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SECOND REPORT OF THE HAWAII BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE

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ABSTRACT: This is the second report of the Hawaii Bird Records Committee (HBRC). From 2019 to 2024, the HBRC reviewed 37 reports involving 29 bird species, of which 34 reports of 26 species were accepted, two were rejected, and one required recirculation and is still under review. The accepted reports included 15 species new to the Hawaiian Islands, eight second records, one third record, and one sixth record. Two more species were added because of splits to taxa that had been recorded previously. Through 2024, the Hawaiian Islands bird checklist includes 355 species.

The Hawaii Bird Records Committee (HBRC) was formed in 2014 to provide a formal venue and standard protocol for reviewing bird reports in the Hawaiian Islands and to maintain the Hawaiian Islands bird checklist (VanderWerf et al. 2017). The HBRC consists of seven members and is an official committee of the Western Field Ornithologists. The first report of the HBRC was published in *Western Birds* in 2018 (VanderWerf et al. 2018). Prior to formation of the HBRC, Robert Pyle and Peter Pyle served as the *de facto* records committee and maintained the Hawaiian Islands bird checklist (Pyle and Pyle 2017), which has been updated to follow the HBRC's decisions through 2017.

The committee considers the Hawaiian Islands to include all islands that are part of the state of Hawaii plus Midway Atoll (which is part of the Hawaiian Archipelago but is an unincorporated territory of the United States and not part of the state) and all surrounding waters within the U.S. exclusive economic zone, which extends 370.4 km (200 nautical miles) from the coast of the Hawaiian Islands (Figure 1). The Hawaiian Islands bird checklist includes all bird species known to have occurred naturally in this area and

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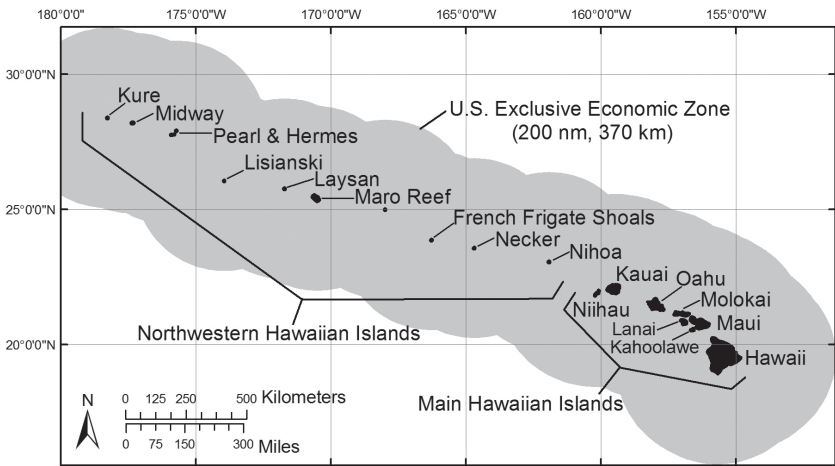


FIGURE 1. Hawaiian Islands, including the U.S. Exclusive Economic Zone (gray shading). All islands shown are part of the state of Hawaii except Midway, which is an unincorporated territory of the United States.

species introduced by humans that have established viable breeding populations in the wild with stable or increasing populations. It includes endemic species that have become extinct since the arrival of Europeans in 1778 and introduced species that once had established breeding populations but are now extirpated, but it does not include species that are known only from fossil or subfossil remains.

A report was accepted if all or all but one member voted in favor of accepting the report (7/0 or 6/1). A report was rejected if it received four or more votes against acceptance (3/4 to 0/7). Reports that received two or three votes against acceptance (5/2 or 4/3) were recirculated for up to three additional rounds of voting until a final decision was reached.

From 2019 to 2024, the HBRC reviewed 37 reports involving 29 species, of which 34 reports of 26 species were accepted, two were rejected, and one required recirculation and is still under review. The accepted reports include 15 species new to the Hawaiian Islands, eight second records, one third record, and one sixth record. Two species were added as a result of taxonomic splits. The new species for the Hawaiian Islands were the Eastern Spot-billed Duck (*Anas zonorhyncha*), Purple Gallinule (*Porphyrio martinicus*), Northern Lapwing (*Vanellus vanellus*), Little Ringed Plover (*Charadrius dubius*), Temminck's Stint (*Calidris temminckii*), Jack Snipe (*Lymnocyptes minimus*), Ross's Gull (*Rhodostethia rosea*), Iceland (Thayer's) Gull (*Larus glaucooides thayeri*), Inca Tern (*Larosterna inca*), Ainley's Storm-Petrel (*Hydrobates cheimomnestes*), Magnificent Frigatebird (*Fregata magnificens*), Rosy-faced Lovebird (*Agapornis roseicollis*), Bohemian Waxwing (*Bombycilla garrulus*), White Wagtail (*Motacilla alba*), and Rustic Bunting (*Emberiza rustica*). Fourteen of these species are vagrants or nonbreeding visitors, while the non-native Rosy-faced Lovebird was accepted on the basis of establishment of a population.

