

Joan Harding, Dave Haupt, Karen A. Havlena, Gjon Hazard, Matt T. Heindel (Kern), Mitch Heindel, Tom & Jo Heindel (*Inyo*), Brad Hines, Charles Hood, Vernon Howe, John Ivanov, Curtis Johnson, Bunny Jones, Paul Jorgenson, Howard King, Andrew and Leah Kirk (A&LK), Jim Laage, Brenda Larson, Kevin Larson, Stephen A. Laymon, Paul E. Lehman, Joan E. Lentz (*Santa Barbara*), Gerry McChesney (GeM), Chet McGaugh, Robert McKernan (*Riverside*), Tony Metcalf, Stephen J. Meyers, Michael San Miguel, Kathy Molina, Michael A. Patten, John Perkins, Cruz Phillips, James E. Pike, Hugh P. Ranson, David Sank (DSa), Rick Saval (RSa), Brad Sillasen, Brian E. Small, Gregory P. Smith, Nancy Spear, Richard Stallcup (RSt), Susan Steele, Don Sterba (DSt), Mary B. Stowe, Scott B. Terrill, Gerald Tolman, Richard Tristle, Philip Unitt, Stanley Walens (SWI), Stuart Warter (SWr), Richard E. Webster, Walter Wehtje, Pat A. Wells, Rob Whittaus, Douglas R. Willick (*Orange*), Joseph Worley. An additional 50+ observers who could not be individually acknowledged submitted reports this season.

—Guy McCaskie, San Diego Natural History Museum, Balboa Park, PO Box 1390, San Diego, CA 92112

Hawaiian Islands Region

ROBERT L. PYLE

Spring rainfall was a bit below seasonal norms at most stations this year, but generally was sufficient to avoid drought conditions. Bird nesting was disturbed more by high winds during March storms, but most species were able to re-nest successfully, at least in the forests of Hakalau National Wildlife Refuge on Hawai'i I.

Abbreviations: F.F.S. (*French Frigate Shoals*); H. (*Hawai'i I.*); K. (*Kaua'i I.*); M. (*Maui I.*); O. (*O'ahu I.*); N.P.W.M.A. (*Nu'upia Ponds Wildlife Management Area, O'ahu*); B.P.B.M. (*prefix for catalog numbers of specimens in B.P. Bishop Museum, Honolulu*).

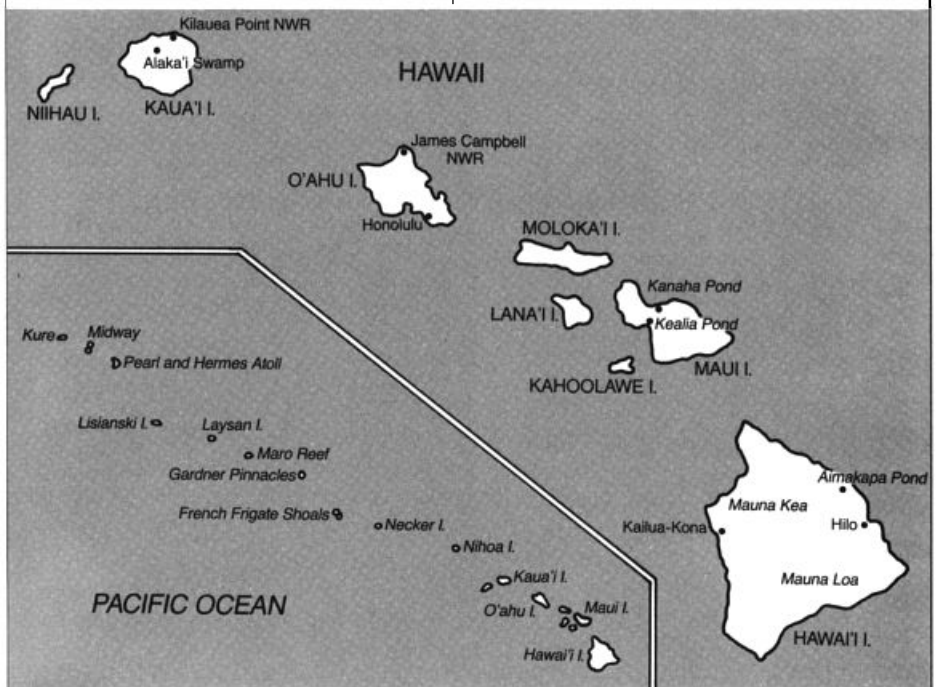
Albatross to Herons

One Black-footed Albatross, now rarely reported from shore in Hawaii, was seen circling over Kaohikaipu islet, <1 km off Waimanalo, O., Apr. 15 (SC). Kaohikaipu at the time had decoy Laysan Albatross adults and chicks, installed in the first season of an experimental project to attract Laysans to the

islet as a potential new breeding site. Several Laysans were seen during March on the beach at Kawela Bay, just w. of Kahuku Pt., O., with some dancing activity noted (CS). Two were observed on the beach there Mar. 19, and four more were flying just offshore (EV).

