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This winter the Bahamas hosted an exceptional number of unusual visitors from North America, the majority of which were found on Grand Bahama, the northwesternmost large island. It is difficult to say whether this year's bounty was due to weather conditions or the presence of more birders with greater skills. Extensive notes from Cuba were much appreciated this season!

## WATERFOWL THROUGH TERNS

A nine-day birding trip to Cuba produced some high numbers of waterfowl (AK, WS, BHe, JC). Thirty-five West Indian Whistling-Ducks were counted 21 Jan at Cayo Coco (Playa Las Coloradas Lagoon #5), Cuba, while at Antigua, the maximum counts were of 12 at McKinnon's Salt Pond and 15 at Jolly Harbour Pools 25 Dec (SB). A Snow Goose arrived on Port Royal G.C., Bermuda 13 Feb (AD). An imm. Ross's Goose, found at Reef G.C., Grand Bahama 18 Nov, remained throughout the winter (m.ob.). A Canada Goose was at Ruby and Reef Golf Courses, Grand Bahama 16 Dec (BP)–10 Feb (BH). A Wood Duck was at Tarpum Bay, Eleuthera 13 Dec (JDW, RB, SL), one and possibly more at Ruby G.C., Grand Bahama 17 Dec (C&BM, JG), and 2 at Abaco N.P. 16 Dec (C.B.C.). A female American Wigeon arrived at Jubilee Rd., Bermuda 24 Feb (AD), and 3 were present at McKinnon's Ponds, Antigua 25 Dec–5 Jan (SB). Twenty American Wigeons and 25 Northern Shovelers were seen 21 Jan at Cayo Coco, Cuba, along with a few Northern Pintails and 20 Green-winged Teal (AK, WS, BHe, JC). A drake Northern Pintail was on Warwick Pond, Bermuda 9-13 Feb (DW), 4 wintered at Maillis Ponds, Adelaide, New Providence (m.ob.),

and one was on the large pool at McKinnon's Salt Pond, Antigua 25 Dec–6 Jan (SB). Potworks Dam, Antigua produced 3 Ring-necked Ducks (a male and 2 females) 4-5 Jan (SB). The Surf Scoter remained on Mangrove L., Bermuda 27 Nov–12 Feb (EA). The first documented record of **Bufflehead** in the Bahamas was established by a female at Ruby G.C. 13-18 Dec (TW, T&JG, C.B.C., m.ob.). A Hooded Merganser was found in Abaco N.P. 12 Dec, and 2 were there 16 Dec (C.B.C.); 3 wintered at Clifton Cay Pond, New Providence (m.ob.). Two Red-breasted Mergansers at Banana Beach, Grand Bahama 15 Dec (PD et al.) and one on Harrold Pond, New Providence 17 Dec (PD et al.) were included in the Christmas Bird Counts. Two Ruddy Ducks were also noted 21 Jan at Cayo Coco (Playa Las Coloradas Lagoon #5), Cuba (AK, WS, BHe, JC).

A Pied-billed Grebe was seen with chick at Parson's Road Pond, Bermuda 9 Jan (PW). A Horned Grebe was off Smith's I., Bermuda 20-22 Feb (PW). A Cory's Shearwater 16 km sw. of Abaco 24 Jan (EB et al.) was the only tubenose reported from the Bahamas this winter. At Guadeloupe, Levesque continues to put in the time necessary to document the northward movement of Manx Shearwaters and other seabirds from shore (Table 1). A desiccated Masked Booby corpse found at Cabo Rojo N.W.R., Puerto Rico 22 Dec (JR, PM) was a first for the location. A Double-crested Cormorant at Warderick Wells, Exuma Cays Land and Sea Park 13 Feb (BP) was the first reported from the park. A single American Bittern 25 Jan near Playa Larga, Cuba was found at a wet spot in a drying marsh, seen by two observers (*fide* JC). Darkwood Salt Pond, Antigua produced a Reddish Egret 24 Dec–3 Jan (SB), and a Little Egret was at nearby Jolly Harbour

Pool 25 Dec and still present 4 Jan (SB). The long-staying Gray Heron was present 28 Feb+ at Tucker's Town, Bermuda (ph. AD). Six Greater Flamingos found in the Marls, Abaco in Feb were believed to be birds that escaped from an Abaco resort two years ago (*fide* AK, JB).

