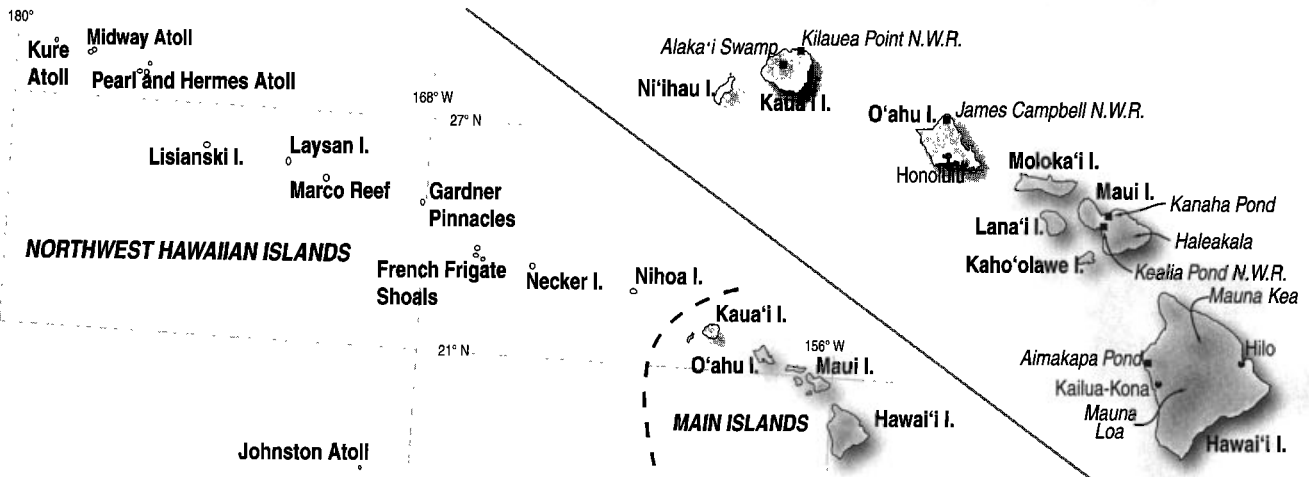


Hawaiian Islands



After several years of drought, the Hawaiian Islands had a wet winter for the second year in a row. In a few cases, the wetter weather seems to be having an impact on bird numbers. Few new rarities showed up over the winter, but some of last fall's rarities remained, allowing many more observers a chance to see them.

Abbreviations: BPBM (Bernice P. Bishop Museum; used with catalog number of specimen in Bishop Museum bird collection); Hakalau (Hakalau N.W.R., Hawai'i I.); Hanalei (Hanalei N.W.R., Kaua'i I.); H. (Hawai'i I.); HRBP (Hawaii Rare Bird Documentary Photograph; used with image catalog number from the HRBP file at Bishop Museum, Honolulu); Honouliuli (Honouliuli Unit of Pearl Harbor N.W.R., O'ahu I.);

Kanaha (Kanaha Pond, Maui I.); K. (Kaua'i I.); Kealia (Kealia Pond N.W.R., Maui I.); Kii (Kii Unit of James Campbell N.W.R., O'ahu I.); Kokee (Koke'e S.P., Kaua'i I.); K.P. (Kilauea Point 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

As usual, small numbers of Laysan and Black-footed Albatrosses were reported near the main islands. The highest counts reported were of 2 Laysans s. of O'ahu 28 Feb (GLA, PD, AJ) and 8 Black-footeds near Ni'ihau 7 Jan (DK). Of course, the main populations are out on the nw. islands, where

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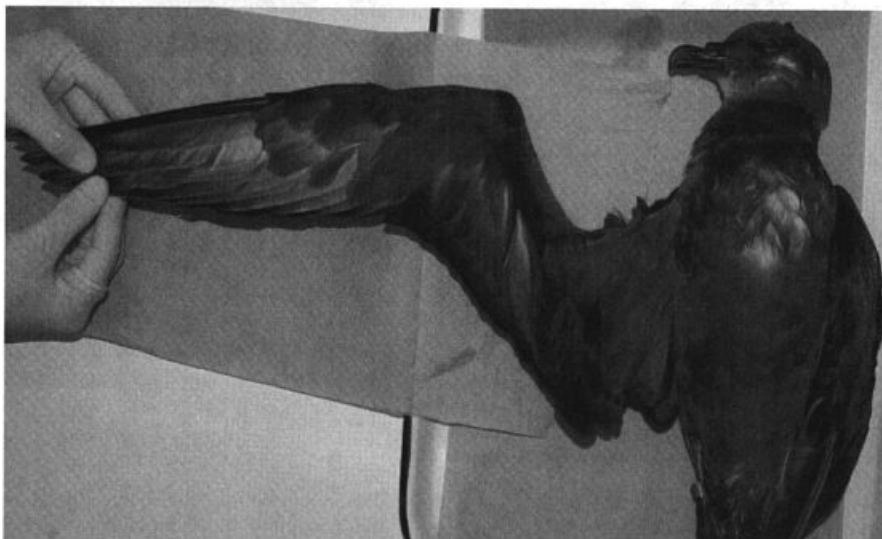
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This petrel was turned in to Sea Life Park on Oahu. Dark petrels are not the easiest birds to identify, even in the hand. The bird has been tentatively identified as a Murphy's Petrel (which appears to be correct) but could conceivably be a dark-morph *heraldica* Herald Petrel. Both species appear to be rare in the Region. Photograph by Eric VanderWerf/HRBP 5192.

