

from the Arctic rather than overwintering birds; these included eight ad. Pacific Golden-Plovers arriving 10 Jun at Midway (PP) and nine plovers in alternate plumage first seen 9 Jun at Hanalei N.W.R., K. (CM). *Endangered* Hawaiian (Black-necked) Stilts at Roland Pond in s.w. O'ahu had a good year, fledging 35–40 young successfully

SA The unprecedented occurrence of **Little Terns** (*Sterna albifrons*) and **Least Terns** (*S. antillarum*) reported together at Sand I., Midway, last season became even more interesting in June. The five terns present from 20 Jun onward were often seen together by numerous observers. All soon agreed that two were Littles and three were Leasts—based on frequent comparative observations of distinctive vocalizations, size, tail length, white vs. gray rump and tail, and other subtle plumage differences (PP). In early July, observers discovered a Little Tern nest with eggs near the catchment basin, but a week later it was flooded out by heavy rains. During mid-July, a Least Tern nest with eggs was discovered in the vicinity, and soon afterward observers identified a 2nd Little Tern nest with eggs only 5 m from the Least Tern nest. Unfortunately, the Least Tern nest vanished for unknown reasons, but the 2nd Little Tern nest was still being monitored in late July (BC). Full details of occurrence, identification, and nesting of these terns at Midway will be published elsewhere (PP).

The only known previous record of either species nesting in the Hawaiian Is. was of birds in the late 1980s breeding at Pearl and Hermes Reef and believed at the time to be probable Little Terns (Conant et al., 1991, *Pacific Science* 45: 348–354). After observing the terns at Midway in June, Conant stated that the birds that had bred at Pearl and Hermes were indeed the same species as those identified at Midway as Little Terns. The mingling of these two species, one from Asia and one from America, both in breeding plumage when they are more easily distinguished, is exceptionally interesting. Their concurrent nesting a few meters apart at Midway in the central Pacific Ocean documents large breeding range expansions for both.

(KE). Stilts at Kealia Pond N.W.R., M., increased as water levels dropped, providing a high count of 324 on 21 Jul (MN). A **Gray-tailed Tattler**, a very rare straggler in Hawaii, was observed closely and well with six Wandering Tattlers at Sand I., Midway, 4–6 Jun (PP, ph. BM).

NATIVE HAWAIIAN PASSERINES

An 'Elepaio, now scarce and localized on O'ahu, was observed on Aiea Ridge trail 19 Jun (DK). The captive-released *endangered* Puaiohi that commenced breeding this spring on Kaua'i continued auspiciously into summer. By late June eggs had appeared in 15 nests, 16 chicks had hatched, and five young had survived to fledge successfully. Unfortunately, rats depredated five large nestlings and two adult females by late July (JF). Nevertheless, these events mark the first time that an endangered Hawaiian forest bird has been raised in captivity and released and then has survived to breed and fledge young in the wild—a major landmark for captive propagation in Hawaii (AL).

One U.S. Geological Survey field biologist working on a public access trail in

Koke'e-Alaka'i, K., in one day (9 Jun) saw adults and at least one juvenile of every native forest bird species known still to be extant on Kaua'i—a remarkable achievement! Species observed were 'Elepaio, Puaiohi, Kaua'i 'Amakihi, 'Anianiau, 'Akikiki, 'Akeke'e, 'Apapane, and 'Iwi (JF). Species missed—and considered to be uncertainly extant—were Kama'o, Nukupu'u, and 'O'u. In a 1960 survey Richardson and Bowles found all these plus 'O'o'a'a and Kaua'i (Greater) 'Akialoa, which comprised all the native forest birds known historically from Kaua'i.

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west indies region

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Summer season in the West Indies is generally the leanest period for reporting the comings and goings of non-resident birds. However, this summer we had some unusually early or late occurrences which may have preceded nesting and potential changes in Regional breeding status. Only reports from Bermuda, Grand Bahama, and the Dominican Republic had sufficient detail to be included in this column at this time.

