

SA Dennis Buss and Larry Manfredi reported on a visit to Montserrat to look for **Montserrat Oriole**: “We had heard stories of the volcanic eruption on Montserrat in 1997. And we had heard that the oriole had been reduced in numbers but had survived the destruction. But we did not think travel to Montserrat was possible: no flights were scheduled and no hotels listed. We discovered that it is possible, and indeed very enjoyable, to visit Montserrat. The southern half of Montserrat (the Exclusion Zone) is a ghostly desolation, covered with volcanic ash. But the northern half contains a colorful and determined population of about 4,500 hardy souls, many relocated from the southern half, who are in the process of rebuilding their lives. We were also very happy to learn that the Montserrat Oriole, thanks to the dedicated efforts of 8-10 naturalists in the Forestry Division, is surviving well in the Centre Hills, which are in the secure northern part of the island. We made arrangements with James “Scriber” Daley, a naturalist in the Forestry Division who has been studying Montserrat Orioles for 16 years, to look for the bird. He told us that there are an estimated 2000 orioles in existence, all in the Centre Hills, except for a small, remnant population in an isolated part of forest that escaped destruction in the southern Soufrière Hills. With Scriber on 22 Oct, we saw both male and female Montserrat Orioles readily on Baker Hill along unmarked trails. Later, from the top of Garibaldi Hill, we looked down on Plymouth, the former capital of Montserrat, now buried in pyroclastic lava ash, and we looked up at the cause of the destruction, La Soufrière, still emitting a sinister plume of smoke. Scriber told us nostalgically that his town, St Patrick, was completely buried under 10 m of pyroclastic lava.”

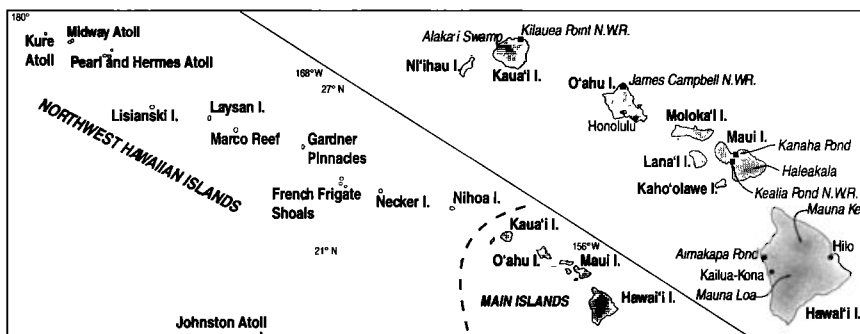
a Song Sparrow 18 Nov at Lagoon Park (SR). A Snow Bunting 14 Nov at Little Head Park, Bermuda (SR) was the only one reported in the fall season. A Dickcissel at Nonsuch I., Bermuda 12 Nov (DBW) was rare if regular, while at West End, Grand Bahama EG and RJ counted up to 14 Bobolinks on 15 Oct. Two Bobolinks were noted at Bubali, Aruba (JHvS) in late Oct.

An imm. Brown-headed Cowbird was noted 6 Oct at East End Dairy, Bermuda (AD et al.). On South Andros I., PD found about 15 Shiny Cowbirds, mostly imms., which is a rather ominous count for resident hosts such as the Black-cowled Oriole. Two—a male and a female—**White-winged Crossbills** were seen 14-17 Nov at Astwood Park, Bermuda, indeed a very rare occurrence in Bermuda (JH, AD). That the local resident who first noted them drinking from the same puddle as a **Purple Gallinule** boggles the mind!

Observers: Eric Amos, Bahamas National Trust, Michele Bethell, Elwood Bracey, Sandy Buckner, Dennis Buss, Chuck Cable, Diane Claridge, **J. R. Crouse**, Paul Dean, **Andrew Dobson**, Ian Fisher, Wendy Frith, **Martin Frost**, Erika Gates, Lynn Gape, Ethlyn Gibbs-Williams, Bruce Hallett, Junior Hill, Tony Hutson, Ricardo Johnson, Anthony Levesque, Jeremy Madeiros, Pericles Maillis, Bryan Manco, Larry Manfredi, **Eddie Massiah**, Neil McKinney, Isaac Pady, Scott Paterson, Mike Pienkowski, John Pilgrim, Steve Rodwell, Jane Ruffin, Jan Hein van Steenis, Paul Watson, David Wallace (DW), **Tony White**, David Wingate (DBW), Helge Wingate.



Hawaiian Islands



Robert L. Pyle
1314 Kalakaua Avenue, #1010
Honolulu, Hawaii 96826
(rlpyle@hawaii.rr.com)

Peter Donaldson
2375 Ahakapu St.
Pearl City, Hawaii 96782
(pdonaldson@hawaii.rr.com)

Many areas of the main islands finally got some relief from a protracted drought. A rainstorm in late Oct dumped 33 cm of rain in six hours on the east side of the Big Island of Hawaii. A low aloft in late Nov produced widespread heavy rain but rainfall remained well below normal through Nov in a few areas: southwestern O'ahu, southwestern Molokai, and the northwestern part of the Big Island.

