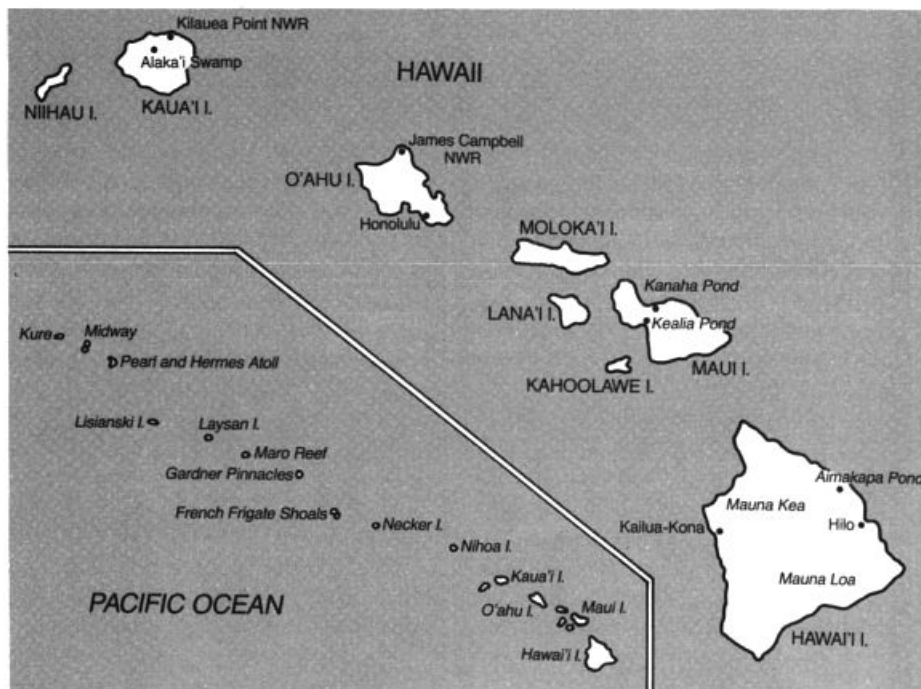


hawaiian islands region



fall for Sooty Shearwater reports in Hawaii, possibly related to the El Niño conditions this year. One Brown Booby studied among other regular Browns at Laysan Oct. 16 had a gray head and neck and a whitish-gray bill, indicative of the race *brewsteri* of the Mexican coast (F.W.S.).

A Snowy Egret, a rare straggler to Hawaii, was first reported at Waiakea Pond in Hilo, H., in mid-October, and remained there through at least Nov. 16 & 17. Another, found at Ki'i Unit, J.C.N.W.R., O., Nov. 15, 17 & 18, remained into early December. Although most observers reported these confidently as first-year Snowy Egrets, the problem of clearly distinguishing these from w. Pacific races of Little Egret needs more attention. The Intermediate Egret at Midway this past summer was a w. Pacific bird.

Two White-faced Ibises, rare stragglers to Hawaii, were seen repeatedly this fall at Aimakapa Pond and nearby Kona W.T.P., H., through at least Oct. 16 (v.o.). They may have been the same two reported there last winter.

DUCKS TO TERNS

The one lone Fulvous Whistling-Duck remaining in recent years at Ki'i Ponds, J.C.N.W.R. was still seen repeatedly throughout the period (sev.obs.). It was indeed a good fall season for migrant ducks. The most common wintering species, N. Pintail and N. Shoveler, appeared at many wetland locations on most main islands, and at Laysan and Midway as well. Counts at favored sites with larger ponds were higher than in recent years, ranging from 20–50 for pintails and 25–80 for shovelers, except at Kealia Pond N.W.R., M., where shovelers reached 119 Oct. 15 and 223 Nov. 3 (MN). Much smaller numbers of Green-winged Teal, Am. Wigeon, and Lesser Scaup appeared at several locations. Eight Ring-necked Ducks, an unusually high number for Hawaii, were found at Honouliuli Unit, P.H.N.W.R., Oct. 19 (MO, RLP), and five were there Oct. 27 (PD). Four Ring-necked were reported at Koloa W.T.P., K., Nov. 26 (DK).

Interesting irregular visitors included an imm. White-fronted Goose at Hanalei N.W.R., K., Oct. 24 & 30 (DK, TM), two

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Rainfall amounts were within reasonable range for the season, and Hawaii escaped any important hurricane impacts despite the well-developed El Niño conditions this year. Migrant ducks and shorebirds appeared in good numbers compared to recent years, and included some interesting scarcer species.

