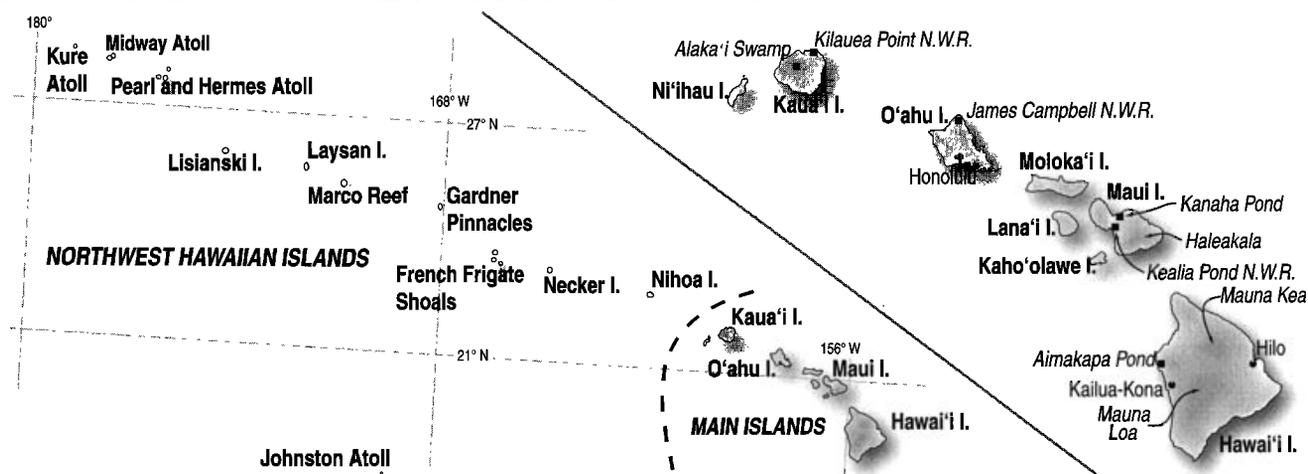


Hawaiian Islands



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The weather over the islands became rapidly drier through the spring. At the beginning of March, rainfall totals for the year were above normal for most locations. But by the end of May, annual rainfall totals had dropped below normal in most areas. As water levels dropped, some shorebirds relocated. A number of rare species from fall and winter lingered into spring, and a few new ones were reported.

Abbreviations: H. (Hawai'i I.); HRBP (Hawaii Rare Bird Documentary Photograph; used with image catalog number from the HRBP file at Bishop Museum, Honolulu); 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 I.); Kealia (Kealia Pond N.W.R., Maui I.); Kii (Ki'i Unit of James 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.); Waiawa (Waiawa Unit of Pearl Harbor N.W.R., O'ahu I.); Waikamoi (Waikamoi Preserve, Maui I.).

ALBATROSSES THROUGH EGRETS

Single Black-footed Albatrosses were observed off K.P. 1 Mar (DK, AJ), off Poipu, K. 10 Mar (RP), and between Kaua'i and Lehua I. 18 Mar (DK). Black-footeds are uncommon offshore near the main islands. Two Black-footeds were observed on land for three days at Barking Sands, K. 1 May (BZ), a very unusual occurrence on the main islands.

One Mottled Petrel was seen from Nawiliwili, K. 15 Apr, and 2 were seen on a pelagic trip east of Nawiliwili 16 Apr (AB, NB, PH, AL). Mottled Petrels are uncommon in the Region, but they are the most regular migrant *Pterodroma* seen in Hawaiian waters. Two Buller's Shearwaters were observed between Kaua'i and Lehua I. 3 May (DK); the species is rare, or at least rarely reported, in the Region. Sooty Shearwaters probably migrate past the main Hawaiian Islands in large numbers every spring, but only one was reported this season, a bird seen on a pelagic trip s. of O'ahu 13 Mar (GA). The first Newell's Shearwater (Threatened) of the season arrived at K.P. 16 Apr (BZ), and 2 pairs of Newell's returned to their artificial nest burrow at K.P. 20 Apr (BZ). No other Newell's were reported this spring. Three Leach's Storm-Petrels and one probable Band-rumped Storm-Petrel were seen between Kaua'i and Lehua I. 3 May (DK). Band-rumped Storm-Petrels almost certainly breed on the main Hawaiian Islands, and Leach's may also breed here, but no nests of either species have yet been found. A small colony of Red-tailed Tropicbirds is hanging

