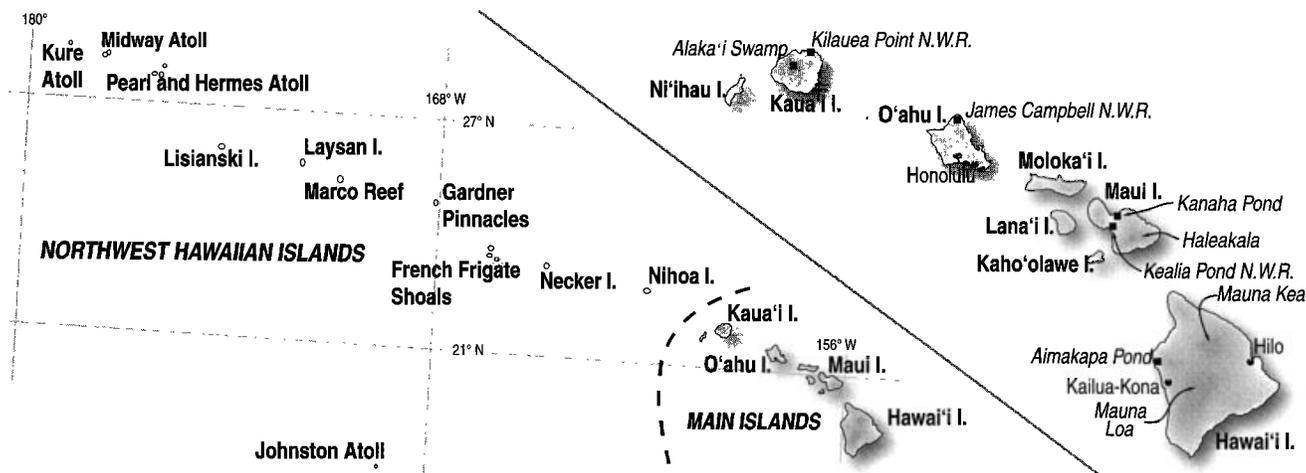


Hawaiian Islands



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Many rare migrants were reported this fall, but these reports were overshadowed by very sad news about native birds.

Abbreviations: H. (Hawai'i I.); Hakalau (Hakalau Forest N.W.R., Hawai'i Island); Hanalei (Hanalei N.W.R., Kauai I.); Honouliuli (Honouliuli Unit of Pearl Harbor N.W.R., Oahu I.); K. (Kauai I.); Kealia (Kealia Pond N.W.R., Maui I.); Kii (Ki'i Unit of James Campbell N.W.R., Oahu I.); M. (Maui I.); Midway (Midway Atoll N.W.R.); O. (Oahu I.); Waiawa (Waiawa Unit of Pearl Harbor N.W.R., Oahu Island); Waikamoi (Waikamoi Preserve, Maui I.).

PETRELS THROUGH IBISES

Most of the pelagic reports we received were from tour boats running between Port Allen, K. and Lehua I., and from a cetacean study off the Kona coast of Hawai'i I. Single Hawaiian Petrels (Endangered) were observed off Kona 12 Sep and 21 Nov (RB) and 27 Nov (ph. RB). A dark-plumaged Northern Fulmar pho-

tographed off Kona 21 Nov (RB) was probably the rarest find. Most records in the Region have been of beached birds. Petrels with white napes were photographed off Kona 6 Oct and 25 Nov (ph. RB). The 6 Oct bird is clearly a White-necked Petrel, and the 25 Nov bird appears to be a white-naped Juan Fernandez Petrel (PP). The two species are rarely reported, much less photographed, in the Region. A Mottled Petrel observed off Kona 25 Nov (ph. RB) and a Black-winged Petrel in the same area 27 Nov (ph. RB) are more regularly occurring gadfly petrels but are species that are seldom well documented. A flock of many thousands of Wedge-tailed Shearwaters was seen in the Kaulakahi channel w. of Kauai 21 Sep (DK). Heavy rain on Laysan I. in mid-Oct collapsed the burrows of many nesting Wedge-taileds (EL), but those nesting on Molokini I. near Maui seemed to fare better: over 500 chicks were banded there in late Oct (F&KS). The high count of Newell's Shearwaters (Threatened) was of 6 birds seen off Kauai 13 Aug (DK), while 5 were seen off Kauai 21 Sep and one there on 20 Oct (DK), with singles off Kona 22 & 27 Sep (RB). Three Leach's Storm-Petrels were off Kona 27 Nov (ph. RB); it is rare to get identifiable photographs of storm-petrels in Hawaiian waters.

