

The first Cave Swallows for Guadeloupe were present from 4 (here 25) December 2006 through 23 February 2007 at Port-Louis Swamp. Photograph by Anthony Levesque.

Jan on the other side of the ridge above Wallings Res., Antigua, where he also recorded an Ovenbird and an Antillean Euphonia.

Two Swamp Sparrows at Angel Fish Pt., Abaco 11 Dec (vt. EB, BH) were most unusual; there is only one previous substantiated record of this species in the Bahamas. Two Zapata Sparrows were found at Cayo Coco, Cuba 20-21 Jan (AK, WS, BHe, JC). A Snow Bunting was discovered on Castle I., Bermuda 17 Dec

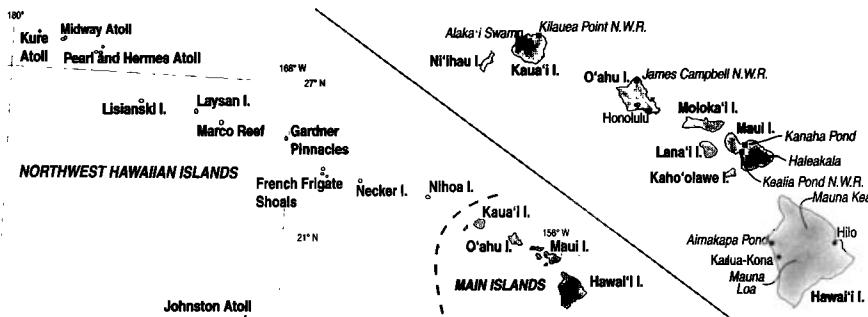
(JM, LM). On the New Providence C.B.C. 17 Dec, introduced Cuban Grassquits outnumbered indigenous Black-faced Grassquits better than 2:1. A Dickcissel was at Lukes Farm, Bermuda 17 Dec (EA). Five Baltimore Orioles were in Botanical Gardens, Bermuda 30 Jan+ (DW). For the 2nd year in a row, a Boat-tailed Grackle was found on the Grand Bahama C.B.C. (TW, ph. NB et al.); this one was at Eight Mile Rock 15 Dec, 16 km from Reef G.C., where one was found last year. Christmas counters found 4 Brown-headed Cowbirds at a cattle feedlot in cen. Grand Bahama 15 Dec (BP et al.).

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Hawaiian Islands



Robert L. Pyle | Peter Donaldson

Changes to a local chat list caused some disruption to the flow of bird observations early in the season, but the new chat list worked well thereafter. A few observations raised some eyebrows, but photographs documented the occurrence of some spectacular rarities. Weather did not cause much disruption to bird observations.

Abbreviations: H. (Hawai'i I.); HRBP (Hawaii Rare Bird Documentary Photograph; used

with image catalog number from the HRBP file at Bishop Museum, Honolulu); 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.); Ohiapilo ('Ohi'apilo Pond, Moloka'i 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.).

WATERFOWL

Two Greater White-fronted Geese remained at Hanalei Dec+ (BZ), and single White-fronteds were observed at Kualapu'u Res., Moloka'i I. 18 Dec+ (ADY, m.ob.) and Waiakea Pond, H. Jan+ (RD). Greater White-fronted Geese are rare in the Region. Snow Geese are even rarer. One imm. Snow Goose was at Kawai'ele, K. 14 Dec+ (DK, DL, m.ob.), and another was seen at Kawai'ele 28 Dec (DK). An imm. Snow Goose remained at Kealia Jan+ (MN). A Brant remained at Hanalei Dec+ (BZ), and 2 continuing at the Kahuku shrimp ponds from Nov (MW) were joined by another bird 6 Jan+ (PD, MW, MO). This 3rd Brant may have been the same bird seen in Kane'ohe, O. 17 Dec (EV). Up to 3 Cackling Geese were observed at Waiakea Pond, H. Jan+ (RD, DL, m.ob.), 2 remained at Hanalei Dec+ (BZ), and singles wintered at Kii (m.ob.) and Kealia (MN, GE). Brant and Cackling Geese are un-



The first Tundra Swans reported in the Hawaiian Islands over the winter were these two from Moloka'i Island. The large pale patches at the base of the bills indicate these Tundra Swans belong to the Bewick's subspecies from Eurasia. This photograph is from 15 January 2007, when the birds were at Kualapu'u Reservoir. Photograph by Michael Walther.

common but regular in the Region.

Swans of any kind are very rare in the islands, so it was quite an event when 2 imm. **Tundra Swans** were spotted at an aquaculture farm on Moloka'i I. 7 Dec (ph. ADY, JF). The bill pattern indicates they were of the Eurasian subspecies, Bewick's Swan. The 2 Bewick's were observed at various Moloka'i wetlands through 5 Feb (m.ob.), and one was seen at Kualapu'u Res., Moloka'i I. 15 & 16 Feb (ADY). Amazingly, 2 more imm. **Tundra Swans** were found at the Kauai Lagoons, K. 29 Jan (ph. RD, EV). These turned out to be of the North American subspecies, Whistling Swan. Apparently, the 2 Whistlings had been around for weeks before any birders got wind of them. The Whistling Swans were observed through 20 Feb (m.ob.).