A Northern Harrier was seen at Rock Sound, Eleuthera 30 Nov and 7 Feb (RB, JDW). Five Red-tailed Hawks in n. Abaco 2 Dec (J&KS) were a good count. Four **Gundlach's Hawk** were seen in Cuba: a pair on Cayo Coco 21-22 Jan; one at La Turba 25 Jan; and one at Rio Hatiguanico 27 Jan (AK, WS, BHe, JC). A Crested Caracara was seen at Bermejas, Cuba 25 Jan (WS, *fide* JC). Five Merlins were roosting together on Hawkins I., Bermuda 9 Feb (PW). A Purple Gallinule was seen at Reef G.C., Grand Bahama 27 Jan and



This Lesser Black-backed Gull was photographed 5 January 2007 at the Rivière Sâlée on Guadeloupe. Photograph by Anthony Levesque.

10 Feb (EG et al., BH), and 3 were counted 9 Feb at Pelletan (Port-Louis), Guadeloupe (AL, PP, FD). On 20 Jan, an **American Coot** at Roseau R., Roseau was the first of its species to be recorded in Dominica (ph. NL). Limpkins (8) were near Turiguano, Cuba 22 Jan (AK, WS, BHe, JC).

An American Golden-Plover was noted at Petite Terre, Guadeloupe 15 Feb (AL). Two

American Golden-Plovers, 3 Semipalmated Plovers, and 2 Piping Plovers were among the uncommon wintering shorebird species in Bermuda this season (AD). Six Piping Plovers were noted at Cayo Coco, Cuba 21 Jan (AK, WS, BH, JC), and 20 were on the Grand Bahama C.B.C. 15 Dec, 19 at Green Turtle Cay, Abaco 4 Jan (HC), and 20+ there 11 Feb (EB, BH, TW). An American Avocet wintered at Harrold and Wilson Ponds N.P., New Providence (m.ob.). A Solitary Sand-

Table 1. Seawatch results (AL) at Petite-Terre Nature Reserve, Guadeloupe, winter 2006–2007.

SPECIES	December (9 hrs)	January (10.5 hrs)	February (9.75 hrs)
Black-capped Petrel	1	1	
<i>Pterodroma</i> sp.		3	
Cory's Shearwater	2	1	
Manx Shearwater			261
Audubon's Shearwater		1	1
<i>Puffinus</i> sp.		8	
Leach's Storm-Petrel	1	1	
<i>Oceanodroma</i> sp.			1
<i>Sula</i> sp.		1	1
Parasitic Jaeger	1		
<i>Stercorarius</i> sp.			1



Rare in Guadeloupe, this Ring-billed Gull was at the Rivière Sâlée 5 January 2007. Photograph by Anthony Levesque.



A prized find in Bermuda, this Long-eared Owl was photographed 1 February 2007 on Smith's Island. Photograph by Bobby Doe.

piper at Tarpum Bay, Eleuthera 6 Feb (RB) was unusual for midwinter. PD counted 9 Whimbrels at Spanish Wells, Eleuthera 16 Feb. McKinnon's Salt Pond, Antigua produced an ad. **Hudsonian Godwit** on the smaller of two pools 25 Dec, which was joined by another bird 5 Jan (SB) and still present 6 Jan. Seven Red Knots were observed at Cayo Coco, Cuba 21 Jan (AK, WS, BHe, JC). A count of 126 Short-billed Dowitchers at Green Turtle Cay 18 Jan (EB, BHe, TW) was high. **Long-billed Dowitchers** have probably been overlooked in the Bahamas for many years. Recent reports suggest that they occur regularly in late fall and winter. There are substantiated reports of

one from New Providence 24 Oct 2003, 4 from Grand Bahama 16 Dec 2005–9 Jan 2006, and 10 from Abaco 23–24 Oct 2006, and an unsubstantiated report of 7 from West End, Grand Bahama 14 Dec 2006 (BH, EB, TW, TG). The increase in reports is probably due to greater care taken by birders now aware of the possibility of Long-billed.

