



liwis are probably the most endearing Hawaiian Honeycreepers (Pat Wileman)

HAWAII

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LEADER: MARK VAN BEIRS

Our recent foray to the extinction capital of the world gave us a very nice selection of Hawaii's endemics. The birds of the trip were the incomparably bright scarlet liwi, the dazzling Akohekohe, the truly bizarre Maui Parrotbill (mega views for all of the rarest of the Hawaiian Honeycreepers), the outstanding Akiapolaau (with its exceptional bill) and the beautifully ungainly Laysan Albatross. Other great birds seen included Nene, Hawaiian Hawk, Bristle-thighed Curlew, the stunning Palila (the last of the Hawaii Grosbeak Honeycreepers), the lovely Maui Alauahio, Hawaii Creeper, the orangey red Akepa, Kauai and Hawaii Elepaos, Oahu and Kauai Amakihi. Sadly, for the first time, we missed several of Hawaii's very rare endemics as most of them are gradually becoming harder to see. BirdLife International recently changed the status of several of Hawaii's endemics for the worse... We admired some outstanding scenery and a bit of volcanic activity at the Hawaii Volcanoes National Park on the Big Island and stood in awe at the top of Haleakala Volcano. The heart-warming bird activity in the forests of the Hakalau and the Waikamoi forest reserves will

not readily be forgotten. We added two species to the Birdquest Hawaii list, which now stands at 141: Band-rumped Storm Petrel and Belted Kingfisher. Notable mammals included Hawaiian Monk Seal and False Killer Whale. The Hawaiian endemics are not in good shape at all and I urge every international birder who has not visited these beautiful islands to get there as soon as you can. Extinction is happening there as you read this and the Hawaiian Honeycreepers (Drepanidinae) are, at the moment, by far the most threatened bird group in the world. In the last twenty years several birds have totally disappeared or can now only be found in captivity... Don't hesitate or wait!



The excellent views of the rare Bristle-thighed Curlew were much appreciated (Pat Wileman)

On our first day in Hawaii we visited several good birding spots on the central island of Oahu. Although Oahu is only the third island in size, more than 80% of the 1.2 million Hawaiians live here and it is the commercial and economic centre of the archipelago. The capital Honolulu has all the characteristics of a large American city (skyscrapers, lots of traffic and billboards, wide highways), but once out of the city there are some beautiful areas to be visited. Oahu's nature suffered immensely under the heavy hand of man and virtually all of its native forest has disappeared, together with most of the indigenous fauna, including its birds. On our drive to the first birding spot we noted several elegant White Terns flying over the tree-lined avenues of famous Waikiki, while lawns and small parks held wintering Pacific Golden Plovers. A selection of thriving introduced species like Western Cattle Egret, Rock Dove (mainly white birds!), Spotted and Zebra Doves, Red-vented Bulbul and Common Myna showed along the roadside. Upon arrival at a scrubby valley just outside Honolulu several more non-native birds showed: the handsome White-rumped Shama with its beautiful song, Northern and Red-crested Cardinals, House Finch and House Sparrow. Rather heavy showers ruined our birding here and several hours later we still hadn't been able to locate the endemic, highly threatened Oahu Elepaio. We heard the calls of this monarch flycatcher relative emanate from the dense undergrowth, but the bird didn't want to show. In contrast, lots of Japanese White-eyes responded to our pishing. Later, at a well positioned lookout we did a bout of seawatching. This resulted in rather distant looks of Wedge-tailed Shearwaters, Brown Boobies and a Great Frigatebird. Several white morph Red-footed Boobies showed really well and a rare Hawaiian Monk Seal lay hauled out on the beach of a nearby islet. Wonderful stuff. On our drive to the north side of the island it rained persistently, but luckily Orni had

heard our prayers and the rain soon abated. In an area of extended short grassland near the beach we obtained point blank views of the remarkable Bristle-thighed Curlew. We studied it at length and even managed to observe the hair-like feathers after which this long distance migrant is named. Pacific Golden Plovers were also about and at some nearby ponds and ditches we scoped several endemic Hawaiian Coots, some endemic Hawaiian Duck, a couple of endemic Hawaiian Stilts and a few Black-crowned Night Herons and Common Gallinules. Introduced Common Pheasant, Common Waxbill and Scale-breasted Munia also appeared on the list. Then the rain started again, so we returned to our base in Waikiki, admiring famous Pearl Harbor along the way.