Abbreviations: H. (*Hawai'i I.*); K. (*Kaua'i I.*); M. (*Maui I.*); O. (*O'ahu I.*); B.P.B.M. (*B.P. Bishop Museum*); F.W.S. (*U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service*); J.C.N.W.R. (*James Campbell N.W.R., O'ahu*); P.H.N.W.R. (*Pearl Harbor N.W.R., O'ahu*); W.T.P. (*Water Treatment Ponds*).

GREBES TO IBISES

One Pied-billed Grebe was seen repeatedly through the fall at Kona W.T.P., H. (RD, AE *et al.*), probably a straggler from nearby Aimakapa Pond where the species has maintained a tiny breeding population through the past decade. Three separate Juan Fernandez Petrels were sighted at sea between Kaua'i and Nihoa Nov. 11–14 (MR). The species is rarely reported in Hawaiian waters although it ranges regularly into the central Pacific. Seven grounded

Hawaiian (Dark-rumped) Petrels were turned in this fall during the shearwater aid program on Kaua'i (TT), demonstrating continued successful breeding of this *Endangered* species on that island. The preliminary count of 750–800 Newell's Shearwaters (*Threatened*) processed in the aid program continues the slight decline in numbers that has persisted each fall since the 50% drop after Hurricane *Iniki* 5 years ago (TT). The Newell's chick did fledge successfully from this summer's first known lowland nesting of the species at Kilauea Point N.W.R., K. (TT). A Newell's was attracted to lights after dark Sept. 4 at a rural home near Kalopa Park south of Honoka'a, H. It was reported to have landed and coughed up some fish (ST), suggesting possible breeding this year in the mountains of n.e. Hawai'i I. No Newell's were observed at sea between Kaua'i and Nihoa Nov. 11–14, but many Sooty Shearwaters were observed heading southward in tight flocks of 50–75 birds (MR). Thirty-two Sooties were counted at sea between Kure and Midway Oct. 3 (RD). One Sooty was turned in during the Kaua'i shearwater aid program (TT), and one found beached on O'ahu was brought to Sea Life Park Nov. 5, but died a week later (MB, BPBM-184056). This was an unusually productive

Garganeys at Sand I., Midway, Oct. 4 (RD) and one at Kealia Pond N.W.R., M. Oct. 25 (DK, BS), a Eur. Wigeon at Kona W.T.P. Nov 2 (DK), and a female Canvasback at Honouliuli Unit, P.H.N.W.R., Oct. 14 & 19 (AE, MO, RLP). Single Buffleheads appeared at Loko Ea Pond in Haleiwa, O., and at Koloa W.T.P., K. (DK), and two were at Kekaha Pond, K. (DK), all in late November Buffleheads formerly were almost regular winter visitors to Hawaii, but have been reported less frequently in the past decade. One stray female Com. Merganser has been present irregularly at Kealia Pond N.W.R., M., in recent years, and was reported there this year in late October and November (AE, MO, DK et al.).

A Peregrine Falcon accompanying a FWS research vessel Nov. 8 departed the ship Nov. 9 at La Perouse Rock, French Frigate Shoals, and apparently was responsible for a predated Brown Noddy at nearby Tern I the next day (F.W.S.). A notable score of introduced game birds was recorded Aug. 12 & 13 during a survey of upland areas along the road behind Hawai'i Cement Plant near Waimea, H. Species observed, all reported in good numbers, were Black, Gray, and Erckel's francolins, Chukar, Wild Turkey, California Quail, and Chestnut-bellied Sandgrouse (PB). Finding all three francolins in the same area is rarely achieved in Hawaii. Three Com. (Hawaiian) Moorhens (*Endangered*) were discovered Aug. 23 at Nu'upia Ponds W.M.A., O. (AE), a significant new locality for this species, possibly related to the recent removal of massive amounts of mangroves from this choice wetland site. A count of 88 Hawaiian Coots at Aimakapa Pond, H., Sept 9 included five small chicks and at least six adults of the red-shielded morph (JL)

Hawaiian (Black-necked) Stilts (*Endangered*) had a good breeding season this year, leading to unusually high fall counts. At Kealia Pond N.W.R., M., including Ma'alaea Flats, counts ranged from around 260 in early August to 517 Nov. 2 (PC, MN, AE) At smaller pond areas, 120 were found at Chevron Ponds near Barbers Pt., O., Aug. 22 (AE); 106 at Kuilima W.T.P., O., Sept. 23 (LT), 75 at Pouhala Sanctuary in Waipahu, O., Oct. 15 (AE); and 120 at Kona W.T.P., H. (AE)

