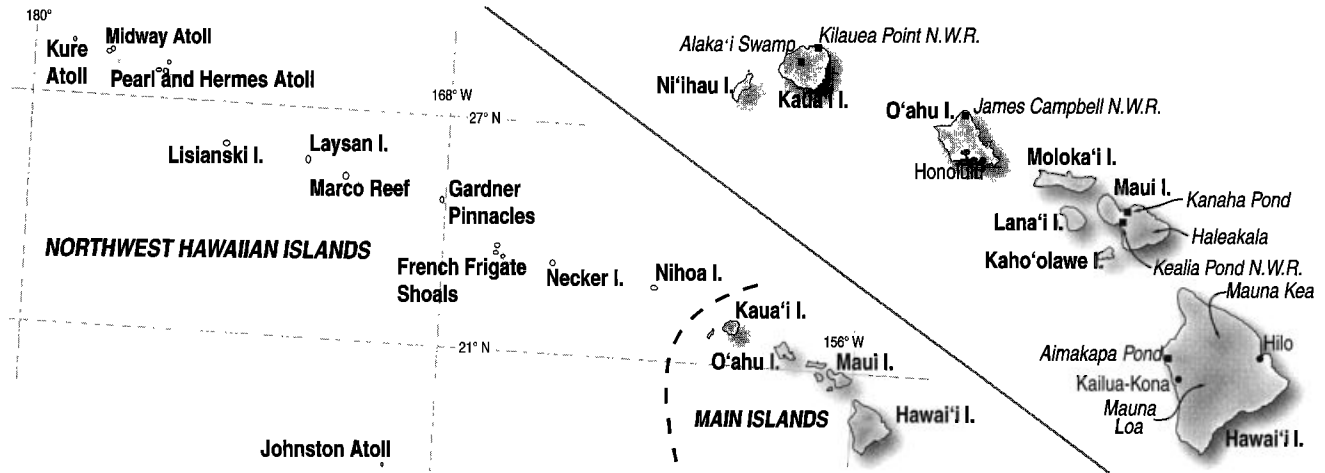


Hawaiian Islands



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Fall 2003 produced a bumper crop of rare birds. The arrival of these rarities may have been associated with some unusual weather systems. On September 1, Hurricane *Jimena* passed just south of the Big Island of Hawaii. *Jimena* produced heavy rain on the Big Island, and the strong easterly winds on the north side of the hurricane may have assisted some unusual species from western North America in reaching the islands. From 18 to 20 November, a long fetch of north-northeasterly winds was aimed at the islands, which may have brought in birds from Alaska and the far North Pacific.

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

PETRELS THROUGH IBISES

We received reports from an unusual number and variety of fall pelagic trips. Gadfly petrels can be difficult to identify, so we were fortunate to get photographs or good descriptions of some species. Four or 5 Mottled Petrels were observed on a cetacean study off Hawaii I. (RB). Single Hawaiian Petrels (E.) were observed s. of Maui 5 Aug (EV), w. of Hawaii I. 6 Sep (DL), and off Hawaii I. in mid-Oct (RB). One Black-winged Petrel was also photographed off Hawaii I. in mid-Oct (ph. RB). A gadfly petrel that landed on a cruise ship near Maui 29 Sep was turned over to Fern Duvall after the ship docked at Kahului. The bird was

carefully examined, photographed, and released 30 Sep. The photographs and description clearly show that the bird was a Stejneger's Petrel, the Region's 2nd. The only previous record was a Bishop Museum specimen, originally identified as a Bonin Petrel and later recognized as a Stejneger's. Eric VanderWerf observed 75 Bulwer's Petrels off Maui 5 Aug, one of the highest counts ever reported in the Region. Bulwer's Petrels were also seen on two boat trips near Kauai: 7 birds 1 Aug and 2 on 19 Aug (DK). Two Newell's Shearwaters (T.) were observed off Hawaii I. in mid-Oct (RB) and spotted on two trips off Kauai: 2 birds 1 Aug and a single bird 16 Sep (DK). The same observers reported Band-rumped Storm-Petrels, some 3 off Hawaii I. in mid-Oct (RB), 16 off Kauai 1 Aug, and 2 off Kauai 19 Aug (DK).

