



The fabulous li'i was voted our Bird of the Trip! (Pete Morris)

HAWAII

11 – 22 APRIL 2016

LEADER: PETE MORRIS

Hidden away in the centre of the vast Pacific Ocean, the tiny chain of islands that form Hawaii are home to a unique but severely threatened avifauna. Radiocarbon-dating points to mass human-era extinction, 800-2000 years ago, and since the arrival of man in the islands the devastated Hawaiian avifauna has been battered by almost every conceivable threat from hunting by early settlers (the Polynesians' ceremonial cloaks contained the feathers of many thousands of individual birds!), forest clearance (less than 40% of land is now covered by native-dominated vegetation), introduced predators (rats, cats, dogs and mongooses – except for Kauai in the case of the latter), browsing animals (pigs, deer and goats), introduced plants (notably gorse, which prevents the recovery of the native forest), introduced birds and arthropods (ants and wasps), and of course disturbance by the increasing human population. Also, an unlikely and unlucky series of events led to the introduction of avian malaria, a disease that the native birds had no defence against. As a result, not much of the avifauna survived, and the species that did, receded to the higher areas where the mosquitoes could not



Hawaiian Goose (or Nene) is one of very few conservation success stories in Hawaii! (Pete Morris)

survive. More than half of the original Hawaiian Honeycreepers (Drepanidae – now finches!) are extinct, the entire family of Oos (Mohoidae) are gone and overall only a fraction of the original endemics survive today. And how one would love to be able to travel in a Tardis and see what used to be there... it must have been an incredible place! Some resistance to the malaria (one of the biggest current threats to many species) has since developed in some of the species, but for others, global warming is making them more and more vulnerable, as milder temperatures allow the mosquitoes to creep further up the mountains. As a result, even some of the commoner species, such as the stunning liwi, are increasingly under threat, and may be uplisted from Vulnerable to Endangered in the not too distant future.

With that depressing thought out of the way, one has to re-orientate one's ambitions based on what is currently achievable. And to that end, our trip this year was pretty successful. The main blemish was the lack of the two toughies on Maui – Maui Parrotbill and Akohekohe. It's increasingly difficult to get any access to their range, and although we were allowed in for half a day, incessant rain did not help our cause! We also had a last minute blow to overcome on the Big Island. Due to a rapidly spreading fungal disease (known as Rapid Ohia Death) that kills the native Ohia trees, the main birding area on Big Island, Hakalau Forest, was closed just before our visit. This made a few other endemics a lot tougher, and resulted in a fair bit of additional hiking! That said, we did manage to find all of the other 'gettable' goodies. Out of the respectable total of just 96 species that we recorded, a shocking 42 species are introductions to the islands! Of the remaining 54, no fewer than 24 are species of conservation concern! Four are classified by Birdlife International as Critically Endangered: Palila (the last of Hawaii's grosbeak honeycreepers); Akikiki (Kauai Creeper); Akekee (Kauai Akepa) and Puaiohi (Kauai Small Thrush), one of Hawaii's two remaining solitaires. A further seven are classified as Endangered: Hawaiian Duck; Newell's Shearwater; Oahu Elepaio; Akiapolaau (with its amazing bill); Hawaii Creeper; Akepa (the only hole-nesting honeycreeper); and Maui Alauahio (or Creeper). On top of that, another 11 are classified as Vulnerable and three as Near Threatened. Clearly, many of the species mentioned above were among the highlights, but our ultimate bird of the trip was the incredible liwi, a real symbol of Hawaii's birds. It wasn't just the endemics though, and other great birds included superb Bristle-thighed Curlews, wonderful Laysan Albatrosses and the now successful Nene (or Hawaiian Goose). So it wasn't all bad: there were still plenty of great birds to see, and on top of that, Hawaii's scenery was also spectacular. The breathtaking volcanic landscapes

with glowing erupting vents and perfect cinder cones on Big Island; the awesome caldera of Haleakala, decorated with Silver Swords on Maui; Kauai's spectacular Waimea Canyon and Alakai Wilderness; and the gorgeous windswept beaches with high rolling surf throughout the islands: Hawaii is blessed with some incredible natural wonders!