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The HBRC accepted records of the Common Gull (*Larus canus*) and Short-billed Gull (*Larus brachyrhynchus*), both of which had been recorded previously as the Mew Gull (Pyle and Pyle 2017)—the recent split of these species (Chesser et al. 2021) resulted in the addition of one species. The split of the Cocos Booby (*Sula brewsteri*) from the Brown Booby (*S. leucogaster*), in response to a proposal submitted by VanderWerf, also resulted in an additional species for the Hawaii list. *Sula leucogaster* is the common form in the central Pacific, but *S. brewsteri* has been recorded with increasing frequency in the last few decades and is breeding in several locations in the Hawaiian Islands (VanderWerf et al. 2023).

Species recorded for the second time included the Baikal Teal (*Sibirionetta formosa*), Elegant Tern (*Thalasseus elegans*), White-winged Tern (*Chlidonias leucopterus*), Ancient Murrelet (*Synthliboramphus antiquus*), American Bittern (*Botaurus lentiginosus*), Gray Heron (*Ardea cinerea*), White Wagtail (first record mentioned above), and Siberian Pipit (*Anthus japonicus*), which previously had been accepted as a subspecies of the American Pipit (*A. rubescens*). The Black-winged Stilt (*Himantopus himantopus*) was recorded for the third time and the Snow Bunting (*Plectrophenax nivalis*) for the sixth time. The HBRC also reviewed a report of the American Pipit from Kauai, which, following the split from the Siberian Pipit (Chesser et al. 2024), would be new to the Hawaiian Islands, but the report required recirculation and a decision has not yet been reached.

The HBRC reviewed and rejected a report of a Glossy Ibis (*Plegadis falcinellus*) on Hawaii Island in October 2017, which most committee members judged to be an immature White-faced Ibis (*P. chihi*), and a Common Sandpiper (*Actitis hypoleucos*) reported on Kure in September 2022, which almost all members agreed was a Spotted Sandpiper (*A. macularius*).

The Hawaiian Islands bird list includes 355 species as of 2024. Of these 355 species, 105 have not been reported elsewhere in the American Birding Association area. At <https://eBird.org>, only 294 species are listed as having been reported in the state of Hawaii, which is the lowest species total of any U.S. state. There are three reasons for the discrepancy between this number and the number of species on the HBRC's list: (1) 15 species have been reported only on Midway, which is not part of the state of Hawaii; (2) 23 extinct endemic species have never been reported in eBird; (3) older records of vagrants were not entered in eBird.

SPECIES ACCOUNTS

The accounts below include all species reviewed and accepted by the HBRC from 2019 through 2024. The decision about each species is given immediately after the species name, followed in parentheses by the votes for/against during each round of voting and the HBRC's review number.

BAIKAL TEAL *Sibirionetta formosa*. Second record accepted (7/0; HI2021-002). A male was observed on Midway Atoll 11 February 2021 to 26 March 2021 (Figure 2). Males of this species are very distinctive, and there was no debate about the identification. The only previous record in Hawaii was of a male at Hanalei National Wildlife Refuge, Kauai, from December 2002 to March 2003 (Pyle and Pyle 2017).

EASTERN SPOT-BILLED DUCK *Anas zonorhyncha*. New species accepted (7/0;

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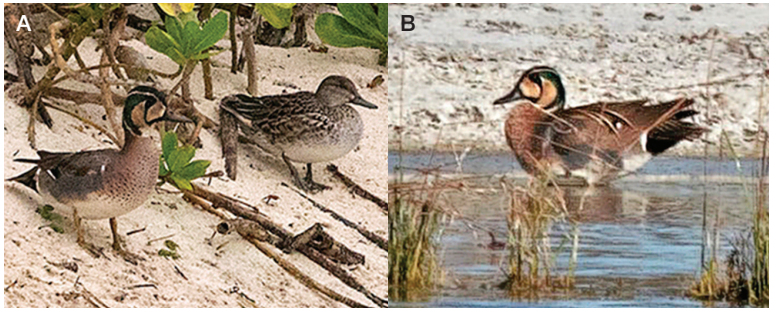


FIGURE 2. Male Baikal Teal, Midway Atoll. (A), with female Garganey (*Spatula querquedula*), 12 February 2021; (B), 26 March 2021.

