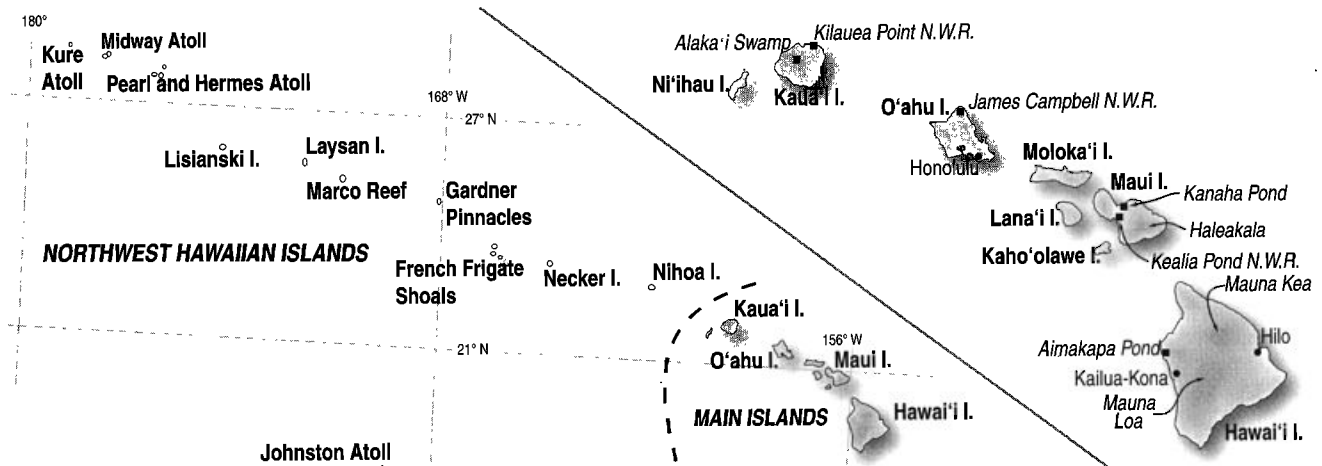


Hawaiian Islands



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Rainfall on Kaua'i through May was near normal. The rest of the main islands were drier than normal, and some areas of Maui and Hawai'i were very dry. April rainfall at Kahului Airport on Maui was the lowest ever recorded, while May rainfall there tied the previous low total. Winds were lighter than usual much of the spring. Despite the record-breaking weather, there were no reports linking the weather to any changes in bird distribution or behavior.

The spring season in the Hawaiian Islands is quite different from the main-

land of North America. There is no spring passerine migration here. In spring, the wintering shorebirds and waterfowl leave, and many seabirds return to their nesting colonies. Migrant seabirds do pass through the islands, but only locally breeding species were reported from this spring's pelagic trips.

Abbreviations: E. (Endangered Species); H. (Hawai'i Island); Hakalau (Hakalau N.W.R., Hawai'i Island); Hanalei (Hanalei N.W.R., Kaua'i); Honouliuli (Honouliuli Unit of Pearl Harbor N.W.R., O'ahu); K. (Kaua'i); Kanaha (Kanaha Pond, Maui); Kealia (Kealia Pond N.W.R., Maui); Kii (Ki'i Unit of James Campbell N.W.R., O'ahu); Kokee (Koke'e S.P., Kaua'i); K.P. (Kilauea Pt. N.W.R., Kaua'i); M. (Maui); O. (O'ahu); T. (Threatened Species); Waiawa (Waiawa Unit of Pearl Harbor N.W.R., O'ahu); Waikamoi (Waikamoi Preserve, Maui).

ALBATROSSES THROUGH STORM-PETRELS

While most species of Hawaiian seabirds are just arriving at their nest sites in spring, the albatrosses are already busy raising chicks. Ten large Laysan Albatross chicks and 6 ads. were counted at Ka'ena Point, O. 26 May (MW).

Hundreds of thousands of albatross can be seen on Midway Atoll, but until recently only three species had been

recorded there: Laysan, Black-footed, and the rare Short-tailed. Rich McCarthy photographed a new species on Midway 8 Apr. The photos have provoked considerable discussion among albatross specialists. The majority opinion is that the bird is a subadult *Shy Albatross* of the distinctive *Salvin's* subspecies.

Many Hawaiian Petrels (E.) were heard and a few were glimpsed after sunset near the summit of Mt. Haleakala, M. 31 May (PM, JR). Two petrels observed from a boat off Kaua'i 2 May (DK) were reported as Hawaiian Petrels. Dark-rumped/type petrels near the Hawaiian Islands are likely to be Hawaiian Petrels, but it will be very difficult to be certain that they are not Galápagos Petrels. Single Newell's Shearwaters (T.) were spotted between Kaua'i and Lehua I. 23 Apr and 2 May (DK). Single Band-rumped Storm-Petrels were spotted on pelagic trips off Kaua'i 12 Apr (CCm, GT) and 2 May (DK). Band-rumped were first heard calling on Kaua'i 28 May (LA), right on schedule.