An unusually high number of Lesser Black-backed Gulls was reported from the Region this season. Christmas

Bird Counters found 31 Lesser Black-backed Gulls on Grand Bahama 15 Dec and 11 Lesser and one Great Black-backed on New Providence 17 Dec. A Lesser Black-backed was located at Cayo Coco 21 Jan–Feb (WS) and confirmed by AK; and one was on Little Stirrup Cay, Berry Is., Bahamas 2 Dec (PB). On 5 Jan at Rivière Salée, Guadeloupe, Levesque counted 5 Lesser Black-backed Gulls, 4 Ring-billed Gulls, and a Laughing Gull, for a record number of gulls there in winter. A Great Black-backed Gull was also seen at Arawak Cay, New Providence 14 Feb (ph. TH). Two Black-headed Gulls were present 1 Dec–28 Feb in Bermuda, while a flock of 12 Bonaparte's Gulls in Harrington Sound Bermuda was noteworthy 24 Feb (AD). A Bonaparte's Gull was observed at West End, Grand Bahama 14 Dec (TW, BH, EB) and at Brown's Pt., New Providence 16 Dec (CW, MB). A Royal Tern was present at Dockyard, Bermuda through 20 Jan (PW).

## PIGEONS THROUGH WAXWINGS

Seven Plain Pigeons were counted in Najasa area, Cuba 23 Jan (*fide* JC). Two Key West and 4 Gray-headed Quail-Doves were seen at Bermejas, Cuba 26 Jan; a female Ruddy Quail-Dove was noted at Rio Hatiguanico, Cuba 27 Jan (AK, WS, BHe, JC). No Cuban Parakeets or Cuban Parrots were seen in Zapata area; but both were seen at

usual haunts in Camaguey region, with 90 parakeets and 5 parrots at La Belen 23 Jan (AK, WS, BHe, JC). Ten Cuban (Bahama) Parrots at Winding Bay G.C., Abaco were unexpected at that location (N&RF). A Chuckwill's-widow at Coral Harbour, New Providence was heard singing 3 Feb (CW). A Long-eared Owl, extremely rare in Bermuda, was photographed 1 Feb on Smith's I. (ph. BD). Two Ruby-throated Hummingbirds wintered in Bermuda: an imm. female at St. David's 9 Dec–18 Feb (LO, TM) and an ad. female at the Botanical Gardens 29 Dec–10 Feb (LC, AD). Two Bee Hummingbirds were at Bermejas and one was near Palpite, Cuba 25 Jan (AK, WS, BHe, JC). Two Fernandina's Flickers were at Bermejas, Cuba 26 Jan (AK, WS, BHe, JC).

Eastern Phoebes were reported in Bermuda at Spittal Pond 1 Dec–12 Feb (KR), at St. David's 20 Jan (G&SH), and at High Point 8 Feb (DW). A **Brown-crested Flycatcher** was heard and recorded but not seen at Garden of the Groves, Grand Bahama 24 Feb (LM, BP). The recording was played for Fr. Tom Pincelli of Texas, who agreed that the calls were those of a Brown-crested Flycatcher. If accepted, this will be a first record for the Bahamas and the West Indies; the species is a rare but regular vagrant in winter to s. Florida. Up to 4 Western Kingbirds were seen at Ruby and Emerald G.C., Grand Bahama throughout the winter (m.ob.), and 2 were at Clifton Cay Beach, New Providence 13 Jan (TH). A Western Kingbird was at Bermuda Airport 22 Feb (DW). Two very late Gray Kingbirds were at Fresh Creek, Andros 4 Dec (ph. CW). Now a single-island endemic, 2 Giant Kingbirds, one seen and one heard, were noted at La Belen, Cuba 23 Jan (AK, WS, BHe, JC).

White-eyed Vireos (2) were noted at Cayo Coco, Cuba 22 Jan; and another was at



Hummingbirds on Bermuda, always rare, are often seen briefly and left unidentified. This immature female Ruby-throated Hummingbird was present 9 (here 31) December 2006 through 18 February 2007 in St. David's. Photograph by Tony McWilliam.



This adult female Ruby-throated Hummingbird was present in the Botanical Gardens of Bermuda 29 December 2006 through 10 February 2007 (here 30 January). Photograph by Andrew Dobson.