Brilliant Bristle-thighed Curlews and Pacific Golden Plovers spend the winter in Hawaii (Pete Morris)



We began the tour in down town Honolulu, a surprisingly busy and modern city on what is Hawaii's most heavily populated island of Oahu. As one would expect, we were up fairly early the following day, and heading away from the hustle and bustle as quickly as we could! Our destination was to be the Keaiwa Heiau State Park, a small forested (much of which is plantations) area above Honolulu. Our aim was to find a small handful of native species amongst the plethora of introduced vermin. To set the scene, Red Junglefowls ran across the road, Spotted and Zebra Doves pottered along the road, cardinals and bulbuls flitted about, Red-billed Leiothrix and White-rumped Shamas sang vigorously and were very showy, Japanese Whit-eyes, Common Mynas, House Finch... All of these and more before a native bird had been spied!! That said, we walked a pleasant loop trail which enabled us to find the two Oahu land bird endemics: first we found the charismatic Oahu Amakihi, which granted us several excellent views. It was such a relief to see a bird that belonged here! It wasn't easy, but after a while we began hearing the call of an Oahu Elepaio. Initially elusive, we suddenly realized that it was in the large plantation trees above us. Over the next hour or so, we gained gradually better views of elepaios, finding a total of seven or so, including some recently fledged juveniles. As we continued around the loop, a flash of red revealed the presence of a couple of Apapanes. Although Hawaii's commonest and most widespread 'Drepanid' it is nonetheless rare and difficult on Oahu, so this was somewhat of a bonus!



Several Oahu Elepaios showed very well indeed (Pete Morris)

Mission accomplished, we returned to the van and headed on a little tour around the busy North Shore. A few surfers and a few Sanderling caught our gaze and we made our first of several stops at 'Foodland' a rather well-stocked supermarket that was more than capable of looking after our rather varied dietary desires! Sushi, sandwich, or whatever dispatched, we continued on our way to the famous James Campbell National Wildlife Refuge. Some roadside ponds yielded our first Hawaiian Coots (red-knobbed and yellow-knobbed birds), Hawaiian Stilts (complete with black tail bands), some dubious looking Mallard x Hawaiian Duck hybrids and a variety of more common waders including stunning Pacific Golden Plovers and Wandering Tattlers. Our first Bristle-thighed Curlew flashed by, and, surprisingly, a couple of Laysan Albatrosses arced in and flew right over us, a good distance from the sea! We then made our way round to the famous Kahuku Golf Course, and here we gained some brilliant views of up to 10 Bristle-thighed Curlews! Amazing to think that they fly for three and a half days non-stop to get to and from Alaska! Here we also found some distant Long-billed Dowitchers and the local Common Gallinules, but it was generally otherwise quiet with just a few boobies and shearwaters passing by off shore. We then made our way down to the southeast of the island and spent a little while peering



One of at least ten Bristle-thighed Curlews seen close to the James Campbell National Wildlife Refuge (Pete Morris)

out over the beautifully scenic Manana Island. Here, thousands of Wedge-tailed Shearwaters cavorted over the waves, swarms of Sooty Terns hovered over the island and numerous Red-footed Boobies arced gracefully by. Also, much to our delight, a couple of rare Hawaiian Monk Seals were hauled out on the beach. A decent dinner and well earned rest followed!

We spent the following morning again exploring the scenic southeast coast of the island, and again with similar results. Plenty more seabirds, including more Laysan Albatrosses and some White Terns, and this time we found four Hawaiian Monk Seals hauled out on the beach! We then made our way to the airport, dropped off our first car and took our first flight, over to Hilo on Hawaii (often known as the Big Island) where we checked in to our comfortable hotel.



Hawaii boasts some spectacular coastlines: here, the view over Manana Island (Pete Morris)

The Big Island is aptly named, as at 10,000 sq km (and still growing) it is a larger landmass than all the other islands in the archipelago combined. It is also the youngest and has five volcanoes: Kohala; Mauna Kea (4205m and the highest mountain in the world if measured from its base on the floor of the ocean); Hualalai; Mauna Loa (Mauna Kea is actually a side vent of the Mauna Loa) and Kilauea (the latter three have erupted in historic times and in fact the last one is still going). Hawaii as a whole has lost a tremendous variety of endemic bird species. Every island had one to three species of flightless rails, there were two species of forest-dwelling ibises, another eight geese in addition to the Nene, a short-winged Wood Harrier, four Stilt-Owls and there were also at least five species of large raven-sized crows. Although BirdLife International sensibly take their time in classifying birds as extinct, in view of the general lack of rediscoveries they are perhaps rather optimistic in clinging on to the following lost species (date last seen in the wild in brackets): Kamao (1981), Oahu Creeper (1985); Olomao (1988); O'u (1989); Nukupu'u (1996) and the Po'o-uli (2004). The Big Island was originally home to five endemic genera, although sadly only one of them is still extant, Loxoides, represented by the Palila. Sadly only six endemics are still extant, though surely any island with six endemics has got to be worth a visit!

On our first afternoon, in rather less than impressive weather, we made our way south to the Volcanoes National Park. It really was less than ideal weather, especially as we were partly sightseeing! Some Apapanes around the visitor centre provided a distraction, but we then decided to drive along the scenic Chain of Craters Road to the coast. We passed vast lava fields as we headed for the coast, pausing to admire the moonscape scenery. Once at the coast we walked out to the black cliffs and admired the local form of Black Noddy, complete with grey tails and orange legs! Few other birds were noted, though introduced Kalij Pheasants were conspicuous, and we made our way to the Jaggar museum for a bit of a geology lesson. Here, despite the cool and intermittently wet conditions, we could clearly see the glowing and smoking Halema'uma'u Crater. Although not overly impressive, we were promised that if we stayed until dusk, it would get more impressive. And so we did, and so it did! As the skies darkened, the glow gradually intensified, and we left happy that we'd witnessed and photographed this amazing scene!