A Gadwall at Waiakea Pond, H. 9 Jan (RD) and 16 Feb+ (DL) was a rare find. Northern Shovelers and Northern Pintails are the usually most common migrant ducks in the Region and usually provide a good benchmark for migrant duck numbers. The peak count of shovelers was 294 at Kealia 4 Jan (MN), down from the previous year's peak of 359. The peak count of pintails was 268 at Kealia 4 Jan (MN), close to last year's peak of 255.

ALBATROSSES THROUGH FALCONS

Two Black-footed Albatrosses were spotted at sea off the Kona (w.) coast of Hawai'i I. 6 Dec (RB, DW). One Black-footed was seen at a nesting colony of Laysan Albatross at Ka'ena

Pt., O. 11 Feb (EV). Black-footeds are rare near Hawai'i I. and rare onshore on any of the main islands. A Murphy's Petrel was photographed at sea off Kona 6 Dec (ph. RB, DW). A Hawaiian Petrel (Endangered) and a Black-winged Petrel were seen off Kona 4 Dec (RB, DW). Single Sooty Shearwaters were observed off Kona 6 Dec (RB, DW) and n. of O'ahu 27 Dec (TC). A count of at least 9 Leach's Storm-Petrels off Kona 6 Dec (RB, DW) is unusually high for the Region.

A large imm. heron observed in Kahuku, O. in Sep (m.ob.) proved to a Great Blue Heron. The bird remained in Kahuku Dec+ (ph. MW, m.ob.). Great Blues are rare but regular in the Region. Three White-faced Ibis were seen regularly at Honouliuli Dec+ (ph. PD, MO), a White-faced remained at Kii Dec+ (m.ob.), and one was seen at various wetlands on Moloka'i I.

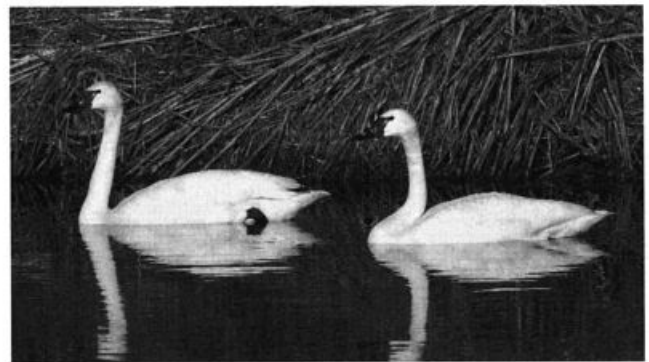
Dec+ (ADY). White-faced Ibis are historically rare in the Region but have been reported frequently over the past few years.

Laysan Albatrosses are large birds, so there are probably not many raptors that would take on an ad. Laysan. Thus there was some skep-

ticism when a very large raptor was reported eating a Laysan Albatross at Kilauea 30 Dec (CG). The identity of the raptor remained a mystery until the bird was photographed 5 Mar (ph., BZ). The photographs leave no doubt that the raptor was an ad. **White-tailed Eagle**. There are no historical records of the species in the Region—but subfossil bones of White-tailed Eagle have been found here. Hawaiian Hawks (Endangered) are reported regularly on Hawai'i I., but usually only 1 or 2 at a time. A count of 7 Hawaiian Hawks along the e. side of the island 14 Feb (RP) is unusually high. We received a very high number of Peregrine Falcon reports, mostly from O'ahu I. Single Peregrine Falcons were reported in Waimanalo, O. 31 Dec and 3 Jan (TC). Two Peregrines were seen together in Waimanalo 20 Jan (TC, KP), and single Peregrines were seen in Waimanalo 23 & 24 Jan (TC). Elsewhere on O'ahu I., singles were seen at Kii 20 Jan (D&AW), 3 Feb (MO, RPy), and 23 Feb (PD). A Peregrine was spotted at Kealia 4 Jan (MN), and one was observed chasing a pair of Hawaiian Geese (Endangered) in Hawaii Volcanoes N.P. 17 Jan (KM).

SHOREBIRDS THROUGH PASSERINES

Single Black-bellied Plovers were seen at Kealia 4 Jan (MN), at Pearl Harbor, O. 17 Jan (PD), and at the Kahuku shrimp ponds, O. 14 Feb (MW). Two Semipalmated Plovers were observed at the Kahuku shrimp ponds 5 Dec and 14 Feb (MW) and at nearby Kii 23 Feb (PD). A Lesser Yellowlegs was seen at an aquaculture farm on Moloka'i I. 18 Dec

