

Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were at Blue Shark G.C. 9 Apr (PD, LL, LH) and one at Gladstone Rd, Agricultural Center 20 Apr (PD, TH). Six Blue Grosbeaks were reported at Preacher's Cave, Eleuthera 19 Apr (JT), and 6 were at Gladstone Rd. Agricultural Center 20 Apr (PD, TH). In Bermuda, a Dickcissel was at Ireland I. 12 Mar (WF). Two Bobolinks were at Stokes Point Nature Reserve, Bermuda 1 May (DBW). The highest count of Bobolinks this spring was 180 on Grand Bahama 12 May (BP). The endemic Tawny-shouldered Blackbird and Cuban Blackbirds were noted at Hotel Mirador grounds at San Diego de los Baños, Cuba 19 Mar (WS, JSp, C.R.S.). A Brown-headed Cowbird was at Spittal Pond, Bermuda 5-6 May (DW). The Bahamas Oriole, recently designated a full species by the American Ornithologists' Union, is found only on Andros, where Lloyd and Slater reported that it is "one of the most abundant species in human-modified habitats." A Baltimore Oriole was at Gladstone Rd. Agricultural Center 20 Apr (PD, TH).

**Addenda:** The fall 2009 report missed incorporating the following records from Vieques, Puerto Rico (all DG). Puerto Rican Woodpeckers were scarce at Vieques during fall 2009. Three Bridled Quail-Doves were noted on Mt. Pirata 3 Nov. A possible first-winter Mourning Warbler was observed 31 Oct at Bahía Salina del Sur; the only previous record for Vieques was a sighting in 1935 by Stuart Danforth in the same area and at the same time of year. Other very uncommon species (fewer than five total records) noted on Vieques in fall 2009 include: Mourning Dove

near Isabel Secunda 30 Oct (2nd fall record); Yellow-throated Vireo on Mt. Pirata 3 Nov (5th island record and 2nd for the fall, establishing the earliest arrival date); Western Palm Warbler at Puerto Ferro 5 Nov; Worm-eating Warbler on Mt. Pirata 3 Nov (5th island record and a 2nd fall record); single Yellow-rumped Warblers 1 & 3 Nov at Kiani Wetlands Complex (2nd and 3rd fall records); Prothonotary Warbler at Kiani Wetlands Complex 1 Nov (2nd fall record); Hooded Warbler at Kiani Wetlands Complex 1 Nov and another on Mt. Pirata 3 Nov (4th and 5th fall records). The fall 2009 report also missed incorporating the following reports from St. Croix: a Snowy Plover at West End Salt Pond 14 Aug (CB, LY, CL, JV); a Blue-winged Warbler at Sugar Bay 30 Oct (LY, CB); a Black-throated Green Warbler at Creque Dam Res. 9 Oct (LY, CB), with another near Southgate Pond 12 Oct (CB); a Prothonotary Warbler at Sugar Bay 30 Oct (CB, LY); an Ovenbird at Estate Windsor 13 Oct (CB); 3 Hooded Warblers near Carambola G.C. 27 Oct (LY, CB), plus singles at Estate Brookshill 1 Nov (CB) and Estate Jolly Hill 2 Nov (LY).

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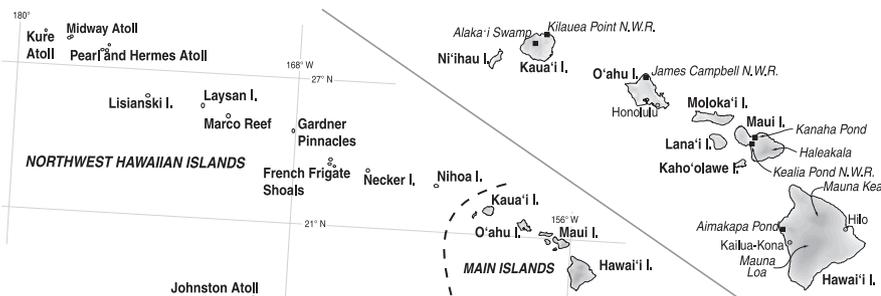
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## Hawaiian Islands



**Peter Donaldson**

This was an especially interesting spring in the Region, mainly due to an unusual number of pelagic observations.

