

R., where this species is considered rare and irregular. An intriguing report was of a Com. Redpoll at Mt. Home Village in the *San Bernardino* Mts., Jan. 13–15 by two ornithologists/biologists (Dr. John D. Goodman and Dr. Nan Jenks-Jay); this species has been found in California during only 3 previous winters, and then only in the extreme n. portion of the State. The documentation will be reviewed and commented by the C.B.R.C..

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# Hawaiian Islands Region

## ROBERT L. PYLE

The warm weather of fall continued through the winter. At Honolulu, December average temperature was the highest ever recorded, helped by daily temperatures surpassing or equaling daily records for more than half the days of the month. In the southern islands late fall and early winter were both warm and dry, and some forestbirds nested much earlier than usual. In contrast, the Kokee area of Kaua'i at the north end of the Main Islands had the highest winter rainfall on record.

Abbreviations: H. (*Hawai'i I.*); K. (*Kaua'i I.*); M. (*Maui I.*); O. (*O'ahu I.*); H.R.B.P. (*prefix for catalog numbers of photos in Hawaii Rare Bird Photograph collection*); J.C.N.W.R. (*Jas. Campbell N.W.R., O'ahu*)

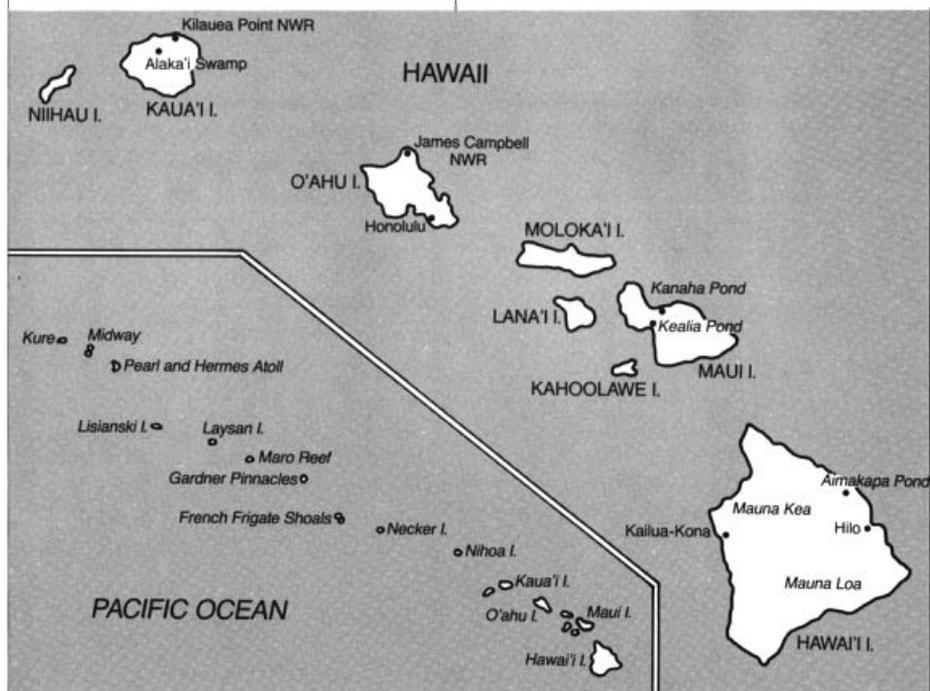
## Albatross to Egrets

The same banded Short-tailed Albatross that incubated an egg on Sand I., Midway Atoll, 2 winters ago sat on another egg for 60 consecutive days this winter. The egg was infertile, and has been sent for determi-

