

da 15 Oct (GA). A Painted Bunting, furnishing the 5th record for Bermuda, was at Ferry Pt. 22 Oct (EA). On Grand Bahama, high counts of 40+ Bobolinks were noted at Reef G.C. 3 Sep and the chicken farm 4 Sep (BH, BP), and 10 were at the Treasure Cay landfill Abaco 24 Sep (EB, JHB). A **Yellow-headed Blackbird** at Tarpum Bay, Eleuthera 26 Oct–2 Nov (JDW, JW, ph. RB, ADo, SL, MR) provided the 5th record for the Bahamas.

**Addendum:** A Eurasian Collared-Dove was videotaped at Hotel Lamar, Puerto Plata City, Dominican Republic 3 Jun 2000 (vt. AS).

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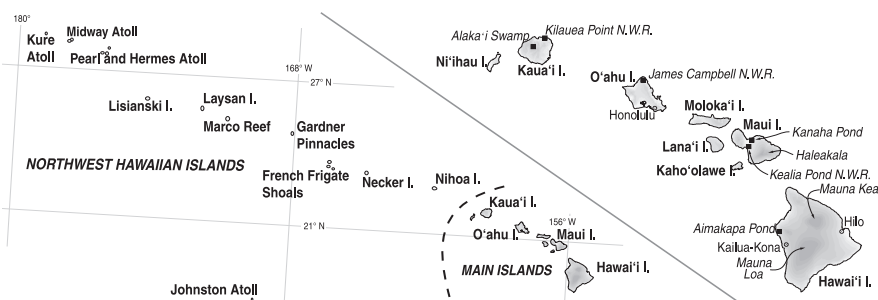
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## Hawaiian Islands



### Peter Donaldson

**H**urricane *Flossie* approached the main islands in mid-August but produced little significant weather and no obvious effects on the local avifauna. Relatively dry, summer-like weather persisted through October. The dry weather ended suddenly with flooding rains in early November. The dry weather helped concentrate migrant shorebirds, but some of the birds dispersed after the heavy rains created new wetlands. Early fall was notable for an unusual number of lingering migrants from the previous fall. The middle of the season produced a number of rare migrants, mainly shorebirds. Molokai Island had more than its share of the rare shorebirds. Observer coverage was generally pretty good, but we had few pelagic reports. A spreadsheet of seasonal observations from eBird.org provided a wealth of data on some native species, which often receive little comment from observers and contributors.

**Abbreviations:** FFS. (French Frigate Shoals Hawaiian Islands N.W.R.); H. (Hawaii I.); 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.); Kawaieie (Kawaieie Waterbird Sanctuary, Kauai I.); Kealia (Kealia Pond N.W.R., Maui I.); Kii (Kii Unit of James Campbell N.W.R., Oahu I.); Kokee (Kokee S.P., Kauai I.); K.P. (Kilauea Pt. N.W.R., Kauai I.); M.H.I. (Main Hawaiian Islands); M. (Maui I.); Midway (Midway Atoll N.W.R.); Mo. (Molokai I.); N.H.I. (Northwest Hawaiian Islands); O. (Oahu I.); Ohiapilo (Ohiapilo 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 PETRELS

Migrant waterfowl are rare in the Region late summer–early fall, but this year we had an unusual number of uncommon species that had lingered since last winter. A Greater White-fronted Goose that has been at Waiakea Pond, H. for years was still there 3 Aug (LC) and 10 Oct (DL, m.ob.). Other Greater White-fronteds, including one spotted in a field in Wahiawa, O. 11 Oct (KK) and 3 observed at Kealia 2 Nov (MN) and 21 Nov (J&AK), were probably new migrants. Greater White-fronteds are rare in the Region. A Snow Goose that arrived last year lingered

at Kealia through at least 2 Nov (MN, CP); this is the first record for a summering bird in Hawaii. We received an unusual number of Brant reports, including one of 6 at Kamalo, Mo. 9 Nov (ADY), a single bird at Kihei, M. 20 Nov (RY), 3 at Ohiapilo, one at Kamalo, Mo. 25 Nov (ADY), 2 at Kihei, M. 26 Nov (AV), and 4 at the Salt Pond in Hanapepe, K. 29 Nov (JD). Lingering migrant ducks included a Gadwall at Waiakea Pond 10 Nov (DL) and an American Wigeon at Kaunani, Mo. through at least 21 Sep (ADY). New migrant ducks started to arrive in late Se but in low numbers. The high count for Northern Shovelers was 79 at Kii 24 Nov (PD) and for Northern Pintail only 43 at Kii 13 Oct (PD). The highest count of bay ducks was a flock of 3 Ring-necked Ducks and 13 Lesser Scaup at Kualapuu Res., Mo. 6 Nov (ADY). Two Canvasbacks were observed at Kii 10 Oct+ (MO,