The local Black Noddies show pale grey tails and orange feet! (Pete Morris)



The spectacular Halema'uma'u Crater in Volcanoes National Park (Pete Morris)

The following day was supposed to be our big day to the Hakalau Forest National Wildlife Refuge, but as mentioned, due to the worrying spread of Rapid Ohia Death, it had just been closed! Instead we had a walk along the Pu'u O'o trail, walking to various Kipukas (islands of forest amongst the volcanic lava). After a fine field breakfast, where we were serenaded by Apapanes and liwis, we made our way slowly in, looking for a few rare targets. The rich song of the Omao, or Hawaiian Thrush, soon caught our attention, and it did not take too long before we'd caught site of this somewhat drab endemic. More impressive were the numerous liwis and Apapanes, the latter flying around in busy flocks, looking almost like crossbills passing over the forest. Hawaii Amakihihs were relatively common and we also encountered the endemic Hawaii Elepaio, here of the Hilo Coast or Volcano form. Each time we arrived at a Kipuka, we scoured the open Koa trees for our main prize, the

unique (at least in a current context!) Akiapolaau. After a while we heard the distinctive loud call, and after a bit of maneuvering, all managed views of this special bird with its unique, unhinged bill. The lower mandible is literally a short chisel, used for digging out the grubs, whilst the upper mandible is a long scythe for poking into the holes and extracting prey. We enjoyed the bird for a while and then carried on our hunt. It was a fairly fruitless hunt until well after lunch, when we eventually found an Hawaii Creeper which showed well to all. A rare, though sadly not too impressive species! Try as we might though, the rare Akepa eluded us. Making our way back to Hilo, we paused at Waiakea Pond, where amongst the variety of unsavory introduced species, we did see our first Nene (or Hawaiian Goose) and a few waders, but by now, dinner was calling.



Some of Big Islands forest birds: the amazing Akiapolaau (Pete Morris), Omao (actually a solitaire) (Pete Morris), and Hawaii Creeper (Phil Tizzard)



The following day, we again ascended the impressive Saddle Road, the high pass between the two dominant volcanoes Mauna Kea and Mauna Loa, crossing vast lava flows and passing patches of stunted native Ohia forest. Our destination was Pu'u La'au, the reserve set up to protect the unique Mamane-Naio forest habitat of the Palila. This is the last of the of the Big Island finch-like Drepanids. After another field breakfast we began our search finding this great rarity relatively easily, and we were able to watch several at close range, feeding on the peapod-like fruit of a Mamane tree with their impressive grosbeak bills. Other new birds here were

Hawaii Elepaio of the palest form, 'Mauna Kea' (*bryani*), and Short-eared Owl. We continued west, pausing at the Big Island Country Club where confiding Hawaiian Coots and a trio of Nenes were joined by yet another plethora of introductions which included Wild Turkeys and Erckel's Francolins! The Kona Water Treatment Works added little new; more stilts and coots and our first Grey Francolins. Heading south, it was a relief when we finally found our first Hawaiian Hawk. Conveniently we were able to pull off the road and watch this buzzard-like endemic. Big Island was living up to its name, and we continued on the long drive (by Hawaiian standards!) to Manuka State Park where we found the last of the three forms of Hawaiian Elepaio: 'Kona' Elepaio (*sandwichensis*). Having watched the pair, we returned to Volcanoes National Park for another bit of sightseeing, seeing the odd Omao and Nene as we went!



The gorgeous Palila really is quite grosbeak-like (Pete Morris)

With one morning left on Big Island, and some unfinished business, we headed back up the by now familiar Saddle Road for one last effort! And it was an effort as we clocked something like 17km walking to some far-flung Kipukas. More Apapanes, more liwis, more Hawaii Amikihi and even more great views of Akiapolaau. Another Hawaiian Hawk graced the skies, but it was approaching the 11th hour when I finally found what had to be a juvenile Akepa. However, before most of the group could get on to it, it was gone! We looked around for a while, glancing nervously at our watches and then a flash of orange and we were there! A fine male Akepa



A few more goodies from Big Island: THE male Akepa (Phil Tizzard); Hawaiian Hawk (Pete Morris), and the Mauna Kea form of Hawaii Elepaio (Pete Morris)



was sat in front of us for all to admire! This certainly energized us for the walk back, and we still had time to get organized before our flight to Maui. By the time we had touched down in Maui, picked up the vehicle and made our way to the hotel, there was only time to eat and sleep, though we did get some impressive views of the island as we flew in!