Photos by Eric VanderWerf (A), Jonathan Plissner (B)

HI2023-002). A single bird was on Kure Atoll from at least 14 February to 13 March 2023. It was first observed and reported as this species by Tiana Bolosan, a biologist with the Hawaii Division of Forestry and Wildlife, who was stationed on Kure at the time. It was reported to be shy and difficult to approach; photographs were obtained only by an automated trail camera placed at a water source (Figure 3). Alaska records from Adak (Gibson and Byrd 2007) and Kodiak (Trapp and MacIntosh 1978) are the only ones farther east than Kure.

PURPLE GALLINULE *Porphyrio martinicus*. New species accepted (6/1; HI2018-001). A single bird was in a taro field at Waihee, west Maui, from 2 February to May or June 2018. It was first observed by a taro farmer who requested anonymity but reported the bird to biologists with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Hawaii Division of Forestry and Wildlife. The farmer was protective of the bird and did not want it to be disturbed. VanderWerf was invited to confirm the identifica-



FIGURE 3. Eastern Spot-billed Duck, Kure Atoll, photographed by an automated camera on 12 March 2023.

Photo provided by Tiana Bolosan



FIGURE 4. Purple Gallinule, Waihee, Maui, 26 February 2018. The dull color of the bill and the brown feathers on the head, neck, and back indicate it was a first-year bird.

Photo by Eric VanderWerf

tion and take photographs for documentation on 26 February 2018 (Figure 4). The dull color of the bill and brown feathers on the head, neck, and back indicate it was a first-year bird. It was last observed by the taro farmer but the exact date is not known. The one dissenting committee member questioned the natural occurrence of the bird, though no unusual feather wear or marks on the legs suggested it had been held in captivity. Northern populations of the Purple Gallinule are migratory, and the species is well known for its vagrancy, having reached remote islands in the Atlantic and Pacific and frequently crossing the Atlantic Ocean (West and Hess 2020). This record is the most remote yet in the Pacific.

BLACK-WINGED STILT *Himantopus himantopus*. Third record accepted (6/1; HI2020-002). A single bird was at the water catchment on Midway Atoll from 18 to 26 April 2020 (Figure 5). The one dissenting member remarked that it appeared to be a typical Black-winged Stilt, adding that the taxonomy of the Black-winged and Black-necked Stilt (*H. mexicanus*) complex is confusing, with intergradation among the populations. The two previous Black-winged Stilts were on Kure 20–30 May 2002 and Midway 2–3 May 1992 (Pyle and Pyle 2017), perhaps establishing a pattern of vagrancy to the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands in the northward spring migration.

NORTHERN LAPWING *Vanellus vanellus*. New species accepted (7/0; HI2023-003). A single bird was on Midway Atoll from 25 April to 9 May 2023 (Figure 6). Committee members made few comments about the identification of this distinctive species. A fall specimen from Shemya Island, Alaska, represents the only other record so far east of this Eurasian species' normal range (Schwitters 2007).

LITTLE RINGED PLOVER *Charadrius dubius*. New species accepted (7/0; HI2018-004). A single bird was on Midway Atoll from 28 March to 2 April 2017 (Figure 7). It was an adult by the uniform wing coverts all representing the basic plumage (first-year birds have some contrastingly worn juvenile coverts) and a

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FIGURE 5. Black-winged Stilt, Midway Atoll, 19 April 2020.

Photo by Jonathan Plissner

female by the lack of a full black mask. This record is the easternmost of the Little Ringed Plover, as in Alaska the species has been recorded only in the western Aleutians (Gibson and Withrow 2015).

TEMMINCK'S STINT *Calidris temminckii*. New species accepted (7/0; HI2024-002). A juvenile was on Midway from 17 to 22 August 2024 (Figure 8). Members commented that the most important identifying character was the white outer tail feathers, which are visible in one of the photos and are not found in any other stint. Other features consistent with Temminck's are the dull olive leg color, gray breast,



FIGURE 6. Northern Lapwing, Midway Atoll, 25 April 2023.

Photo by Jonathan Plissner



FIGURE 7. Little Ringed Plover, Midway Atoll, 2 April 2017.

Photo by Jonathan Plissner

fairly long wings and tail, somewhat short legs, and pale supercilium. This Asian species occurs casually in Alaska (Gibson and Withrow 2015), but farther east there are only two records for British Columbia (Toochin and Cecile 2024) and one for Washington (Aanerud 2011).

