

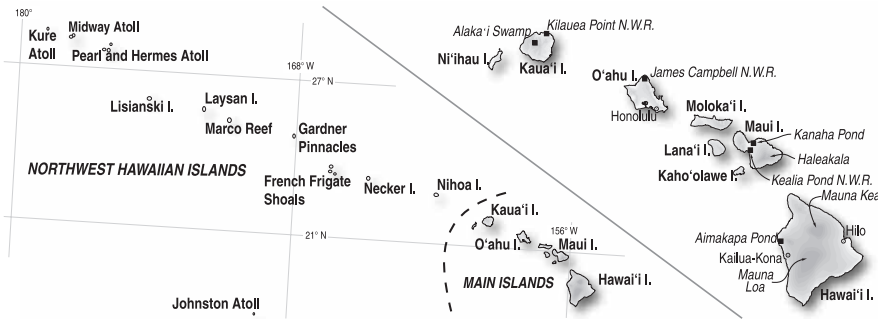
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Hawaiian Islands



Robert L. Pyle • Peter Donaldson

Autumn 2005 was an excellent season for unusual shorebirds, with one new species recorded for the Region. By contrast, numbers of migrant waterfowl were unimpressive, with only a few rare species noted. Because northeasterly trade winds prevail in the Region, most harbors are on the protected southwestern coasts of the islands, and it can be difficult for observers to get out into the windward waters. Recent pelagic trips northeast of the islands, however, suggest that the rough windward waters may be more productive for some species.

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.); Ohiapilo ('Ohi'apilo Pond, Moloka'i I.); Puhala (Puhala 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 IBISES

Single Cackling Geese, both present since fall 2004, remained Nov+ at Honouliuli (PD, AN, MS) and K.P. (BZ, DL). The Cackling at K.P. was captured and appears to be a female of the *minima* subspecies. An imm. Greater White-fronted Goose joined the Cackling at Honouliuli 12 Oct+ (AN, MS, PD). Ten Canada Geese and a Greater White-fronted Goose, of questionable provenance, have been at Wailoa S.P., H. for years. They were joined by 2 small Cackling Geese Nov+ (DL). A Brant



This apparent Stejneger's Petrel was turned into the seabird rehabilitation facility at Sea Life Park on O'ahu in early (here 7) October 2005. It was found to be healthy, photographed, and released. Photograph by Sea Life Park staff.

was observed at Kii 21 Nov+ (MS, KP).

A Gadwall was observed regularly at Ohiapilo 3 Nov+ (ADY); the species is rare in the Region. A Eurasian Wigeon was seen at Honouliuli 14 & 18 Oct (PD) and 2 on 29 Oct (PD); one was at Ohiapilo 9 Nov (ADY). American Wigeons were present in good numbers, with peak counts of 7 at Ohiapilo 3 Nov (ADY), 21 at Kii 17 Nov (KP), and 18 at

Honouliuli 29 Nov (PD). Northern Pintail numbers were rather low, with a peak count of 47 at Kii 24 Nov (KP). Northern Shoveler numbers were low in most places, but 245 were counted at Kealia 3 Nov (MN). A small flock of bay ducks in Kahuku, O. 29 Oct+ (TD, m.ob.) included 3 Canvasbacks and a Redhead. Canvasbacks are uncommon in the Region, while Redheads are rare (the database at Bishop Museum shows just 16 prior Regional records). A female or imm. male Hooded Merganser was seen at Kii 17 Nov (KP) and 19 Nov (RM).