Abbreviations: E. (endangered species); H (Hawai'i Island); Hakalau (Hakalau N.W.R., Hawai'i Island); Hanalei (Hanalei N.W.R., Kaua'i I.); Honouliuli (Honouliuli Unit of Pearl Harbor N.W.R., O'ahu Island); K. (Kaua'i Island); Kanaha (Kanaha Pond, Maui Island); Kealia (Kealia Pond N.W.R., Maui Island); Kii (Ki'i Unit of Jas Campbell N.W.R., O'ahu Island); K.P. (Kilauea Pt N.W.R., Kaua'i Island); M. (Maui Island); O. (O'ahu Island); Waiawa (Waiawa Unit of Pearl Harbor N.W.R., O'ahu Island); T. (threatened species).

ALBATROSS THROUGH EGRETS
At least 2 Short-tailed Albatross (E.), one yellow-banded and one red-banded, have appeared on Midway this fall (KL, WS). The yellow-banded bird, a female, was observed building a nest 7 Nov and incubating an egg 9 Nov (KL). This female has been returning to Midway every fall since 1993. She has laid eggs about every two years but has never found a mate.

We received reports from several pelagic trips, mostly west of Kaua'i, and detailed data from a four-day trip s. of O'ahu. The variety of species was low. Six Hawaiian Petrels (E.), one Bulwer's Petrel, and a probable Band-rumped Storm-Petrel were observed on a boat trip out of Kaua'i 24 Aug (DK). Two Sooty Shearwaters were seen off Kaua'i 4 Oct (DK et al.), and a Masked Booby was reported near Lehua I. 23 Oct (DK). Newell's Shearwaters (T.) were seen on five trips out of Kaua'i but numbers were low. The highest count was of 5 on 4 Oct (DK et al.). On the trip s. of O'ahu, a Newell's Shearwater was seen 11 Oct; one Christmas Shearwater, one Hawaiian Petrel, and one Masked Booby were observed 12 Oct; a Laysan Albatross, 2 Masked Boobies, and 7 Pomarine Jaegers were seen 13 Oct; and a Pomarine Jaeger was observed 14 Oct (EV). An all-dark storm-petrel-sized bird with no white on its rump flushed from the grass on Midway 21 Oct (BW).

Single Cattle Egrets were reported on Midway on several dates from 2 Sep-15 Nov (CG, KL). Cattle Egrets are abundant in the main Hawaiian Islands but rare on the nw. Hawaiian Islands.

DUCKS THROUGH FRANCOLINS

Feral Mallards are common on the main Hawaiian Islands, so it is hard to distinguish migrants from the feral birds; however, a Mallard found dead on Midway 30 Oct (KL) was probably a migrant. Numbers of the most common migrant ducks were low. Northern Shovelers are usually the most common migrant ducks in Hawai'i. The largest flock of shovelers was 67 at Kealia 29 Nov (MN). There were a number of Green-winged Teal reports, including one of 24 at Honouliuli 9 Nov (MS). Two to 5 Green-winged Teal on Midway 28 Oct+ were reported, with no details, as Eurasian birds (KL). Numbers of bay ducks were very low again this fall. One Canvasback and one Ring-necked duck, both female, were seen in w. H. 3 Nov (RD). One female Canvasback was at Kii 29 Nov (PD, MO, KP). There were 3 Lesser Scaup at Kii 24 Nov (RM).

Single Ospreys were observed on Maui 2 Aug+ (MN, LT) and O'ahu 15-23 Aug (PD, KH). Another large hawk seen on Maui 2 Aug (MN) was thought to be another Osprey, but later reports suggest another possibility. Two different **Rough-legged Hawks** were reported this fall. A large hawk spotted on Midway 3 Oct+ (BW) was later identified as an ad. female Rough-legged Hawk (†KL, MM). A Rough-legged Hawk observed on Kaho'olawe 20 Nov was identified as an imm. light-morph bird (†LT). There is only one documented record of a Rough-legged Hawk in the Hawaiian Islands, a bird photographed on Laysan in the spring of 1988. A hawk, seen 21 & 28 Oct on Midway and described only as small, was reported as a Merlin (WS). Merlins are very rare in the Hawaiian Islands. A Peregrine Falcon was observed chasing

Common Mynas in downtown Honolulu 14 Nov (EV). Peregrine Falcons are rare but regular in Hawai'i from fall through spring.

Two Gray Francolins were spotted running across a highway in sw. O'ahu 18 Nov (RM). One Erckel's Francolin was seen at Honouliuli 13 Nov (MS, DS). These were the first reports of either gamebird in those areas.

SHOREBIRDS THROUGH TERNS

Only one Black-bellied Plover was reported, a juv. at Kii 27 Sep+ (KP et al.). As usual, Pacific Golden-Plovers were present in large numbers. Over 500 were seen on Midway 26 Aug (CG), and 485 were counted at Honouliuli 2 Sep (PD). Pacific Golden-Plovers were reported occupying newly created lawns at a large sports complex in central O'ahu (DB). Semipalmated Plovers were scarce and not reported until unusually late. Single birds were seen at Kanaha 21 Sep (MN), Kealia 11 Nov (MN), and Kii 24 Nov (RM). Hawaiian Stilt nesting was unusually protracted this year. On O'ahu, the last chicks did not fledge until early Sep, over a month later than usual (MS).