After a hearty breakfast we made our way up the scenic Tantalus Drive from where we obtained splendid views over greater Honolulu. The Punchbowl Crater and the dramatic, volcanic tuff cone of Diamond Head dominated the panorama. A stop at some flowering trees soon produced a very nice male Oahu Amakihi, our first Drep (short for Drepanid, a member of the subfamily Drepanidinae, the Hawaiian Honeycreepers). On the drive we added a trio of introduced, but attractive Java Sparrows and some noisy Ring-necked Parakeets to the tally. After this successful venture we revisited yesterday's scrubby valley in another attempt to locate the Oahu Elepaio, but partly due to inclement weather (high winds), we could not find our target, a real pity. We did see several Red-billed Leiothrix and a beautiful Veiled Chameleon. We found out later that this introduced reptile is becoming a bit of a pest.



Hawaiian Coot and Pacific Golden Plover (Pat Wileman)

We retraced our steps to the hotel, packed up, checked out and drove to the airport, from where a short flight took us to the eastside of the Big Island. From the plane we had great looks at the Honolulu waterfront. We got ourselves organized at our cozy lodgings in Hilo and in late afternoon visited a nearby freshwater pond. A pair of attractive Nene (Hawaiian Geese) performed at minimal distance. The perfect views of Hawaii's state bird were very much appreciated. We could not help thinking about Peter Scott's incredible efforts in the 1950s to save this threatened species. By 1952 the population had been reduced to a mere 30 individuals and a major breeding effort at Slimbridge saved this species from extinction. The pond also held a nice selection of other waterfowl including Northern Shoveler, American Wigeon, Gadwall, Lesser Scaup and Hawaiian Coot. A Wandering Tattler foraged nearby and allowed us to discern its long nasal groove while Yellow-billed Cardinal, Saffron Finch and a couple of Small Indian Mongooses also showed.



An uncommon drake Gadwall and a Wandering Tattler (Mark Van Beirs)

The following day we made our way up the windward northeast slope of the imposing Mauna Kea volcano and had a glorious time in the Ohia-Koa forest of the Hakalau National Refuge. The day started with rain and mist, but luckily the weather gradually got better. On the drive in we noted a variety of introduced birds like Erckel's Francolin, Chukar Partridge, Kalij Pheasant, Wild Turkey, Californian Quail and Eurasian Skylark. Several pairs and trios of Nene adorned the roadside and we found a nest in the delapidated building at the trailhead. Our knowledgeable guide took us on a gradual walk through a stretch of splendid indigenous forest, with trees draped in mosses and epiphytes. A dark morph Hawaiian Hawk showed quite well and lots of introduced Yellow-fronted Canaries foraged in the forest glades. We encountered several family parties of Hawaii Elepaio of the *ridgwayi* race and flushed a few Omao from fruit-bearing bushes. Most of the Ohia trees sported bright red flowers and these were constantly visited by the dazzling, brilliant scarlet liwis, probably the most charismatic of the surviving Hawaiian Honeycreepers. These nectar feeders were constantly chasing other small birds away from their food source. The more modestly-clad Hawaii Amakihi was also fairly common and brick-red Apapanes showed off their white vents. Our main targets here were three Big Island endemic honeycreepers. We found small numbers of Akepa, the males of which showed their bright orange-red plumage and unassuming Hawaiian Creepers were regularly seen, but remained quite unobtrusive. The highlight of our visit was the encounter with the unbelievable Akiapolaau. We first obtained fantastic looks at a female and a begging juvenile and later had more great looks at two males. To be able to admire this remarkable species with its improbable bill at close range and for minutes on end was a mindboggling experience.



