

Robert L. Pyle | Peter Donaldson

Summer 2006 was a rather quiet season in the Hawaiian Islands—in terms of weather and also in terms of birds. We did get some interesting seabird observations from Kaua'i, both from boats and from onshore, as well as interesting waterfowl observations from Maui County, but the number of reports received was rather low. Most of our reports, in recent years, have come through a listserv, which did not function smoothly over the summer, so some observers may have been discouraged from submitting observations, and some observations may have been lost.

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 (Kii 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.); Ohiaipilo ('Ohi'apilo Pond, Moloka'i 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.).

WATERFOWL THROUGH IBIS

A Greater White-fronted Goose and a Cackling Goose remained with the resident flock of Hawaiian Geese at K.P. Jun+ (BZ). The Greater White-fronted appeared in Nov 2005, while the Cackling has been at K.P. since Feb 2005 (BZ). A pair of Hawaiian Geese nested there 23 Aug—a very early date (BZ). Migrant ducks are very rare in summer in the Region, so it was quite a surprise when 2 Northern Shovelers were observed at Kealia 10 Jul (MN). A single Northern Shoveler was seen about 65 km away at Kaunakakai S.T.P.,

Moloka'i I. 20 Jul (ADY)

Hawaiian Petrels (Endangered) were reported on three pelagic trips w. of Kaua'i I.: one on 7 Jul and 2 each 13 & 17 Jul (DK). Twenty-three Bulwer's Petrels were spotted w. of Kaua'i I. 7 Jul, 4 were counted 13 Jul, and one was seen 17 Jul (all DK). There are too few records of this species to be able to tell much about the significance of these counts. Laysan Albatross had a good nesting season on Kaua'i, with 100 chicks fledging 21 Jun–30

the new nests was abandoned, but the other three pairs were busy raising chicks mid-Jul+ (BZ). One Newell's was seen on a pelagic trip w. of Kaua'i I. 17 Jul (DK). Thirteen Band-rumped Storm-Petrels were observed 13 Jul on a pelagic trip w. of Kaua'i I., including 8 in one flock (DK). The total count and the flock of 8 are both unusual, as most reports are of single birds. One Band-rumped Storm-Petrel was observed w. of Kaua'i I. 17 Jul (DK). Fifteen Red-tailed Tropicbirds seen over Lehua I (n. of Ni'ihau I.) 7 Jul (DK) was a good count. Even more unusual was a count of 20 Red-taileds at Upolu Airport, H. during windy weather 13 Jul (RP). Three White-faced Ibis, probably second-year birds, were seen at Kii 4 Jul (MS) and 29 Jul (PD). Historically, this species has been rare in the Region, but small numbers have been reported quite regularly in the past few years.

SHOREBIRDS THROUGH PASSERINES

Migrant shorebirds were typically scarce most of the summer. Two Semipalmated Plovers summering at Kii Jun+ were unusual (MS). At



Newell's Shearwater is a Threatened species endemic to the Hawaiian Islands. Its populations are declining, largely due to predation by introduced mammals. This lucky Newell's chick (here 19 July 2006) hatched in an artificial nest burrow at Kilauea Point National Wildlife Refuge, where mammalian predators are controlled by the United States Fish & Wildlife Service. Photograph by Brenda Zaun (U.S.F.W.S./HRBP 5304).

Jul (BZ). A large percentage of the chicks were afflicted with avian pox (possibly due to the wet spring weather), but all survived. Two pairs of Newell's Shearwaters (Threatened) that have nested in artificial burrows at K.P. for several years returned again, and both pairs laid single eggs that hatched mid-Jul (BZ). This year, two additional pairs of Newell's were discovered nesting on the refuge. One of

least 11 Bristle-thighed Curlews at Kii 10 Jun (PD) and up to 7 at Duke Park on Moloka'i I (ADY) made good counts for summering birds. A check of O'ahu wetlands including Kii, Honouliuli, Waiawa and Pouhala on 29 Jul yielded total counts of: 68 Pacific Golden-Plovers, 36 Wandering Tattlers, 94 Ruddy Turnstones, and a Sanderling (PD); this is a typical date for good numbers of migrant



