

(MAP) were far south, especially so in a winter when very few were found elsewhere in the Region.

Contributors (County coordinators in bold-face): Alex Abela, Douglas W. Aguillard, Peter Armadale, D. Lee Aulman, John Ayres, Larry R. Ballard, Suzanne Barrymore, Ron Beck, Bob Beckler, Derek Bellard, Jay N. Bishop, Clark Bloom (ClB), David V. Blue, Cosmo Bloom (CoB), Jeffery S. Boyd, Karen Bridgers (KBr), N. Bruce Broadbooks, Ken Burten (KBu), **Eugene A. Cardiff** (*San Bernardino*), Bob Chapman, Jaime M. Chavez, Mark O. Chichester, Ross Christie, Therese Clawson, **Elizabeth Copper** (*San Diego*), Brian E. Daniels, Alice DeBolt, **Don Desjardin** (*Ventura*), Jon L. Dunn, **Tom M. Edell** (*San Luis Obispo*), Leo J. Edson, Richard A. Erickson, Shawneen E. Finnegan, Bert Fisher, Jon Fisher (JFi), Jerry Freidman (JFr), **Kimball L. Garrett** (*Los Angeles*), Peter A. Ginsburg, David Goodward, Robert A. Hamilton, George and Joan Hardie (G&JH), Don and Marjorie Hastings (D&MH), Karen A. Havlena, Loren R. Hays, Bob Hefter, **Matt T. Heindel** (Kern), Mitch Heindel, **Tom & Jo Heindel** (*Inyo*), Charles Hertzfield (ChH), Carrie Herziger (CaH), Catherine Hickey, Gale Hightower, Roger Higson, Brad Hines, Ron P. Hirst, Ginger Johnson, H. Lee Jones, Virgil Ketner, Andrew and Leah Kirk (A&LK), Jim Kuhn, Ken Kurlin, Zev Labenger, Bart Lane, Kevin Larson, Stephen A. Laymon, Paul E. Lehman, **Joan E. Lentz** (*Santa Barbara*), Curtis A. Marantz, Douglas Martin (DMa), Chet McGaugh, **Robert McKernan** (*Riverside*), Stephen J. Meyers, Michael San Miguel, Thomas Mikko, Pat Mills, David Moody (DMo), Barbara Moore, William J. Moramarco, Steve G. Morris, Michael A. Patten, Michael Peron, Cruz Phillips, James E. Pike, Dick L. Purvis, Ingri Quon, Kurt and Cindy Radamaker (K&CR), Hugh P. Ranson, David Rawlins, Geoffrey Rogers, John L. Roser, James S. Royer, Lawrence Schmahl, John Schmidt, David Seals (DSe), Dave Shuford (DSh), Brad Sillasen, Gregory P. Smith, Peter Spino, John Sterling, Mary Beth Stow, Ellen G. and James H. Strauss (EG&JHS), Phil Swani, Bob Theriault, John Tiffany, Guy Tingos, Les Todd, Gerald L. Tolman, Bob Toth, Philip Unitt, Stanley Walens, Jan and Hal Wasserman (J&HW), Richard E. Webster, Pat A. Wells, **Douglas R. Willick** (*Orange*), John C. Wilson, Irwin Woldman, Tom E. Wurster, Barry R. Zimmer, Kevin J. Zimmer, Jerry Zimmerman. An additional 50± observers who could not be individually acknowledged submitted reports this season.

—Guy Mccaskie, *San Diego Natural History Museum, Balboa Park, P. O. Box 1390, San Diego, CA 92112.*