Cattle Egrets have been reported regularly from Midway for the past few years, and their numbers have been increasing. So perhaps it should not be too much of a surprise that Cattle Egrets were observed nesting at the refuge, on Eastern I. The total count of Cattle Egrets on Midway rose to 43, a new high count for the atoll (JK). *Plegadis ibis* continue to be reported regularly from Kauai to Maui. Several remained around Hanalei Aug+, with 4 brown-eyed first-year birds of undetermined species and a red-eyed bird believed to be a second-year White-faced Ibis (BZ). A first-year *Plegadis* at Honouliuli 25 Sep+ (ph. PD, EV) was the first seen on Oahu in many years,

and up to 4 brown-eyed *Plegadis* were observed at Kealia Aug+ (MN, GN, LT). All are presumed to be White-faced Ibis, the only species that has been previously documented in the Region, but in the case of young brown-eyed birds, Glossy Ibis could not be ruled out. Ibises are very rare in the Region, and the recent widespread reports are unprecedented.

WATERFOWL

An imm. Greater White-fronted Goose, quite rare in the Region, remained at Kii in early



Northern Fulmars are rare in Hawaiian waters, and good documentation of fulmars at sea is even rarer in the Region. This bird photographed off the Kona coast of the Big Island of Hawai'i 21 November 2004 is also unusual, as the bird appears healthy. Most fulmars recorded in the Region have been dead or dying birds. Photograph by Robin Baird.



Leach's Storm-Petrels are regular in Hawaiian waters but are rarely photographed. This bird was one of three or four individuals off the Kona coast of the Big Island of Hawai'i 27 November 2004. Photograph by Robin Baird.



Phalaropes of all species are uncommon in the Hawaiian Islands. This cooperative Red Phalarope was photographed at Kealia Pond National Wildlife Refuge on Maui Island on 8 October 2004. Photograph by Chuck Probst.

Oct+ (MS, RM, MO, m.ob.). Most white-cheeked geese reaching Hawaii are of the smaller forms recently split as Cackling Goose. Single Cackling—all small, dark-breasted birds, probably *minima*—were observed in widely separated locations: at 'Aimakapa Pond, H. 4 Nov (DP), at Kii 11 Nov+ (KP, m.ob.), and at Kealia 13 Nov+ (MN, m.ob.). A flock of 11 fairly large white-cheeked geese with relatively pale breasts has been at Wailoa S.P., H. for many months. Because these birds have not migrated in the spring, it is questionable that they are of wild origin. A smaller white-cheeked goose, also with a relatively pale breast, joined the flock 30 Nov (DL).

In historic times, the Laysan Duck (Endangered) has been known to occur only on Laysan I. In an effort to reduce the vulnerability of this isolated population, 20 Laysans were translocated to Midway. The ducks are reported to be doing well in their new home (JK, MO). Numbers of common migrant ducks were up this year. Counts of 124 Northern Shovelers at Kealia 18 Nov (MN) and of 50 Lesser Scaup at Kii 27 Nov (PD, RM) are the highest fall counts in several years.

HAWKS THROUGH SHOREBIRDS

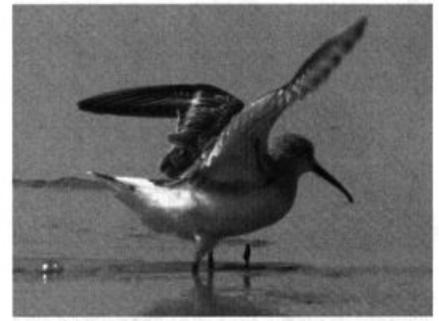
Single Northern Harriers were observed on Laysan I. 18 Oct (EL, MMc) and Kii 28 Oct (PD, KP, m.ob.); any migrant raptors are rare in the Region. Hawaiian Stilt (Endangered) nesting continued rather late this year. Two nests with eggs and a downy chick were found at Kealia 28 Sep (MN). A Spotted Sandpiper remained at the Kulima W.T.P. 28 Sep (†PD, MO, RPy). A large godwit found at Maile Beach Park, O. 11 Oct (ph. BJ) was identified as a Marbled Godwit 13 Oct (RM), only the 3rd record for the Region. It was last seen at the park 20 Oct (KP). On 12 Nov, a tour group spotted a large godwit at Kealia (CA). The bird was observed again 17 Nov (ph. MN) and identified as a Marbled Godwit. Because Marbled Godwits are rare in the Region, it is likely this was the same bird that had been on O'ahu. The bird remained at

Kealia Nov+ (LT, PD, CP). Two Curlew Sandpipers were found at Kealia 22 Nov (ph. PD, LT), and at least one remained Nov+ (CP, MN, LT). There are only five previous reports in the Region, and this is the first record of more than one individual. A phalarope discovered at Kealia 28 Sep (LT) was later identified as an imm. Red Phalarope (ph. CP). The bird was last seen 9 Oct (LT).