Bermejas 25 Jan (AK, WS, BHe, JC). Ten Thick-billed Vireos were counted at Cayo Paredon Grande, Cuba 21 Jan, and a Yellow-throated Vireo was noted at La Guira 19 Jan; another was at Bermejas, Cuba 25 Jan (AK, WS, BHe, JC). Single Blue-headed Vireos were seen at Big Bird Poultry Farm, Abaco 12 Dec (EB, BH), the Retreat, Nassau 29 Dec (CW, PH), and Bahama Palm Shores, Abaco 11 Feb (BH, TW, EB). At Pointe à Pitre, Guadeloupe, a Caribbean Martin seen 14 Jan furnished the earliest date for Guadeloupe; 10 days later, 323 were in the town center (AL). A Cliff Swallow, 2 Bank Swallows, and 3 Cave Swallows (first report for island) were seen at Port-Louis swamp, Guadeloupe 4 Dec (AL, AR). Up to 7 Cave Swallows were counted 10 Dec

(EBe) at Guadeloupe; and one was still present 23 Feb (AL, FD), along with 300 Barn Swallows, a Cliff Swallow, a Cave Swallow, and a Bank Swallow. A highlight of the month was a **Northern Rough-winged Swallow** (first for Guadeloupe) found at Gaschet Res. 9 Feb (AL, PP); another was seen at Ste. Anne 19-21 Feb (AL, AR, EBe).

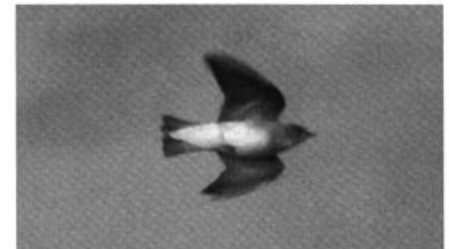
LM and BP found 4 Brown-headed (Bahama) Nuthatches on Owl Hole Rd., Grand Bahama 24 Feb. One of the rarest Cuban endemics, 2 Zapata Wrens were found at Rio Hattiguanico 27 Jan (AK, WS, BH, JC). About 8 Ruby-crowned Kinglets wintered in Bermuda (AD). An **Eastern Bluebird** photographed near High Rock, Grand Bahama 24 Feb provided the first confirmed record for the Bahamas (ph.

LM, BP). Two Northern Mockingbirds were reported in Bermuda at Boaz I. and in Somerset (both PH). Pearly-eyed Thrashers are vagrants in the n. Bahamas, so single birds at the Retreat, Nassau 15 & 29 Jan (CW, L&JD, PM) and a pair at St. Augustine's Monastery 26-27 Feb (PD, ph. TH, NMc) were unusual.

A Cedar Waxwing at Rock Sound 8 Feb (RB) preceded a large incursion; 50+ were found at Shannon G.C., Grand Bahama 20-27 Feb (SR, m. ob.) and 15-20 at St. Augustine's Monastery, Nassau 26 Feb (PD, TH, NMc); 4 were at La Guira, Cuba 19 Jan (AK, WS, BHe, JC).

## WARBLERS THROUGH BLACKBIRDS

Among more than 20 species of warbler wintering in Bermuda were a Blue-winged Warbler seen 14 Jan Talbot Estate (AD) and a Nashville Warbler at Lagoon Park 4 Feb (DW). A male Golden-winged Warbler seen 1 Jan and again in the same area near Wallings Res., Antigua 5 Jan (SB) provided one of the few reports of this species in the Lesser Antilles. Two Tennessee Warblers were at La Guira, Cuba 19 Jan; the species apparently overwinters in small numbers in Pinar del Rio Province (AK, WS, BHe, JC). An Or-

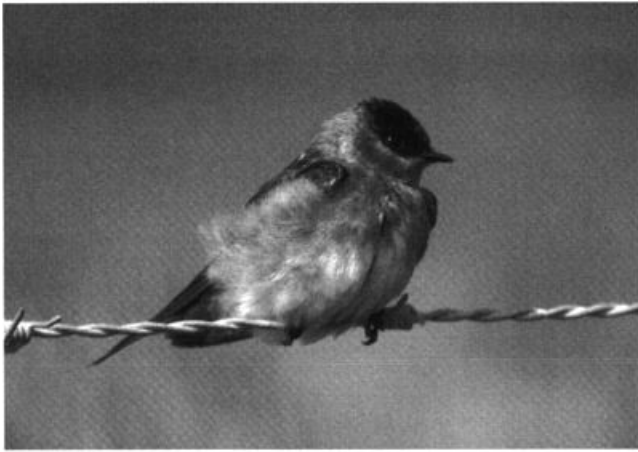


Northern Rough-winged Swallow, previously unconfirmed in Guadeloupe, was photographed for the first time 9 February 2007 at Gaschet Reservoir. Photograph by Anthony Levesque.