Hawaiian Islands Region

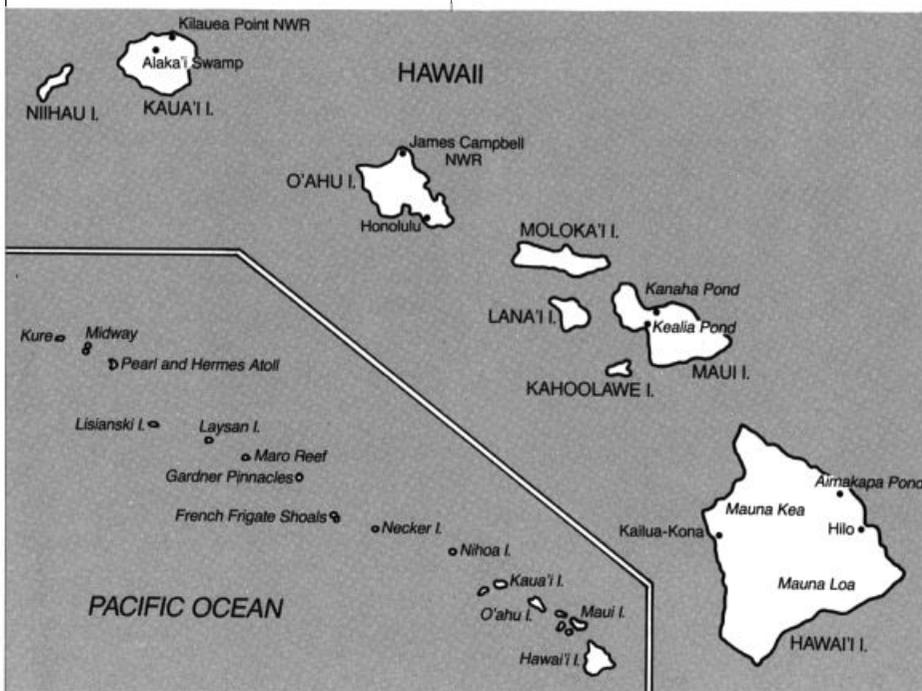
ROBERT L. PYLE

Mild El Niño conditions prevailed through the winter, with a pool of warm surface water along the equator south of Hawaii and, surprisingly, another pool of warm surface water northwest of the islands. As is normal during El Niño conditions, rainfall during the winter rainy season was below average at many stations, especially on Hawai'i Island, which may lead to drought conditions during the normally drier spring and summer seasons. More significant for winter-visiting migratory birds was the westerly and southwesterly winds replacing the usual northeasterly trade winds during most of January and February. This may have been related indirectly to the greater numbers and species diversity of gulls and ducks visiting the islands.

Abbreviations: H. (*Hawai'i I.*); K. (*Kauai I.*); M. (*Maui I.*); O. (*O'ahu I.*); J.C.N.W.R. (*Jas. Campbell N.W.R., O'ahu*); K.P.N.W.R. (*Kilauea Point N.W.R., Kauai*); N.P.W.-M.A. (*Nu'upia Ponds Wildlife Management Area, O'ahu*).

Albatrosses to Ducks

Single Black-footed Albatrosses were seen flying by Kilauea Pt., K., Dec. 16 and Jan. 3 (CDi). These are seldom reported now around the Main Islands. Laysan Albatrosses laid a record-high 105 eggs at K.P.N.W.R. this winter, compared to 90 last year. A dark-morph N. Fulmar, rarely reported near shore in Hawaii, was seen well offshore from Keahole Pt., H., Jan. 24 (TS). Cattle Egrets, introduced to the Main Islands 35 years ago and now abundant, seem to wander fairly often to the distant islands. This winter five remained at Johnston Atoll (CDe, 900 mi s.w. of Honolulu), ≤seven were seen at Laysan I. (MBo, 950 mi n.w. of Honolulu), and one was at Midway Atoll (NS, 1200 mi n.w. of Honolulu). A group of six Greater White-fronted Geese were at Hanalei N.W.R. from Dec. 9 to at least Jan. 27 (CDi). These are rare stragglers to Hawaii. Twelve Nene goslings (*Endangered*) hatched from 5 nests in and near K.P.N.W.R. this winter, but unfortunately all were lost to predators (CDi), probably a Barn Owl. Predation had not previously been a problem for this group. It was a good year for wintering migratory ducks. Regular winter counts of N. Shovelers at Kealia N.W.R., M., were ≤48 birds, and flocks of ≥20 were reported at Waipi'o Pen., Honouliuli Unit, and Ki'i Ponds, O., at Kaunakakai N.W.R. on Moloka'i, and at Aimakapa Pond, H. Twenty or more N. Pintails were counted at most of these same sites. Ten other regular migrant species were reported at various localities in small numbers of one–ten. Species considered irregular or accidental turned up too: a