on in e. O'ahu. Nine nests with one egg each were found there 3 Apr. On 22 May, there were four nests with eggs and four nests with chicks; one nest had been abandoned (MW).

HERONS THROUGH HAWKS

A single Great Blue Heron—rare but regular in the Region—was seen flying over the road near K.P. 11 Mar (BZ). Four *Plegadis ibis* (probably White-faced) were counted at Kealia 3 (MN) & 21 Mar (ND). Three ibis were seen there 22 Mar (LT). One White-faced Ibis, which had been at Honouliuli for several months, was last seen there mid-May (MS).

In mid-Mar, 2 more Cackling Geese joined a flock of 5 Cacklings and one Greater White-fronted Goose that had been at Kii since late fall (MS). The geese all left 17 or 18 Mar (MS). Single Cackling Geese remained at Honouliuli Mar+ (PD, KP, MS) and Kealia Mar+ (MN, LT). A good number of ducks gathered at Punamano N.W.R. in late winter and remained there through mid-Apr. Most were Lesser Scaup—around 40 were counted 22 (MS) & 27 Mar (PD). Lesser Scaup were last seen 31 Mar (MS). The group also included some colorful and rare species: a male Cinnamon Teal 14 Apr (MS), a male Garganey 18 Mar (MS), and a male Tufted Duck 17 Mar–14 Apr (MS, DD, AN).

A single Osprey was observed over Honouliuli 26 Mar (PD), and single Peregrine Falcons were observed over Mt Ka'ala, O. 2 Mar (SM), at the Kona S.T.P., H. 5 (AJ) & 12–15 Mar (RP), at Kealia 17 Mar (LT), and on Moku Manu I., off O'ahu, 19 Apr (F&KS). Gambel's Quail were observed on the former target island of Kaho'olawe 1 Mar and 25 May (FZ&KS), and still appear to be well established there. A covey of 8 Gambel's was seen

at Pu'u La'au, H. 13 Mar (DL, MV). Gambel's Quail have been rarely reported on Hawai'i I. until the past year or so, when they have been reported more regularly. A Kalij Pheasant seen in the n. Waianae Mt. of w. O'ahu 13 Apr (JR) was a surprise since Kalij are known to be established only on Hawai'i I.

STILTS THROUGH ALCIDS

Hawaiian Stilts (Endangered) appeared to be having a good breeding season at the Kii, Honouliuli, and Waiawa refuges (MS), although heavy spring rains at Kii had caused some disruption (PD).

A surprising number of uncommon or rare wintering shorebirds remained in the islands well into the spring. Single Semipalmated Plovers were at Kealia 2–17 Mar (MN, LT), the Koheo wetland on Moloka'i I. 24 Mar (ADY), and at Kii 27 Mar (PD). A Lesser Yellowlegs was spotted at Honouliuli 28 Mar (MM), and 2 were seen there 3 & 16 Apr (KP). A Whimbrel of the Siberian race *variegatus*, discovered on the dunes near Kii in Feb, was still there 12 Mar (GA, m.ob.) and was observed with up to 11 Bristle-thighed Curlews at Kii mid-May+ (MS). A single Marbled Godwit, which apparently moved about 125 km from O'ahu I. to Kealia, M. last fall, remained there at least through 7 Apr (MN, LT, m.ob.). This wanderer returned to O'ahu, where it was observed at Kii mid-May+ (MS). Red Knots are rare in the Region, with previous records Sep–early Apr, so it was a surprise when a Red Knot in full breeding plumage was observed at Honouliuli 28 May+ (ph. PD). One or 2 Curlew Sandpipers in nonbreeding plumage were observed at Pouhala 26 Mar–16 Apr (PD, RM, MM, KP). Curlew Sandpipers are very rare in the Region, so it is quite likely these were the same 2 birds that had been at Kealia over the winter. On 31 May, the 2 Curlew Sandpipers were observed at Kii (ph. DD, MS). Ruffs are uncommon in the Region, so one in a residential yard in Pepe'ekeo, H. 13 Mar (JJ) was in a very unexpected location.