The view over Mauna Kea from the Saddle Road (Pete Morris)

Our first day on Maui we had a fair bit of organizing to do. We began with some birding at a couple of wetlands close to Kahului, namely Kanaha Pond State Wildlife Sanctuary and Kealia Pond National Wildlife Refuge. Both areas housed excellent numbers of Hawaiian Coots and Hawaiian Stilts and a flyover flock of Nenes were appreciated. Small numbers of regular migrant waders were also present, and new birds included a single Common Tern, Northern Shoveler and Northern Pintail, and a most unexpected flock of 13 White-faced Ibis.



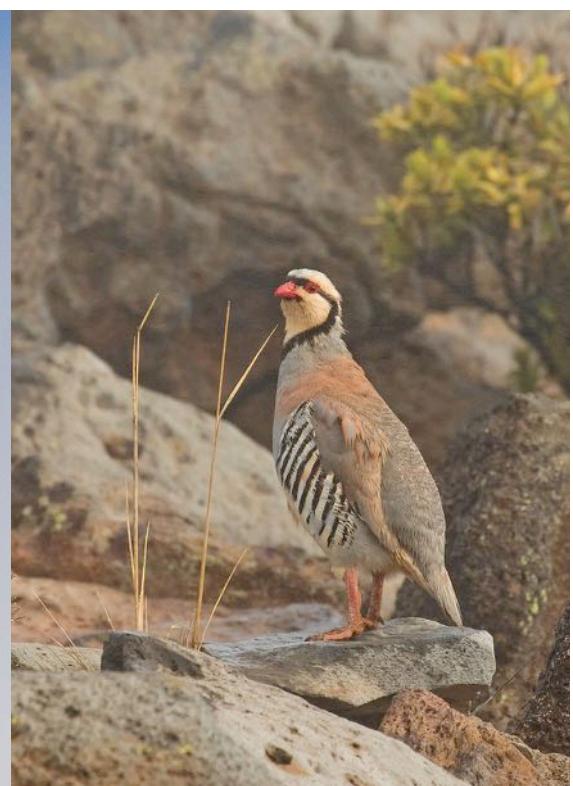
'Hawaiian' Black-necked Stilts and the two colour morphs of Hawaiian Coot (Pete Morris)



The following day we were to be going in to the Waikamoi Preserve. However, because we had already been on Big Island, we had to take some quite drastic precautions to make sure there was no chance of us introducing the dreaded Rapid Ohia Death, and as a result, we needed to purchase various items of clothing, bags and the like. So, the rest of the morning we had a team shopping trip! We then headed out for an extremely pleasant lunch before going up to the impressive Haleakala National Park. The summit of Haleakala is home to an amazing endemic plant, Silversword, a sunflower relative, which produces an enormous 3m tall flowering spike in its last year of life, after about 25 years. It has been brought back from the brink of extinction in the national park thanks to a new fence, which keeps out hungry goats and there are a good number of these



Magnificent Silverswords on Haleakala, Short-eared Owl and an introduced Chukar (Pete Morris)



stunning plants at the summit. We also enjoyed stupendous views over the multi-hued caldera to the east and several confiding Chukars. As the light faded, the wind and drizzle increased, rendering viewing less than comfortable! Sadly, although a couple of Hawaiian Petrels gave some good views as they returned to their burrows high on the mountain, most were unable to get out of the van in time. Unfortunately the weather continued to deteriorate, so we did not linger too much longer before we headed off back down the mountain via a series of tortuous hairpins.

Heading back to Hosmer Grove the following morning, complete with recently bought supplies and new clothes, we were not too pleased to see the weather. Grey and wet, with little visibility. But we had little choice: this was our one shot at entering the Waikamoi Preserve, so rain gear was donned and off we went. To cut a long



The Mamane trees in Hosmer Park were great for feeding 'Dreps'! I'iwi (above), demonstrating why it has that bill! Hawaii Amakihi (Maui form, below left) and the common Apapane (Pete Morris)



story short, it was not a great success. We traipsed down to, and then up and down the sturdy boardwalk, but failed to find the hoped for Akohekohe or Maui Parrotbill. The foul weather certainly did not help – we were soaked to the skin and freezing cold, but we also knew it was our only chance, so we persevered. We staked out flowering Ohias, seeing numerous Apapanes, stunning liwis and plentiful Hawaii Amakihis (Maui form), and had numerous encounters with the rare, warbler-like, Maui Alauahio (or Creeper), but sadly, the big two eluded us. And just as the weather cleared, we were told our time was up, our chance had slipped by. A cruel turn of luck, but it was always going to be a difficult ask! A pair of Nenes brightened the journey home, as did our lavish dinner!