The flower of the Ohia tree (Mark Van Beirs) and an Apapane (Pat Wileman)



Nenes (Hawaiian Geese) are now commonly encountered (Mark Van Beirs)

These splendid encounters with six of the remaining 17 or so species of Hawaiian Honeycreepers reminded us of the dreadful fate of this enigmatic group of birds. At least 56 species of Drepanidinae existed at one time and since man arrived on Hawaii there have been several mass extinctions due to a variety of different reasons: habitat destruction, extensive hunting, avian malaria,... Some 20 species of Hawaiian honeycreeper have become extinct in the recent past, and many more in earlier times, between the arrival of the Polynesians who introduced the first rats, chickens, pigs, and dogs, and hunted and converted habitat for agriculture. Famous feather cloaks (ahuula) worn by chiefs of importance were made of thousands of red (liwi) and yellow (Mamo) skins. There is a cloak which was given to Captain James Cook which measures 1.54 m x 2.45 m and is made from the yellow and red feathers of an estimated 20,000 Mamo, O'o and liwi birds! The Hawaiian Honeycreepers are the best example of adaptive radiation (much more so than the fabled Galapagos Finches), the process in which organisms diversify rapidly into a multitude of new forms. Exquisite species with magnificent names like Ula-ai-hawane, Ou, Akialoa, Kakawahie, Nukupuu, Koa-Finch, Hawaii Mamo and Poo-uli have disappeared forever...

After our very satisfactory visit we made our way to the Volcano National Park, where, after sunset, we admired the glow of the boiling lava in the famous Halema'uma'u crater illuminating the clouds and the plume as it billowed into the night sky. At our hotel, the atmospheric, but very loud mating calls of Coqui Frogs (introduced from Puerto Rico) kept some of us awake at night. The management discreetly provided earplugs...



The Hawaii Amakihi is one of the more adaptable Drepanids (Pat Wileman)



This smart Palila was feeding in a Mamane bush (Pat Wileman)

Next morning we explored the open, scrubby Mamane-Naio forest at c2,500m altitude on the dry, leeward, northwest slope of Mauna Kea volcano in search of the attractive Palila. It took a while but eventually we had great looks at a pair with a begging youngster. We saw the adults of these yellow headed, Bullfinch-like Dreps cut off a green pod of a Mamane, open it and offer the green seeds to the youngster. They behaved rather sedately and sometimes posed for a while in the top of a tree. The population of this critically endangered species stands at just over 1,000 birds. While looking for the Palila, we encountered lots of Hawaii Amakihi and the distinctive *bryani* race of the Hawaii Elepaio, together with Black Francolin and lots of California Quail and Eurasian Skylarks. In the afternoon we followed a trail through wet forest on old lava flows to a kipuka, an island of forest surrounded by relatively new lava flows. Here we found lots of Apapane, some liwis and another fabulous Akiapolaau. We obtained amazing looks again at a cooperative female. Several Omao (Hawaiian Thrushes) were eating berries and showed very well. The non hikers noted two Hawaiian Hawks and in late afternoon we paid another visit to one of the Hilo ponds, where a flock of ten Lesser Scaup loafed.



The active Halema'uma'u crater and the group setting off to visit a kipuka (Pat Wileman)

On our last morning on the Big Island we visited the Volcanoes National Park along the scenic Chain of Craters road. The magnificent, Armageddon-like scenery of pit craters, wide stretches of recent and older aa and pahoehoe (beautiful frozen rope coils) lavaflows surrounding verdant kipukas were really impressive. Everyone enjoyed the splendid drive through these Dante-esque landscapes. We drove down to the sea and observed several Black Noddies of the distinctive race *melanogenys* on the lavacliffs. There were few other birds about except for a Hawaiian Hawk and some Apapane and Hawaiian Amakihi and we also paid a visit to a famous lava tube. In the late afternoon we flew to the lovely island of Maui.

