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Full 2006 was an outstanding season for unusual migrants in the Hawaiian Islands. Most of the unusual migrants were shorebirds, but one was a passerine. We received good numbers of observations despite continuing problems with a local chat list. Many of the rarities were documented with good photographs.

Abbreviations: F.F.S. (French Frigate Shoals, Hawaiian Islands N.W.R.); H. (Hawaii I.); HRBP (Hawaii Rare Bird Photograph; used with image catalog number from the HRBP file at Bishop Museum, Honolulu); Hakalau (Hakalau N.W.R., Hawaii I.); Hanalei (Hanalei N.W.R., Kauai I.); Honouliuli (Honouliuli Unit of Pearl Harbor N.W.R., Oahu I.); K. (Kauai I.); Kanaha (Kanaha Pond, Maui I.); Kealia (Kealia Pond N.W.R., Maui I.); Kii (Kii Unit of James Campbell N.W.R., Oahu I.); Kokee (Koke'e S.P., Kauai I.); K.P. (Kilauaea Pt. N.W.R., Kauai I.); M. (Maui I.); Midway (Midway Atoll N.W.R.); O. (Oahu I.); Ohiapilo ('Ohi'apilo Pond, Molokai I.); Pouhala (Pouhala Marsh Wildlife Sanctuary, Oahu I.); Waiawa (Waiawa Unit of Pearl Harbor N.W.R., Oahu I.); Waikamoi (Waikamoi Preserve, Maui I.).

WATERFOWL THROUGH FRIGATEBIRDS

Migrant geese are uncommon in the Region, so this season's total of four species is notable. A Greater White-fronted Goose was spotted at Kualapu'u Res., Molokai I. 26 Oct (ADY), an imm. Snow Goose was found at Kawai'ele, K. (ph. D&PK), and 2 Brant were observed at the Kahuku shrimp ponds, O. 18 Nov (MW). At least one Cackling Goose was at Kealia Aug+ and 2 there 6 Nov (MN). Brant and Cackling Geese are uncommon in the Region, while Greater White-fronteds and Snows are rare. Migrant ducks turned up in good numbers, especially on Oahu, where they were more numerous than they had been for years. High counts for Northern Shovelers were 159 at Kealia 6 Nov (MN) and 75 at Kii 11 Nov

(MO, KP). High counts for Northern Pintails included 163 at Kealia 16 Nov (MN) and 107 at Punamano, O. 15 Nov (MS, AN). A female Gadwall at Ohiapilo 29 Oct (ADY) was a good find, but the rarest duck of the season was a Harlequin Duck at Midway 1 Dec (ph. JK).

For unknown reasons, gamebirds continue to expand their range in leeward Oahu. Gray



Harlequin Ducks are very rare in the Hawaiian Islands, and photographs of them are even rarer in the Region. This bird was at Midway Atoll National Wildlife Refuge in December 2006 (here 23 December). Photograph by John Klavitter, U.S.F.W.S.

Francolins continue to be seen frequently at Honouliuli (PD) and are now also seen regularly at Waiawa and the Waipio Peninsula Soccer Complex in Waipahu (PD). Five Erckel's Francolins were also seen at Honouliuli 25 Oct (AN), an unusual location for them on Oahu. A Kalij Pheasant in the sw. Waianae Mt., Oahu 2 Sep (†SM) is the first reported in that area.

Two different Short-tailed Albatrosses (Endangered), a juv. and an ad., were observed on



Three Lesser Frigatebirds, seldom reported in the Hawaiian Islands, were observed frequently at ground level on French Frigate Shoals 18 September–28 November (here 29 September) 2006, where more easily distinguished from the larger Great Frigatebirds. Photographs by Jeff Tory, U.S.F.W.S. Volunteer.

Midway 1 Nov (JK). Hawaiian Petrels (Endangered) are usually seen in very low numbers on pelagic trips around the islands, but 20 were observed on a boat trip in waters sw of Maui 2 Aug (DK, HS). Three Black-winged Petrels, around 100 Bulwer's Petrels, a Christmas Shearwater, and a Newell's Shearwater (Threatened) were seen on the same trip. This area is seldom visited by birders. A Cook's Petrel that landed on a cruise ship was brought to shore on Kauai, where it was photographed and released 1 Sep (ph. JD, SR). Cook's Petrels are rarely reported, and their status in the Region is poorly understood. The only storm-petrels reported were 2 Band-rumped seen nw. of Oahu 27 Aug (PD). A *brewsteri* Brown Booby, with a pale head and pale gray bill, was observed 21 Oct on Moku Manu, a small island off Oahu (EV). This subspecies is rare in the Region. Lesser Frigatebirds are seldom reported in the Region, and because of the difficulties in identifying frigatebirds, many reports are uncertain. Three Lesser Frigatebirds on F.F.S. were nicely photographed Sep–Nov (ph. JT, AA, CG).

