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Summer is the dry season for the Region, but several weather systems brought some relief from a continuing drought. A trough aloft produced heavy rain over wind Oahu Island in mid-June, and the remnant of Hurricane *Elida* produced heavy rain over Maui and Hawaii Islands in late July. Summer usually brings few unusual species, but we did get reports of unusual summering waterfowl, and as migrant shorebirds arrived late in the season, a few rare ones were noted.

WATERFOWL THROUGH SHOREBIRDS

A Greater White-fronted Goose was observed at Midway Atoll N.W.R. 30 May–14 Jun (ph. F&KS), and one was at Honouliuli 18 Jun and 7 Jul (ph. MW). Greater White-fronteds are rare in the Region and very rare in summer. An American Wigeon lingered at Kaulakakai, Molokai I. 10-18 Jun (ADY). A Northern Pintail was spotted at Koolina G.C., Oahu I. 20 Jul (ph. MW). American Wigeon and Northern Pintails are regular fall–spring visitors but rare in summer in the Region. A recently dead Newell's Shearwater (Threatened) found in Hualalai, Hawaii I. 4 Jun (KU) was very unusual for that location. A Red-billed Tropicbird was observed at Lehua I., just n. of Ni'ihau I. 13 Jun (ph. LY, BZ, MWy, JK). Red-billeds have been historically rare in the Region but have been reported regularly for the past few years. Three Red-tailed Trop-

icbirds were spotted at Kahuku, Oahu I. 26 Jul (PD). Red-taileds are regular on Oahu but rarely reported from Kahuku despite frequent visits by birders. The only White-faced Ibis reported over the summer was one at Kealia Pond N.W.R., Maui I. 24 Jul (MN).

Twenty-one Pacific Golden-Plovers counted at Pouhala Marsh, Oahu I. 21 Jun (PD) were in basic plumage and probably summering birds. Shorebird numbers climbed rapidly in late Jul, with counts of 143 Pacific Golden-Plovers at the Honouliuli Unit of Pearl Harbor N.W.R., Oahu I. 27 Jul (PD) and 320 at the same location 30 Jul (PD, RM). Summering Bristle-thighed Curlews were scarce. Two Bristle-thigheds were seen at Palaauiwai,



Laysan Ducks are found only in the remote Northwestern Hawaiian Islands, but they have become a bit easier to see and photograph since a number of them were translocated from their native Laysan Island to Midway Atoll National Wildlife Refuge (here 7 June 2008). *Photograph by Forest and Kim Starr.*



Gadfly petrels are always difficult to photograph, but rarer species, like this Hawaiian Petrel off the Kona coast of Hawaii Island, are a special challenge (here 8 July 2008). *Photograph by Daniel Webster/Cascadia Research Collective.*



Newell's Shearwaters are uncommon anywhere, but this individual was seen off the Kona coast of Hawaii Island, where they are reported very rarely (here 26 June 2008.) *Photograph by Daniel Webster/Cascadia Research Collective.*



Peeps are uncommon at best in Hawaii, and most species are rare. A photograph of two different rare peeps together—an adult Red-necked Stint and a juvenile Semipalmated Sandpiper at Ohiaipilo on Molokai Island 27 July 2008—is thus truly exceptional. *Photograph by Arleone Dibben-Young.*



A population of Common Canaries has thrived on Midway Atoll National Wildlife Refuge far from the pet shops where their ancestors were sold and even farther from their native islands in the North Atlantic (here 1 June 2008). *Photograph by Forest and Kim Starr.*

SA The only pelagic observations reported this season were from the cetacean researchers with Cascadia Research Collective (C.R.C.). The crew operated near Kauai I. 22-28 Jun and off the Kona coast of Hawaii I. Jul. The Collective had a banner day off Kona 9 Jul, with 18 Hawaiian Petrels, 4 Bulwer's Petrels, 2 unidentified petrels, around 86 Wedge-tailed Shearwaters, 4 White-tailed Tropicbirds, 4 Brown Boobies, 3 subad. Red-footed Boobies, a Great Frigatebird, 4 Sooty Terns, and 2 South Polar Skuas. One Newell's Shearwater was observed 8 Jul.



South Polar Skuas are rare in Hawaiian waters and can be difficult to separate from dark Pomarine Jaegers, particularly at a distance. Photographs like this one of a South Polar Skua off the Kona coast of Hawaii Island are invaluable for documentation. Photograph by Annie B. Douglas/Cascadia Research Collective.

Molokai I. 18 Jun (ADY). A Bristle-thighed at Koheo, Molokai I. 1 Jul (ADY) was probably a newly arrived migrant. Among the newly arriving shorebirds at Ohiapilo Pond, Molokai I. were two unusual peeps: a Semipalmated Sandpiper 24-29 Jul (ph. ADY, ML, MW) and a Red-necked Stint 25 Jul (ph. ADY).

GULLS THROUGH PASSERINES

Only two gulls were reported over the summer, single ad. Franklin's Gulls at Midway Atoll N.W.R. 30 May-14 Jun (F&KS) and French Frigate Shoals, Hawaiian Islands N.W.R. 5 May-16 Jun (LT, MM, GN). Gulls in the Region are reported most frequently fall-spring, and most are subads., but Franklin's Gulls are reported most frequently late spring-early summer, and most are ads. in alternate plumage. A Common Tern, rare in the Region, was spotted at Hanapepe Salt Pond, Kauai I. 11 Jul (DK) and photographed there 26 Jul (JD). The identification of an incubating tern photographed on Midway Atoll N.W.R. 5 Jun (ph. F&KS) has been controversial. The tern was in a colony with Sooty and Gray-backed Terns, and its back color



Sooty Terns (left) and Gray-backed Terns nest in large, crowded colonies at Midway Atoll, Hawaii. These photographs are provided for comparison with the possible hybrid tern (below). Photographs by Forest and Kim Starr.



This incubating tern photographed on Midway Atoll National Wildlife Refuge 5 June 2008 showed a back color intermediate between the mid-gray of the Gray-backed Terns and the black of the Sooty Terns. The bird seemed a good candidate for the first record of Bridled Tern in Hawaii, but the black-and-white pattern on the forehead matches that of a Sooty much better than that of a Gray-backed, and the bill is rather thick and heavy for a Gray-backed. Expert opinion leans toward a Sooty Tern \times Gray-backed Tern hybrid. Photograph by Forest and Kim Starr.

was intermediate between the mid-gray of the Gray-backed Terns and the black of the Sooty Terns. The most likely possibilities seem to be either Bridled Tern or some sort of hybrid. Bridled Tern is unrecorded in the Region. A report of a Saffron Finch captured at Kekaha, Kauai I. (BM) suggests this exotic may be expanding its range on Kauai I. The most interesting native passerine reported was a Maui Parrotbill (Endangered) observed at Waikamoi 8 Jun (ph. MW).

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