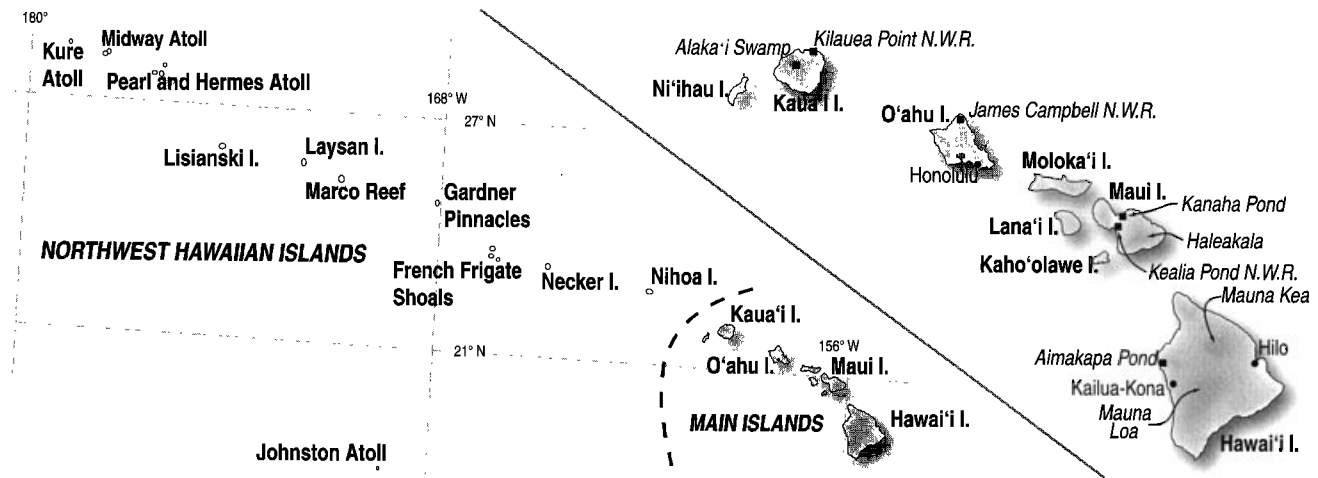


# Hawaiian Islands



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This spring was the wettest since 1997 for the main islands, and the rainy weather continued through mid-May, well after the ho'oilō, or rainy season, usually ends. Unlike in the previous year, several unusual seabird species turned up on seawatches and pelagic trips this spring.

**Abbreviations:** 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.); Kanaha (Kanaha Pond, Maui I.); Kealia (Kealia Pond N.W.R., Maui I.); Kii (Ki'i Unit of James 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.); Midway (Midway Atoll N.W.R.), O. (O'ahu I.); Pouhala (Pouhala Marsh Wildlife Sanctuary, O'ahu I.); Waiawa (Waiawa Unit of Pearl Harbor N.W.R., O'ahu I.); Waikamoi (Waikamoi Preserve, Maui I.).

### ALBATROSSES THROUGH EGRETS

Two Black-footed Albatrosses, uncommon near the main islands, were observed off the nw coast

of Kaua'i 9 Mar (DK, AJ), and one was seen w. of Kaua'i 16 Mar (DK). The refuge staff at Midway has been using decoys and audio-lures on Eastern I. in an attempt to attract more Short-tailed Albatross (Endangered) to the refuge. Only one Short-tailed, a banded ad., was seen on Midway late Oct-early Apr; it was observed dancing and preening one of the decoys. The banded female Short-tailed Albatross that wintered on Sand I., Midway for many years did not appear this year (JK). A dying, light-morph Northern Fulmar was picked up near K.P. and turned in to the refuge staff 3 Mar (BZ). Northern Fulmars are rarely reported in the Region, and most reports have been of dead or dying birds. A Mottled Petrel was seen from Nawiliwili, K. 15 Apr, and 2 were seen on a pelagic trip e. of Nawiliwili 16 Apr (AB, NB, PH, AL). Mottled Petrels are infrequently reported in the Region. One to 3 Hawaiian Petrels (Endangered) were spotted on multiple boat trips out of Kaua'i on 16 Apr (AB, NB, PH, AL) and from Apr onward (DK); 10 were seen from Nawiliwili, K. 15 Apr and 20 from Waimea, K. 28 Apr (DK). Twenty Sooty Shearwaters were seen from Punalu'u, H. in early Mar (AJ), and 4 were spotted on a boat trip w. of Kaua'i 30 Apr (DK). A pair of Newell's Shearwaters (Threatened) occupied an artificial nest burrow at K.P. 20 Apr (BZ). Fifteen Newell's Shearwaters were seen flying past Nawiliwili, K. 15 Apr, and 10 were seen flying past the same spot 16 Apr (AB, NB, PH, AL). Newell's Shearwaters were also spotted on boat trips around Kaua'i, one 16 Apr (AB, NB, PH, AL), 5 on 30 Apr (DK), and 6 on 14 May (DK). A Newell's was heard calling near Kailua, H. 23 Apr (RD).