Six Wedge-tailed Shearwaters were observed during the evening Apr. 28 coming ashore to burrows in a waterfront yard below Diamond Head on O'ahu (D.Morirarity, *vide* LE). This is one of the very few areas where Wedge-taileds have been recorded nesting on O'ahu itself rather than on offshore islets protected from mongoose and rats. A Christmas Shearwater was seen May 9 on the ground near a possible nest site on Mokolua islet, just off Lanikai, O. (DSm). Mokolua is 9 km s. of Moku Manu islet, where a very few Christmas Shearwaters nest probably each year, the only site in the Main Hawaiians where Christmas Shearwaters had previously been recorded on land.

A Red-tailed Tropicbird off Kawela Bay, O., Mar. 19 (EV) was unusual. But the six seen Apr. 1 at Kaunolu on the s.w. point of Lana'i I. were more expected, as they are known to nest along Lana'i's w. coastline. Some of the latter were exhibiting courtship flight (RLP). Three White-tailed Tropicbirds and about 20 Great Frigatebirds noted Mar. 29 at Moku Mana islet off Pauwala Pt. near Ke'anae, M. (DSt) were interesting reports. Lesser Frigatebirds turned up again this season at Tern I., F.F.S.; a female was seen Mar. 9–12 and a male Mar. 19 (CD). Counts of 71 (Apr. 1) and 72 (Apr. 27) Black-crowned Night-



Heron at N.P.W.M.A. were probably the highest ever recorded in that locality (LT). Counts fluctuated greatly through the spring, down to only 14 May 15, suggesting considerable movement in and out of the area. Two nests (one with a large chick) found Apr. 8 and another Apr. 24 confirm that night-herons do indeed nest there (LT).

Ducks to Stilts

An unprecedented (for Lana'i I.) flock of 75 N. Shovelers, including many males in breeding plumage, were on a water treatment pond at Lana'i City Apr. 2. They evidently were migrating through, as none was found there the next day (RLP). Fifteen Am. Wigeon were still at Hanalei N.W.R., K., Mar. 8 (KV), and about 10 were at Ki'i Unit, James Campbell N.W.R., O., Mar. 30 (PD). One female-plumaged wigeon was at Ka'elepulu Pond, O., May 18 (LT). Most, but not all, of Ki'i Unit's many species of wintering ducks reported last season were still there Mar. 30 (PD).

Two pairs of Io (Hawaiian Hawk, recently downgraded from *Endangered* to *Threatened*) were observed along the Hamakua-Waipio highway, H., Mar. 24 (JH). One or more (?) wintering Peregrine Falcons was still present this spring. One was sighted at Kilauea Point N.W.R., K., Mar. 7 (BS), one in late February and another Mar. 12 below Palehua in the s. Waianae Mts., O. (DP), and one was seen clearly as it flew past an upper floor office window in downtown Honolulu Apr. 8 (MO).

Counts of 10 Hawaiian Coots (*Endangered*, now split from Am. Coot) Apr. 2 and 12 Apr. 3 on the water treatment ponds at Lana'i City, L. were interesting numbers for that island (RLP). Nine Black-necked (Hawaiian) Stilts (*Endangered*) also were on the ponds there Apr. 2, and even more (not counted) Apr. 3 (RLP). These ponds are now providing good wetland habitat on Lana'i where none had existed before. The 154 stilts at N.P.W.M.A., Apr. 19 was the 2nd highest count known to have been recorded there (LT). The nesting season there is off to an excellent start.

SA Sixty Hawaiian Stilts were counted at a barren 4-acre safety catchment area surrounding oil refinery tanks at Campbell Industrial Park, O., May 6 (LT). These and the several stilts now nesting in dry gravel just outside the catchment basin present an *Endangered* species management challenge for U.S.F.&W.S. specialists working with refinery staff, who have been most cooperative.

A flock of >130 Pacific Golden-Plovers, all plumages represented, on the shore of Sand I., O., Apr. 3 (MO) and some 400 together at N.P.W.M.A., Apr. 12 (LT) were perhaps pre-migration gatherings. One Semipalmated Plover was noted at Honouliuli Unit, Pearl Harbor N.W.R., O., Mar. 27 (PD), and two were still present at Kealia Pond, M. during the first week of April (PBa).