Abbreviations: BA (*Bahamas*); BE (*Bermuda*).

GREBES THROUGH SISKINS

Pied-billed Grebes nested at Somerset Long Bay Reserve, BE (DW), one of the few times they have done so in recent years. A report of Brown Pelican in mid-June from Chubb



Cay in the Berry Is., BA (SS), suggests wandering either of Florida birds from across the Gulf Stream or of resident birds—but from where? A possible breeding occurrence of Great Blue Heron at Compton's Pond (DW) would be a first for Bermuda if confirmed. Green Herons at Compton's Pond on 14 Jul acted as if they were courting; their documented nesting would also be a first record for Bermuda. The White Ibis reported for several seasons at Devonshire Marsh, BE, remained present (AD); 12 White Ibis were noted 12–19 Jun at Chubb

Cay, Berry Is., BA (SS). A first summer record of **Virginia Rail** was an excellent find at Long L., BE, 6 Jun (PW, AD). A pair of Am. Coots raised 2 broods at Spittal Pond, BE, for the first time at this locality (DW).

During the summer, an Osprey was seen at the s. end of Bermuda. A squad of eight Whimbrel bivouacked at the Bermuda airfield throughout the period (DW). Showing its contrasting black tail and white rump, a probable Hudsonian Godwit was seen at Chubb Cay, Berry Is., BA, in mid-June (SS, pending ph.), and a Herring Gull was noted there mid-June as well (SS). A lone Laughing Gull present throughout the summer in Bermuda (PW) was joined briefly by another 9–12 Jun, for... you know... a few laughs. Common Terns nested at Bermuda again this year (DW). Least Terns were found nesting on both sides of the airport road at Chubb Cay in mid-June (SS). Sooty Terns and Brown Noddies were also seen near Chubb Cay at Mama Rhoda Rock, where they were very likely nesting.

A **Chuck-will's-widow** incubating 2 eggs (ph. TW) at Rand Nature Centre, Grand Bahama, 1 Jun (MA, *vide* RO) documented the first nesting record for the Region; Bond did not accept a 1972 report of nesting at Andros. Antillean Nighthawks were abundant at Chubb Cay, with 50+ in mid-June (SS). Singing 17 Jul through the end of the season, an **American Robin** at Jenningsland, BE (JM, PH), provided a remarkable summer record. One of the Region's rarest and least-known birds, La Selle Thrush eluded detection in a July search using audio samples at 4 previously known sites near the border of Haiti and the Massif de La Selle (CG/SG). The Gambills noted that Haitian farmers were expanding their gardens and truck-cropping deeper and deeper into the mountains and that key habitats are very likely becoming fragmented.

A Yellow Warbler on Gibbet I., BE, 10 Jul (JM) was very much out-of-season, as were two or three more seen 14 Jul at Ely's Harbour, BE (AD). Jenningsland, BE, hosted another unusual summer record, this time an **Ovenbird** on 22 Jun (PH). On a 15 Jul trip through the Sierra de Bahoruco, Dominican Republic, a flock of White-winged and Green-tailed (Ground) warblers fed along the mountain road, and Gray-crowned Palm-Tanager and Chat Tanager were considered good finds as well (CG/SG). Higher in the Sierra de Bahoruco, the Gambills managed to find male and female Pine Siskins at the crest before

entering the next watershed; this is perhaps the first time siskins have been reported in this column.

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1999 INDEX

North American Birds, Volume 53

The main part of this index covers those bird records that were considered significant enough to be mentioned in boldface type in the Regional Reports: outstanding rarities, first nesting records, extreme out-of-season occurrences, and so on.

Each entry after the species name in the index begins with the state or province (two-letter postal codes in the U.S., two- or three-letter standard abbreviations in Canada and the Caribbean). This is followed by the number of the issue (1: with Fall 1998 reports; 2: with Winter 1998–1999 reports; 3: with Spring 1999 reports; 4: the current issue, with Summer 1999 reports). Finally, the entry gives the page number for the boldfaced mention of the species.

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