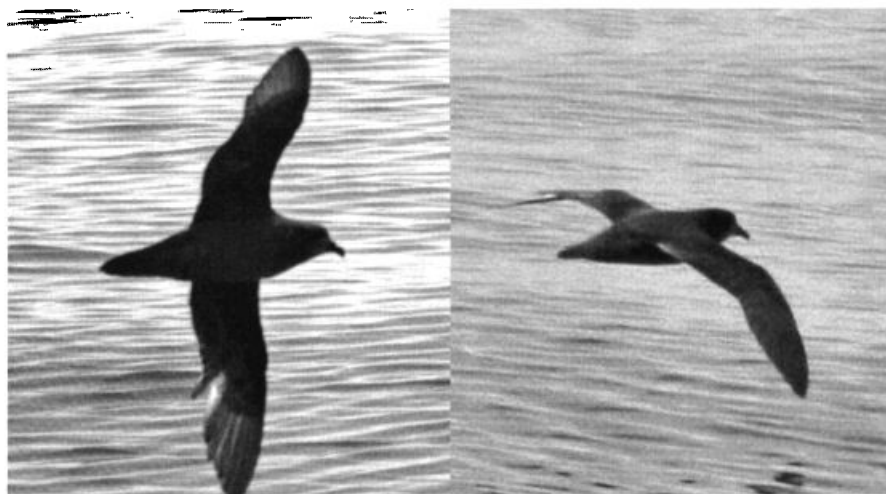


These Tundra Swans had probably been in the Hawaiian Islands for several weeks before they were photographed at the Kauai Lagoons on Kaua'i Island 29 January 2007. The mostly black bills with only small amounts of yellow indicate these birds belong to the Whistling subspecies from North America. Photograph by Reg David.

(ADY). These three species are uncommon in the Region. Pretty good numbers of Bristle-thighed Curlews wintered on O'ahu I. (m.ob.). The peak winter count on O'ahu was 33 on 21 Dec (TC, KP). One to 3 Bristle-thigheds wintered on Moloka'i I. (ADY). A



Conflicting theories about the identity of a large bird observed on Kaua'i Island, Hawaii, first seen in February 2007, persisted for several weeks—until 5 March, when this magnificent White-tailed Eagle was photographed at Kilauea Point National Wildlife Refuge. Note how the Red-footed Booby, a bird with a wingspan of 150 cm, is dwarfed by the eagle. Photograph by Brenda Zaun/United States Fish & Wildlife Service.



It is difficult to get good looks at gadfly petrels at sea—and even harder to get good photographs. This Murphy's Petrel was spotted at sea off the Kona coast of Hawaii Island 6 December 2006. This species is thought to be very rare in Hawaiian waters. Photographs by Robin Baird.

Least Sandpiper was seen at Kealia 14 Feb (GE), and one Pectoral Sandpiper was at Keala 18 Jan (MN). Single Sharp-tailed Sandpipers were observed at Ohiapilo 18 Dec (ADY) and at Kii 17 (MO) & 23 Feb (PD). These three sandpipers are uncommon in the Region, especially in winter. As many as 5 Dunlins were observed around Pearl Harbor, O. Dec+ (MW, PD, PK, MO). Dunlins are regular in the Region, but 5 is an unusually high count. One to 3 snipe were observed in the Kahuku area of O'ahu I. Dec+ (KP, m.ob.). All the snipe that were seen well were identified as Wilson's.

Laughing Gulls were widespread over the winter, with as many as 5 at Kawai'eale, K. 15 Feb (DL). Two Ring-billed Gulls remained around Pearl Harbor, O. Dec+ (m.ob.). Large

gulls were scarce again this winter. A first-winter Glaucous-winged Gull turned in to rehabilitators at Hanalei 3 Feb died within the hour (BZ). An ad. dark-backed gull at Kilauea in early Jan may have been a Slaty-backed Gull (ph. MWi); we are trying to obtain more details and a better copy of the photograph. A tern at Kanaha Beach, M. 10 & 14 Dec (ph. F&KS) may have been a Sandwich Tern, but a photograph of the bird is not quite clear enough to be definitive. There is only one record of a Sandwich Tern in the Region. A Caspian Tern was observed in Kaneohe, O. 14 & 16 (TC), 17 (EV), & 21 Dec (TC, KP). A Common Tern was seen at Honouliuli 6 & 25 Feb (ph. PD). A Least Tern was spotted at Kii 23 Feb (PD). The latter three species are uncommon in the Region. Over 1000 Sooty

Terns were observed near Moku Manu, a small island e. of O'ahu 18 Dec (EV). Large numbers of Sooty Terns were seen around nearby Manana I. 18 Dec+ (TC, m.ob.).

Mourning Doves continued to be seen regularly around Honouliuli Dec+ (PD); one was seen in Waimea, H. 5 Feb (DL, LC). We have received few Mourning Dove reports from Hawai'i I. recently. A Greater Necklaced Laughing-thrush was spotted at Huleia N.W.R., K. 14 Feb (DL). This shy babbler is seldom reported. Good numbers of Western Meadowlarks were seen in n. Kaua'i I. by an observer searching for the White-tailed Eagle 9 Feb (MO). We wish we could persuade observers to provide more information on native forest birds. We receive infrequent reports, and most provide no information on the numbers of individuals or other details. One (possibly 2) 'Akohekohe (Endangered) was observed at Waikamoi 7 Feb (CP).

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