ange-crowned Warbler in Marsh Harbour, Abaco 2 Dec (J&KS) was a good find. A Nashville Warbler was netted at Rock Sound 1 Feb (JDW, JW, RB). A male Kirtland's Warbler was near Hole-in-the-Wall, Abaco 2 Jan (BHs, MH, BS, JP). Barbuda produced 2 Yellow-rumped Warblers, as well as good numbers of Barbuda Warbler 5 Jan (SB). Three Swainson's Warblers were recaptured (2 from this winter, one from last winter) at Rock Sound, Eleuthera 3/4 Feb, confirming that they winter on the island (K.W.R.T.P.). Guadeloupe's Port-Louis swamp produced a Northern Parula, a Cape May Warbler, 4 Prairie Warblers, 3 Black-and-white Warblers, 2 American Redstarts, 5 Prothonotary Warblers, an Ovenbird, and 37 Northern Waterthrushes 4 Dec (AL, AR). On 27 Dec, SB found a Worm-eating Warbler and again on 1

**SA** On 27 Dec, SB took the trail up the rocky slope adjacent to the overflow on the Wallings Res., over the stone-lined stream bed, and up the slope towards the crossroads of trails at the top of the ridge. At about 50 m short of the top of the ridge, he came across a group of thrashers feeding high up in the canopy. He pushed to get them closer. A bird flew onto a branch about 7 m ahead—not one of the thrashers but a **Brown Trembler!** He noted the following in field notes: "The bird had a dark gray, decurved bill. The head was dark gray. The eye was a yellow-orange color. Upper parts were a warm chestnut brown, and underparts a sandy brown. The bird frequently drooped its wings, and cocked its tail, as well as giving its distinctive tremble. The warm brown tones of the upperparts, the coloration of the underparts, and the eye color eliminated Gray Trembler." He saw the bird on three subsequent occasions in the same area 1, 3, & 4 Jan. On 4 Jan, it (or another) was at the bottom of the trail, next to the reservoir overflow.

There have been other reports of trembler from Antigua, dated Feb 1976 (Holland and Williams 1978, *American Birds* 32: 1095-1105), which Bond (1980) dismissed as for lack of details, and from a more recent report by BHa from 2005, with more detail. Brown Trembler is resident on islands (Saba and St. Kitts) located w. and slightly s. of Antigua's position. This additional detailed occurrence should provide strong suspicion that the trembler is not a vagrant but an overlooked, albeit secretive and rare resident on Antigua.



The first Cave Swallows for Guadeloupe were present from 4 (here 25) December 2006 through 23 February 2007 at Port-Louis Swamp. Photograph by Anthony Levesque.

Jan on the other side of the ridge above Wallings Res., Antigua, where he also recorded an Ovenbird and an Antillean Euphonia.

Two Swamp Sparrows at Angel Fish Pt., Abaco 11 Dec (vt. EB, BH) were most unusual; there is only one previous substantiated record of this species in the Bahamas. Two Zapata Sparrows were found at Cayo Coco, Cuba 20-21 Jan (AK, WS, BHe, JC). A Snow Bunting was discovered on Castle I., Bermuda 17 Dec