Gadwall at Kaunakakai Water Treatment Pond on Moloka'i Dec. 31 (LT); a fine ♂ Redhead at Aimakapa Pond, H., Dec. 10–Jan. 22 (TS, KI, KC); a fine ♂ Tufted Duck at Kealia N.W.R., M. in January (AE, TS); and one drab Red-breasted Merganser at Hanalei N.W.R., K., Feb. 13 and probably earlier (CDi). This winter's 16 species of migratory *Anatinae*, added to the 3 species resident in the state (Mallard, Koloa, Laysan Duck), produced a truly remarkable diversity to excite local birders. However, numbers of the common wintering ducks remain well below the numbers of a decade and more ago.

Raptors to Gulls

The ad. ♀ N. Harrier (a very rare vagrant), first sighted in late November at Kii Unit, J.C.N.W.R., was seen frequently through the winter (TS, LT, MO, PD, *et al.*) foraging over the refuge and putting up flocks of shorebirds and ducks. A Peregrine Falcon (*Endangered*) visited Laysan I., Dec. 31–Jan. 9, using a tiny grove of coconut palms, the only trees on the island, for perching and eating. Prey remains found underneath were from Laysan Finch (*Endangered*) and Black Noddy. A Black Noddy nesting colony close to the palms was active Dec. 31, but all birds had deserted by Jan. 2. All other Black Noddy nests around the lake also were abandoned (MBo). Another Peregrine was watched clearly in downtown Honolulu flying past a 19th floor office window Dec. 20 and again Jan. 24 (MO).

One Black-bellied Plover was observed regularly at Johnston Atoll Dec. 15–Feb. 15 (CDe). A Greater Yellowlegs, rare visitor to Hawaii, was seen repeatedly through December at N.P.W.M.A. (LT) and at nearby Kaelepulu Pond Jan. 19–22 (LT, RLP, EV). The probable Greater Yellowlegs at Kealia N.W.R., M., was seen several times from late November–February (AE, TS, MN). Single Bristle-thighed Curlews reported at Hanapepe Airstrip, K., Feb. 1 (DK) and on the beach near Kahuku Pt., O., Feb. 6 (*fide* PB) were unusual winter records. One Pomarine Jaeger was observed for 10 minutes at close range Dec. 24, standing on the shore at Laysan I. feeding on a Bonin Petrel (BK). Four Pomarine Jaegers were observed off Sand I. near Honolulu harbor Jan. 13–14 (LT, EV), and 12 were counted at the harbor Jan. 20 (PD). More surprisingly, an experienced observer was startled to see six Feb. 13 flying loosely around Kewalo Basin marina and nearby parking lot, adjacent to a major Honolulu boulevard (JM). These unusual occurrences so close to and over the shoreline may have been related to the unusual SW onshore winds which prevailed at this time.

Gulls straggle to Hawaii in late fall and winter, rarely more than one–two together, but with one past record of 6 of mixed species. This winter, however, they came here in unprecedented numbers. One large group of 11–12 birds was at Kii Unit, J.C.N.W.R. from December–February (PD, LT, MO, RLP *et al.*). These included up to seven Ring-billeds, one Bonaparte's, one first-year Glaucous-winged, and three imm. probable Westerns. Other reports this winter, primarily first- or 2nd-winter birds, included Ring-billeds at Kaaawa and Ehukai Beaches, O. (MO, SJ), Kanaha Pond, M. (RR), and Waiakea Pond, H. (EV, DW); single Laughing Gulls at N.P.W.M.A. (LT), Kealakekua Bay, H. (TP), and Kealia N.W.R., M. (TS); three Bonaparte's at Mahaulepu, K. (TT) and one at Kanaha Pond, M. (RR, AE); one imm. Herring at Nuuanu Stream mouth in Honolulu (PD, MO); an imm. Herring/Western type near Pacific Missile Range, K., Dec. 31 (DJ); a winter ad. Western at Kawaikele Sanctuary, K., Feb. 6–7 (DK); a first-winter Glaucous-winged at Laie Pt., O., Dec. 26 (LT) and one at Laysan I., Nov. 15–Mar. 3 (MBo, BK); and several large gulls of mixed species at Midway Atoll (NS). One Black-legged Kittiwake, with a patch of oil on its belly, was observed on the shore of Laysan I., Feb. 6 (BK). These sightings are listed to document the truly remarkable numbers and species of gulls visiting Hawaii this winter.

