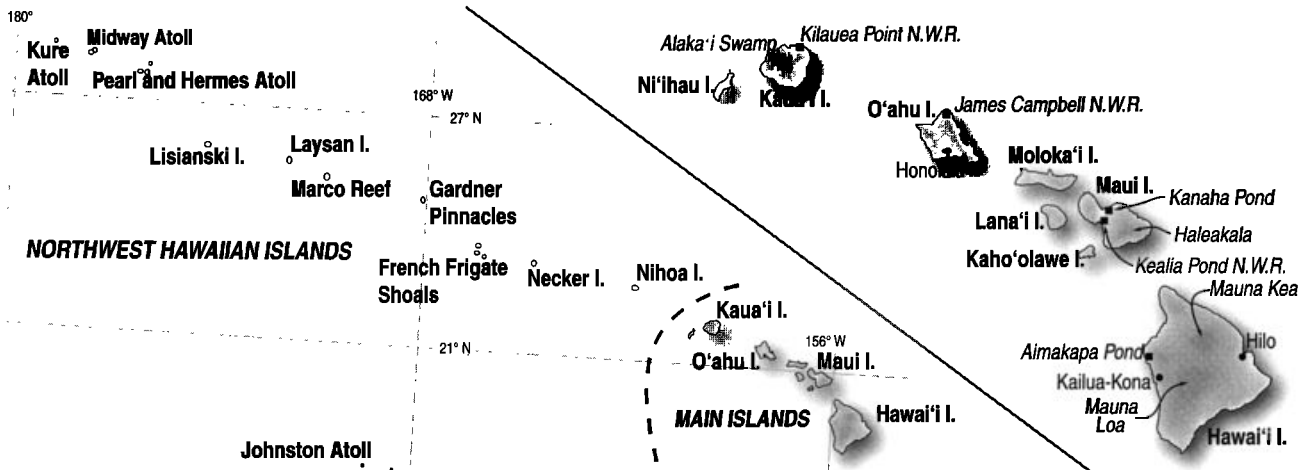


# Hawaiian Islands



**W**eather was very ordinary in the Region during the summer of 2005. Moderate trade winds blew across the islands, producing normal rainfall amounts. The number of observations we collected was a bit low. We had no reports from boat trips, but an airplane ride provided some interesting seabird observations. The most unusual seabird of the season, a new species for the Region, was seen from dry land. This was the second year in a row with a number of unusual migrants that oversummered.

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 IBISES

Laysan Albatrosses nesting at K.P. and nearby areas went well again this year, with 68

birds fledging at K.P. and 45 elsewhere on the n. shore of Kaua'i I. An airplane ride along the towering sea cliffs on the n. shore of Moloka'i I. 14 Jul revealed over 250 tropicbirds, most near Mokapa I. (ADY). Unfortunately, few of the birds could be identified as to species. At K.P., 180 Red-tailed Tropicbird nests and five White-tailed Tropicbird nests were located (BZ). An odd-looking booby with an orange bill was observed 21 Jul+ in the Hawaiian Islands N.W.R. at French Frigate Shoals (LT, ph. MG). The bird has been identified as a Nazca Booby and represents the first record for the Region. Four *Plegadis* ibis remained at Kealia Jun+ (MN), but no ibis were reported elsewhere.

## GEESE THROUGH GULLS

At least 3 Cackling Geese decided to forego long migrations and oversummered in the Region. Single Cacklings were observed Jun+ at Kealia (MN), Honouliuli (PD), and K.P. (BZ). The Cackling at K.P. continued to associate with Hawaiian Geese (Endangered). There were 111 Hawaiian Geese at K.P. along with the lone Cackler 13 Jul (BZ). There have been a number of recent reports of Hawaiian Geese in unexpected areas on Hawai'i I. (CC, JC). Apparently efforts to provide safe nesting areas for the birds are helping. Forty-two goslings fledged at Hakalau this spring (JJ), and as many as 15 may have fledged at the Big Island Country Club (JP). Some of these young birds have ap-



This adult Nazca Booby, perched conveniently near Masked Boobies, represents the first record of the species for the Hawaiian Islands. The bird was spotted 21 July 2005 by Linda Takahashi on Tern Island, French Frigate Shoals, in the Hawaiian Islands National Wildlife Refuge. The bird's bright orange bill, slenderer than that of a Masked Booby, is clearly visible in the image. Photograph by Linda Takahashi (United States Fish & Wildlife Service)/HRBP 5209.