HERONS THROUGH SHOREBIRDS

A large imm. heron observed in Kahuku, O 15 Sep+ (ph. GF, PD, AN, KP, m.ob.) was almost certainly a Great Blue Heron but was not observed closely enough to rule out Gray Heron. Great Blue Herons are rare but regular in the Region; Gray Heron has yet to be recorded in the Region. A Cattle Egret was on F.F.S. 4 Nov (ph. CG, JT); the species is abundant in the Main Hawaiian islands but uncommon in the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands. Up to 3 *Plegadis* ibis were reported regularly from several locations Aug+ (m.ob.) The birds that could be identified as to species have all proven to be White-faced.

Single Peregrine Falcons were reported at La Perouse Pinnacle, F.F.S. by observers on the NOAA ship *Oscar Elton Sette* 8–14 Oct, at Kii





Cattle Egrets are abundant on the main Hawaiian Islands but are uncommon on the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands. This individual, photographed 4 November 2006, remained on French Frigate Shoals through 30 November. *Photograph by Cory Gregory.*



Hawaiian Coot is an Endangered species but is locally common on the main Hawaiian Islands where suitable wetland habitat remains. This bird was observed on Laysan Island, over 1300 kilometers from the breeding populations on the main islands. *Photograph by Scott Freeman.*



This White-rumped Sandpiper at Kahuku, O'ahu Island, Hawaii 19 (here) through 28 September 2006 provided the first record of the species for the Region. *Photograph by Michael Walthers.*

26 Oct (KP), in Hawaii Volcanoes N.P. 22 Nov (GS), and at Midway 1 Dec (JK). Peregrines are rare but regular in the Region. Hawaiian Coots (Endangered) are locally common in the main islands but rare in the Northwestern Islands. One Hawaiian Coot was observed at Laysan I. throughout the season (ph., SF, NM, RM).

As usual, numbers of migrant shorebirds increased rapidly during Sep. By 21 Sep, there were 612 Pacific Golden-Plovers at Kealia (MN). A Greater Yellowlegs was heard and seen at Waiawa 30 Nov (PD). Greater Yel-

lowlegs are uncommon in the Region. A Gray-tailed Tattler at the Kahuku shrimp ponds, O. 29 Sep was a rare find (†MO); this species can be difficult to separate from the more common Wandering Tattler, and although the Kahuku bird was not photographed, it was heard giving its distinctive call. A Spotted Sandpiper at the shrimp ponds 19 Sep (ph. MW) and 22 Sep (PD, RP) was another rare find. There were good numbers of Bristle-thighed Curlews, with at least 42 counted at Kii 21 Oct (PD) and 23 flying over Ohiapilo 24 Oct (ADY). A Semipalmated Sandpiper was nicely photographed at the Hanapepe Salt Pond, K. 1 Sep (ph., JD). This species is not only rare in the Region but also difficult to separate from other peeps. The outstanding shorebird rarity was a White-rumped Sandpiper observed at the Kahuku Shrimp Ponds, O. 19–28 Sep (ph. MW, m.ob.), furnishing the first accepted record for the Region. A Curlew Sandpiper was spotted at the Hanapepe Salt Pond, K. 29 Oct (CM). Curlew Sandpipers are rare in the Region but have been reported more frequently over the past several years. A rare Buff-breasted Sandpiper on FFS. 13 Oct–2 Nov was well photographed (ph. CG, JT).

PARAKEETS THROUGH PASSERINES

Hundreds of Rose-ringed Parakeets were seen in the Makiki section of Honolulu, O. 11 Nov (DP). Rose-ringed have been established on O'ahu for years but are seldom reported. A Short-eared Owl was observed on FFS. 25–29 Nov (CG, FM); the species is seen regularly in the Main Hawaiian Islands but is seldom reported on FFS. A Marianas Swiftlet (Endangered) was spotted on Aiea Tr., O. 28 Sep (KP, FH). The only nest site in the Region is in the valley below this trail.

Migrant passerines are very rare in the Region, so a Snow Bunting at Midway 1 Oct was an exciting record (ph. JK). Two species of introduced finches were reported to be expanding their ranges on Hawai'i I. Red Avadavats were observed in the Hilo area 5 Nov (DL), a new location for this species, which is usually seen on the opposite side of the island. Common Waxbills were reported to be established in the Kailua area (RD) and observed daily. Common Waxbills have been rarely observed on Hawai'i I. until recently. Good records of native forest birds have been sparse. Tour groups continue to report seeing some of the rare native species but without information on the numbers of individuals or other details.

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Peeps are uncommon in the Hawaiian Islands, and their relative abundance there is imperfectly understood. At Hanapepe, Kaua'i Island, this photograph of a rare Semipalmated Sandpiper was taken 7 September 2006—good enough to convince even skeptics. *Photograph by Jim Denny.*



Sharp-tailed Sandpipers are regular visitors to the Hawaiian Islands but are seldom photographed as well as this juvenile, one of two on French Frigate Shoals 13 October (here) through 28 November 2006. One of the two died. *Photograph by Cory Gregory.*



Passerine migrants are very rare in the Hawaiian Islands, with most records from the Northwestern Islands, small islands where unusual landbirds, like this Snow Bunting on Midway Island, 1 October 2006, may be spotted more easily. *Photograph by John Klavitter, U.S.F.W.S.*

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