DUCKS THROUGH HAWKS

The Baikal Teal at Hanalei was last seen 1 Mar (DL). This spectacular bird, the only one ever recorded in the Region, was very elusive, and only a lucky few got to see it. A rare late-season find was a male Hooded Merganser at Salt L., O. 7 Mar only (RD). Most wintering waterfowl left by late Apr, and nearly all were gone by

mid-May. The last reported diving ducks of the season were 2 Ring-necked Ducks, 3 Lesser Scaup, and 2 Buffleheads at the Punamano unit of James Campbell N.W.R. O. 22 Mar (PD) and a single Bufflehead at Honouliuli 23 Mar (PD, RM). The last migrant ducks reported were 10 Northern Shovelers at Kanaha 10 May (LT). Gambel's Quail were spotted along the Saddle Road in cen. Hawai'i, I. 7 Mar (DL) and 8 Mar (RP). This species is one of the least common of the introduced gamebirds in the islands and is seldom reported.

A Rough-legged Hawk was observed 16 Feb on Mt. Haleakala, M. and reportedly was videotaped nearby 2 Mar. Another large hawk, possibly the same bird, was observed in the area 3 Mar (TB). Rough-legged Hawks are very rare in the Region, but a spate of reports since fall 2001 indicates that one or 2 individuals may be wintering in the islands. Ospreys and Peregrine Falcons are regularly reported in the Region, but those species have been scarce the past two years. Neither species was reported this spring.

SHOREBIRDS THROUGH TERNS

Hawaiian Stilts (E.) began nesting by late Mar (PD, SZ) and were having another good nesting season at Honouliuli. By 24 May, there were at least 47 chicks, and four broods had already fledged (PD). The Marsh Sandpiper discovered on O'ahu in fall 2002 (the Region's 2nd) was last seen in Pearl City, O. 23 Mar (PD, RM). Numbers of wintering shorebirds began dropping rapidly by mid-Apr. Flocks of Pacific Golden-Plovers were observed headed n. from O'ahu 25 & 26 Apr and 2 May (PD).

A single Franklin's Gull and 2 Laughing Gulls were observed at Kanaha 10 May (LT). The Franklin's was the only bird reported this spring that was probably a passage migrant. A Least Tern observed around the Pearl Harbor area of O'ahu in May (PD, MS, JV) was apparently a lonely male. The bird was observed trying to present small fish to Pacific Golden-Plovers and Ruddy Turnstones. (The shorebirds were not interested.) A single Gray-backed Tern was observed between Kaua'i and Lehua I. 2 May (DK). Gray-backed terns are rarely reported away from O'ahu in the main islands.

DOVES THROUGH PASSERINES

Until recently, the only location in the Region where a population of Mourning Doves seemed to be established was

Hawai'i I. Mourning Doves have started turning up on other islands, but for the past few years, we received no reports from Hawai'i I. Reports of Mourning Doves in nw. Hawai'i at Pu'u La'au 1 May (RP) and Pu'u'anahulu 28 May (PM, JR) indicate that the population there persists. One Mourning Dove was observed in s. Maui near Kealia 29 Apr (SS). For the past few years, Mourning Doves have been observed regularly in that area.

Introduced Skylarks on Mt. Haleakala must have had a successful nesting season. Loads of juvs. were observed there in late May (JF). Puaiohi (E.), rare native thrushes, were seen regularly in the upper Kawaikoi Stream area of Kokee Mar+ (DK).

Rob Pacheco reported that 'Akiapola'au (E.) and Hawaii Creepers (E.) were found regularly on tours to Pu'u 'O'o Ranch and Hakalau and that 'Akepa (E.) were found regularly at Hakalau Mar+. Palila (E.) were observed in their stronghold at Pu'u La'au, H. 7 Mar (DL) and regularly on tours there Mar+ (RP). Jeff Foster, a researcher on Maui, reported seeing Maui Parrotbills (E.) regularly in Waikamoi but no 'Akohekohe (E.). We received no reports of either species along the Waikamoi boardwalk this season. David Kuhn reported that most of the endemic forest birds in Kokee seem to be doing all right, but 'Akeke'e are getting harder to find. A pair of 'Akikiki were observed building a nest in Kokee Mar-Apr (DK, SZ), but the nest was abandoned (DK).

A Black-rumped Waxbill was observed in Pu'u'anahulu 25 May (RP). This is one of the rarest of the small finches introduced to Hawai'i. Flocks of Chestnut Munia, another introduced finch, were observed in Volcano, H. (DL) and cen. Maui (F&KS) this spring. This species had been confined to O'ahu but now seems to be increasing on Kaua'i, Maui, and Hawai'i I.

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