Among migrant species, Wandering Tattlers were found in unusually high numbers of 15–24 in August and in October at favored ponds on Maui, O'ahu, and Hawai'i (PC, AE). A Gray-tailed Tattler was reported at Aimakapa Reef, H., Sept. 12, a bird

seen well in comparison with Wanderings (RD). It was also a good year for Bristle-thighed Curlews. Up to at least 13 were found on the dunes adjoining Ki'i Unit, J.C.N.W.R., in September and October (v.o.), and 10–13 at Moloka'i Sea Farms near Kaunakakai, Moloka'i, Aug. 18 and Oct. 26 (AE). Four–six were reported at South Pt., H., in August (*fide* LT) and October (DK); four–five at Lihue Airport, K., Sept. 18 and Oct. 2 (TS); and single birds were at several other localities. Among the Bristle-thigheds on the dunes near Ki'i Unit was a Whimbrel, identified as a Hudsonian form, found Oct. 11–Nov. 26 (PD, LT, DK, BS). Another Whimbrel, identified as an e. Asian form, was seen at Sand I., Midway, Oct. 4–15 (RD, F.W.S.). Other rare shorebird species reported this fall include a Spotted/Com. Sandpiper (Laysan, Nov. 5; F.W.S.), Red Knot (Ki'i Unit Sept. 13–23; LT et al.), Red-necked Stint (Chevron Ponds, O., Aug. 22; AE), and Red Phalarope (Laysan, Nov. 2; F.W.S.). A Least/Little Tern was studied carefully at Kealia Pond N.W.R., M., Aug. 19 (AE), and two Com. Terns were present there Aug. 12–Sept. 16, one remaining until at least Oct. 26 (AE, MN et al.).

OWLS TO WAXBILLS

An interesting high number of seven "Hawaiian" Short-eared Owls was tallied Aug. 12 around Kamuela Airport and the road behind Hawai'i Cement Plant, H. (PB). One Short-eared reported at Sand I., Midway, Oct. 31 (F.W.S.) may well have been a visitor from Asia.

In mid-November the world population of 'Alala (Hawaiian Crow, critically *Endangered*) stood at 37 live birds: Fifteen are in the wild, including four young birds hatched in captivity this year and recently released. The 22 in captivity include five more hatched this year, four of which are to be released soon (DB). But at least five 'Alala lost in the wild this year are believed to have been killed by 'Io (Hawaiian Hawk, *Threatened*). Two 'Io were trapped in the 'Alala area and removed across the island, but they returned within a few weeks. They remain a serious threat to the 'Alala program.

A White-rumped Shama was seen, and one was heard independently, by different observers on different days in early September at Pala'au Park on the n. coast of Moloka'i; another was reported in a yard near Waialua on the far s.e. coast (all *fide* JA). Shammas are well established on Kaua'i and O'ahu, but heretofore had not been re-

ported from any other island.

Interesting reports of native passerines include four sightings of Puaiohi (*Endangered*) and 15 of 'Akikiki tallied Aug. 4–6 along Koaie Stream in the Alaka'i, K. (DK et al.). One Hawai'i Creeper (*Endangered*) was observed foraging near the 'Alala aviary above Ho'okena, H., Oct. 31 (DK), and an ad. and a juv. 'Akiapola'au (*Endangered*) were found together Nov. 10 on historic Ainapo Trail on the e. slope of Mauna Loa, H. (JJ et al.).

One Greater Necklaced Laughing-thrush was seen in Wainiha, K., Aug. 31, and six were found there Oct. 29 (DK). This alien species has been introduced only to Kaua'i, where it is scarce and roams widely. Reports of other alien landbird species at notable localities include two Red-whiskered Bulbuls coming regularly to a yard in Lanakai, O. (RH), two Red-crested Cardinals at high elevation in Koke'e, K., throughout the fall (TS), and an ad. Yellow-fronted Canary feeding three fledglings in the Kahala section of Honolulu Sept. 27 (MO).

Numerous Warbling Silverbills were observed Aug. 12 in the area behind Hawai'i Cement Plant near Waimea, H. (PB). And finally, a flock of 30 Chestnut Mannikins found on upper Kawaikoa Stream Aug. 29 (DK) reinforce the reports last season that this alien species is moving into the area bordering the Alaka'i Swamp, K.

Reports of four Orange-cheeked Waxbills near Puunene, M., Aug. 12 (PC) and a flock of 12 near the headquarters of Kealia Pond N.W.R. Aug. 19 (AE) add to the increasing evidence that this species is now firmly established on Maui. It has been known otherwise only on O'ahu.

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