This female Lesser Frigatebird (here 25 October 2007) at French Frigate Shoals was later joined by two males. Although not as distinctive as the males, this photograph shows the diagnostic black throat and white axillaries that separate Lesser females from other frigatebirds. Photograph by Marie T. Medina/United States Fish and Wildlife Service.

m.ob.). Canvasbacks are uncommon in the islands. The rarest duck of the season was a

**SA** Many fledgling shearwaters and petrels never reach the sea when they first leave their nesting burrows. These birds become confused by electric lights and flop to the ground where they become victims of cars and introduced predators. This has been a particular problem on Kauai I., where Hawaiian Petrels (Endangered) and Newell's Shearwaters (Threatened) breed. The Save Our Shearwaters program was started in 1978 to rescue and release grounded birds. The rescued birds are examined and banded before release, and the data are recorded. These records provide an interesting glimpse at seabirds around Kauai. Unfortunately, the data show an apparent continued decline in Newell's Shearwater numbers. The results of the fall 2007 S.O.S. program (provided by RD) are in Table 1. Not all of the seabirds handled by the program are picked up on shore; the storm-petrels, Bulwer's Petrel, and Sooty Terns were all birds that landed on cruise ships.

Species	Total
Hawaiian Petrel	10
Newell's Shearwater	302
Band-rumped Storm-Petrel	5
Bulwer's Petrel	1
Wedge-tailed Shearwater	72
White-tailed Tropicbird	10
Brown Booby	4
Black Noddy	1
Sooty Tern	5



Bar-tailed Godwits are the most common godwits in the Hawaiian Islands region but are still quite uncommon. Few are documented as well as this second-year bird photographed along the Pearl Harbor shoreline 15 October 2007. Photograph by Michael Walther.



One of two male Lesser Frigatebirds present late October through early November 2007 at French Frigate Shoals, showing the white feathering on the flanks and axillaries that distinguish the males of this species. Photograph by Ed Conrad/United States Fish and Wildlife Service.



This 22 September 2007 image of a Hudsonian Godwit at Kii, Hawaii shows the slightly upturned bill, very unlike Black-tailed Godwit's straight bill. A few observers were able to see the diagnostic dark underwing coverts that separate Hudsonian from Black-tailed, but none of the photographs of this bird, only the second ever recorded in the Hawaiian Islands region, showed the underwings. Photograph by Peter Donaldson.

Hooded Merganser at Lokowaka Pond, H. seen only 25 Nov (ph. J&AK)

There was some good news about nesting seabirds. At Kaena Point Natural Area Reserve, O., around 2800 Wedge-tailed Shearwater nesting burrows and 1556 chicks were counted (LY)—a big increase over the past several years. The number of Wedge-tailed chicks turned in on Kauai I. has also increased. An oiled petrel turned into Sea Life Park, O. mid-Sep (EV) was difficult to identify, but was eventually determined to be a Black-winged Petrel, a species rare but regular in Hawaiian waters.

## BOOBIES THROUGH HAWKS

There were other interesting seabirds around besides tubenoses. A Masked Booby was spotted in early Aug off the w. coast of Hawaii I., an area where this species is rarely seen. A Nazca Booby was observed on F.F.S. early Sep—late Oct (ph. MB, EC, MM, MY, DZ), the 3rd recent record for the Region. It seems a bit surprising that this newly described species is being reported regularly so far from its main breeding range in South America. Lesser Frigatebirds were observed on F.F.S., beginning with one female 23 Oct. Two males joined the female 24 Oct—11 Nov. One male remained 11 Nov+ (ph. MB, EC, MM, MY).