As many as 10 juv. *Plegadis ibis* were at Hanalei this fall. First spotted 16 Sep, when 5 were noted (ph. BZ), 8 birds were counted 6 Oct (RD) and 10 on 15 Oct (RD). The birds were presumed to be White-faced Ibis, the only species that has been previously documented in the Region (about six previous records), but Glossy could not be ruled out. The previous high count was of 3 at Kanaha Pond on Maui in 1937.

SA A female *Surf Scoter* was discovered at Kawaiale, K. 22 Nov (vt. JD) and was seen once more 23 Nov (DK). There is only one previous record, of an emaciated female found in the Waikiki surf 24 Dec 1959. A *Sora* was seen briefly but well at Kii 20 Nov (PD, KP). There are only two previous reports of *Sora*, a bird seen briefly on Oahu 10 Feb 1992 and one videotaped on Hawaii I. Sep 2000. A small alcid picked up along the beach at Ko'olina, O. 27 Nov was taken to Sea Life Park for rehabilitation. The bird died the next day and was turned over to Bishop Museum as a specimen (*BPBM 184589). Peter Pyle examined the bird and was about 99% sure that it was a juv. *Ancient Murrelet* (a Regional first); the short bill and deep gonydeal angle appear to rule out first-year *Crested Murrelet* (*Synthliboramphus wumizusume*). Efforts continue to obtain a definitive identification.

It may be no more than a coincidence that these very rare species turned up in the islands in late Nov, but it seems more likely that they were brought there at least partly by powerful winds. Between 20 and 23 Nov, the ne. shores of the main Hawaiian Islands were battered by waves as high as 13 m. These waves were produced by a fetch of north-northeasterly winds between a strong high-pressure system and a deep low. The fetch was over 1700 km long, persisted over three days, and contained winds as strong as 61 knots (70 m.p.h.). It is quite conceivable that the *Surf Scoter*, *Sora*, and *Ancient Murrelet* could have been pushed from the nw. coast of North America toward the Hawaiian Islands by these winds.

WATERFOWL THROUGH HAWKS

Three Canada Geese were observed grazing on seaweed on Moloka'i 3 Nov (AD). A Brant was seen at Kealia 28 Nov (LT). Three juv. **Tundra Swans** were found near Kahului Airport, M. 28 Oct (ph. U.S.D.A. Wildlife Services), for a 3rd Regional record. Because the swans were thought to present a danger to aircraft, 2 were shot and one captured. The captured bird was released on O'ahu 7 Nov (EV), but has not been seen since. Photographs of the birds provoked a lively discussion as to whether the swans were Tundras or Trumpeters; one of the dead birds was brought to Bishop Museum, where it was positively identified as a Tundra Swan (CK, PP) and preserved (*BPBM 184564).

This fall, as last fall, migrant waterfowl were scarce until late Oct, when numbers started to build. More Eurasian Wigeons than American Wigeons were reported Oct+. Three Eurasians were on Moloka'i 13 Oct (AD), and up to 4 were on O'ahu 16 Nov (PD, RM). Single American Wigeons were observed at Hanalei 10 Oct (BZ) and Kii 1 Nov (PD, MO). Both species are regular, but American Wigeon is usually more common. A count of 111 Northern Shovelers at Kealia 20 Nov (MN) is the highest fall count in the past three years, but numbers of most other migrant ducks remained low. The high count for Northern Pintails, 35 birds at Kii 20 Nov (PD, KP), was quite low. Numbers of bay ducks were exceptionally low, with high counts of 3 Ring-necked Ducks at Kii 30 Oct (PD, KP), 2 Lesser Scaup at Kaulakakai, Moloka'i 3 Nov (AD), and single Buffleheads at Honouliuli 16 Nov (PD, RM) and at Kulima S.T.P. 22 Nov (PD). Unusually, we received no reports of migrant hawks this fall; there are usually at least one or two reports of Osprey or Peregrine Falcon.

