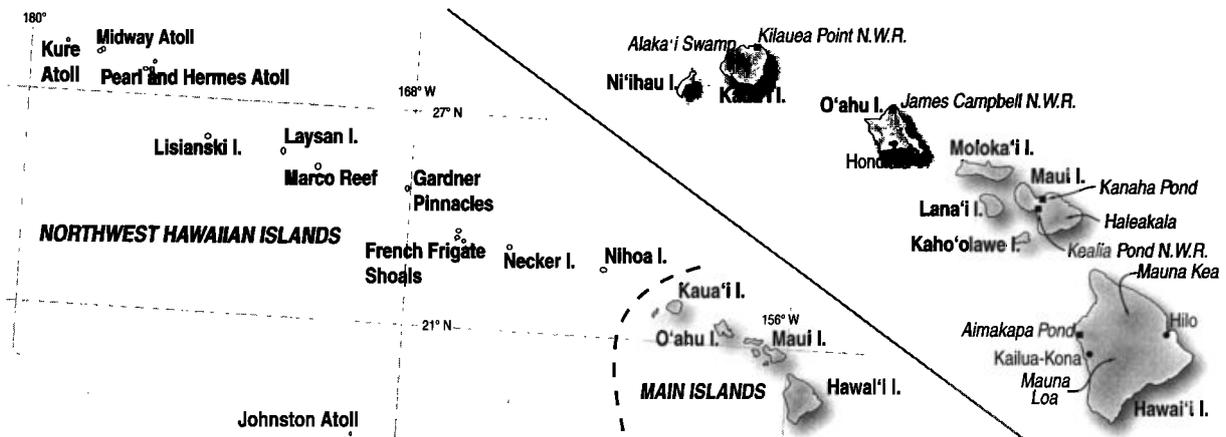


Hawaiian Islands



November's unseasonably dry weather—possibly related to El Niño conditions—continued through early February. There was heavy rain over most areas in February, but some leeward areas remained dry. Seabird reports were sparse this winter, with reports from only two pelagic trips. The variety of migrant waterfowl was a little better this winter than in the past two winters, and some interesting rarities appeared, but waterfowl numbers remained low. Gulls were rather widespread.

Abbreviations: E. (Endangered Species); H. (Hawai'i I.); Hakalau (Hakalau N.W.R., Hawai'i I.); Hanalei (Hanalei N.W.R., Kaua'i I.); Honouliuli (Honouliuli Unit of Pearl Harbor N.W.R., O'ahu I.); K. (Kaua'i I.); 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 I.); Kokee (Koke'e S.P., Kaua'i I.); K.P. (Kilauea Pt. N.W.R., Kaua'i I.); M. (Maui I.); Midway (Midway Atoll N.W.R.), O. (O'ahu I.); Pouhala (Pouhala Marsh Wildlife Sanctuary, O'ahu I.); T. (Threatened Species); Waiawa (Waiawa Unit of Pearl Harbor N.W.R., O'ahu I.).

ALBATROSSES THROUGH EGRETS

The first Laysan Albatross and Black-footed Albatross chicks on Midway hatched on schedule 18 Jan (JK). There were 47 Laysan Albatross chicks at K.P. 28 Feb (BZ). One Laysan Albatross nest was found on the Marine Corps base in

Kane'ohe 14 Dec (EV). Nesting albatrosses are unwelcome near the airfield there. Single Black-footed Albatrosses, infrequently reported from the main islands, were seen flying by K.P. 17 Dec, 18 Jan, and 2 Feb (BZ). The 2 Short-tailed Albatrosses (E.) that have been regular winter visitors remained on Midway Oct–Feb+. They were joined by a juv. Short-tailed 7 Jan (JK). One Hawaiian Petrel (E.) was observed 4 Dec between Kaua'i and Lehua (DK).