Our final morning on Maui saw us once again exploring Kanaha Pond, where, as well as the species seen previously, we enjoyed four fine Long-billed Dowitchers in summer plumage. We then drove up to Hosmer Grove once more. We were right on the edge of the rain and it was interesting to see that the weather further into the preserve looked distinctly grim again! In mostly fine weather, we enjoyed more stunning liwis, Apapanes, Hawaiian Amakihis and even Mauai Alauahios. But time on Maui was running out, and we headed back for the usual routine of packing, loading, and heading to the airport!



The warbler-like Maui Alauahio (or Creeper) was reasonably common (Pete Morris)

The fourth and final island of our Hawaiian journey was the pretty Kauai, ‘the garden isle’. We decided to hit the ground running. Once in the vehicle we headed north to the spectacular Kilauea Point. Some research had shown that one or two Kermadec Petrels had been visiting the colony here, and almost as soon as we arrived, one literally screamed overhead, harassing the boobies in skua-like fashion. We spent the next hour or so watching this aerial master come and go, and at the same time enjoyed the throngs of Wedge-tailed Shearwaters and Red-footed Boobies, and we also enjoyed our first Red-tailed Tropicbirds and Magnificent Frigatebirds, whilst Laysan Albatrosses drifted by. Not a bad introduction to the island!

The following morning, we returned to Kilauea Point once more, and enjoyed the thriving seabird colonies without the Kermadec Petrel (which is an afternoon bird!). Numerous entertaining flocks of Nenes were found and we then made our way to the Hanalei National Wildlife Refuge. Here, amongst the tarot fields, we finally found some convincing looking Hawaiian Ducks, including a fine drake! More coots and stilts were on show, and the local form of Common Gallinule was conspicuous. We then made our way into downtown Princeville



Kermadec Petrel, an unexpected bonus, gave magnificent views, as did the accompanying Red-footed Boobies (Pete Morris)



for a bizarre goose chase... well albatross chase actually. Eventually, after asking around a bit, we were treated to the spectacular sight of several Laysan Albatrosses loitering on lawns in people's back gardens, some in courtship display, some with well-grown chicks! What an experience!!



Laysan Albatrosses... what a privilege! (Pete Morris)





Laysan Albatrosses - so graceful in flight (Pete Morris)



We then drove to the south of the island, stopping for lunch on the way, and boarded our quirky catamaran to head out into the ocean. The pelagic adventure proved to be great fun. Wedge-tailed Shearwaters and Brown and Red-footed Boobies were the most numerous species present, and several feeding flocks contained small numbers of Brown Noddies and Sooty Terns. A group of Arctic Terns was a surprise, and a single Spectacled (or Grey-backed) Tern much appreciated. Amongst the shearwaters, we picked out a few Sooty Shearwaters, and a single Bulwer's Petrel, but perhaps the highlight of the pelagic was the impressive numbers of Newell's Shearwaters, many of which showed incredibly well. Also of note was a single White Tern, a rarity on Kauai, and perhaps even a first according to our man on the spot David. Also of note were some great cetaceans: a small pod of playful Rough-toothed Dolphins and a large pod of Short-finned Pilot Whales.



Short-finned Pilot Whales and Newell's Shearwaters - two highlights of our pelagic (Pete Morris)



The main ornithological attraction of Kauai is the Alakai swamp, a wet montane 1000m+ plateau in the centre of the island, which is dissected by tributaries of the awe-inspiring Waimea Canyon, a gigantic chasm of Grand Canyon proportions. Much of Kauai's interior consists of imposing escarpments and plunging waterfalls and it also shares a claim to being the wettest place on earth (equal with Cherrapunjee in northeast India) at 11.5m of rain per year and that is a lot of rain! It is difficult to imagine another small island having such impressive features. We paused to admire the canyon several times, noting gorgeous White-tailed Tropicbirds which only augmented the view!

Kauai's native forest bird survivors of the human-related onslaughts are now more vulnerable to natural disasters. For instance Hurricane Iniki is thought to have dealt the final blow to several species when it smashed into Kauai in 1992, clearing the forest canopy from exposed ridges there. As on the other islands, seeing most of the surviving endemics requires a visit to lush higher-elevation forests where mosquitoes carrying the lethal avian malaria haven't yet wiped the birds out. Our man on the spot, David, knows his home patch, the Alakai Wilderness of Kauai better than anyone, having spent many years in the field there. As the birds become



Pure-looking Hawaiian Ducks were straightforward to see on Kauai (Pete Morris)

tougher, the options become fewer, and after an entertaining 4WD drive, crossing rivers and sliding through mudbaths, we arrived at a small parking lot from where we were to walk. It was a reasonably arduous walk which took us across rivers, along narrow ridges and up and down slopes, but overall it was worth the effort! A couple of the endemics were relatively easy, the excitable Kauai Elepaio and the little lemon yellow Anianiau. The others required more effort! First to fall was Akikiki or Kauai Creeper, characteristically foraging on the trunks and main boughs of trees like a nuthatch in its search for small invertebrates. The bird we saw was in a study plot and colour-ringed. Having heard several, the next species we found was the critically endangered Puaiohi, Kauai's surviving solitaire. We crashed down into a ravine, from where the bird had been calling, and after a tense and wet search, eventually gained good views of this rare bird. With some relief, we began the walk out, only for David to utter the word Akekee. At exactly the same time, our first Kauai Amakihi popped up, and the group didn't know where to look. Fortunately the rarer Akekee stayed put for a while, allowing