286,576 Laysans and 15,868 Black-footeds were counted 4 Jan on just part of the refuge at Midway (MO). A Short-tailed Albatross (Endangered) has been on Midway Nov+ (MO). Counters on Midway also reported 1023 Bonin Petrels (MO). A dying dark petrel turned in to Sea Life Park, O. early Jan was brought to Bishop Museum (EV) for identification and to be kept as a specimen (BPBM 184828). This bird is thought to be either a Murphy's Petrel or a dark Herald Petrel, both of which are very rarely recorded in the Region. Only one Wedge-tailed Shearwater was reported over the winter, a bird spotted on a pelagic trip w of Kaua'i 7 Jan (DK). Six storm-petrels observed off the Kona coast of Hawai'i I. were all thought to be Leach's Storm-Petrels (RB).

Counters on the Kualapuu C.B.C. scoped 101 White-tailed Tropicbirds and 55 Red-tailed Tropicbirds on tiny Okala I., just offshore of Moloka'i I. (ADY). The count of White-taileds is a new high count for the Region, and the count of Red-taileds is unusu-



Cackling Geese are regular winter visitors to the Hawaiian Islands, but it is rare for visiting Cacklings to associate with their endangered Hawaiian cousin, the Nene or Hawaiian Goose. This *minima* Cackling was in Kilauea on the island of Kauai 26 February 2005 (here). Photograph by Brenda Zaun/HRBP 5205.

ally high. The least common booby in the main islands is Masked, so the 16 counted 18 Dec on Moku Manu I., just offshore of O'ahu I., is a good number for the main islands (EV). Single subad. Brown Boobies were observed in Hilo Harbor, H. (DL, CZ) and on Moloka'i I., 7 Feb (ADY). Brown Boobies are seldom reported from those areas. An active Black-crowned Night-Heron nest was found on little Manana I., about one km offshore of O'ahu, a very unusual location (F&JS). A single Great Blue Heron, a rare but regular species in the Region, was spotted on the Marine Corps base in Kaneohe, O. 18 Dec (EV).

IBISES THROUGH HAWKS

Plegadis ibis remained on Kaua'i, O'ahu, and Maui Nov+, with high counts of 5 on Kaua'i I. at Hanalei 28 Jan (EV), one on O'ahu at Honouliuli Nov+ (PD, RM, MM), and 3 on Maui at Kealia 4 (MM) & 9 Jan (EV). One bird at Hanalei 28 Jan had reddish eyes, and the bird at Honouliuli was developing reddish eyes and reddish facial skin by Feb (ph. PD), confirming their identity as White-faced Ibis. The rest of the birds are also thought to be White-faced Ibis, the only species documented in the Region to date.

A single Greater White-fronted Goose remained at Kii Dec+ (MS, ph. PD, m.ob.). Many white-cheeked geese were reported Dec+. Most of the birds thought to be recent

migrants were small birds believed to be Cackling Geese, with a high count of 6 at Kii Dec+ (MS). A Cackling Goose joined a flock of Hawaiian Geese at Kilauea, K. 26 Feb (ph. BZ). A group of larger white-cheeked geese in Hilo, H. has been there for some time. The provenance of these birds is uncertain. Numbers of many migrant duck species were low again this winter. The high count for Northern Shovelers, 238 at Kealia 16 Dec (MN), was up a bit from last winter's peak of 180, but the peak count of 75 Northern Pintails at

necked Ducks, 3 Greater Scaup, and around 30 Lesser Scaup at 'Aimakapa, H. 31 Dec (J&SH).

An Osprey, rare but regular in the Region, was observed 19 Jan (RM, PD) and 20 Feb (PD) over Pearl Harbor, O. Native Hawaiian Hawks (Endangered) were reported regularly on Hawai'i I., with as many as 7 seen on one birding tour 30 Jan (H.F.T.). Single Peregrine Falcons were observed in several spots on O'ahu Dec-Jan (TC, MM, EV, MS), at Kealia 9 (EV) & 10 Jan (LT, EV), and on Moloka'i 27 Jan (AC). It is hard to tell how many different birds may have been involved.



Hawaii is one of the few places where Bristle-thighed Curlew (at left) is seen more often than Whimbrel (at right). Whimbrels from both North America and Eurasia reach the islands. This bird had the gray-and-white barring on its lower back characteristic of the *variegatus* race from Siberia. It was photographed on the coastal dunes in Kahuku, Oahu Island 21 February 2005. Photograph by Peter Donaldson/HRBP 5203.