Gulls are uncommon in the Region, but a good variety was found this spring. Single Laughing Gulls were observed in Hilo, H. 2 Mar (KP) and at Kealia 2–17 Mar (MN, CP, RP, LT). Single Franklin's Gulls in breeding plumage were seen at Kealia 6 Apr (GN) and Ohiapilo, Moloka'i I. 20 Apr (ADY). Up to 4 Franklin's were at Kealia 18 May+ (MN). A Bonaparte's Gull was spotted at Apua Pt., H. 5 May (KT, RS), and a Ring-billed Gull was seen at Waiawa 3 & 16 Apr (KP). A single imm. Glaucous Gulls that appeared in Hilo, H. in Jan was still there 2 Mar (KP), 4 Mar (DL), & 18 Mar (DL, m.ob.).

OWLS THROUGH PASSERINES

Native Short-eared Owls were seen in good

numbers on Hawai'i I. this spring, with daily counts of 34 on 6 Mar and 31 on 5 Apr (H.F.T.). This was in sharp contrast to last spring, when Short-eareds were reported to be scarce. Introduced Red-whiskered Bulbuls continue to expand their range on O'ahu. Single Red-whiskered were seen in the n. Waianae Mt., O. 11 Mar (SM) and 31 Mar (MB), several km farther nw. than previous reports. Two species of introduced finches were seen for the first time on Kaua'i I.: 2 ad. Saffron Finches with a begging juv. were observed in Waimea, K. 22 Mar (JD), and a single ad. Yellow-billed Cardinal was seen in Lydgate Park, K. 7 Apr (VP).

As usual, reports of rare native honeycreepers came mainly from frequently visited spots and provided little information on how the populations are faring. Palila (Endangered) were reported consistently from Mar+ in Pu'u La'au, H. (H.F.T., DL), a spot visited regularly by tour groups. Only one Maui Parrotbill (Endangered) was reported, a bird seen at Waikamoi 12 Mar (CP, RP). On Hawai'i I., 'Akiapola'au (Endangered) were seen regularly at Pu'u 'O'o Ranch Mar+ (H.F.T.), and Hawaii Creepers (Endangered) were seen regularly at Pu'u 'O'o Ranch and Hakalau Mar+ (H.F.T.). 'Akepa (Endangered) were seen fairly regularly at Hakalau (H.F.T.), but they were reported to be very hard to see 22 Mar (DL). We got only one report of the locally common Oahu 'Amakihi—4 were seen in Upper Pauoa Valley, O. 3 May (MW). 'Akeke'e were observed in Kokee 10 Mar (RP), but none of the endangered native forest birds on Kaua'i I. were reported this season. Another locally common native species, Maui 'Alauahio, was reported only once, 13 Mar, at Waikamoi, (RP, m.ob.). No 'Akohekohe (Endangered) were reported.

Small numbers of Red-cheeked Cordon-bleu were observed in Pu'u'anahulu, H. 6 & 17 Mar (H.F.T.). Two Black-rumped Waxbills were found in Pu'u'anahulu, H. 21 Mar (DL). These two introduced species have persisted for years on Hawai'i I. but have never become very numerous.

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