A pale-headed Brown Booby on French Frigate Shoals 29 Jan–12 Feb appeared to be *Sula leucogaster brewsteri*—the subspecies that breeds in the e. Pacific (ph. CE et al.). At least 20 Red-footed Boobies were counted on Moku Manu I. off O'ahu 14 Dec. Red-footeds had not been seen there for several years, apparently because most of the vegetation had disappeared, possibly due to a long drought. Some vegetation has recovered, apparently allowing the Red-footeds to return (EV). Cattle Egrets are abundant in the main Hawaiian Islands—1000 were counted in cen. Maui 14 Dec (LT)—but rare on the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands. Three Cattle Egrets were observed on Laysan 29 Dec–3 Jan (NW, TW).

DUCKS THROUGH TERNS

The only migrant geese were single Brant on the beach at Kihei, M. late Nov–14 Dec (GN, LT, DA), at Kinikini Ditch, K. 1 Jan (DK) and 16 Jan (JD), and at Kealia 6 Feb (MN). These might well have all been the same individual. The peak count for

Robert L. Pyle

1314 Kalakaua Avenue, #1010

Honolulu, Hawaii 96826

(rlpyle@hawaii.rr.com)

Peter Donaldson

2375 Ahakapu Street

Pearl City, Hawaii 96782

(pdonaldson@hawaii.rr.com)

Northern Shovelers was of 120 at Kona S.T.P. 9 Jan (AJ). Northern Pintails were concentrated at Honouliuli, where 115 were counted 16 Jan (PD, TC, KP). These numbers are higher than the previous winter but still very low. The outstanding rarity of the season was a **Baikal Teal** at Hanalei 9 Dec+ (ph. BZ, ph. AJ, DK, DL). This bird was a male in breeding plumage. So far there has been no good evidence the bird was an escapee. A single Canvasback was observed at the Kona S.T.P. 8 Jan (JR), 9 Jan (AJ), and 4 Feb (RP), and a Tufted Duck was at the same location 22 Dec–28 Jan (RD, m. ob.). Both species are rare in the Region. Buffleheads were unusually widespread. We received reports from all the main islands

but Lana'i, with a high count of 6 at Kuilima S.T.P., O. 30 Jan (TC).

Migrant raptors were scarce. Single Peregrine Falcons were spotted in Waimānalo, O. 4 Dec (EV) and in cen. Maui 14 Dec (LT) and 13 Jan (BP). One imm. Northern Harrier was observed 9 Feb (EV) in Haleakala N.P., M. Both species are rare but regular in Hawai'i. No Ospreys have been reported for many months, which is unusual.

Laughing Gulls were unusually widespread, with reports from all the main islands but Lana'i. The highest count was of 4, at Kanaha 10–13 Jan (BP). Single first-winter Ring-billed Gulls were seen in Kahuku, O. 11 Jan+ (MO, PD) and Kawaiie, K. 16 (JD) & 20 Jan (DL), and single first-winter Glaucous-winged Gulls were seen along O'ahu's North Shore 1 Jan+ (AJ, MO, TC, PD). Those three gulls are the most regular in the Region. A first-winter California Gull observed at Kanaha 11–20 Jan (†BP, MO, LT) was a rare find. A large dark-winged first-winter gull observed along O'ahu's North Shore 15 Feb (vt. NK) has proven difficult to identify. Single Caspian Terns were seen at Kanaha 13, 14 (LT) & 17 Dec (MN) and in Kane'ohe, O. 14 Dec–2 Jan (EV, TC). Two Caspians were observed in Kane'ohe 6 Jan–25 Feb (TC, DD, EV). One basic-plumaged Common Tern was also present in Kane'ohe 16 Jan (EV) and 21 Jan–3 Feb (TC). Both of these species are uncommon in Hawai'i

SHOREBIRDS THROUGH PARROTS

A Marsh Sandpiper remained in the Pearl Harbor area of O'ahu Feb+ (ph. PD, m. ob.) This bird provided only the 2nd record in the Hawaiian Islands. A Greater Yellowlegs that sometimes accompanied the Marsh Sandpiper was spotted at Waiawa 29 Dec and 21 Feb (PD). A black-legged peep, probably a Semipalmated Sandpiper, was observed at Kii 4, 11 (MO) & 13 Jan (ph. PD). A Least Sandpiper was found in Kane'ohe, O. 13 Jan (EV). Least Sandpipers are rare but regular, and Semipalmated Sandpipers are very rare in the