JACK SNIPE *Lymnocyptes minimus*. New species accepted (7/0; HI2024-003). A single bird was on Midway Atoll from 5 to 14 October 2024 (Figure 9). It was identified by a combination of the relatively short bill, white trailing edge to the secondaries, strong longitudinal stripes above, and small size reported by the observers. Though this is the first record of the Jack Snipe from the Hawaiian Islands, this Eurasian species has been previously reported from Alaska (Gibson and Withrow 2015), Washington (one sight record, Tweit and Skriletz 1996), and California (two specimens, Hamilton et al. 2007).

ROSS'S GULL *Rhodostethia rosea*. New species accepted (6/1; HI2020-001). A single bird was observed flying just offshore from Kure Atoll on 1 January 2020 (Figure 10). It was in its second winter, completing a second prebasic molt, with juvenile outer primaries remaining. The one dissenting member thought that a Little Gull (*Hydrocoloeus minutus*) could not be ruled out because the head pattern was difficult to see in the photos, but the long and wedge-shaped tail allowed confirma-

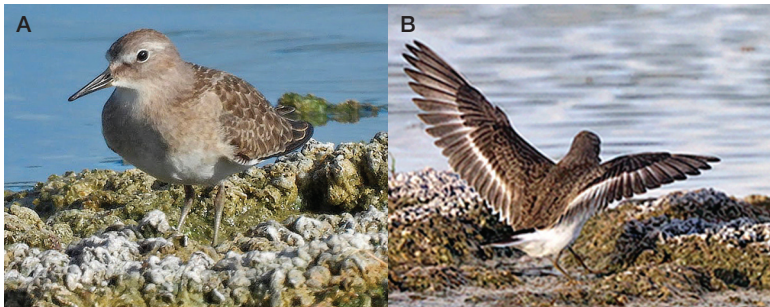


FIGURE 8. Temminck's Stint, Midway Atoll, 20 August 2024.

Photos by Chris Forster (A), Jonathan Plissner (B)

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FIGURE 9. Jack Snipe, Midway Atoll, 10 October 2024.

Photo by Jonathan Plissner

tion as Ross's Gull. This record is by far the southernmost of Ross's Gull, surpassing the previous southernmost record from the Salton Sea, California (McCaskie 2007).

COMMON GULL *Larus canus*. New species resulting from taxonomic split, six records accepted (7-0, HBRC 1963-001; 7-0, HBRC 2015-003; 7-0, HBRC 2015-004; 6/1, HBRC 2016-001; 7-0, HBRC 2016-002; 7-0, HBRC 2017-004). There were six records of the Mew Gull in the Hawaiian Islands through 2016, of which five on Kure and Midway were thought to be of subspecies *kamtschatschensis* of the, now, Common Gull (Pyle and Pyle 2017). The HBRC reviewed the five reports in Pyle and Pyle (2017), plus an additional more recent report from Kauai, and accepted all six of them, with locations and dates as follows: (1) Kure Atoll, 22 February 1963; (2) Kure Atoll, first-year bird, 31 October–2 December 2015; (3) Kure Atoll and Midway Atoll, adult, 31 October 2015 on Kure and what was considered the same bird 5 November 2015 on Midway; (4) Midway Atoll, first-year bird, 6 November to end of 2016; (5) Midway Atoll, first-year bird, found dead (specimen apparently not saved), 15 November 2016; and (6) Pacific Missile Range Facility, Kauai, 12 January 2017 (Figure 11).



FIGURE 10. Ross's Gull flying with Brown Noddies (*Anous stolidus*), Kure Atoll, 1 January 2020.

Photo by Andy Sullivan

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FIGURE 11. First-year Common Gull, Pacific Missile Range Facility, Kauai, 12 January 2017.

Photo by Eric VanderWerf

SHORT-BILLED GULL *Larus brachyrhynchus*. New species resulting from taxonomic split, three records accepted (7-0, HBRC 2015-001; 7-0, HBRC 2015-002; 7-0, HBRC 2023-007). Through 2016, Hawaii had one record of subspecies *brachyrhynchus* of the Mew Gull (Pyle and Pyle 2017), which now resumes the name Short-billed Gull. The HBRC reviewed that record and two other reports, and accepted all three, with locations and dates as follows: (1) Honouliuli National Wildlife Refuge, Oahu, 1 January to 6 April 2015 (Figure 12A); (2) Pacific Missile Range Facility, Kauai, 15 December 2015 (Figure 12B); (3) Keauhou Beach, Kona, Hawaii Island, 23 October 2023. Presumably the same individual in Kona was subsequently seen and photographed at several nearby locations by numerous observers in November and December 2023, after the HBRC had concluded its review.