Observers submitted only three reports of Hawaiian Petrels (Endangered), one between Kaua'i I and Ni'ihau I. 26 Aug (DK), 3 e. of O'ahu I. 20 Sep (CM, HS), and 2 e. of Kaua'i I. 25 Sep (HS). Various gadfly petrels are believed to be regular migrants through Hawaiian waters, but we normally receive few reports, and some of these are of undetermined species. We had an unusually high number of reports of Black-winged Petrels this season: one was photographed se. of Kaua'i 19 Oct (RB, GS); 2 were well e. of Kaua'i 25 Sep,



This Black-winged Petrel off Kaua'i, on 19 October 2005 clearly shows the diagnostic underwing pattern that gives the species its name. Photograph by Greg Schorr.

along with 6 similar birds that were probably also Black-winged (HS); one, possibly 2, were observed e. of Kaua'i 25 Oct (RB); 3 probables were seen sw. of Kaua'i 27 Oct (RB, DK, HS); one was picked up in w. Maui 25 Oct (FD) and released in good shape; an im-



This American Avocet, spotted by Glynnis Nakai at Kealia Pond National Wildlife Refuge on 9 (here 12) September 2005, represents the first record of the species in the Hawaiian Islands. Photograph by Michael Walther.

jured bird was found in cen. Maui the next day (conceivably the same individual; *FD); and one was picked up on Kaua'i I. 11 Nov (SR). Up to 30 Cook's Petrels and up to 30 Stejneger's Petrels were observed e. of O'ahu I. 20 Sep (CM, ph. HS). These species can be difficult to separate at sea, but good photographs were obtained of both species. Ten Cook's were seen e. of Kaua'i I. 25 Sep (HS). A petrel turned in to Sea Life Park, O. in early Oct was photographed and released. Based on the photographs, the bird appears to be a Stejneger's, but even captive gadfly petrels are



In autumn, most Bar-tailed Godwits are thought to migrate nonstop from Asia to the wintering areas, but a few drop in to the Hawaiian Islands en route. This juvenile was seen at Pouhala Marsh in Waipahu on O'ahu Island 15 October 2005. Photograph by Peter Donaldson.

a challenge to identify.

Wedge-tailed Shearwaters are the common breeding shearwater in the main Hawaiian Islands; a count of 3000–5000 e. of O'ahu 18 Sep (CM, HS) gives an indication of its abundance. Migrant shearwaters can also appear in good numbers in Hawaiian waters. A continuous southward passage of Sooty Shearwaters was observed e. of O'ahu 18 Sep, with 600–700 birds counted (CM, HS). It was good

to get several reports of Newell's Shearwaters (Threatened) around Kaua'i. A count of 50 Newell's in a feeding flock with 80 Red-footed Boobies and 20 Wedge-tailed Shearwaters e. of Kaua'i I 25 Sep (HS) was remarkable. We received only two reports of Band-rumped Storm-Petrels: one w. of Kaua'i 26 Aug (DK) and one e. of Kaua'i 19 Oct (RB, ph. DW).

A Great Blue Heron, uncommon in the Region, was spotted in Hilo Harbor 15 Nov (SO). The bird was seen in the same area 16–17 Nov (DL). Up to 5 *Plegadis* ibis were observed at Kealia Aug+ (MN), with at least one red-eyed individual identified as a White-faced Ibis 15 Sep (RD, RP). A dark-eyed imm. *Plegadis* remained around Kii early Oct+ (AN, m.ob). The birds are all presumed to be White-faced Ibis.

OSPREY THROUGH GULLS

An Osprey was seen in the Honouliuli area 16 Nov+ (PD). A Northern Harrier was observed at Kii 15 Nov (AN, MS) and 19 Nov (RM, MO). Both of these migrant raptors are rare in the Region. A Killdeer, uncommon in the Region, was observed at Kii 24 Nov+ (KP). An American Avocet remained at Kealia 12 Sep+ (GN, m.ob.). This bird was the first of its species recorded in the Region. A Greater Yellowlegs, uncommon in the Region, was observed at Waiawa 16 Nov, with a Lesser Yellowlegs conveniently nearby for comparison (AN, MS). An imm. Willet observed in Hilo Bay, H. 23 Nov (RD) was not seen again. Bristle-thighed Curlew numbers were unusually high this fall. More than 35 Bristle-thigheds were counted late Oct (KP, MO). A tally of 47 birds 24 Nov (KP) is the highest count ever recorded in the main islands. A Whimbrel of the Siberian subspecies *variegatus* was observed 28 Aug and 10 Sep around Kii (PD). A Whimbrel spotted at Kii 26 Nov was reported to be of the North American subspecies *hudsonicus* (MO). A juv. Bar-tailed Godwit, uncommon in the Region, was at Pouhala 14 Oct (ph. PD). A Marbled Godwit was seen regularly at Kii Aug–13 Oct (RM, m.ob.). This is probably the same bird that appeared in w. O'ahu I. in Oct 2004, moved to Kealia on Maui I. later that fall, then re-ap-