PARAKEETS THROUGH HONEYCREEPERS

Red-masked Parakeets were seen regularly in e. Honolulu, O. Aug+ (MO). A count of 53 birds 2 Nov—the highest total ever for O'ahu—included many believed to be imm. (MO). After a long absence, Mariana Swiftlets (Endangered) returned to their nest site on O'ahu. Active nests were observed there in early Sep (ES).

Reports on common passerines often reveal little about their status, but a few of reports this season may do so. Japanese Bush-Warblers were reported to be abundant in lowland forest on Kaua'i in early Aug but sparse in areas of O'ahu where they had been abundant until recently (JF). This fall, Northern Mockingbirds were reported on four different is-

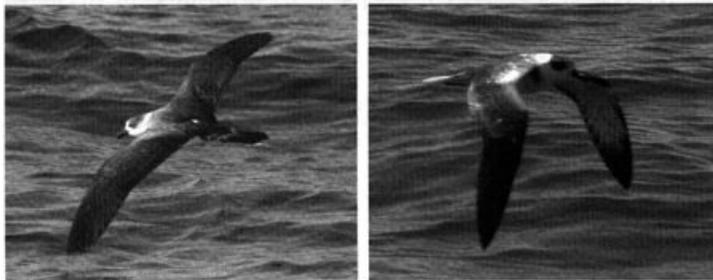


This Curlew Sandpiper was one of two individuals discovered at Kealia Pond National Wildlife Refuge on Maui Island 22 November 2004. This marks only the third time the species has been photographed in the Region. Photograph by Peter Donaldson.

to see two Maui Parrotbills copulating at Waikamoi 2 Nov (DP). Tour groups continued to find small numbers of 'Akiapola'au (Endangered) on Pu'u 'O'o ranch, H. 'Akiapola'au were also observed at Hakalau 20 Oct (H.F.T.). Small numbers of Hawaii Creepers were observed on Pu'u 'O'o ranch, H. Aug+ and at Hakalau 20 & 26 Oct and 6 & 23 Nov (H.F.T.). 'Akepa (Endangered) were reported regularly at Hakalau Aug+ (H.F.T.). One 'Akohekohe (Endangered) was reported at Waikamoi 15 Aug (MM); another was reported at Hosmer Grove 21 Aug (†RPe). 'Akohekohe are seen fairly regularly at Waikamoi, but unfortunately they are rarely seen at Hosmer Grove, which is a much more accessible location a few km away.

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These fine images of White-necked Petrel (right; 6 October 2004) and Juan Fernandez Petrel (left; 25 November 2004) were taken off the Kona coast of the Big Island of Hawai'i. These species can be difficult to separate in the field, as Juan Fernandez Petrels can show white collars. Note the duller cap, narrower nuchal collar, and less distinct head and upperpart patterns of the Juan Fernandez Petrel, which also has a much less prominent dark carpal mark on the underwings. Photographs by Robin Baird.

lands, and the mockingbirds in the Kona district of Hawai'i I. were reported to have increased in abundance (RD, RP). Up to 6 Saffron Finches in Waimea, K. in late Oct (JD) represent a new location for these exotics.

Palila (Endangered) were observed regularly at Pu'u La'au, H. Aug+ (H.F.T.), in the heart of their limited range on Hawai'i I. Some Palila have been translocated farther n. in an effort to expand the range of the species. Many of these birds have quickly returned to their old territories, but this year, two pairs nested in their new location (PB). A Maui Parrotbill (Endangered) was heard, but not seen, in Waikamoi 15 Aug (MM). Members of a tour group were amazed

SA For several years Po'ouli have been on the edge of extinction, with only 3 known individuals. With the situation so grim, increasingly desperate measures were taken to try to preserve the species. Staff with the Maui Forest Bird Recovery Project (M.F.B.R.P.) succeeded in capturing a female on 4 Apr 2002. She was fitted with a radio transmitter and moved to the territory of the only male but quickly returned to her own territory. Finally, the decision was made to capture all the remaining birds and hold them for captive breeding. On 10 Sep, M.F.B.R.P. managed to capture one Po'ouli. Efforts continued to capture the other two birds, but neither has been observed for nearly a year. Sadly, the captive bird died on 27 Nov 2004. With no recent evidence that more Po'ouli survive in the wild, that date may mark the extinction of the species.