### IBIS THROUGH RAILS

Up to 11 imm. *Plegadis* ibis remained around Hanalei Mar+ (ph., BZ, AJ). It had been difficult to determine the species of the birds, but beginning in Mar, the birds started showing reddish

eyes, indicating White-faced Ibis (BZ). Two Brant remained at Kealia Mar-15 Apr (MN, JR), and another 2 were observed at Hanalei Mar-22 Apr (BZ). Wintering waterfowl made a quick exit this year, with none reported after mid-Apr. Several Gambel's Quail were spotted along the Saddle Rd. in cen. Hawai'i, I. in mid-Mar (H.F.T., RP, DL). Migrant raptors have been unusually scarce in the Region for the past two years, but we did get reports of single Peregrine Falcons on Maui, one at Makawao 23 Mar (LT) and one chasing Hawaiian Stilts at Kealia 18 Apr (AB, NB, PH, AL). A probable California Quail x Gambel's Quail hybrid was observed 22 Mar (†DL). Gambel's were also seen on the former target island of Kaho'olawe 29-30 Mar and 10-11 May (F&KS). This species is one of the least common of the introduced gamebirds in the islands and is seldom reported.

A single Hawaiian Moorhen (Endangered) spotted at Waiawa 9 Mar (PD) was the first observed there since 2000. Recent heavy rains helped refill the ponds after years of very low water levels. Moorhen nesting was reported to be going well at Hamakua Marsh, O., with six nests in late Apr (JP). Hawaiian Coots (Endangered) were also busy nesting, with 18 nests at Honouliuli 25 Mar (PD) and 2 at Hamakua Marsh 20 Apr (JP).

### SHOREBIRDS THROUGH PUFFINS

After an unusually early start to the nesting season, a few broods of Hawaiian Stilts (Endangered) had already fledged at Waiawa by late Mar. (PD). Heavy rains disrupted nesting during the normal spring season. Some nests were lost, and some stilts that had been paired and defending territories in Mar abandoned their breeding behavior until late May (MS). A few uncommon wintering shorebirds remained into early spring. A Killdeer was observed at Waimea, K. 27 Mar (DK), and a Ruff was at Wa-

iawa 24 Mar (PD). Numbers of wintering shorebirds began dropping rapidly by mid-Apr. A flock of 20 Pacific Golden-Plovers was seen heading n. from Honouliuli, apparently on migration, 24 Apr (PD).

Only one report of Pomarine Jaeger was submitted this spring, of 6 birds seen from the Honolulu, O. waterfront 10 Mar (PD). Although they may not be reported frequently, Pomarine Jaegers seem to be regular in the Region from fall through spring. Long-tailed Jaegers are a different story: there are fewer than 10 reports in the Region. A single ad. Long-tailed Jaeger was observed from Nawiliwili, K. 15 Apr (AB, NB, PH, AL). Two imm. Glaucous-winged Gulls were observed at Midway 1 Mar (JK), and one was at Kii 10 Mar (PD). The last report of a Glaucous-winged was of one imm. at Laie, O. 14 Mar (EV, KSw). We continue to receive reports of imm. Laughing Gulls Mar+ (m.ob.). Most Franklin's Gulls reported in the Region are ad. birds in breeding plumage that apparently move through the Region in spring and early summer. We received a number of reports of single Franklin's Gulls early Apr+ (m.ob.), plus one report of 2 at Kealia 6 May (MN, JR).

An unusual variety of uncommon terns was reported this spring. Two Caspian Terns were seen at Kii 11 Apr (AB, NB, PH, AL), a single Common Tern was spotted on a boat trip w. of Kaua'i 30 Apr, and a single Least or Little Tern was observed in Waipahu, O. 24 Mar (PD), 20

Apr (JP), and in mid-May (MM). During a period of strong sw. winds, rather unusual for mid-May, 2-3 Blue-gray Noddies were observed from a boat s. of Kaua'i (DK). Blue-gray Noddies nest on some of the remote Northwest Hawaiian Islands but are rarely reported near the main islands. A freshly dead Tufted Puffin was found on Midway 2 Mar (JK). All alcids are very rare in the Region, with most records of moribund or dead birds.

#### DOVES THROUGH PASSERINES

Single Mourning Doves, the rarest of the doves in the Region, were spotted on Hawai'i I. in early Mar (AJ), 8 May (H.E.T.), and 29 May (RD). Mourning Doves were seen frequently in cen. Maui Mar+ (F&KS, LT). Native Short-eared Owls were reported to be unusually scarce on Hawai'i I. this spring (GD, RD).

Only one Puaiohi (Endangered) was reported, an unbanded bird in Kokee 14 Apr (AB, NB, PH, AL). Japanese Bush-Warblers, very loud introduced birds, were reported in good numbers and typically vocal on Kaua'i in early Mar (AJ) and along Waihe'e Ridge Trail, M. 29 May (LT). By contrast, they were unusually sparse or quiet in the Ko'olau Mountains on O'ahu this spring (PD). The number of reports we receive of the rare native honeycreepers do not necessarily reflect their relative abundance. The rarest species receive special attention from birders and researchers. For example, we

ceived a number of reports of the rare and endangered Palila (H.F.T., AJ), 'Akiapola'au (m.ob.), Hawaii Creeper (H.F.T., AJ), and 'Akepa (H.F.T., AJ) in their usual haunts on Hawai'i I. On the other hand, we got only one report of the locally abundant Maui 'Alauahio (H.F.T., AJ). A pair of 'Akikiki was observed engaging in courtship feeding in Kokee 14 Apr (AB, NB, PH, AL). 'Akohekohe (Endangered) were found in Waikamoi 13 Mar (RP) and 19 Apr, when 2 juvs. and one ad. were observed (AB, NB, PH, AL). We received no reports of Maui Parrotbills (Endangered) this season.

Red-cheeked Cordonbleus were observed on three trips to Pu'uana'hulu, H. in mid-Mar (H.F.T., AJ, RP). Black-rumped Waxbills were found in Pu'uana'hulu, H. on two trips in mid-Mar (RP, DL), and 11 were counted there 29 May (RD). These two species are the rarest of the small, introduced finches in the Region.

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