FRANCOLINS THROUGH GULLS

The Gray Francolin continues to expand its range on O'ahu and is now being seen regularly in residential neighborhoods in cen. O'ahu (DB, MS). Birds reported as Spotted Sandpipers were at Kealia 14 Oct (MN) and at Kiholo Bay, H. (JH). Both birds were reasonably well described, but the descriptions did not rule out the similar Common Sandpiper, which is known to occur in the Region. The *hudsonicus* Whimbrel that had appeared at Kii each fall during 1997–2002 did not return this year (PD). Up to 4 Bristle-thighed Curlews were reported on Moloka'i Aug+ (AD), and one was reported at Kiholo Bay, H. 26 Nov (JH). As usual, the highest counts of Bristle-thighed Curlews were at Kii, where 25 were counted 23 Oct (KP, PD). The only peep reported was a juv. Least Sandpiper at Waiawa 20 Aug (PD, RM). Sharp-tailed Sand-



This female Surf Scoter was found in a water-filled sand mine at Kawaiele on Kaua'i 22 November 2003 after a period of strong north-northeasterly winds. Digital videograph by Jim Denny.



These three juvenile swans were spotted near Kahului Airport on Maui 28 October 2003. No birders ever got to see these swans in life: since it was feared the birds would be a danger to aircraft, two were shot and one captured. Some who examined the photographs thought these were Tundra Swans; others thought they were Trumpeters. Peter Pyle and Carla Kishinami examined one of the dead birds at Bishop Museum and determined it to be a Tundra Swan. This represents only the third Regional record of the species. Photograph by the United States Department of Agriculture, Wildlife Services.



This bird landed on a cruise ship off Maui 29 September 2003 and was sent to Dr. Fern Duvall 30 September. The underwing pattern narrows down the possibilities to Cook's, Pycroft's, and Stejneger's Petrels; the contrast between the dark head and paler mantle and the small amount of white in the tail indicate Stejneger's Petrel (see Pictorial Highlights). This bird represents only the second Regional record. Digital photograph by Fern Duvall, Department of Land and Natural Resources, Hawaii.

pipers were reported at several locations with a high count of 10 at Kii 25 Oct (PD, A&DW). We have been anxious to study snipe in the islands since the Common and Wilson's Snipe were split. A snipe at Kii 15 Nov+ proved to be a Wilson's (MO, ph. PD, m. ob.).

A Bonaparte's Gull was observed in a small pond in s. Maui Nov+ (MN, LT). Although Bonaparte's Gulls are regular in the islands, this was only the 2nd report in the past four years.

DOVES THROUGH PASSERINES

Mourning Doves were reported near Honokohau Boat Harbor, H. (H.F.T.) and in the Pu'uana'hulu, H. area 24 (DL) & 28 Nov (H.F.T.) Although uncommon in the Region, they have been reported more regularly in the past few years. Populations of introduced parrots on O'ahu I. are increasing. As many as 23 Rose-ringed Parakeets have been frequenting a residential neighborhood in Waipahu, O. (ph. RMe). Red-masked Parakeets were seen regularly in e. Honolulu, O. in Sep and Oct (NK, MO), with a high count of 50 birds 17 Oct (MO). At least 7 juvs. were counted that day. Nearly 200 Red-crowned Amazons were counted coming to roost in Pearl City, O. through Aug (NK). The flock included many juv. birds. A Barn Owl apparently tried to attack a flock of Hawaiian Geese (E.) in a pen on Moloka'i 13 Oct. The owl was battered to death by the geese (AD).

We received regular reports from tour groups about some of the Endangered native forest birds on Hawai'i I., but we received few reports for any of the other islands. We received only one report of a Puaiohi (E.)—a bird heard singing on a steep cliff face in Kokee 25 Aug (DK). Good numbers of Palila (E.) were observed at Pu'u La'au, H. Aug+ (H.F.T.) and 22 Sep and 13 Oct (DL). One Maui Parrotbill (E.) was reported: a bird seen from the boardwalk at Waikamoi 16 Nov (JC, BF, RT, ST). As usual, small numbers of 'Akiapola'au (E.) were reported on Pu'u 'O'o ranch, H. and Hakalau Aug+ (H.F.T.). 'Akepa (E.) were spotted regularly at Hakalau Aug+ and at Pu'u 'O'o Ranch 26 Nov (H.F.T.). Efforts continue to capture the last remaining Po'ouli (E.) on Maui for captive breeding, but the birds remain elusive: the one remaining male was observed regularly in his home range Oct+ (EV).

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