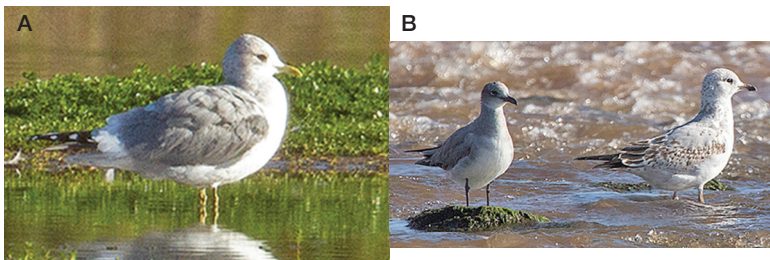


FIGURE 12. (A), adult Short-billed Gull, Honouliuli National Wildlife Refuge, Oahu, 4 January 2015; (B), first-year Short-billed Gull with Laughing Gull (*Leucophaeus atricilla*), Pacific Missile Range Facility, Kauai, 15 December 2015.

Photos by Eric VanderWerf

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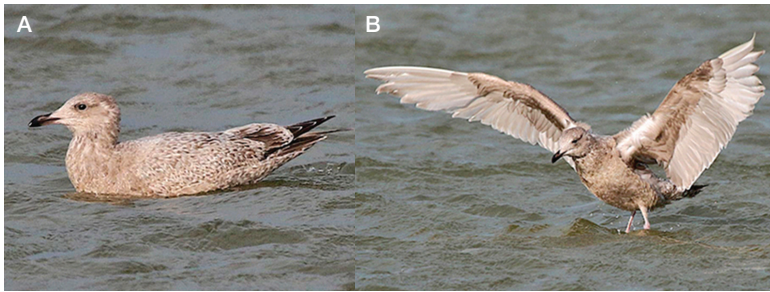


FIGURE 13. First-year Thayer's Gull, Midway Atoll, 1 February 2018.

Photos by Jonathan Plissner

ICELAND (THAYER'S) GULL *Larus glaucooides thayeri*. New species accepted (1st round 5/2, 2nd round 6/1; HI2017-005). A first-year bird was observed on Midway Atoll from 17 November 2017 to 1 February 2018 (Figure 13). Originally reported as a Herring Gull (*L. argentatus*), this bird was the subject of much debate and scrutiny. Experts consulted (Alvaro Jaramillo, Amar Ayyash) commented that it showed some characters of Thayer's Gull, which is now considered part of the Iceland Gull, but also differed in some respects. The HBRC accepted it as a Thayer's Gull after two rounds of voting. Characters important in the identification were the relatively small, rounded head, slender bill with parallel sides and weak gonydeal angle, and overall light grayish-brown color. Some experts and committee members noted that it probably was not possible to rule out a hybrid with complete confidence, but that Thayer's Gull was the most likely identification.

INCA TERN *Larosterna inca*. New species accepted (6/0; HI2021-001). A single individual was present on Hawaii and Oahu for almost 10 months, from 10 March 2021 to 8 January 2022. See VanderWerf (2022) for a detailed account with photographs, including the cover of *Western Birds* 53(3). Analysis of the observation dates and the bird's appearance over time indicated there was a single individual that moved between islands twice. It was observed at sea and riding on boats during both transits between islands. This is the first record of the Inca Tern in the United States, the northernmost record of the species (slightly north of Guatemala), and the first away from the American continents. It was first observed at South Point, Hawaii Island, on 10 March 2021 by J. J. Balucan, following an overnight storm. When first observed at South Point, it had dark caruncles on the gape, dark mottling in the white moustache plumes, and very worn brownish juvenile flight feathers but mostly dark gray definitive adult body feathers, indicating it was in its first plumage cycle. Toward the end of its stay in Hawaii at Halona Point, Oahu, it had acquired complete definitive (adult) plumage.

WHITE-WINGED TERN *Chlidonias leucopterus*. Second record accepted (7/0; HI2024-002). A single bird was on Midway Atoll from 22 July to 9 September 2018. It was in definitive alternate (adult breeding) plumage when it first appeared and gradually molted into basic plumage during its stay (Figure 14). The timing of the occurrence is consistent with the southward fall migration. The first Hawaiian record of this Eurasian species was of an adult on Molokai from 25 May to 8 June 2012 (Pyle and Pyle 2017, VanderWerf et al. 2018).