Two of Kauai's commoner endemics. Kauai Elepaio and the heavy-billed Kauai Amakihi (Pete Morris)



Hawaiian Geese are doing so well on Kauai, the local farmers now consider them to be a pest! (Pete Morris)

great views for all, whilst more Kauai Amakihi's came along for those that missed the first! Thanks to David's great knowledge and help, we'd cleaned up! The walk out was longish but fine, and the sleep that evening a well-needed one!

On the final morning, some of us returned to the Alakai Wilderness and did some gentle birding along the road. Here we were able to find three of the endemics for those that did not attempt the walk, namely Kauai Amakihi, Anianiau and Kauai Elepaio. We also paused for more views of the fabulous Waimea Canyon (below), one of Hawaii's best-kept secrets. It is actually one of the geological wonders of the world at 20km long and over 800m deep!!

All that was left was for us to thank David and make our way back to the hotel for one last wash and brush up. We packed the vehicles, had lunch and made our way to the airport one last time. It had been another great Pacific adventure, and one that had seen us get all but two of the extant and gettable Hawaii endemics, and the odd future split too! If only we could have turned back the clock!!





Another lovely Bristle-thighed Curlew! (Pete Morris)

SYSTEMATIC LIST OF SPECIES RECORDED DURING THE TOUR

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

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

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

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>

(EW) = Extinct in the wild, (CR) = Critically Endangered, (EN) = Endangered, (VU) = Vulnerable, (NT) = Near Threatened, (DD) = Data Deficient.

For polytypic species, the subspecies seen on the tour, where known, is placed in parentheses at the end of the species comment. Generally, species listed with trinomials are not currently split by the IOC.

The species names and taxonomy used in the report mostly follows Gill, F & D Donsker (Eds). **2016. IOC World Bird List (v 6.3).** This list is updated several times annually and is available at <http://www.worldbirdnames.org>. Please note, this was the current version when the report checklist was created. Some alternative names are given in parentheses.

All of our checklists are powered by our partner iGoTerra (www.igoterra.com) who provide web and mobile applications for bird and wildlife enthusiasts and businesses. Their suite of services cover observations, rankings, lists, photos and trip management tools.

Canada Goose (introduced) *Branta canadensis* Presumed introduced birds on Waiakea Pond, Hilo, Big Island.

Nene ♀ (Hawaiian Goose) *Branta sandvicensis* (VU) See note.

Muscovy Duck (introduced) *Cairina moschata* A feral population on Waiakea Pond, Hilo, Big Island.

Mallard (introduced) *Anas platyrhynchos* Several - most assumed introduced. Several hybrids with Hawaiian Ducks too.

Hawaiian Duck ♀ (Koloa) *Anas wyvilliana* (EN) Great views of c12 on Kauai. Subtly smart!



Common Gallinule (of the local subspecies *sandvicensis*) and Hawaiian Duck on Kauai (Pete Morris)

Northern Shoveler *Anas clypeata* A female seen at Kealia Pond NWR.

Northern Pintail *Anas acuta* Two females at Kanaha Pond SWS.

Wild Turkey (introduced) *Meleagris gallopavo* Several seen, the first at the Big Island Country Club [*intermedia*].

Chukar Partridge (introduced) *Alectoris chukar* First along Saddle Road, Big Island, and several in Haleakala NP, Maui.

Black Francolin (introduced) *Francolinus francolinus* A few seen on drives in and out of the Akalai Wilderness, Kauai.

Grey Francolin (introduced) *Francolinus pondicerianus* A few seen. First at the Kona Water Treatment Ponds, Big Island.

Erckel's Francolin (introduced) *Pternistis erckelii* A few seen well on Big Island and Kauai. A large, attractive Francolin.

Red Junglefowl (introduced) *Gallus gallus* Chickens (feral) were abundant throughout, a few looking like junglefowl!

Kalij Pheasant (introduced) *Lophura leucomelanos* Several seen on Big Island. First in Volcanoes NP [*leucomelanos*].

Common Pheasant (introduced) *Phasianus colchicus* Fairly common and widespread.

Golden Pheasant *Chrysolophus pictus* (H) One heard calling in the Waikamoi Preserve, Maui.

Indian Peafowl (introduced) *Pavo cristatus* A roadside bird seen in southeast Oahu.

Laysan Albatross ♀ *Phoebastria immutabilis* (NT) See note.

Kermadec Petrel ♀ *Pterodroma neglecta* Brilliant views of an intermediate phase bird at Kilauea Point, Kauai. Superb!