Weather was relatively uneventful, with trade winds dominating almost all of the season. There were brief periods of heavy showers, but some areas, especially on the leeward sides of Maui Island and Hawaii Island, con-

tinue to suffer from extreme to exceptional drought conditions.

### WATERFOWL THROUGH TERNS

Migrant waterfowl numbers through the spring remained low by historical standards, and as usual, most migrant waterfowl had departed by early May. The most common migrant ducks in the Region are Northern Shoveler and Northern Pintail. The last shovelers were 6 at the Honouliuli unit of Pearl Harbor N.W.R., Oahu I. 25 Apr (KP); the last pintail reported was one at Kealia Pond N.W.R., Maui I. 17 May (EB). These are typical dates. A few unusual species turned up, including 3 Canvasbacks

in a stock pond in cen. Hawaii I. 3 Mar (BS) and a Hooded Merganser at Waiakea Pond, Hawaii I. 4 Mar (BS) The Canvasbacks presumably migrated to the islands during the fall but remained undetected until spring. The Hooded Merganser was probably the same individual reported during the previous winter. Canvasbacks are rare but regular, and Hooded Mergansers are quite rare in the Region. Two California Quail were photographed in the Polipoli area of Maui 5 May (F&KS). California Quail are believed to be established on the island but are very rarely reported.

Mottled Petrels appear to be one of the most regular of the migrant *Pterodroma* petrels in Hawaiian waters, but it probably helps that they are one of the most easily identified. Two Mottleds were seen off Kauai 26 Mar (DK, GA, RR et al.), and up to 9 were seen off the Kona coast of Hawaii 8-25 Apr (C.R.C., RD, MW). Around 25 Hawaiian Petrels were photographed off Kona 8-25 Apr (ph. C.R.C.), 4 were seen off Kauai 26 Mar (DK, GA, RR et al.), and one was seen between Kauai and Lehua I. 29 May (EV). A Cook's Petrel photographed off Kona 12 Apr (ph. C.R.C.) represents the first spring record for the Region. A Buller's Shearwater was photographed off Kona 10 Apr (C.R.C.), and another was observed between Lehua and Kauai 31 May (EV). Buller's are rare in the Region. Two Christmas Shearwaters were seen off ne. Oahu 11 May (EV, MW), and one was seen between Kauai and Lehua 29 May (EV). Christmas Shearwaters have been recorded nesting on Moku Manu islet off ne. Oahu and on Lehua. Newell's Shearwater is a Threatened species, so an unusually high count of 25 off Kauai 21 Apr was good news; one was seen between Kauai and Lehua 29 May (EV).

A Red-billed Tropicbird was photographed at Kilauea Point N.W.R. 8 Apr (JD, ph. MT). White-tailed and Red-tailed Tropicbirds are locally common in the Region, but Red-billeds are rare. Counts of White-faced Ibis included 5 at Kealia 14 Mar, 4 at Hanalei N.W.R. 8 Apr (JD), and single birds at Lokowaka Pond on Hawaii I. 12 Apr (JC, DL) and at the Kii unit of James Campbell N.W.R., Oahu I. (PD). White-faced Ibis have been reported regularly over the past decade or more, and their status has been the subject of much speculation. An Osprey was seen regularly at Heeia Pond in early Apr (HK). Single Peregrine Falcons were spotted at Ohiapilo Pond, Molokai I. 15 Apr (ADY) and Kealia 19 Apr (TB). Both raptors are rare but regular in the Region.

This spring, observers did an unusually good job of documenting departure dates for

migrant shorebirds, especially for Pacific Golden-Plover, which is common in residential areas in the main islands. Observers reported "their" plovers started disappearing in mid-Apr, most had left by late Apr, and only stragglers remained early May (m.ob.). Uncommon shorebirds included 2 Black-bellied Plovers at Kealia 29 Mar (MSI) and one in partial breeding plumage at Honouliuli 18 Apr (PD), a Whimbrel (subspecies *hudsonicus*) on Molokai 8 & 27 Apr (ADY), a Western Sandpiper in partial breeding plumage at Pouhala Marsh on Oahu 18 Apr (PD), a Least Sandpiper at Ohiapilo Pond on Molokai 6 Mar (JW, MW, ADY), a Curlew Sandpiper in Kahuku, Oahu 6 (MW) & 17 Apr (PD), and a Red Phalarope off Kona 18 Apr (C.R.C.) Curlew Sandpipers are rare in the Region, while the other shorebirds mentioned just above are uncommon but regular. There were 18 Long-billed Dowitchers at Honouliuli 18 Apr, a good count for this Region.

