



Peter Donaldson

The most notable thing about this report is that, for the first time since 1967, Bob Pyle did not write it. Bob passed away in July at age 83. He had continued working on the Hawaiian Islands reports almost until the end. He will be greatly missed in the birding community.

Summer is always a dry season in the Hawaiian Islands, but this year was even drier than usual. Trade winds kept blowing nearly the whole season, providing welcome rain over windward (northeast) sections but keeping leeward (southwest) areas very dry. We received a pretty good number of reports but only one from a pelagic trip. The season was notable for an unusual number of summering migrants.

Abbreviations: H. (Hawaii I.); Hakalau (Hakalau N.W.R., Hawaii I.); Hanalei (Hanalei N.W.R., Kauai I.); Honouliuli (Honouliuli Unit of Pearl Harbor N.W.R., Oahu I.); K. (Kauai I.); Kanaha (Kanaha Pond, Maui I.); Kawaiele (Kawaiele Waterbird Sanctuary, Kauai I.); Kealia (Kealia Pond N.W.R., Maui I.); Kii (Kii Unit of James Campbell N.W.R., Oahu I.); Kokee (Kokee S.P., Kauai I.); K.P. (Kilauea Pt. N.W.R., Kauai I.); M. (Maui I.); Midway (Midway Atoll N.W.R.); Mo. (Molokai I.); O. (Oahu I.); Ohiapilo (Ohiapilo Pond, Molokai I.); Pouhala (Pouhala Marsh Wildlife Sanctuary, Oahu I.); Waiawa (Waiawa Unit of Pearl Harbor N.W.R., Oahu I.); Waikamoi (Waikamoi Preserve, Maui I.).

WATERFOWL THROUGH RAPTORS

Migrant geese are uncommon to rare in the Region, so it was unexpected to have three species linger through late Jun. A Greater White-fronted Geese was still at Kualapuu Res., Mo. 22 Jun (ADY), and a Snow Goose lingered at Kealia Jun+ (MN). A Cackling Goose was spotted in Kaneohe, O. 2 Jun (ph. CP), and another remained at Kii Jun+ (MS). Greater White-fronteds are rare in the Region, but one at Waiakea Pond, H. has remained there for years. Snow Geese are very rare, with no previous summer records. Migrant ducks are also very uncommon in the summer, but

this year an American Wigeon was observed at Kuanui, Mo. 22 Jun (ADY, ES) and a Northern Pintail was seen at Ohiapilo 16 Jun (ADY).

Laysan Albatrosses start nesting in Nov, and the last young fledge in Jul. Laysans on Kauai did well this year, with 119 chicks fledging—a new record. Laysans resumed breeding on the island in 1977. We have had a rare bit of good news regarding one of the Region's endemic seabirds. Unexpectedly high numbers of Hawaiian Petrels (Endangered) have been found breeding in the mts. of Lanai I. These burrow nesters are difficult to count, but biologists with the Hawaii Division of Forestry and Wildlife believe the population may number over 1000. Surveys are underway to determine the size of the colony. Red-tailed Tropicbirds at K.P. suffered high chick mortality due to predation by rats and possibly cats (BZ).

A White-faced Ibis remained on Molokai I. Jun+ (ADY), and another *Plegadis* ibis, probably a White-faced, was observed at Kealia Jun+ (MS). Another White-faced was spotted at Honouliuli 25 Jul (MS). The White-tailed Eagle first reported on Kauai I. in Dec 2006 apparently remained on Kauai through at least late Jul. The eagle was spotted near Princeville 24 Jul (S&TL). This is the only White-tailed Eagle ever reported in the Region.

SHOREBIRDS THROUGH PASSERINES

Numbers of migrant shorebirds are generally low over the summer, so counts of 112 Pacific Golden-Plovers at Honouliuli 2 Jun (PD) and 40 at Tripler Hospital, O. the following week (DB) are puzzling. A Semipalmated Plover was observed at Kii 1 Jun (PD), and one remained on Laysan I. Jun+ (CM, KPa, CT). Hawaiian Stilts (Endangered) nest mainly during the spring and early summer, with most chicks fledging by late Jul. The stilts had a decent nesting season on Oahu I. (MS) but a very poor one on Kauai (BZ). Bristle-thighed

Curlews in Kahuku, O. summered in lower numbers than during the previous few years with 2 observed 1 Jun (PD) and 24 Jul (MS) and single birds seen 3 (MW) & 27 Jun (MS). Summering Sanderlings are rare in the Region. A Sanderling at Kii 1 Jun (PD), one at Kealia 27 Jun (MN), and 2 at Kealia 5 Jul (MN) may well have been summering. Two Sanderlings in partial alternate plumage at Ohiapilo 30 Jul (ADY) were probably early fall migrants. A Long-billed Dowitcher was at Kii 24 Jul (MS), summer-season dowitchers are very rare in the Region. Laughing Gulls were widespread in the spring, but the only report this season was of one at Kealia 27 Jun (MN). A Franklin's Gull was observed at Kii 1 Jun (ph. PD), and 2 were spotted at Kealia 2 Jun (MN).

As usual for the summer season, reports were too sparse to tell much about what might be happening to the populations of any passerines. We got no reports of any of the rare native forest birds on Kauai or Maui. The common endemic forest birds such as the Apapane and Iiwi were reported to be unusually sparse or quiet in the Humuula Saddle, H during a period of rainy weather late Jun—early Jul (BR). Tour groups reported seeing Palila (Endangered) regularly at Puu Laau, H. Jun+ (H.F.T.). One to 3 Akiapolaau (Endangered) were found in the saddle 14 Jun—7 Jul (BR). One Akiapolaau was observed on remote Ainapo Trail, H. 31 Jul (L.C. J&DL). One or more Hawaii Creepers (Endangered) were reported at Puu Oo Ranch, H. 25 Jun (H.F.T.), but no details were provided. Three Hawaii Creepers were found in the Humuula Saddle 5 & 7 Jul (BR). Two to 3 Akepa (Endangered) were heard at Hakalau 17 Jun (BR), and one or more were reported there 31 Jul (H.F.T.), but with no details on the 31 Jul report.

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SA A pelagic trip on 19 Jun sw. of Kauai I. to tiny Lehua I. and back turned up a good variety of species, many of them in one huge feeding flock. The tally included 2 Laysan Albatrosses, one large *Pterodroma*, 6 Bulwer's Petrels, several thousand Wedge-tailed Shearwaters, 25 Newell's Shearwaters (Threatened), 25 Band-rumped Storm-Petrels, 5 White-tailed Tropicbirds, 35 Red-tailed Tropicbirds, 70 Brown Boobies, 100 Red-footed Boobies, 100 Great Frigatebirds, 3 Gray-backed Terns, 40 Sooty Terns, 6 Brown Noddies, and 150 Black Noddies (DK).