ELEGANT TERN *Thalasseus elegans*. Second record accepted (7/0; HI2018-007). A single bird was seen at Heeia Fishpond, Oahu, on 7 February 2019 (Figure 15). The identification as an Elegant Tern was confirmed by several characters, including

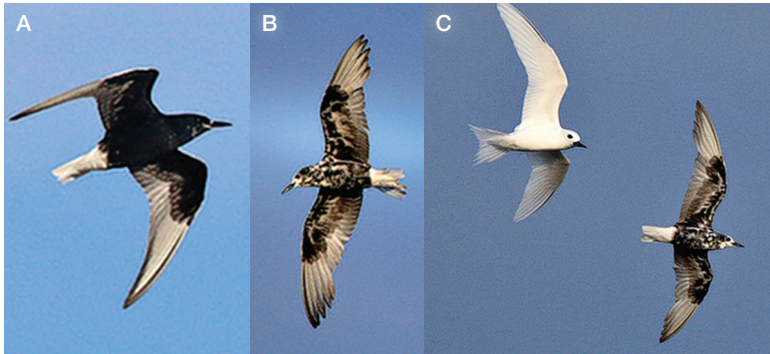


FIGURE 14. White-winged Tern, Midway Atoll. (A), 23 July 2018; (B), 21 August 2018; (C), being pursued by a White Tern (*Gygis alba*), 5 September 2018.

Photos by Jonathan Plissner

the long, thin orange bill with a yellow tip and the black in the primaries less than in a Royal Tern (*T. maximus*). It was in its first winter by the dark marks on the secondaries, which had been retained from juvenile plumage. Hawaii's only previous Elegant Tern was at Aimakapa Pond, Kaloko-Honokohau National Historical Park, Hawaii Island, in March and April 2012 (Pyle and Pyle 2017, VanderWerf et al. 2018). Another report of this species, from Laie Point, Oahu, on 5 December 2018, might have represented the same individual but was not accepted because the only photograph of the distant bird was of poor quality and did not show details of the bill adequately to allow identification.

ANCIENT MURRELET *Synthliboramphus antiquus*. Second record accepted (7/0; HI2018-003). A surfer found an adult alive in the shore break at Fleming's Beach, Kapalua, west Maui, on 17 March 2018, but it died before biologists could take it to a rehabilitation facility (J. Penniman pers. comm.). It was prepared as a specimen by Molly Hagemann at the Bernice P. Bishop Museum in Honolulu (BPBM 186471; Figure 16). The only previous record of the Ancient Murrelet from the Hawaiian Islands involved similar circumstances, a first-year male being found alive on Koolina Beach on the west side of Oahu on 27 November 2003; it was taken to a rehabilitation facility at Sea Life Park, where it died the following day and was subsequently prepared as a specimen at Bishop Museum (BPBM 184589; Pyle and Pyle 2017).



FIGURE 15. Elegant Tern in first fall plumage, Heeiea Fishpond, Oahu, 7 February 2019.

Photo by Michael Young



FIGURE 16. Adult Ancient Murrelet, photographed at the Bishop Museum on 22 December 2018. It was found alive by a surfer at Fleming's Beach, Kapalua, Maui, on 17 March 2018 but died shortly thereafter.

Photo by Eric VanderWerf

AMERICAN BITTERN *Botaurus lentiginosus*. Second record accepted (7/0; HI2018-005). A first-year bird (as indicated by buff-tipped primary coverts) was at James Campbell National Wildlife Refuge, Oahu, from at least 3 November 2018 to 12 February 2019 (Figure 17). The only previous record of this species in the Hawaiian Islands was of another first-year bird at a watercress farm in Pearl Harbor from 16 January through 29 March 2013 (Pyle and Pyle 2017, VanderWerf et al. 2018).

GRAY HERON *Ardea cinerea*. Second record accepted (7/0; HI2024-002). Two individuals at the water catchment on Midway Atoll from 2 to 8 April 2024 (Figure 18) were distinguished from the similar Great Blue Heron (*A. herodias*) by their white rather than chestnut thighs and white rather than mauve-gray necks. From their lack of pale edges to the wing coverts and body feathers, both birds appeared to be adults. Interestingly, the only previous record of this species in the Hawaiian Islands, on Kure Atoll from 13 April to 25 May 2011, also involved two individuals at roughly the same season.

AINLEY'S STORM-PETREL *Hydrobates cheimomnestes*. New species accepted (7/0; HI2024-003). This species was documented in Hawaiian waters by Medrano et al. (2024), who tracked birds tagged with geolocators from their only nesting colony on Isote Negro (Morro Prieto), off Guadalupe Island, Mexico, where the species nests in winter. At least one of four tracked individuals spent time in Hawaiian waters, but the dates were not reported. Field marks distinguishing Ainley's Storm-Petrel are still unknown, but in this case the identification was not an issue



FIGURE 17. First-year American Bittern, James Campbell National Wildlife Refuge, Oahu, 12 February 2019.