The Waikamoi reserve protects a splendid tract of indigenous forest at an altitude of c2,400m on the slopes of the Haleakala Volcano. It is surrounded by a belt of planted Japanese Pine (*Cryptomeria*) and is only accessible by special permission. We were accompanied by experts of the Nature Conservancy. On our walk in we had great looks at fair numbers of endemic Alauahio (Maui Creepers) creeping along the trunks and branches of the Ohia and Koa trees. Along a boardwalk we kept watch at concentrations of flowering Ohias and eventually got rewarded with excellent looks at a sublime Akohekohe (Crested Honeycreeper), which showed beautifully for c20 minutes as it worked the nectar-rich blossoms. This incredibly attractive jewel has a population of c3,800 birds and shows a crazy crest, an orange neck, orange hotpants and a white tipped tail. Later, on a nearby trail a cracking Maui Parrotbill, another fabled and rarely-seen Drepanid, was found foraging in the subcanopy. This is by far the rarest surviving Hawaiian Honeycreeper with a population of c500 birds. We were very fortunate to be able to admire this amazing bird as it was preening quietly on its perch. Breath-taking moments! Our visit ended with a Short-eared Owl sitting in the top of a small tree.



The exquisite Maui Parrotbill (Pat Wileman) and the boardwalk at the Waikamoi Reserve (Mark Van Beirs)

On our second visit to the beautiful forest of the renowned Waikamoi reserve we again obtained smashing looks at the extraordinary Akohekohe and lengthy views of two different females of the wonderful Maui Parrotbill. We felt truly privileged! Maui Alauahios were regularly seen and foraged unconcernedly within metres from us. The dominant song of Apapanes could be heard all over these forests and adorable liwis – everyone's favourite – fought for attention. In the afternoon we drove to the top of Haleakala Volcano and admired the barren landscape of the magnificent crater at 3,055m altitude. We photographed the beautiful Silversword plants and parties of rather tame Chukar Partridges. The imposing volcanoes of Mauna Loa and Mauna Kea on the Big Island could be seen looming above the clouds in the distance. The day died in spectacular blood red colours as we waited till after dark for Hawaiian Petrels, but we soon realized it was too late in the season. We rounded off the day with a great dinner at the foot of the mountain.



A Short-eared Owl (Pat Wileman) and the Haleakala crater (Mark Van Beirs)

Next morning we visited the Kanaha Pond Wildlife Refuge, where lots of Hawaiian Stilts and Hawaiian Coots showed. We scoped three distant female Teal/Green-winged Teal and an immature Laughing Gull flew overhead. A male Belted Kingfisher was a very nice surprise as there are only a few records of this rare North American visitor. Several Sanderlings were playing with the waves on the beach and a patch of seeding grasses held numbers of introduced Chestnut Munias and African Silverbills. A pond on the other side of the coastal strip held 200+ Hawaiian Stilts and a few Northern Pintail. In the afternoon we took a flight to Kauai, the Garden Isle.



The famous Silversword high on Haleakala volcano (Mark Van Beirs) and a Hawaiian Stilt (Pat Wileman)

Upon arrival, we managed to squeeze in a bout of seawatching from a small, southeastern peninsula, but only Red-footed Boobies showed. Both white adults and brown immatures were identified. The following day we boarded a sturdy catamaran that took us about five nautical miles offshore to the deep waters to the southeast of Kauai. The seas were very smooth and there was just a bit of wind, so not much moved, except for a few Brown and Red-footed Boobies, some Great Frigatebirds, small numbers of Wedge-tailed Shearwaters, a couple of Brown Noddies and a few White-tailed Tropicbirds. Best of all was a Band-rumped Storm Petrel that allowed quite nice looks as it fluttered and glided over the waves. This was a new bird for the Birdquest Hawaii list.