nation as to whether it may be an abandoned Laysan or Black-footed egg rather than one of Short-tailed parentage (BF). The older Short-tailed Albatross (band #000) that had wintered at Sand I. for 15 years failed to return this winter. Still another Short-tailed (band #051) returned for the 2nd winter to Eastern I., a few km from Sand I. A Tristram Storm-Petrel was caught entering a burrow on Sand I., Jan. 30 (PBa, NS, H.R.B.P.-1087). The species nests regularly on several other n.w. Hawaiian Is., but has not been recorded previously at Midway. Lesser Frigatebirds continue to appear sporadically in the n.w. Hawaiian Is. An ad. male was seen well Jan. 14 at Sand I. (NS). Great Blue Herons, considered stragglers to Hawaii, turned up on several islands. The two separate birds in Hilo, H. were observed regularly through December at Loko Waka Pond, and to at least Feb. 14 at Waiakea Pond (JDu, KI, LH, EV). Single birds were found at Nu'u Pond on Maui's s. coast Dec. 9 (MRe) and at Kakahaia N.W.R., Moloka'i, in mid-December (MS). An immature first sighted at Nu'upia Ponds, O., Jan. 23 was joined by an adult Feb. 11; the two were observed there together into March (MRa, LT). Some of these reports might pertain to the same individual moving inter-island. A count of 287 Cattle Egrets at Kealia Pond N.W.R., M., Mar. 5 (MN) was unusually high for Maui.

## Waterfowl to Kingfisher

The one Fulvous Whistling-Duck remaining from the former population in and near J.C.N.W.R. was still there Jan. 2



(MOI) and Feb. 25 (MOR). Twelve Nene (*Endangered*) from the recently established wild population on Kaua'i were observed in a fallow cane field near Mahaulepa Beach, K., Jan. 24 (DK). One ♂ and two ♀ Koloa (Hawaiian Duck, *Endangered*) were reported at Kanaha Pond, M., Jan. 19 (FD). A very few Koloa have been released on Maui in the past decade, but the species has not become well established there. Among migrant waterfowl, the two common visitors—N. Pintail and N. Shoveler—wintered in good numbers at Kealia N.W.R., M. Bi-weekly counts peaked at 216 pintails Feb. 21 and 259 shovelers Feb. 29 (MN), which are high numbers for anywhere in the state in recent years. In contrast, these two and also other scarcer species were virtually absent from favored sites on O'ahu and Hawai'i. Two **Snow Geese**, vagrants in Hawaii, were observed regularly Jan. 12–Feb. 5 at a small pond in 'Ahihi - Kina'u Natural Area Reserve on the isolated s.w. point of Maui (BE, FD). It was an unusually good year, too, for Brant, a casual visitor to the state. One at Kealia Pond N.W.R., M., was found Nov. 23 (MU, H.R.B.P.-1084), and remained into early March (MN). One ad. Brant was reported Dec. 6 at Kaloko Pond in the National Historic Park n. of Kailua-Kona, H. (JDu), and another was observed across the island at Reed's Bay in Hilo Jan. 17 (TS). Two Brant were found Dec. 17 at Nu'upia Ponds near Kane'ohe, O., and remained until at least Feb. 18 (LT, MRa, AZ). A few less common duck species were reported at Kealia N.W.R. (MN, JDu) and at Sand I., Midway this winter (PBa, NS), but nowhere else.. An Osprey was sighted at Kealia N.W.R., M., Jan. 17 & Feb. 2 (MN), and a Peregrine Falcon appeared at Nu'upia Ponds, O., Dec. 17 & Feb. 22 (LT,MRa). Both are uncommon visitors to Hawaii. A **Killdeer**, an outstanding rarity in Hawaii, was found at Kealia N.W.R., Dec. 12 (JDu), and was seen again across the island at Kanaha Pond Jan. 16 (MN). A **Spotted Sandpiper**, another outstanding rarity, was watched closely and leisurely Dec. 17, feeding in a temporary rain catchment puddle along Kulauli Rd. in Kane'ohe, O. (RLP). Hawaiian (Black-necked) Stilts (*Endangered*) reached a high count of 131 at Nu'upia Ponds, O., Jan. 23 (MRa). They were already nesting by Feb. 11, an unusually early date perhaps related indirectly to the unseasonably warm early winter. Bristle-thighed Curlews, normally fall transients through the Main Islands in very small numbers, are now being seen there more frequently in winter. Two were

still at J.C.N.W.R., Dec. 3 (PD) and one remained until early March (PD, MOR, MOI). Two were also at Hanapepe airstrip, K., until Dec. 8 (JDu), with one remaining through the winter (TS, DK). Again, the unseasonably warm early winter may have been a factor A Whimbrel identified as of the race *variegatus* from Asia was observed well among dozens of Bristle-thigheds at Sand I., Midway Jan. 31 (PBa, NS, H.R.B.P.-1089).