Kealia 3 Feb (MN) was down from last winter's peak count of 88. A good-sized flock of bay ducks at Kii during the fall was gone by 10 Dec (RM). The highest count of bay ducks this season was a flock of 3 Ring-

QUAIL THROUGH TERNS

Introduced California Quail were reported to be unusually abundant on Moloka'i, with coveys of 30-50 seen regularly in some areas (ADY). A Killdeer, rare but regular in the Region, was seen at Pu'unene, M. 22 Dec (J&SH). A Eurasian Whimbrel was observed among Bristle-thighed Curlews at Kahuku, O. 21 Feb+ (KP, ph., PD, JD, AJ). Whimbrels are much less common than Bristle-thigheds at Kahuku—as many as 25 Bristle-thigheds were counted there this winter (RM, PD). A single Marbled Godwit, presumably the bird first seen on O'ahu the previous fall, remained at Kealia Dec+ (m.ob.). Two Curlew Sandpipers, first observed at Kealia last Nov, were seen at Kealia 2 Dec (MN). A single Curlew Sand-



All gulls are uncommon in the Hawaiian Islands. Some species occur fairly regularly, but Glaucous Gulls are rather rare. This cooperative first-winter bird remained along the Hilo Bay waterfront much of the winter, here photographed 2 February 2005. Photograph by Mary McArthur/HRBP 5198.

piper was seen at Kealia early Dec–late Jan (LT, MM, MO), and one was seen at Kanaha 1 Feb (LT). The species is very rare in the Region. Thirty-four Long-billed Dowitchers were counted at Kanaha 28 Jan (FD), a new high count for the Region. Since Wilson's and Common Snipe were split, observers in the Region have managed to observe only a few snipe well enough to determine the species. A snipe at Kii 8 Jan (PD) and one at Kealia 10 Feb (CP) were observed to have dark, evenly barred underwings and were thus identified as Wilson's. A snipe at Kanaha 4 Feb (CP) had pale bars on its underwings and a wide, pale stripe on the trailing edge of the secondaries, thus apparently a Common.

Gulls were relatively widespread and abundant. The three most common species in the Region—Laughing Gull, Glaucous-winged Gull, and Ring-billed Gull—were reported in several locations Dec+ (m.ob.). Uncommon gulls included a single ad. Bonaparte's at Kawaele, K. 1 Jan & 11 Feb (ph. JD), on the latter date already developing a black hood. A first-year Glaucous Gull at Hilo Harbor 24 Jan+ (DL, ph. MMc, CP, RD) was a rare find. Single Caspian Terns were observed on Maui I. at Kealia in early Dec (LT, MN) and on O'ahu at Kaneohe late Dec–late Jan (EV, TC). A single Common Tern was photographed on the beach at Mokuleia, O. 24 Dec (ph. DH). Common Terns are rare in the Region. Thousands of Sooty Terns were observed swarming over Moku Manu I., one of their breeding sites off O'ahu, 23 Feb (F&KS).

DOVES THROUGH PASSERINES

The population of Mourning Doves seems to be increasing. Fifty-five were counted at Kealia 16 Dec (LT), and an estimated 300 were seen there 9 Jan (EV). These are, by far, the highest counts for the Region. Mourning Doves continue to be reported on O'ahu, too. Five were counted at Honouliuli 2 Jan

(RM), and 3 were seen there 20 Feb (PD). Eighty-nine Mitred Conures were observed in e. Maui in late Jan (LT). Dozens of Red-masked Parakeets were seen at Kahala, O. in late Feb, with a new high count of 55 on 23 Feb (MO). Native Short-eared Owls seemed to be unusually abundant this season, perhaps a result of the wet weather the past two years. Tour groups on Hawai'i recorded over 10 Short-eareds several times Dec+, with a high count of 28 on 30 Jan (H.F.T.).

We continue to get regular reports of Palila (Endangered) at Pu'u La'au, H., 'Akiapola'au (Endangered) and Hawaii Creepers (Endangered) on Pu'u 'O'o Ranch, H., and 'Akepa (Endangered) in Hakalau from tour groups (H.F.T.), but the reports generally contain no information about numbers seen, so it is hard to tell much about how these species are doing. One 'Akoheohe (Endangered) was observed at Hosmer Grove, M. 24 Dec (J&SH). 'Akoheohe are very rarely seen in that popular



Despite its name, Common Tern is rare in the Hawaiian Islands. This bird spent a few days on the beach at Mokuleia on Oahu Island, photographed here 24 December 2004. It is probably a first-winter bird, the ageing based on the fairly fresh, evenly worn primaries. Photograph by Dayna Harris/HRBP 5188.

birding spot. One 'Akoheohe was seen from the boardwalk at Waikamoi 12 Feb (CP), a location where the species is more regularly reported. No Maui Parrotbills (Endangered) were reported this season.

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