The Kilauea lighthouse (Bob & Diane Newman-Major) and our pelagic trip (Pat Wileman)



The Laysan Albatrosses had only just arrived (Mark Van Beirs)

In the afternoon we paid a visit to famous Kilauea Point, where the first Laysan Albatrosses had just started to arrive. Views were a bit frustrating as the birds were sitting in a casuarina forest on a distant hillslope. On the nearby steep hillside we marvelled at the teeming colony of Red-footed Boobies. Wedge-tailed Shearwaters allowed close up views as they were sitting next to their fat chicks at the entrance of the burrows. A few White-tailed Tropicbirds sailed overhead and incoming Red-footed Boobies were regularly being harassed by Great Frigatebirds. Not a pretty sight!



Photographing a Laysan Albatross in its residential neighbourhood (Pat Wileman) and Nenes at Kilauea Point (Mark Van Beirs)



A Wedge-tailed Shearwater at Kilauea Point (Pat Wileman)

Several very approachable Nenes were patrolling the entrance track. A short drive away, in a rich neighbourhood with lush gardens along a quiet street we stood in awe as several extremely tame Laysan Albatrosses allowed point blank views as they were resting under bushes or on the lawns. The inhabitants told us they were very proud of 'their' albatrosses, which built their conical nests at strategic points in the gardens and kept even large dogs at bay. Hawaiian Duck, Northern Mockingbird and Western Meadowlark were also noted here.



Hiking in the Alakai Swamp was hard work (Pat Wileman), but the cocktails afterwards were delicious (Bob Newman)



The famous Alakai Swamp on Kauai (Mark Van Beirs) and Kauai Elepaio (Bob & Diane Newman-Major)

Next morning, after an early breakfast we drove up into the highlands of Kauai along the famous, very deep Waimea Canyon to the head of one of the trails that leads into the fabled Alakai Swamp. We were lucky with the weather as it was dry and sunny, as the Alakai is renowned as one of the wettest places on earth with up to ten metres of rain a year! The long walk took us first along a rather slippery trail overlooking several deep valleys, followed by a nice stretch of fairly well-maintained boardwalk that led into a remote stretch of indigenous forest. It was incredibly quiet compared to the forests of Maui and the Big Island, which were bursting with birds. The only birds we heard were Apapane and some introduced species. We only saw a single liwi (frightening, as it used to be common here) and found several endemic Kauai Amakihi with their large bills. A few dainty endemic Anianiau soon followed, but remained rather unobtrusive. Several inquisitive family parties of endemic and ever on the move Kauai Elepaio behaved very well, but we only heard the rare Puiaohi in its stream-edge habitat. Of the Kauai endemic Akikiki and Akeke not a sniff, sadly. Numbers of these critically endangered species are now very low as avian malaria has now reached the most remote corners of the Alakai Swamp.

The last morning of the tour started with a bout of seawatching at Ninini Point. We scoped a small pod of False Killer Whales and several Indo-Pacific Bottle-nosed Dolphins together with a few Wedge-tailed Shearwaters and Brown and Red-footed Boobies. On the drive north a Chinese Hwamei offered great looks. Next we visited the Hanalei taro ponds where Hawaiian Stilt, Hawaiian Coot and Hawaiian Duck were seen and we finished the tour with some final looks at the extraordinary Laysan Albatrosses near Kilauea Point. Mahalo!

Below, Kauai Amakihi (Pat Wileman) and Japanese White-eye (Mark Van Beirs)





The attractive Nene (Pat Wileman)

SYSTEMATIC LIST OF SPECIES RECORDED DURING THE TOUR

The species names and taxonomy used in the report mostly follows Gill, F & D Donsker (Eds). **IOC World Bird Names**. This list is updated several times annually and is available at <http://www.worldbirdnames.org>.

Species which were heard but not seen are indicated by the symbol (H).

Species which were only recorded by the leader are indicated by the symbol (LO).

Species which were not personally recorded by the leader are indicated by the symbol (NL).

Species marked with the diamond symbol (◊) are either endemic to the country or local region or considered 'special' birds for some other reason (e.g. it is only seen on one or two Birdquest tours; it is difficult to see across all or most of its range; the local form is endemic or restricted-range and may in future be treated as a full species).