Terns to Estrildids

One Black Tern was observed almost daily on Laysan I., Dec. 21–31 and again Jan. 11–Mar. 8, usually pursuing insects in flight along the lake shore (MBo, BK). Black Terns are accidental in Hawaii, with fewer than 10 records for the state. A feeding flock of >18 Red-masked Parakeets (*Aratinga erythrogenys*) was discovered in the inland fringes of Kapiolani Park, Honolulu Dec. 18, and was seen there again Dec. 25 & 26 (MO). Immatures were among them, and once an adult was observed feeding a juvenile (see Ord, *'Elepaio* 55:13). One–two individuals have been sighted two–three times since 1989 in different parts of Honolulu. If breeding and numbers persist, this could become another established alien species in Hawaii. A Belted Kingfisher, a very rare straggler to Hawaii, was seen and studied well Dec. 15 at Loko Waka Pond in Hilo, H. (DW), a locality where the species has been recorded once before. The ongoing survey to locate *Elepaio* on O'ahu found 10 individuals along Moanalua Trail in the Ko'olau Mts., Dec. 20 and nine on Honouliuli Trail in the Waianae Mts., Feb. 20 (EV). Single birds were

also found on Palikea Trail (LT) and Waiomao Trail (VS), and three were seen in Waianae Valley (EV). The O'ahu population has crashed drastically in the past 25 years and currently is a candidate for *Endangered* listing. An ad. Puaiohi (*Endangered*) was observed closely and well along Mohihi Trail, K., Jan. 4 (DK). One or at most two Eur. Starlings have occurred in Hawaii several times in the past 20 years, usually in Sand Island Park adjacent to Honolulu harbor. This winter a flock discovered in the park in January (PD) was seen by several observers, with a highest count of 11 recorded Jan. 11 (MO) & 20 (PD). Reported numbers dropped steadily into February, but whether the birds are perishing or dispersing elsewhere is not known. One Akikiki, endemic to Kaua'i, was observed on Pihea Trail near Alakai Trail junction Jan. 3, and on Mohihi Trail Jan. 4 (DK). The species has become increasingly rare on the trails near Koke'e in the past decade. The critically *Endangered* Poouli, observed several times last season by the National Biological Service special team, was found again by the team on the n.e. slope of Haleakala in mid-February. One bird was heard well by 2 observers, and 4 days later an adult was seen well and heard by 3 observers (TS). Nine Lavender Waxbills found at Hanson Road Ponds Jan. 8 (FD) is one of the first reports of that species on Maui.

Contributors: Monette Boswell, Marlee Breese, Phil Bruner, Kurt Campbell, Chris Depkin, Cris Dippel, Peter Donaldson, Fern Duvall, Andrew Engilis, Beth Flint (U.S.F.W.S.), Clyde Imada, Kamal Islam, Dean Jamieson, Curtis Johnson, Scott Johnston, Brad Keitt, David Kuhn, Jaan Lepson, Jeff Marks, Mike Nishimoto, Mike Ord, Thane Pratt, Leilani Pyle, Ruth Rudesill, Susan Schenck, Nanette Seto, Vaughn Sherwood, Tom Snetsinger, Lance Tanino, Tom Telfer, Eric VanderWerf, Kathleen Viernes, Doug Willick.
—Robert L. Pyle, 741 N. Kalaeo Ave., Kailua, Hawaii 96734