Region. Single Pectoral Sandpipers were observed at the Kona S.T.P., H. 8 Jan (RP) and at Kii 25 Feb (PD). A lame Sharp-tailed Sandpiper was seen at Pouhala 14 Dec (PD). Pectoral and Sharp-tailed Sand-



This Marsh Sandpiper provided the second record for the Hawaiian Islands and first record for the main islands. It was photographed 6 February 2003 at the Waiawa Unit of Pearl Harbor N.W.R. on O'ahu. Photograph by Peter Donaldson.

pipers are regular in fall but rare in winter in the Region. Snipe were unusually scarce, with only a single bird reported at Kealia 13–14 Dec (LT) and no details provided. Both Common and Wilson's Snipe have been reported in the Region.

Mike Ord counted 52 Rose-ringed Parakeets 14 Dec in downtown Honolulu, O. Rose-ringed were also seen in Hanapepe, K. 20 Feb (DL). Rose-ringed Parakeets are established on both Kaua'i and O'ahu. Flocks of 20–30 Red-masked Parakeets were seen in e. Honolulu, O. 3 Dec–8 Feb (MO). The status of Red-masked Parakeets is not clear.

PASSERINES

Sky Larks were reported in Kane'ohe in e. O'ahu 14 Dec (EV) and Kahuku in n. O'ahu 4 Jan (MO)—both new locations. Sky Larks on the main islands are presumed to be introduced birds, while birds on the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands are presumed to be vagrants from Asia. The introduced population of Red-whiskered Bulbuls on O'ahu continues to expand in all directions. Sixteen were counted on Pearl City Peninsula 14 Dec (PD, RM), sw. of their previous range, 2 were seen in

the Waiawa area 14 Dec (EV), nw. of their previous range, and 15 were found in Kane'ohe 14 Dec (EV), e. of their previous range.

We received only one report of Puaiohi (E.)—5 were counted in Kokee 24 Dec (DK). A Northern Mockingbird was observed on French Frigate Shoals Oct–1 Feb (ph. MT, et al.). Mockingbirds have been found several times on French Frigate Shoals. The closest place where Northern Mockingbirds are established is Kaua'i, some 935 km to the east.

'Akiapola'au (E.) and Hawaii Creepers (E.) continued to be seen regularly by tour groups on Pu'u 'O'o Ranch, H. Dec+. Six 'Akiapola'au were counted there 6 Feb (RP). Good numbers of 'Akiapola'au were also seen on the Parker Ranch, H. in late Jan (MO), in an area seldom visited. 'Akepa (E.) were observed regularly by tour groups in Hakalau Dec+ (RP). One 'Akepa was seen on Pu'u 'O'o Ranch 15 Jan (RP). On the Waimea C.B.C., K., 5 'Akikiki and 14 'Akeke'e were counted (DK). Only two observers reported seeing any of the rare endemic forest birds on Maui. One 'Akoheohe (E.) was seen in Waikamoi Preserve, M. 28 Dec (FS, KS), and one to 2 were seen 7 Jan (BP). One 'Tiwi was found on Schofield-Waikane Trail, O. 14 Dec (EV). 'Tiwi are very rare on O'ahu.

Contributors: David Adams, J. Awkerman, Keahialaka Balasz, C. Blemker, David Bremer, Chad Castle, Tom Coles, Reg David, Jim Denny, Arleone Dibbon, William Disbro, Peter Donaldson, Thomas Dove, Diane Drigot, C. Eggleston, Darlene Fiske, Alvaro Jaramillo, Chuck King, John Klavitt, Joe Kleiman, Nick Komar, David Kuhn, Tom Leskiw, Dan Lindsay, Peggy Macres, Richard May, G. McClelland, Glynnis Nakai, Mike Nishimoto, Mike Ord, Rob Pacheco, Colin Perry, Bruce Peterjohn, Kurtis Pohlman, Robert L Pyle (RPy), M. Roth, Jennifer Rycenga, R. Seabury, J. Sprague, M. Sprague, Forest Starr, Kim Starr, Lance Tanino, M. Toomey, Y. Tremblay, Eric VanderWerf, A. Wegmann, Natalie Wilkie, Tom Wilkie, Brenda Zaun. ●