Conservation threat categories and information are taken from *Threatened Birds of the World*, BirdLife International's magnificent book on the sad status of the rarest 10% of the world's avifauna, and updates on the BirdLife website: <http://www.birdlife.org/datazone/home>

CR = Critically Endangered, **E** = Endangered, **V** = Vulnerable, **NT** = Near Threatened, **DD** = Data Deficient.

California Quail *Callipepla californica* Regular sightings of this introduced species on the Big Island and on Maui.

Wild Turkey *Meleagris gallopavo* A handful were seen at the Hakalau Forest (Big Island)(introduced).

Chukar Partridge *Alectoris chukar* Regular on the Big Island and on the Haleakala volcano on Maui (introduced).

Black Francolin *Francolinus francolinus* A few were noted on the Big Island (introduced).

Erckel's Francolin *Pternistis erckelii* We saw several of these introduced game birds on the Big Island.

Red Junglefowl *Gallus gallus* This well-known species was noted on all four islands, often in big numbers.



The introduced Chukar Partridge and Hawaiian Coots (Mark Van Beirs)

- Kalij Pheasant** *Lophura leucomelanos* Regular on the Big Island (introduced).
- Common Pheasant** *Phasianus colchicus* Small numbers all over, but not seen on Kauai.
- Nene** ◊ (Hawaiian Goose) *Branta sandvicensis* (V) Many great looks at this smart endemic.
- Gadwall** *Anas strepera* A drake was seen on a pond near Hilo (Big Island).
- American Wigeon** *Anas americana* A drake and two females were noted on a pond near Hilo (Big Island).
- Mallard** *Anas platyrhynchos* Regular on all the islands.
- Hawaiian Duck** ◊ (Koloa) *Anas wyvilliana* (E) A few on Oahu, but best views were had on Kauai. Endemic.
- Northern Shoveler** *Anas clypeata* Two at Hilo (Big Island) and seven on Maui.
- Northern Pintail** *Anas acuta* Four birds were noted on a lake on Maui.
- Green-winged/Eurasian Teal** *Anas carolinensis/crecca* Three distant females were noted on a lake on Maui.
- Lesser Scaup** *Aythya affinis* A pond near Hilo (Big Island) held ten birds, including a couple of adult drakes.
- Laysan Albatross** ◊ *Phoebastria immutabilis* (NT) Magnificent looks at recently arrived birds on Kauai.
- Wedge-tailed Shearwater** *Puffinus pacificus* A few at sea and well fed youngsters near their burrows on Kauai.
- Newell's Shearwater** ◊ *Puffinus newelli* (NL) (E) One was scoped off Oahu.
- Band-rumped Storm Petrel** *Oceanodroma castro* This write-in was seen on our pelagic trip off Kauai.
- White-tailed Tropicbird** *Phaethon lepturus* Small numbers of this elegant seabird were noted on Kauai.
- Black-crowned Night Heron** *Nycticorax nycticorax* Small numbers were noted on all four islands.
- Western Cattle Egret** *Bubulcus ibis* Common throughout. Introduced.
- Great Frigatebird** *Fregata minor* A single on Oahu and fair numbers on Kauai.
- Red-footed Booby** *Sula sula* A few off Oahu and lots at the colony on Kauai. Also regular on the pelagic.
- Brown Booby** *Sula leucogaster* Small numbers off Oahu and Kauai.
- Hawaiian Hawk** ◊ (Io) *Buteo solitarius* (NT) Just four observations of this Big Island endemic.
- Common Gallinule** *Gallinula galeata* Small numbers were seen on Oahu and on Kauai.
- Hawaiian Coot** ◊ *Fulica alai* (V) Great looks at fair numbers on all visited islands. Endemic.
- Hawaiian Stilt** ◊ *Himantopus knudseni* A few on Oahu and Kauai. 200+ on a lake on Maui. See Note.
- Pacific Golden Plover** *Pluvialis fulva* The most common wader. Seen almost every day.
- Bristle-thighed Curlew** ◊ *Numenius tahitiensis* (V) Perfect studies of four birds on Oahu. We even saw the bristles.
- Wandering Tattler** *Tringa incana* Regular encounters.
- Ruddy Turnstone** *Arenaria interpres* We saw small numbers of this amazing migrant.
- Sanderling** *Calidris alba* A handful were seen on the Maui beaches.
- Brown Noddy** *Anous stolidus* Two were identified on our pelagic off Kauai.
- Black Noddy** *Anous minutus* Great looks at ten birds off the southeast coast of the Big Island.
- White Tern** *Gygis alba* A few were noted in the Honolulu parks.
- Laughing Gull** *Leucophaeus atricilla* A second winter bird was seen on a pond on Maui.
- Rock Dove** *Columba livia* Common.
- Spotted Dove** *Spilopelia chinensis* Very common all over. Introduced.
- Zebra Dove** *Geopelia striata* This introduced bird was also very common along our route.
- Rose-ringed Parakeet (Ring-necked P)** *Psittacula krameri* A dozen were seen in downtown Honolulu. Introduced.
- Short-eared Owl** *Asio flammeus* A single bird showed very well on Maui.



