

daily during a week-long survey (MA, MB, DE, JW), but only one oriole of the 15 counted was not an adult. This suggests that the Shiny Cowbird may already be affecting breeding success.

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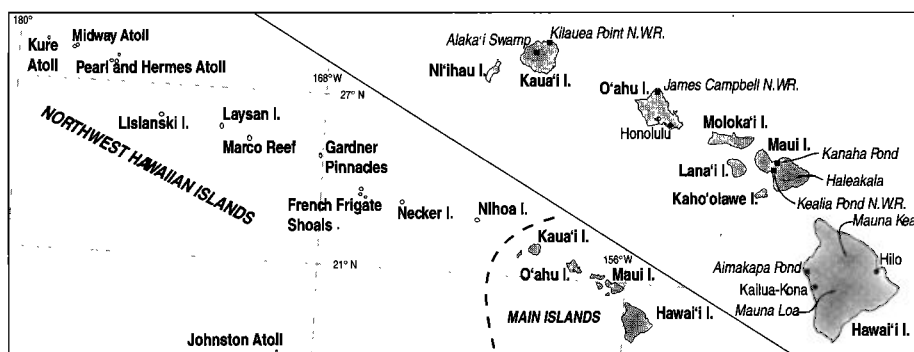
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Corrigenda

I have been incorrectly attributing some observations from Guadeloupe to Martin Frost (MF) when they should be attributed to Anthony Levesque (AL). My apologies to both observers who graciously informed me of my error.



Hawaiian Islands



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Hheavy rains, which started in November, continued through January. This was a return to typical wet winter weather after four dry winters. Drier weather returned in February. We had pretty good observer coverage. Reports from tours on Hawai'i Island provided regular observations of some very rare native species. Seabird reports were also better than usual with a handful of boat trips and a survey of Lehua Island.

Abbreviations: E. (Endangered Species); H. (Hawai'i Island); Hakalau (Hakalau N.W.R., Hawai'i Island); Hanalei (Hanalei N.W.R., Kaua'i Island); 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 James 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.), remained on Midway Dec+, one on Sand Island and one on Eastern Island. (MM, BP). A visiting birder on a boat trip west of Kaua'i 26 Dec observed 2 Tristram's Storm-Petrels (MH, *fide* DK). Tristram's Storm-Petrels are rarely reported near the main islands.

SA Lehua is a small, rocky island about 8 km north of Ni'ihau. The island, a state seabird sanctuary, is uninhabited and infrequently visited. There has been little information about birdlife on Lehua. Eric VanderWerf spent three days surveying birds on the island 19-21 Feb. Highlights of the survey were 31 adult Black-footed Albatross and 8 nests with chicks and 50 adult Laysan Albatross and 9 nests with chicks. Eric counted 2352 Red-footed Boobies, but birds were still returning at dusk when it became too dark to count. The survey turned up two unusual migrants, a Peregrine Falcon and a first-year Glaucous-winged Gull.

Two Cattle Egrets were seen on Midway Dec-29 Jan (BP, MM). Cattle Egrets are abundant in the main Hawaiian Islands but rare on the NW Hawaiian Islands.

SA Chandler Robbins replaced the band on a Laysan Albatross tending a chick on Midway in February. The bird's band had been replaced several times so it took a bit of digging to find out when it had been first banded. It was discovered that Chandler Robbins himself had first banded the bird in 1956. The bird was incubating an egg at the time. Since Laysan Albatrosses don't breed till they are at least 4 years old (NH), this bird must be at least 50 years old and is probably older. This is a new longevity record for a U.S.-banded bird. Long may it soar!

DUCKS THROUGH RAILS

A Fulvous Whistling-Duck was seen at Kii 1 Dec (PD, RM, MO) but not thereafter. Fulvous Whistling-Ducks were first reported in Hawaii in 1982, when 6 of unknown origin were found near Kii. Breeding was documented in 1984. The population on O'ahu had increased to a few dozen birds by 1990, and there were sightings on Kaua'i, Moloka'i, and Maui. The population dwindled in the early 1990s. For the past few years, only a single individual has been observed. "Lonesome George" was seen regularly near Kii till this Dec. It appears that Fulvous Whistling-Ducks have now disappeared from our islands.

Numbers of wintering waterfowl were low overall. Northern Shovelers and Northern Pintails are the most common migrant ducks in Hawaii. There are many records of hundreds of both species at a single site. This winter, the largest flock of shovelers was 41 at Kealia 29 Nov (MN). The largest flock of pintail was about 50 at Kii 20 Feb (MO). There were good numbers of some less common ducks. Wigeon of both species were reported from Hawai'i I. to Midway Atoll. The highest count was 19 at Kii 10 Jan (KP) and 2 Feb (PD). The count on 2 Feb included at least 10 Eurasian Wigeon (PD). That number matches the highest counts for the species in Hawaii. There were also many reports of Green-winged Teal. The largest number reported was 24 at Kii 15 Dec (PD, RM). Two Common Teal were on Midway (BP) and at least one was at Kii (PD). Numbers of bay ducks remained very low. Lesser Scaup are the most common bay ducks in Hawaii. Counts of 20+ at a single site are not unusual. The high tally of Lesser Scaup was only 6 at Kii 5 Jan (MO). One Tufted Duck was on Midway Dec—2 Jan (BP). One Bufflehead was found at Wailua, K. 28 Dec (DK). Tufted Ducks and Buffleheads are both rare in Hawaii.