peared at Kii on O'ahu I. in May 2005. This bird represents only the 3rd record for the Region. A juv. Red Knot, very uncommon in Hawaii, was at Kii 10 Sep (PD). A peep photographed at Ohiaipilo (ph. ADY) appears to be a Semipalmated Sandpiper—rare in the Region and even more rarely photographed here. A Curlew Sandpiper (or possibly 2) at Pouhala 18 Oct (ph. MW) was yet another rare shorebird for the Region. Up to 2 snipe were observed at Kii 17–26 Nov (KP, RM, MO, ph. TD); photographs taken on the last date show that one was a Wilson's Snipe. Both Wilson's and Common Snipe have been recorded in the Region.



Peeps are uncommon in the Hawaiian Islands, and many that are seen are not identified to species. This bird at Ohiaipilo Pond, Moloka'i Island appears to be a rare juvenile Semipalmated Sandpiper, based primarily on bill shape. Photograph by Arleone Dibben-Young.

Gulls were fairly scarce this fall. We received reports of one or 2 Laughing Gulls on O'ahu I. and Maui I. (m.ob.) and a single report of a Ring-billed Gull at Kealia 5 Oct



This rare Curlew Sandpiper was spotted at Pouhala Marsh in Waipahu on O'ahu Island on 16 October 2005. Photograph by Michael Walther.

(MN). These are the two most regular gulls in the Region. No large gulls were reported.

OWLS THROUGH PASSERINES

Native Short-eared Owls continue to be seen in good numbers on Hawai'i I., with sev-

eral daily counts over a dozen and one count of 29 on 16 Aug (H.F.T.) Six White-rumped Shammas were observed around Moloka'i I. 11–13 Nov (EV). We get few reports of White-rumpeds on Moloka'i I., but the species seems well established there (ADY). Three Greater Necklaced Laughing-thrushes were spotted at Huleia N.W.R., Kaua'i I. 21 Sep (DL). This species is seldom reported, and its status is poorly known. It is difficult to tell much about the status of other exotics believed to be relatively common but seldom reported, such as Western Meadowlark. Two meadowlarks were reported at Kukuiula, K. 22 Sep (DL), the only ones seen in three days of birding on Kaua'i I. Meadowlarks were seen again there 6 Oct (DL).

We have gotten few recent reports on the native forest birds on Kaua'i, so it was welcome news that Kaua'i 'Elepaio, 'Apapane, 'Anianiau, and Kaua'i 'Amakihi were all readily found in the Kokee area 22 Sep and 6 Oct (DL). Two 'Akeke'e were seen in Kokee 22 Sep, but none were spotted 6 Oct (DL). A juv. O'ahu 'Elepaio (Endangered) was seen along Aiea Trail, O. 11 Aug (MW). Palila (Endangered) were observed regularly at Pu'u Laau, H. Aug+ (H.F.T.), but none could be located there 26 Sep or 10 Oct (DL). 'Akiapolaau (Endangered), Hawaii Creepers (Endangered), and 'Akepa (Endangered) continue to be reported regularly by tour groups visiting Hakalau and Pu'u 'O'o Ranch, H. (H.F.T.) but with few details on locations or numbers. There is concern about the declining population of 'Akepa on Hawai'i I., so it was good to get a report of several at Hakalau 9 Oct (DL). Three 'Akohekohe were observed at Waikamoi 13 Sep, along with 15 Maui 'Alauahio (CP). No Maui Parrotbills were reported this fall.

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