Hawaiian Petrel ♀ *Pterodroma sandwichensis* (VU) See note.

Wedge-tailed Shearwater *Ardenna pacifica* Very common for much of the tour. Many great views.

Sooty Shearwater *Ardenna grisea* (NT) Small numbers seen on the pelagic from off the south coast of Kauai.

Newell's Shearwater ♀ *Puffinus newelli* (EN) 50 - 100 seen well on the pelagic off the south coast of Kauai. Great stuff!

Bulwer's Petrel *Bulweria bulwerii* One seen well on the pelagic off the south coast of Kauai.

Red-tailed Tropicbird *Phaethon rubricauda* Best were the several seen well around Kilauea Point [*melanorhynchos*].

White-tailed Tropicbird *Phaethon lepturus* First on the Kauai pelagic and more in the canyon in the Akalai Wilderness [*dorotheae*].

White-faced Ibis *Plegadis chihi* A flock of 13 at Kealia Pond NWR, Maui, were a surprise.

Black-crowned Night Heron *Nycticorax nycticorax* Common and widespread. First at James Campbell NWR [*hoactii*].

Western Cattle Egret (introduced) *Bubulcus ibis* A common and widespread introduction.

Great Frigatebird *Fregata minor* Small numbers seen well at Kilauea Point, Kauai.

Red-footed Booby *Sula sula* Quite common. First seen on Oahu. Also seen very well at Kilauea Point, Kauai [*rufipes*].

Brown Booby *Sula leucogaster* Less common. First seen off Oahu, and plenty off Kauai, especially on the pelagic [*plotus*].



A Red-tailed Tropicbird seen on the pelagic of Kauai (Pete Morris)

Hawaiian Hawk ♀ *Buteo solitarius* (NT) We sweated for a while but ended up seeing c5 of this scarce endemic.

Common Gallinule *Gallinula galeata* First seen at James Campbell NWR, Oahu and many seen well on Kauai [*sandvicensis*].

Hawaiian Coot ♀ *Fulica alai* (VU) Seen well on all four islands and both colour morphs to boot!

Black-necked Stilt ♀ (Hawaiian S) *Himantopus [mexicanus] knudseni* Seen well on all four islands. Black tail band!

Pacific Golden Plover *Pluvialis fulva* Very common throughout the islands. Many in stunning breeding plumage!

Long-billed Dowitcher *Limnodromus scolopaceus* See note.

Bristle-thighed Curlew ♀ *Numenius tahitiensis* (VU) See note.

Wandering Tattler *Tringa incana* Small numbers seen at several locations. First seen at the James Campbell NWR.

Ruddy Turnstone *Arenaria interpres* Common at several locations. First at the James Campbell NWR [nominate].

Sanderling *Calidris alba* Small numbers seen at several locations. First seen along the north shore on Oahu.

Brown Noddy *Anous stolidus* Small numbers at several sites. First off east Oahu, and several on the pelagic off Kauai.

Black Noddy *Anous minutus* See note.

White Tern (Common Fairy T) *Gygis alba* See note.

Spectacled Tern ♀ (Grey-backed T) *Onychoprion lunatus* One seen reasonably on the pelagic off Kauai.

Sooty Tern *Onychoprion fuscatus* Very common from the Manana Island viewpoint, and a few elsewhere [*oahuensis*].

Common Tern *Sterna hirundo* A 2cy bird seen well at Kanaha Pond, Maui. Dark plumage suggests the form *longipennis*.

Arctic Tern *Sterna paradisaea* Four seen well on the pelagic off the south coast of Kauai. A write-in!



Long-billed Dowitcher and Arctic Tern - two scarce migrants on Hawaii (Pete Morris)

Rock Dove (introduced) *Columba livia* As interesting as the chickens!

Spotted Dove (introduced) *Spilopelia chinensis* A common and widespread introduction.

Zebra Dove (introduced) *Geopelia striata* A common and widespread introduction.

[Western Barn Owl (introduced) *Tyto alba*] A freshly dead bird was examined on the west coast of Big Island.

Short-eared Owl *Asio flammeus* c10 seen well on Big Island and Maui. Local form, *sandvicensis*, known as Pueo locally.



We enjoyed several brilliant encounters with the local Short-eared Owls (Pete Morris)

Rose-ringed Parakeet (introduced) *Psittacula krameri* An introduced pest, seen mostly on Kauai.

Kauai Elepaio ♀ *Chasiempis sclateri* (VU) Fairly common in the Akalai Wilderness, Kauai, with many seen well.

Oahu Elepaio ♀ *Chasiempis ibidis* (EN) Great views of c7 (inc. juvs) in the Kea'iwa Heiau State Park

Hawaii Elepaio ♀ *Chasiempis sandwichensis* (VU) See note.