A Whimbrel of the North American race arrived at Kii 18 Aug+ (PD). This is probably the same individual that has appeared at Kii each fall since 1997. There were good numbers of Bristle-thighed Curlews again at Kii: 23 were seen 29 Aug (MS). The **Black-tailed Godwit** first seen on Maui 26 Oct 2000 has been at Kii since Jan 2001 (m. ob.). It remains the only one of its species reported in the Hawaiian Islands. Single Lesser Yellowlegs were at Ohiapilo, Moloka'i I. 16 Aug and 24 Oct (SR), Midway 17 Sep (BW), and 'Aimakapa 25 Sep (DP). A Baird's Sandpiper was reported on Midway 17 & 23 Sep with sparse but convincing details (BW). This was the first report of a Baird's Sandpiper since 1995. All of the peeps are uncommon to rare in the Hawaiian Islands. There were several reports of peeps on O'ahu and Maui, but none had sufficient details to establish which species they were. One Ruff was observed around the Kii area 25 Oct+ (KP, MS, RM). Only one Common Snipe was reported, a bird on Midway 13 Nov+ (KL). Common Snipe usually arrive earlier and are present in greater numbers.

One Franklin's Gull was reported at Kealia 16 Nov (MN). Franklin's Gulls are usually seen in Hawai'i only in late spring. Single first-winter Glaucous-winged Gulls were around Kii 1-24 Nov (PD, MO, KP), at Honokohau Harbor, H. 2 Nov (RS), and at Kealia 28-29 Nov (MN, LT). Two were seen around Kii 29 Nov (PD, MO, KP). A Caspian Tern was spotted at Kii 14 Aug (GS) & 28 Sep (MS) and on the Marine Corps base in Kaneohe, O. 15 Aug (MR). An ad. basic-plumaged Common Tern was seen at the Kona S.T.P. 5 Aug and 3 Nov (RD). Both of these species are uncommon in Hawaii.

SA Hurricane *Iniki* hit Kaua'i 11 Sep 1992, devastating the native forest. Some native forest bird populations were apparently reduced. David Kuhn has a cabin in the native forest of Kaua'i, allowing him to observe native forest birds on a regular basis. David has reported encouraging signs of a post-*Iniki* recovery by some of the forest bird species. He reports that 'Apapane and Kaua'i 'Amakihi have increased in abundance around his cabin since *Iniki*. David had no 'Iwi near his cabin for years after *Iniki*, but in 1996 they started showing up in Jan when his cherry trees were blooming. This year, David started hearing 'Iwi in early Oct and has heard them most days since then.

PARROTS THROUGH PASSERINES

A flock of 21 Red-masked Conures was found in e O'ahu 29 Nov (MO). The status of this species is uncertain. On the other hand, Red-crowned Parrots now seem to be established on O'ahu. They are seen almost daily in Pearl City in flocks as large as 75 (PD) In Mililani, 18 were observed feeding in Chinaberry Trees in late Sep (DB).

One Maui Parrotbill (E.) was seen at Waikamoi, M 13 Oct (JH, MH). Single 'Akiapola'au (E.) were spotted at Hakalau 4 Nov (RS), where they can usually be found and off the Saddle Road H. 28 Aug (DL); they are seen here infrequently. Maui Parrotbills and 'Akiapola'au are very rare, but few birds have smaller populations than the **Po'ouli** (E.): only 3 individuals are believed to exist. One female was located in Hanawi, M. 8 Aug (BS) and one male some distance away 18 Aug (EV). If all goes well, these 2 birds will meet in Jan when the female is moved into the male's territory. The 3rd Po'ouli; a female, has not been observed recently.

One Red-cheeked Cordonbleu and 2 Black-rumped Waxbills, uncommon and local, were seen 15 Oct near Pu'uanahulu, H. (JH, MH). Twelve Black-rumped Waxbills were found in the area 1 Nov (RS) Eleven African Silverbills were observed in downtown Honolulu, O. 20 Sep, and 10 were in the same location 24 Sep (EV). African Silverbills are rarely reported on O'ahu and this was a new location.

Contributors: David Bremer, Chad Castle, Jim Denny, Peter Donaldson, George Fisher, Chris Gallagher, Kathy Hachey, John Hirth, Marty Hirth, Nancy Hoffman, David Kuhn, Keith Larson, Dan Lindsey, Richard May, Mark McCaustland, Christian Melgar, Mike Nishimoto, Mike Ord, Kurt Pohlman, Doug Pratt, Thane Pratt, Robert Pyle, Mark Rauzon, Sharon Reilly, Jason Rogers, Wayne Sentman, Mike Silbernagle, Greg Smith, Bill Sparklin, Donna Stovall, Robert Sundstrom, Lance Tanino, Tom Telfer, Eric VanderWerf, Billi Wagner, Michael Walther, Abby Brown-Watson, David Watson.