Photo by Eric VanderWerf

because the birds were tracked from the breeding colony. Townsend's Storm-Petrel (*H. socorroensis*) nests on the same islet but in summer and was not present when the birds were fitted with geolocators.

MAGNIFICENT FRIGATEBIRD *Fregata magnificens*. New species accepted (6/1; HI2023-001). An adult female was at Kilauea Point National Wildlife Refuge, Kauai, since at least 5 November 2022. It was first identified and reported by David Sibley on 17 August 2023, subsequently seen and photographed by many observ-



FIGURE 18. Adult Gray Heron, Midway Atoll, 2 April 2024.

Photo by Jonathan Plissner



FIGURE 19. Female Magnificent Frigatebird, Kilauea Point National Wildlife Refuge, Kauai, 29 August 2023.

Photo by Laurel Smith/USFWS

ers, and sporadic reports with photographs have been posted via <https://eBird.org> through October 2024. The species was identified by the combination of the pointed black throat, white collar on the back of the neck, large bluish-gray bill, and similar size in comparison with Great Frigatebirds (*F. minor*; Figure 19). The one dissenting member wanted stronger evidence on which to base the identification, believing that the Magnificent Frigatebird should have appeared larger than Great Frigatebirds. Presumably the same bird was photographed at Kilauea Point by Keane Sammon on 5 November 2022, eight months before it was first identified by Sibley, but its identity was not recognized at that time. In November 2024, the observer realized it was a Magnificent, posted photos at eBird, and the HBRC agreed with the identification. It is possible the bird was present even earlier but was not noticed.

ROSY-FACED LOVEBIRD *Agapornis roseicollis*. Non-native species accepted as established (7/0; HI2024-001). The Rosy-faced Lovebird has been present in the Hawaiian Islands since at least 1973, and Pyle and Pyle (2017) included it on their list of non-established species. Numbers on Maui began increasing rapidly in the early to mid-2000s, and currently the species is widespread over much of that island, including some montane areas. On Hawaii Island it has a more restricted distribution primarily on the western side of the island, but it is reproducing and spreading. Escaped birds also have been observed sporadically on Kauai and Oahu (Pyle and Pyle 2017). For a more thorough account of the occurrence of the Rosy-faced Lovebird in Hawaii, including a geospatial-temporal analysis of eBird data on Maui and Hawaii and distribution maps, see VanderWerf and Kalodimos (2021). This African species is also established in Arizona and Florida (Uehling et al. 2021).

BOHEMIAN WAXWING *Bombycilla garrulus*. New species accepted (7/0; HI2019-001). From 22 to 24 December 2019, two birds, one of which was photographed on 24 December (Figure 20), were reported on Kure Atoll. The bird was distinguished from the Cedar Waxwing (*B. cedrorum*) and Japanese Waxwing (*B.*

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FIGURE 20. Bohemian Waxwing, Kure Atoll, 24 December 2019.

Photo by Andy Sullivan

japonica) by the pattern and color of markings on the head and wings, but the photos were not adequate to determine if the bird belonged to the Asian subspecies *B. g. centralasiae* or the American *B. g. pallidiceps*. The observer first reported two passerines, both of which likely were waxwings, but photographs were obtained of only one bird, and the identity of the second bird was not confirmed. Although this record is unprecedented in historical times, genetic studies have shown that an endemic Hawaiian bird family, the Mohoidae, descended from a passerine group that includes the waxwings and silky flycatchers (Fleischer et al. 2008). The Mohoidae include five species in the genera *Moho* and *Chaetoptila*, which previously were thought to be honeyeaters (Meliphagidae). Sadly, all five species are now extinct. The occurrence of this Bohemian Waxwing also resulted in the addition of a bird family, the Bombycillidae, to the Hawaiian Islands checklist.