Migrant geese are uncommon in the Hawaiian Islands at any time of year and are especially rare in summer. This Cackling Goose (left) has remained with a flock of native Hawaiian Geese (right) at Kilauea Point National Wildlife Refuge since autumn 2004, while the Greater White-fronted Goose (center) has been with the flock since autumn 2005. These geese were photographed 24 August 2006, when the two migrants were molting. Photograph by Brenda Zaun (U.S.F.W.S./HRBP 5303).

shorebirds to be counted. A count of 41 Pacific Golden-Plovers at Kealia 20 Jun (MN) would be unusually high for summering birds but very early for returning migrants. The heavy spring rains seemed to adversely affect Hawaiian Stilt (Endangered) nesting on

O'ahu (PD, MS). On the other hand, the rain seemed to provide favorable conditions for stilt nesting on Moloka'i I., where 20 fledglings were counted at Ohipilo and 4 were seen at Kaunakakai S.T.P. 17 Jul (ADY)

Useful reports on passerines are often sparse

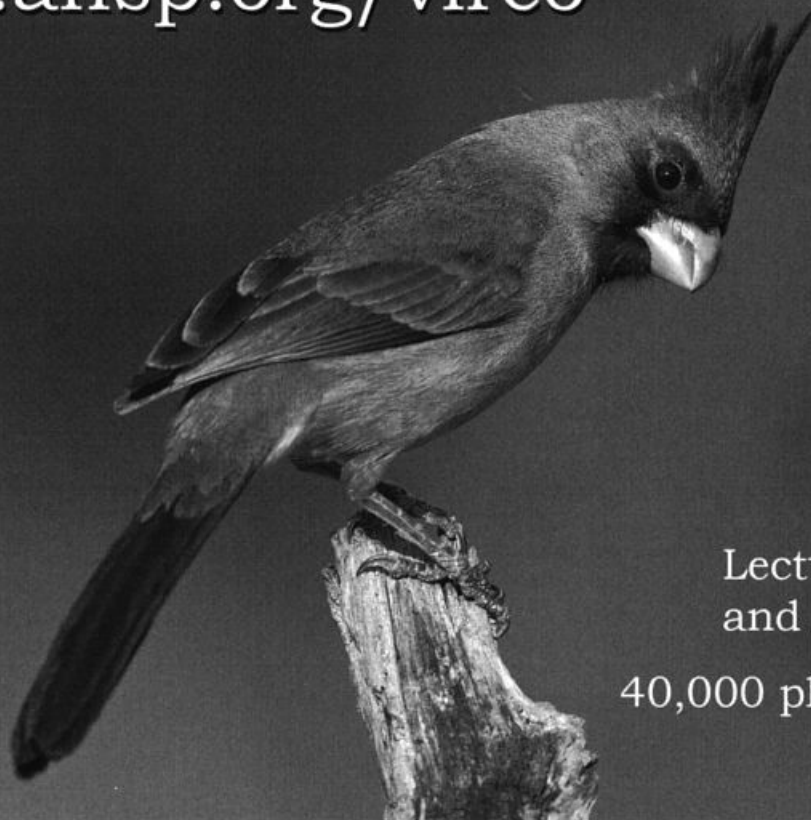
during the summer season, and this summer was no exception. Two Yellow-fronted Canaries were observed at Punamano N.W.R., O. 11 Jul (MN). This is the first report from this area of n. O'ahu I. We did get regular reports from birding tours on Hawai'i I. Jun+ (H.F.T.). Palila were seen on nine tours to Pu'u La'au; 'Akiapola'au were found on ten tours to Pu'u 'O'o Ranch and three tours to Hakalau; Hawai'i Creepers were reported on three Hakalau tours and two tours to Pu'u 'O'o Ranch; and 'Akepa were found on three tours to Hakalau. These species are all Endangered. Unfortunately, we received no information on the numbers of individuals or other details.

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