White-faced Ibis remained scattered across the M.H.I. Aug+ (m.ob.). Most of the White-faces were at locations where they have been observed regularly, but one at Lokowaka Pond 25 Nov (J&AK) may be the first for that location. An Osprey was spotted in w. Hawaii I. 1 Sep (RD). There were many reports of an Osprey on Oahu I. 23 Sep+ (PD, m.ob.). A Northern Harrier was observed at Honouliuli in late Sep (MS, RM, PD), and one, quite possibly the same bird, was at Kii 10 Oct—17 Nov (MO, m.ob.).

## SHOREBIRDS

As usual, numbers of migrant shorebirds ramped up rapidly in Aug, with a count of 330 Pacific Golden-Plovers at Honouliuli 27 Aug (PD). Pacific Golden-Plover is the most widespread and abundant migrant shorebird in the Region. A Gray-tailed Tattler at Ohiapilo mid—30 Sep (†ADY) was a rare find; the species is seldom reported in the M.H.I., but since Gray-tailed and Wandering Tattlers are so similar, some Gray-taileds may be overlooked. An *Actitis* sandpiper, either Common or Spotted, was seen on F.F.S. in early Aug (MP). Spotted Sandpiper has been confirmed once previously at F.F.S., whereas other records from the N.H.I. could have pertained to either Spotted or Common Sandpipers, the



A Semipalmated Sandpiper was nicely photographed 17 August 2007 at Ohiapilo on Molokai Island, Hawaii. Semipalmated Sandpipers are rare in the Region, and very few "peeps" are photographically documented in Hawaii. Photograph by Michael Walther.

latter as yet unconfirmed from the Region. A godwit spotted at Kii 13 Sep (ph., MS) was later identified as a Hudsonian Godwit (ph. PD, m.ob.); it remained at Kii through at least 3 Oct. There is only one previous record of Hudsonian for the Region, plus one record of a godwit that could have been either a Hudsonian or a Black-tailed. A Bar-tailed Godwit, a one-legged bird, was spotted at Honouliuli 15 Oct (ph. MW) and remained in the area through 30 Oct (MW, MO, MS). Two juv. Bar-taileds found at Kii 28 Oct (BH, KP) lingered through at least 17 Nov (m.ob.). Bar-tailed Godwits are rare but regular in the Region. A Red Knot was spotted at Ohiapilo 18 Oct (ph. ADY) and remained in the area Oct+ (ADY); Red Knots are rare in the Region, and this was the first report from Molokai I. Another rare sandpiper on Molokai I. was a juv. Semipalmated Sandpiper discovered 6 Sep at Ohiapilo (ph. MW, ADY); it remained through at least 16 Sep (ADY). Sharp-tailed Sandpipers were widespread and showed up in good



The rarest duck of the fall 2007 season in the Hawaiian Islands region was this female Hooded Merganser photographed at Lokowaka Pond, Hawaii Island 25 November. It was fortunate the bird was photographed that day, as it was never seen again. Photograph by Jon King.



A House Finch photographed on tiny Sand Island, French Frigate Shoals 17 September 2007 required some careful study to identify it, as Asian vagrants have also been recorded in the vicinity. Photograph by Ed Conrad/United States Fish and Wildlife Service.



Whimbrels are much less common than Bristle-thighed Curlews in the Hawaiian Islands. This Whimbrel on the southwestern coast of Oahu Island 15 August 2007 was cooperative enough to allow some excellent photographs that show the subtle features that separate the two species. Note the dull brown upperparts with small pale spots and the lack of spiky thigh feathers. Photograph by Michael Walther.

was observed to have a brown rump, so it must have been a North American bird (formerly known as Hudsonian Curlew or Hudsonian Whimbrel) (BJ); another remained at Koheo, Mo. 25 Oct+ (ADY). Whimbrels are much less common in this Region than Bristle-thighed Curlews—unlike almost anywhere else in the world—and there are no previous records from Molokai I. Bristle-thigheds were present in good numbers on Oahu and Molokai I., with a high count of 53 at Kii 20 Oct (RM, PD). Single Ruffs were seen at Kealia 14 Aug (AB) and Kii 19 Sep (MS). A single male Ruff at Ohiapilo 3 Sep was joined by a female Ruff 5 Sep (ph. ADY) and then a 2nd male 11 Nov (ph., ADY). The 3 Ruffs remained in the Ohiapilo area Nov+ (ADY, m.ob.). Ruffs are uncommon in the Region, and there is only one previous record from Molokai.