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parently dispersed around the island (JJ, JP, RP). One female Lesser Scaup failed to migrate north and was seen at Kealia 16 Jun (MN). Six Hawaiian Hawks (Endangered) were observed in cen. Hawai'i I. 17 Jul (H.F.T.), an unusually high count.

One Erckel's Francolin was spotted at Honouliuli 26 Jul (MS). This species has apparently been observed in small numbers at Honouliuli since 2002, several km from any areas where they have been previously reported. Eighteen Pacific Golden-Plovers in partial breeding plumage, and thought to be returning migrants, were seen at Kii 23 Jun, a very early date (DD, AN). Numbers of Pacific Golden-Plovers at the Waipio Soccer Fields in Waipahu, O. increased through Jul, with counts of 38 on 6 Jul, 48 on 13 Jul, and 55 on 27 Jul (PD). People in the islands view returning Pacific Golden-Plovers as one of the first signs of fall, much as people on the mainland look at American Robins as signs of spring. In both cases, these species may be overrated as harbingers. Some Pacific Golden-Plovers remain in the Region over the summer, and others apparently return from

the breeding grounds as early as Jun. One Semipalmated Plover at Kii 5 Jun+ (PD) was probably an oversummering bird. Four uncommon or rare shorebird species observed during the season represented the first records for Jun or Jul.

Hawaiian Stilts (Endangered) had a very good breeding season at the Kii, Honouliuli and Waiawa refuges on O'ahu I (MS). A Whimbrel of the *variegatus* race that first appeared late Feb was observed at, or near, Kii Jun+ (GF, m.ob.). A Marbled Godwit first seen at Kii mid-May remained there Jun+ (AN, m.ob.). A Red Knot in breeding plumage, first spotted at Honouliuli 28 May (PD), was seen again 5 Jun (ph. PD, RM). Two Curlew Sandpipers found at Kii 31 May were observed there through 1 Jul (AN, ph. PD, RM, DD). Oversummering Sanderlings are not unprecedented, but the numbers at Kealia this season were unusually high, with counts of 11 on 2 Jun, 13 on 7 Jul and 5 on 21 Jul (MN).

The only gulls of the season were at Kealia. A single Laughing Gull was seen 21 Jul (MN). Three Franklin's Gull were observed 2 Jun and 2 on 21 Jul (MN). Franklin's Gulls are uncommon but regular in the Region late spring-early summer. The Franklin's on 21 Jul were unusually late.

## OWLS THROUGH PASSERINES

Short-eared Owls were found in unusually high numbers in cen. Hawai'i I. this summer. Counts of 19 and 16 were recorded 7 Jun & 17 Jul, respectively (H.F.T.).

Small numbers of O'ahu 'Elepaio (Endangered) were observed on the windward (ne.) side of O'ahu in Waikane and Kanaha Valleys 22-23 Jul (EV, KS). This seems to be the last decent-sized population remaining in the area. No O'ahu 'Elepaio were found in Pia Valley in se. O'ahu 27 Jul (MW), an area where they are often seen. Introduced Red-whiskered Bulbuls have been spreading across O'ahu from their original stronghold in Honolulu, along the s. coast of the island. Two Red-whiskered were observed along the ne. coast as far as Kahana Valley 23 Jul (EV, KS), and they are reported to be abundant in nearby Waikane Valley (RD). Two Red-whiskered in Waianae, along the sw. coast of O'ahu, 26 Jul (JA) indicate they are also spreading in the opposite direction. Two Saffron Finches, an introduced species, were reported in Pepe'ekeo along the ne. coast of Hawai'i I. 21 Jul (JJ). Saffron Finches have spread from the w. side of Hawai'i I. around the s. end of the island and across the Waimea Saddle near the n. end. For now, there is an area along the ne. coast of the is-

land n. of Pepe'ekeo still unoccupied by the Saffrons. Saffron Finches, Yellow-billed Cardinals, and Yellow-fronted Canaries all appear to be expanding their populations along the se. coast of Hawai'i I. in Hawaii Volcanoes N.P. (KT).

We received no reports of any of the rare native forest birds from Kaua'i or Maui this season. On Hawai'i I., Palila (Endangered) were seen regularly Jun+ in Pu'u La'au, H (H.F.T.), 'Akiapola'au (Endangered) were seen regularly at Pu'u 'O'o Ranch Jun+(H.F.T.), and Hawaii Creepers (Endangered) were seen regularly at Pu'u 'O'o Ranch and Hakalau Jun+(H.F.T.). 'Akepa (Endangered) were seen at Hakalau 6 Jun & 17 Jul (H.F.T.). This species seems to be getting harder to find.

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