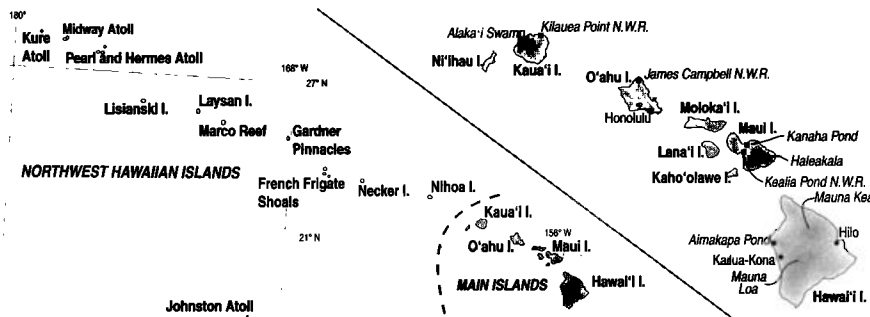
(JM, LM). On the New Providence C.B.C. 17 Dec, introduced Cuban Grassquits outnumbered indigenous Black-faced Grassquits better than 2:1. A Dickcissel was at Lukes Farm, Bermuda 17 Dec (EA). Five Baltimore Orioles were in Botanical Gardens, Bermuda 30 Jan+ (DW). For the 2nd year in a row, a Boat-tailed Grackle was found on the Grand Bahama C.B.C. (TW, ph. NB et al.); this one was at Eight Mile Rock 15 Dec, 16 km from Reef G.C., where one was found last year. Christmas counters found 4 Brown-headed Cowbirds at a cattle feedlot in cen. Grand Bahama 15 Dec (BP et al.).

Observers: Eric Amos, Paul Baicich, Rudy Badia, Eric Berthollon (EBE), John Bethell, Michael Boatwright, Elwood Bracey, Noreen Brent, Simon Buckingham, Christmas Bird Count (C.B.C.), Lisa Clark, Howard Costa,

Julie Craves, Linda & John Daniels, Paul Dean, Andrew Dobson, Bobby Doe, Frantz Duzont, Neal & Roxanne Fitzpatrick, Erika Gates, Tom & Judy Gire (JGi), Jen Gordon, Bruce Hallett, Bert Harris (BHs), Bette Harris (BHa), Bud Henning (BHe), Milton Harris, Gene & Susan Harvey, Paul Heidgard, Tony Hepburn, Arturo Kirkconnell, Kirtland's Warbler Research & Training Project (K.W.R.T.P.), Anita Knowles, Niels Larsen, Samara Lawrentz, Peggy Macres (PMa), Jeremy Madeiros, Leila Madeiros (LMa), Larry Manfredi, Gary Markowski, Neil McKinney (NMc), Tony McWilliam, Carolyn & Barton Milligan, Predensa Moore, Louise Olander, Patrick Péron, Jenny Phillips, Bruce Purdy, Shamie Rolle, Alexandre Renaudier, Keith Rossiter, Jennifer Rycenga, Brett Scheffers, John & Karen Schrader, William Suarez, David Wallace (DW), Carolyn Wardle, Paul Watson, Jennifer White (JDW), Tony White, David Wingate (DBW), Joe Wunderle. ●

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## Hawaiian Islands



**Robert L. Pyle | Peter Donaldson**

Changes to a local chat list caused some disruption to the flow of bird observations early in the season, but the new chat list worked well thereafter. A few observations raised some eyebrows, but photographs documented the occurrence of some spectacular rarities. Weather did not cause much disruption to bird observations.

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.); Ohiapilo ('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

Two Greater White-fronted Geese remained at Hanalei Dec+ (BZ), and single White-fronteds were observed at Kualapu'u Res., Moloka'i I. 18 Dec+ (ADY, m.ob.) and Waiakea Pond, H. Jan+ (RD). Greater White-fronted Geese are rare in the Region. Snow Geese are even rarer. One imm. Snow Goose was at Kawai'ele, K. 14 Dec+ (DK, DL, m.ob.), and another was seen at Kawai'ele 28 Dec (DK). An imm. Snow Goose remained at Kealia Jan+ (MN). A Brant remained at Hanalei Dec+ (BZ), and 2 continuing at the Kahuku shrimp ponds from Nov (MW) were joined by another bird 6 Jan+ (PD, MW, MO). This 3rd Brant may have been the same bird seen in Kane'ohe, O. 17 Dec (EV). Up to 3 Cackling Geese were observed at Waiakea Pond, H. Jan+ (RD, DL, m.ob.), 2 remained at Hanalei Dec+ (BZ), and singles wintered at Kii (m.ob.) and Kealia (MN, GE). Brant and Cackling Geese are un-