## GULLS THROUGH PASSERINES

Gulls were generally scarce through the fall. Single Laughing Gulls were seen at various spots on Oahu and Molokai I Aug+ (m.ob.). A Ring-billed Gull was observed at Kii 27 Oct (MO), and 2 were at Honouliuli 25 Nov (PD). A Franklin's Gull was seen offshore from w. Hawaii I. 13 Aug (ph. RB), and one was observed at Kealia in mid-Aug (MN). Franklin's are regular in the Region late spring–early summer but are quite rare otherwise. Two Common Terns were observed at FFS. 8 Aug–17 Sep, and one continued there through 14 Oct (ph. MB, EC, MM, MY). A Least or Little Tern was found at Kealia 15 Aug (MN), and a subad. Least Tern was seen



This Red Knot at Ohiapilo 18 October 2007 (here) and later was one of a number of rare shorebirds on Molokai Island, Hawaii this fall. Photograph by Arleone Dibben-Young.

This was a good fall for unusual shorebirds on Molokai Island, Hawaii. Three Ruffs, two males and a female, were observed regularly in Molokai wetlands. This photograph from Ohiapilo 6 November 2007 shows one of the males. Ruffs are regular in the Region, but it is rare to see three together. Photograph by Arleone Dibben-Young.

numbers this fall (m.ob.). The high count was of 25 birds at Kii 27 Oct (MO). A Curlew Sandpiper was observed at Honouliuli 23 Sep (PD), and one was seen there 23 Oct (ph., MW). A large shorebird spotted 14 Aug at Maile Beach Park, O. was identified 15 Aug as a Whimbrel (ph. MW). On 10 Oct, the bird

at Honouliuli 23 Sep (PD). Both Least and Common Terns are regular in the Region, but Least Terns are reported more frequently in the M.H.I. than Commons. A Mourning Dove was seen in e. Molokai I. 4 Nov (WDR). The represents the first record for Molokai I.

The Greater Necklaced Laughing-Thrush is an elusive introduced babbler. In this Region, it is found only on Kauai I. One observer was lucky enough to spot one at Hanalei in n. Kauai 31 Aug and then find 5 more at Huleia in s. Kauai 1 Sep (ph. MW). House

Finches are widespread and abundant in the M.H.I., but a female on FFS. 7 Sep–2 Nov (ph. EC, MY) represents only the 3rd record for the N.H.I. This location is 650 km from the main islands. There are two small islands between FFS. and Niihau, the closest of the main islands.

Reviewing reports of native Hawaiian

passerines can be a strange experience. Some of these species are extremely rare, yet are reported regularly. Others species are apparently still relatively common yet rarely reported. Birders (and birding tour companies) obviously target the rarer species. We had only a few reports of any of the Kauai natives. Kauai Amakihi were reported 17 Aug (JD) and 3 Oct (one bird; DL) in Kokee and in Waimea Canyon 6 Nov (PF). One Anianiau was reported in Kokee 3 Oct (DL). Two Akekee were observed 17 Aug (JD). Kauai Amakihi and Anianiau are believed to be relatively common in Kokee, while Akekee have become rare. Palila (Endangered) were found regularly at Puu Laau, H. Aug+ (H.F.T., DL), but most reports gave little information on abundance. The Akiapolaau (Endangered) is a rare Hawaii endemic, but we received no fewer than 26 reports (BR, DL, DK, H.F.T., m.ob.)! It is encouraging that observers are able to find this species fairly regularly. We also received a number of reports of Hawaii Creepers and Akepa (both Endangered) Aug+ mainly from tour groups at Hakalau (H.F.T., m.ob.). The only report of more than a single Hawaii Creeper was of several at Hakalau 7 Oct (DL). Only a few Hawaii Creepers and Akepa were reported elsewhere in cen. Hawaii I. Aug+ (BR). Reports of Maui endemics have been very sparse since Waikamoi has been closed due to a program to control feral ungulates. However, one of the rare Maui forest birds, the Akohekohe (Endangered), was very accommodating, remaining in view for over an hour at Hosmer Grove 1 Oct (ph. VG, RT).

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