Several observers had a good look at an imm. (rusty-colored) Northern Harrier along the saddle road, H. 8 Feb (LK, *vide* RP). A light-morph **Rough-legged Hawk** found on Midway Oct remained through Dec+ (MM, BP). A falcon spotted in Kaneohe during the Honolulu C B C. 21 Dec was identified as a Merlin (†EV). A Peregrine Falcon was later observed perched on the same branch where the Merlin had been seen. The Peregrine was found several times 12-25 Jan (†TC). Peregrine Falcons are rare but regular winter visitors in Hawaii, while Merlins are very rare.

Numbers of Hawaiian Coots (E.) were low in some areas. Only 15 Hawaiian Coots were found at Hanalei 28 Dec (DK), and the count at Kealia had dropped to 104 by 21 Feb (MN). An **American Coot** was discovered 5 Dec at

Waiakea Pd, H. (†JR) by an observer with little experience with the native Hawaiian Coots. (American Coots are very rare in Hawaii and very similar to Hawaiian Coots.) Other experienced observers were able to confirm the identification as American Coot after close scrutiny and comparison with a nearby Hawaiian Coot (DL, v.t. RD).

SHOREBIRDS THROUGH TERNS

A white-headed stilt was discovered near Kailua, H. 6 Feb (ph. SW). There was much speculation that it might be a vagrant Black-winged (Pied) Stilt from Australasia, but the consensus is that the bird is an aberrant Hawaiian Stilt (DL, JR). Hawaiian Stilts (E.) began nesting unusually early this year. One nest was observed at Kanaha 11 Feb (LT).

A Whimbrel of the North American race remained at Kii Dec+ (PD). 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. As of late Feb, the godwit showed no signs of molting into alternate plumage (PD). A banded Wandering Tattler was seen at Waiakea Pond, H. 12 Jan (JR). This bird was banded in Alaska 14 Jul 1999 and has presumably made the round trip every year since then; it was missing during the summers of 2000 and 2001 (RD). A Red Phalarope molting from juvenal to first-winter plumage was found and photographed at Kanaha on the C.B.C. 14 Dec (ph. NM). A Common Snipe on Midway Dec—2 Jan was identified as a bird of the North American race *delicata* (†BP).

Unusually high numbers and varieties of gulls were reported this winter. There were 5-6 first-winter Laughing Gulls at Kii 29 Dec+ (PD, RM, MO, KP). One was in Hilo, H. 23 Feb+ (RD, DP, JR). One first-winter Ring-billed Gull was spotted at Kii 5 Jan (MO) and 19 Jan (RM). One first-winter Herring Gull was observed intermittently on Midway 1-19 Jan. Another individual was found dead 7 Jan (BP). An ad. Slaty-backed Gull was present on Midway 12-15 Jan (†BP). First-winter Glaucous-winged Gulls appeared in several locations. Seven were counted at Kinikini Ditch, K. 2 Jan (ph. JD, DK). One to 5 were around Kii Dec+ (PD, RM, MO, KP). A Glaucous-winged found dead at Kii 23 Feb (PD) was noted to be very emaciated (MS). An oiled Black-legged Kittiwake was found dead on Midway 27 Feb (WS).

A Caspian Tern was observed on the Marine Corps base in Kaneohe, O. several times 12 Dec—9 Feb (m. ob.). This is probably the same individual that has been in the islands since Nov 2000. One basic-plumaged Common Tern was seen at Kii 29 Dec (PD, RM). Both of these species are uncommon in Hawaii.

PARAKEETS THROUGH PASSERINES

Flocks of up to 30 Red-masked Parakeets were observed in e O'ahu Dec+. No roosts or nests have yet been located (MO). The similar Mitred Parakeets seem to be flourishing in the Kona area, H. (RD). Over 100 Red-crowned Parrots were counted in Pearl City 4 Dec, a high count for this species (PD).

Two Puaiohi (E.) were found in Koke'e, K on the Waimea C.B.C. 24 Dec (DK). One Puaiohi heard singing and briefly seen 16 Feb was unbanded (DL). Apparently captive-reared birds released in the area have successfully raised young or have attracted wild birds to the area—
an encouraging development for this very rare species (JF).

An O'ahu 'Amakihi was seen carrying nesting material 8 Dec in Honolulu (JR). There are few nesting records for this species and none in Dec. We received over a dozen reports of Palila (E.) at Pu'u La'au, H. Dec+ (DL, DP, RP, JR). Two Maui Parrotbills (E.) and 2 'Akohekohe (E.) were seen along the Waikamoi boardwalk, M. 9 Feb (JR). At least 5 'Akiapola'au (E.) were counted near Kulani, H. 16 Dec (JR). One or 2 'Akiapola'au were found on several tours of Pu'u 'O'o Ranch, H. Dec+ (RP). One or 2 'Akiapola'au were also located along Pu'u 'O'o trail, H. (JR) and at Hakalau 24 Feb (RP).

Only 3 **Po'ouli** (E.) remain alive. The birds are in separate territories and never meet. Staff and volunteers with the Maui Forest Bird Recovery Project are trying to catch one of the 2 females and move her into the territory of the only male. The first step was to have been mounting a radio transmitter on the male, but he has avoided capture. Project members have given up on capturing the male and are now concentrating on capturing the female (EV).

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