WHITE WAGTAIL *Motacilla alba*. New species accepted, two records (7/0; HI2023-005, 7/0; HI2023-006). Remarkably, two individuals were in the Hawaiian Islands simultaneously, one on Midway Atoll from 22 October 2023 to at least 25 March 2024 (Figure 21), and one at Honouliuli National Wildlife Refuge, Oahu, from 7 to 14 November 2023 (Figure 22). Both birds were hatch-year males in formative plumage, but they differed somewhat in appearance. The Oahu bird was of the subspecies *M. a. lugens*, which formerly was considered a separate species, the Black-backed Wagtail (Badyaev et al. 2020). The subspecific identity of the Midway bird was not certain at first, but during its lengthy stay on Midway it molted into alternate plum-

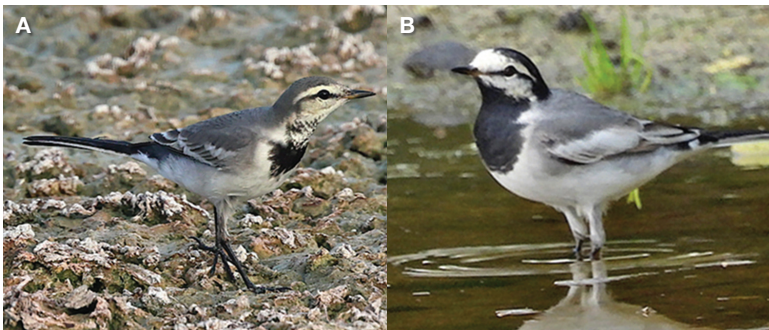


FIGURE 21. White Wagtail, Midway Atoll. (A), 24 December 2023; (B), 25 March 2024.

Photos by Jonathan Plissner (A), Chris Forster (B)



FIGURE 22. White Wagtail, Honouliuli National Wildlife Refuge, Oahu, 14 November 2023.

Photos by Eric VanderWerf

age, showing most characters of the subspecies *M. a. ocellaris*, but its black rump in alternate plumage and yellowish face in formative plumage suggest it might have been a hybrid or intermediate between the subspecies. The Midway bird is the first White Wagtail for the Hawaiian Islands, and the Oahu bird is the first for the state of Hawaii.

SIBERIAN PIPIT *Anthus japonicus*. Second record accepted (6/1, HI2020-003). A single bird was observed on Midway Atoll on 17 and 18 October 2020 (Figure 23). The bird was identified by a combination of the lack of streaking on the back, a strong dark malar mark, heavy dark streaking on the upper breast, and the call. The bird originally was reported as an American Pipit (*A. rubescens*), and the HBRC reviewed and accepted it as that. After the Asian form was split as a separate species (Chesser et al. 2024), the HBRC re-reviewed it and accepted it as a Siberian Pipit. The only previous record of this taxon in the Hawaiian Islands was of a first-cycle female collected on Kure on 25 October 1963 (Pyle and Pyle 2017).

SNOW BUNTING *Plectrophenax nivalis*. Sixth record accepted (7/0; HI2017-006). A single bird was observed on Kure Atoll on 8 November 2017. It was identified as first-fall female in formative plumage by the brownish (not gray or black) markings on the crown and back and the rusty patches on the wing coverts (Figure 24). The Hawaiian Islands' five previous Snow Buntings were on Kure in 1963, Midway in the winter of 1964–65, 1998, and 2006, and French Frigate Shoals in 1979 (Pyle and Pyle 2017).

RUSTIC BUNTING *Emberiza rustica*. New species accepted (1st round 3/4, 2nd round 6/1; HI2018-002). A single bird was observed on Kure Atoll on 17 November 2018 (Figure 25). The observer saw the bird only briefly, and although he managed to take several photos of it in flight, they were either out of focus or showed the bird



FIGURE 23. Siberian Pipit, Midway Atoll, 17 October 2020.

Photo by Jonathan Plissner



FIGURE 24. First-year female Snow Bunting, Kure Atoll, 8 November 2017.

Photo by Melanie Mancuso

flying away, which made the identification difficult. During the first round of voting several committee members did not feel they could identify the bird from the photos and that experts on the species should be consulted. The photos were sent to experts on Asian buntings, and Paul Leader replied that he believed the bird could be identified with confidence as a Rustic Bunting from the mantle pattern, extensively chestnut rump, upper tail coverts with paler fringing, and, especially, the pattern on the rectrices, with a very long and narrow area of white on the second-to-outermost feathers. All committee members but one were satisfied with Leader's identification and accepted the record on that basis.

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FIGURE 25. Rustic Bunting, Kure Atoll, 17 November 2018.

Photo by Andy Sullivan

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Jonathan Plissner, Laurel Smith, Andy Sullivan, Alex Wang, and Michael Young. The assistance of outside experts who provided valuable information about particular species, including Amar Ayyash, Michael Force, Daniel D. Gibson, Alvaro Jaramillo, Nial Moores, and David Sibley, is also greatly appreciated. The Bernice P. Bishop Museum allowed examination of specimens that aided in identifying several birds. The manuscript was improved by comments from Jodhan Fine and Jack Withrow, and editor Philip Unitt.

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