Chinese Hwamei (Mark Van Beirs) and Palila (Diane & Bob Major-Newman)

- Belted Kingfisher** *Megaceryle alcyon* This vagrant performed nicely at a pond on Maui.
- Kauai Elepaio** ♦ *Chasiempis sclateri* (V) No fewer than 14 encounters in the Alakai Swamp on Kauai.
- Oahu Elepaio** ♦ *Chasiempis ibidis* (H) (E) We heard this Endangered species in a scrubby valley on Oahu.
- Hawaii Elepaio** ♦ *Chasiempis sandwichensis* (V) Regular encounters with this showy species. See Note.
- Eurasian Skylark** *Alauda arvensis* Common on the Big Island and regular on Maui.
- Red-vented Bulbul** *Pycnonotus cafer* Common on Oahu and just a few on the Big Island.
- Chinese Hwamei** *Garrulax canorus* Excellent views of this skulking introduction on Kauai. See Note.
- Red-billed Leiothrix** *Leiothrix lutea* Recorded on Oahu, the Big island and Maui. Introduced.
- Japanese White-eye** *Zosterops japonicas* Very common on all four islands. Introduced.
- Northern Mockingbird** *Mimus polyglottos* A few were seen on Kauai. Introduced.
- Common Myna** *Acridotheres tristis* Very common all along our route. Introduced.
- Omao** ♦ (Hawaiian Thrush) *Myadestes obscurus* (V) Regular sightings in the highlands of the Big Island.
- Puaiohi** ♦ (Small Kauai Thrush) *Myadestes palmeri* (H) (CR) Heard in the Alakai Swamp. So frustrating...
- White-rumped Shama** *Copsychus malabaricus* Regular and attractive on Oahu and on Kauai. Introduced.
- House Sparrow** *Passer domesticus* Small numbers of this commensal introduction all along our itinerary.
- Common Waxbill** *Estrilda astrild* Regular on Oahu, the Big Island and Kauai. Introduced.
- African Silverbill** *Euodice cantans* A few were seen on Maui. Introduced.
- Scaly-breasted Munia (Nutmeg Mannikin)** *Lonchura punctulata* Small numbers, but not on Maui. Introduced.
- Chestnut Munia (Chestnut Mannikin)** *Lonchura atricapilla* This introduced species was only noted on Maui.
- Java Sparrow** *Lonchura oryzivora* Three were seen in the Waikiki area (Oahu). Introduced.
- Maui Alauahio** ♦ (Maui Creeper) *Paroreomyza montana* (E) Regular encounters in the Waikamoi reserve.
- Palila** ♦ *Loxioides bailleui* (CR) Fantastic views of four birds in mamane forest on Maui. A real cracker!
- Iiwi** ♦ *Vestiaria coccinea* (V) The Bird of the Trip. Many splendid encounters on the Big Island and on Maui. See Note.
- Akohekohe** ♦ (Crested Honeycreeper) *Palmeria dolei* (CR) Excellent studies of this gem in the Waikamoi reserve.
- Apapane** ♦ *Himatione sanguinea* Common on the Big Island, on Maui and in the Alakai Swamp on Kauai.
- Akiapolaau** ♦ *Hemignathus wilsoni* (E) Great studies of two males, a female and a fledgling at the Hakalau Forest.
- Maui Parrotbill** ♦ *Pseudonestor xanthophrys* (CR) Magical views of several in the Waikamoi reserve on Maui.
- Anianiau** ♦ *Magumma parva* (V) Several performed very well in the Alakai Swamp on Kauai.
- Hawaii Creeper** ♦ *Manuceria mana* (E) Fairly common in the Hakalau Forest on the Big Island.
- Akepa** ♦ *Loxops coccineus* (E) Great looks at eight birds in the Hakalau Forest on the Big Island.
- Hawaii Amakihi** ♦ *Chlorodrepanis virens* Common on the Big Island.
- Oahu Amakihi** ♦ *Chlorodrepanis flava* (V) Two were noted in the hill forest above Honolulu.
- Kauai Amakihi** ♦ *Chlorodrepanis stejnegeri* (V) Small numbers were noted in the Alakai Swamp on Kauai.
- House Finch** *Haemorhous mexicanus* A few of these introduced birds on every visited island.
- Yellow-fronted Canary** *Crithagra mozambica* Good numbers were seen on the Big Island. Introduced.