Shorebirds to Terns

A vagrant Greater Yellowlegs at Kahuku Pt. Pond, O., Mar. 27 (PD) was perhaps the same one seen at nearby sites last fall and winter. The Bristle-thighed Curlew overwintering at Hanapepe airstrip, K. was seen there frequently until at least May 22 (TF). Among many golden-plovers, turnstones, and stilts at Kealia Pond, M., Mar. 17 were 72 Sanderlings, an unusually high count (PBr). Dowitchers in basic plumage were sighted at several localities in late March. One Long-billed in breeding plumage was seen and heard at N.P.W.M.A., Apr. 8 & 24 (LT). At least one Com. Snipe from the winter influx remained at Ki'i Unit, James Campbell N.W.R., O. A basic-plumaged Red Phalarope, unusual ashore in Hawaii, was found dead (B.P.B.M. 179431) at Kaluapuhi Pond, N.P.W.M.A., Mar. 29 (LT). Swimming phalaropes (probably Reds) were also reported from boats offshore. One was seen 2.5 mi s.w. of Kailua-Kona, H., Mar. 18 (TL, JH), and four were found 6 mi off Mokapu Pen., O., Mar. 30 (S. Henderson, *vide* LT).

A breeding-plumaged Franklin Gull was observed briefly in N.P.W.M.A., May 23, but was not seen again during near-daily visits to the area (M. Rauzon, *vide* LT). An imm. gull identified as a Herring was observed on a small islet in Keehi Lagoon, O., Mar. 8 (PBr); and a first-winter Glaucous-winged Gull was at Aimakapa Reef and Pond, H., Mar. 26–27 (JH). About 50 Black Noddies were reported in the colony at Pauwala Pt. near Ke'anae, M., Mar. 29 (DSt). A White Tern was seen well at sea 2.5 mi s.w. of Kailua-Kona, H., Mar. 18 (TL, JH), and six were observed up to 6 mi off Mokapu Pen. on O'ahu's e. coast Mar. 30 (S. Henderson, *vide* LT). Both are interesting localities since observations of this species at sea are most often reported off s. and w. O'ahu.

Parakeets to Passerines

A large flock of 150–200 Rose-ringed Parakeets was reported visiting a yard in Hanapepe, K. throughout the last 2 weeks of April (T. Murray, *vide* MO).

Rose-ringed have been reported feeding in agricultural areas in Hanapepe Valley in recent decades. A flock of ≤35 had roosted in a park in Kalaheo, 7 km away, until disbanding several years ago. No other flocks of comparable size have been reported in the state. A Belted Kingfisher (rare vagrant in Hawaii) of undetermined sex was at the point separating Kawela Bay from Turtle Bay in n O'ahu Mar. 15 & 17 (F. Schaeffer, *vide* CS). It was seen there again Mar. 19 (EV), but not thereafter.

Thus far two new Alala (Hawaiian Crow, critically *Endangered*) chicks have hatched successfully in the Olinda captive flock (PS), and five others have hatched from eggs taken from the wild group at McCandless Ranch, H. A Red-billed Leiothrix seen May 23 on Mauna Kea above Pu'u La'au, H. was at 7800 ft elevation, unusually high for this species (JE), although mummified remains have been found in the past near the summit above 13,000 ft. Two Hill Mynas observed Apr. 16 & 19 at Lyon Arboretum in Manoa Valley, O. (EV) may possibly be relicts from a flock that persisted there without evidence of establishment until dwindling away in the early 1980's.

High winds during mid-March in Hakalau N.W.R., H. caused heavy nest failure among native Hawaiian forest-birds, but many appeared to be re-nesting promptly (EV). At Hakalau, the first known use of an artificial nest box by a pair of Hawaii Akepa (*Endangered*) was successful this season when two young fledged from the nest May 25. Another Akepa nest in a natural cavity only 6 ft above ground (unusually low) was lost to rat predation (EV). A good number of juvenile Akohekohe (*Endangered*) was observed in the Waikamoi area of Maui this spring, evidently indicating another successful nesting season (PBa).

Contributors: Jeff Andrade, Paul Baker, Phil Bruner, Steve Carter, Chris Dippel, Peter Donaldson, John Earle, Lu Eldredge, Takeshi Fujita, John Hunter, Tom Leskiw, Mike Ord, Doug Philpotts, Charles Schaeffer, Peter Shannon, Dave Smith, Tom Snetsinger, Don Sterba, Bob Sundstrom, Lance Tanino, Miklos Udvardy, Eric VanderWerf, Kathleen Viernes.

—Robert L. Pyle, 741 N. Kalaheo Ave., Kailua, Hawaii 96734