An unusually large number of gulls, 7 Laughings and 2 Ring-billeds, remained from the large group seen at Ohiapilo over the winter 5 Mar (JW, MW, ADY). By 15 Apr, only one Laughing remained there (ADY). A Laughing and a Ring-billed Gull lingered in Kahuku through at least 17 Apr (PD). Single Franklin's Gulls in partial breeding plumage were observed at Kahuku 1 May (ph. MW) and at Ohiapilo 27-28 May (ADY). Laughing and Ring-billed Gulls are two of the more common gull species in the Region, while Franklin's are regular in spring and early summer. A Caspian Tern was reported at Kealia 14 Mar 9 (MSI), and single Arctic Terns were seen off Kona 18 (C.R.C.) & 25 Apr (RD, MW). One Arctic Tern failed to complete its long migration when it crashed into a window in Kona 27 Apr (RD). Caspian Terns are rare and in the Region, whereas Arctic Terns are regular during spring migration. An unusual number of reports of Gray-backed Terns were received this season; the species nests in the main islands but is infrequently reported. Two were spotted off Kauai 26 Mar (GA, DK, RR et al.), and 8, an unusually high count, were spotted off Kauai 21 Apr (DK). One Gray-backed was seen near Moku Manu off e. Oahu 11 May (EV, MW). Two White Terns were observed off Kauai 26 Mar (GA, DK, RR et al.), and 2 were seen off Kona 13 Apr (C.R.C.). White Terns are locally common around Oahu but are uncommon elsewhere in the main islands. A Pomarine Jaeger was photographed 9 Apr (C.R.C.), 2 were photographed 17 Apr (C.R.C.), and 2 were observed 25 Apr (RD, MW)—all off Kona. Pomarines are regular in winter in the Region.

Rose-ringed Parakeets were reported to be

locally common in cen. Honolulu, with counts of 228 on 13 Mar (MO, NK) and 462 on 25 Apr (MO). Five to 6 Red-masked Parakeets were seen near Diamond Head on Oahu 21-30 Apr (SL). These two species seem to be increasing in urban Oahu.

## PASSERINES

As usual, it is difficult to determine any trends in populations and range for passerines in the islands from the scattered reports we receive. There are almost never any migrant passerines to report. Paradoxically, some of the rarest passerines are reported regularly, because birders target them, while more common species are under-reported. Palila (Endangered) were reported on several trips to Puu Laau on Hawaii, with high counts of 6 on 25 & 30 Mar (H.F.T.). A single Maui Parrotbill (Endangered) was seen at Waikamoi Preserve, Maui 17 May (EB, CP). Four Akohekohe (Endangered) were seen at Waikamoi 19 Apr (DK, CP et al.), one was seen there 5 May (CP et al.), and some were heard but not seen 12 Apr (F&KS), and 7 May (CP et al.). A dead Apapane was found dead on Kahoolawe I. 17 Mar (F&KS). This was the first Apapane ever found on this small and rather barren island, which was once used for bombing practice. Because there is only one recognized subspecies of Apapane, it has been assumed that Apapane travel between islands, but that is difficult to prove. We now have proof that at least one Apapane has made an inter-island journey. Nine Maui Alauahio were found at Hosmer Grove, Maui 24 Mar (MA), a few were heard at Polipoli Campground, Maui 5 May (F&KS), and 25 were found on a trip into Waikamoi 17 May (EB, CP). Very small numbers of Akiapolaau, Hawaii Creeper, and Akepa (all Endangered) continue to be reported regularly by tour groups and others in localized areas of Hawaii (DD, H.F.T., BR). I received many more reports of the very rare Akiapolaau than of the relatively common Maui Alauahio.

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