Western Meadowlark *Sturnella neglecta* A single bird was seen on Kauai. Introduced.
Red-crested Cardinal *Paroaria coronata* Small numbers, but not seen on the Big island. Introduced.
Yellow-billed Cardinal *Paroaria capitata* A few on the Big Island. Introduced.
Saffron Finch *Sicalis flaveola* Only seen at the Hilo airport (Big island). Introduced.
Northern Cardinal *Cardinalis cardinalis* A few on every island. Introduced.

MAMMALS

Small Indian Mongoose *Herpestes auropunctatus* Several were seen on the Big island.
Hawaiian Monk Seal *Monachus schauinslandi* Scope views of one hauled out on Manana Islet off Oahu.
False Killer Whale *Pseudorca crassidens* Six were seen during a seawatch from the southeast coast of Kauai.
Indo-Pacific Bottle-nosed Dolphin *Tursiops aduncus* Ten showed during the same seawatch.

REPTILES

Veiled Chameleon *Chamaeleo calytratus* One was found in a scrubby valley on Oahu. An introduced pest.



An introduced Veiled Chameleon (Mark Van Beirs)

NOTES TO THE SYSTEMATIC LIST

Hawaiian Stilt *Himantopus knudseni*

Clements and the IOC consider this form as a subspecies of Black-necked Stilt *H. mexicanus*.

Hawaii Elepaio *Chasiempis sandwichensis*

We saw two of the three subspecies of this Big Island endemic: the race *ridgwayi* in the Hakalau Forest and the form *bryani* in the mamane forest on the dry side of the Mauna Kea volcano. The third form, *sandwichensis*, occurs in the southwest of the island.

Chinese Hwamei *Garrulax canorus*

The name Hwamei refers to the distinctive eye-brow of this species (hwamei = painted eyebrow in mandarin)

Iiwi *Vestiaria coccinea*

The magnificent Iiwi is still common in the forests of the Big Island and Maui, but is rapidly declining and on its way out on Oahu, Kauai and Molokai. This species is extremely susceptible to avian malaria. In laboratory tests it was shown not even to blink when a mosquito landed near its eyes and started to suck blood...

BIRD OF THE TRIP

liwi	31
Akohekohe	31
Maui Parrotbill	24
Akiapolaau	18
Laysan Albatross	10



Sunset at the rim of the Haleakalā volcano on Maui (Mark Van Beirs)