An influx of Laughing Gulls highlighted the gull season. Immature birds were reported on various dates through the winter at favored sites on 4 islands: Kaua'i (BC, DK, EV), O'ahu (MOI, PBr, MS), Maui (FD, MN, EV), and Hawai'i (LH, EV). Three first-winter Com. Terns, scarce stragglers to Hawaii, were together at Nu'upia Ponds, O., from Jan. 22 to at least Feb. 18 (MRa, LT, PD). Three flocks of Chestnut-bellied Sandgrouse totaling 45 birds, an unusually high number for recent years, were observed in an overgrazed pasture along Saddle Rd. near Mamalahoa Hwy s. of Waimea, H., Jan. 2 (LH). A ♂ **Belted Kingfisher**, a rare vagrant in Hawaii, was seen flying several times at Waiakea Pond in Hilo, H., Dec. 20, but could not be found thereafter (KI).

#### Passerines

An ecotour group had good observations of five wild Alala (Hawaiian Crow, critically *Endangered*) on McCandless Ranch in w. Hawai'i I., Dec. 3 (JDu). Japanese Bush-Warblers continue to increase on Kaua'i and have now reached the far s.e. coast, where several were heard Feb. 19 at Huleia N.W.R. (TS). Twenty-nine Oahu Elepaio were counted Feb. 16 at 24 separate locations within 3 mi in a rarely visited valley near Kalena in the Waianae Mtns. This is the largest and most dense population yet found in the continuing survey of Oahu Elepaio as a candidate for *Endangered* species listing (EV). Two Omao were seen well and heard Feb. 26 on Observatory Rd. on the n. slope of Mauna Loa, H., at 8700 ft in a barren lava field with sparse vegetation (JL). Omao have been reported occasionally in the past in this high alpine-like habitat on Mauna Loa. In more expectable forest habitat, 35 Omao were recorded along a trail near 4000 ft in Pu'u Maka'ala Natural Area Reserve, H., Jan. 29 (FB). In the Koke'e-Alaka'i area of Kaua'i, the team studying Puaiohi (*Endangered*) observed pair-bonding beginning in December, and by February had ≥6 pairs identified, expecting nest-building to begin shortly (TS). One ad. ♂ Maui Parrotbill (*Endangered*) was observed well Dec. 7 & 8, and one juvenile nearby

Dec. 7 in the Kuiki study area on Haleakala Mt., M. (MRE). Parrotbills, and also Akohekohe (*Endangered*), nested unusually early this year, with young fledged by January, perhaps related to the warm, dry fall and winter on Maui (PBa). A Poouli (critically *Endangered*) was sighted Dec. 9 & 11 (probably the same individual) near Hanawi on Haleakala Mt., M. These were the only encounters with Poouli in 100 person-days of field work in this area from October through January (PBa). Thirty Orange-cheeked Waxbills at Kanaha Pond, M., Jan. 19 (FD) was a high count and a new locality reported for this species now just becoming established on Maui. It has been established for many years in a few local areas on O'ahu. Significant indeed was the discovery of a new population of Warbling Silverbills on the w. coast of Kaua'i. A flock of 15 was observed well Feb. 18 & 22 along Waimea Canyon Rd., just above Waimea town (TS). One bird was also found there Feb. 21 (DK). Another group of six was found Feb. 24 mixed with Chestnut Mannikins at Kawaiele Pond Sanctuary, 6 mi n.w. of Waimea (TS). Silverbills were identified once on Kaua'i at Poipu nearly 20 years ago, but had not been reported since. On O'ahu, six silverbills were observed Feb. 25 at Yokohama Beach (LT) along the island's w. coast, where silverbills have been reported occasionally in recent years. This species is well established on other Main Islands s. of O'ahu.

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