Eurasian Skylark (introduced) *Alauda arvensis* A common introduction on Big Island and Maui.

Red-whiskered Bulbul (introduced) *Pycnonotus jocosus* A few seen on Oahu.

Red-vented Bulbul (introduced) *Pycnonotus cafer* Quite common on Oahu.

Japanese Bush Warbler (introduced) *Horornis diphone* (H) Heard at several sites, though no real attempt to see them!

Chinese Hwamei (introduced) *Garrulax canorus* Frequently heard on Maui and Kauai, where a few were seen.

Red-billed Leiothrix (introduced) *Leiothrix lutea* A common and widespread introduction.

Japanese White-eye (introduced) *Zosterops japonicus* A common and widespread introduction. Showing signs of evolving!

Northern Mockingbird (introduced) *Mimus polyglottos* Just a few seen at various sites, the first on Maui.

Common Myna (introduced) *Acridotheres tristis* A common and widespread introduction.

Omao ♀ (Hawaiian Thrush) *Myadestes obscurus* (VU) Reasonably common in the higher elevation forests of Big Island.

Puaiohi ♀ (Small Kauai Thrush) *Myadestes palmeri* (CR) Several heard and eventually, three seen well in the Akalai Wilderness.

White-rumped Shama (introduced) *Copsychus malabaricus* A fairly common introduction, especially on Oahu.

House Sparrow (introduced) *Passer domesticus* A common and widespread introduction.

Common Waxbill (introduced) *Estrilda astrild* A fairly common introduction, especially on Oahu.

Red Avadavat (introduced) *Amandava amandava* A small flock seen at the James Campbell NWR on Oahu.

African Silverbill (introduced) *Euodice cantans* A few seen on the south coast of Kauai.

Scaly-breasted Munia (introduced) *Lonchura punctulata* A few seen, first on Big Island.

Chestnut Munia (introduced) (C Mannikin) *Lonchura atricapilla* A fairly common introduction, especially on Oahu.



Java Sparrow: one of rather too many introductions on the islands! (Pete Morris)

Java Sparrow (introduced) *Lonchura oryzivora* A few seen on Kauai.

Maui Alauahio ♀ (M Creeper) *Paroreomyza montana* (EN) Good views of plenty in the Waikamoi Preserve.

Akikiki ♀ (Kauai Creeper) *Oreomystis bairdi* (CR) A colour-ringed bird seen well in the Akalai Wilderness, Kauai.

Palila ♀ *Loxioides bailleui* (CR) Great views of at least 4 at the Pu'u La'au Preserve. Very finch like vocally and in habits
liwi ♀ *Drepanis coccinea* (VU) Seen well on the Big Island, Maui and Kuawi. A cracker; sadly declining still.

Apapane ♀ *Himatione sanguinea* The commonest extant 'Drepanid' seen on all four islands.

Akiapolaau ♀ *Hemignathus wilsoni* (EN) Great views of a couple of stunners on Big Island. Amazing bill.



The amazing Akiapolaau with prey that has been chisled and picked out from the wood! (Pete Morris)

Anianiau ♀ (Lesser A) *Magumma parva* (VU) Uncommon in the Akalai Wilderness, Kauai, with a few seen well.

Hawaii Creeper ♀ *Loxops mana* (EN) Good views of a few on Big Island. Took some searching out!

Akekee ♀ (Kauai Akepa) *Loxops caeruleirostris* (CR) A female seen well in the Akalai Wilderness, Kauai.

Hawaii Akepa ♀ *Loxops coccineus* (EN) See note.

Hawaii Amakihi ♀ *Chlorodrepanis virens* Fairly common in all forested areas on Big Island.

Oahu Amakihi ♀ *Chlorodrepanis flava* (VU) Great views of several in the Kea'iwa Heiau State Park, Oahu.

Kauai Amakihi ♀ *Chlorodrepanis stejnegeri* (VU) Uncommon in the Akalai Wilderness, with just a few seen well.

House Finch (introduced) *Haemorhous mexicanus* A common and widespread introduction.

Yellow-fronted Canary (introduced) *Crithagra mozambica* A very common introduction on Big Island.

Western Meadowlark (introduced) *Sturnella neglecta* Six or so seen on the north coast of Kauai.

Red-crested Cardinal (introduced) *Paroaria coronata* A common and widespread introduction.

Yellow-billed Cardinal (introduced) *Paroaria capitata* Several of this introduction seen on Big Island

Saffron Finch (introduced) *Sicalis flaveola* A very common introduction on Big Island.

Northern Cardinal (introduced) *Cardinalis cardinalis* A common and widespread introduction.



Apapane feasting on the flowering Mamane trees at Hosmer Grove on Maui (Pete Morris)



An incredible lava flow being recolonized in the Volcanoes National Park (Pete Morris)

MAMMALS

Small Indian Mongoose (introduced) *Herpestes auropunctatus* A sadly not uncommon introduction.

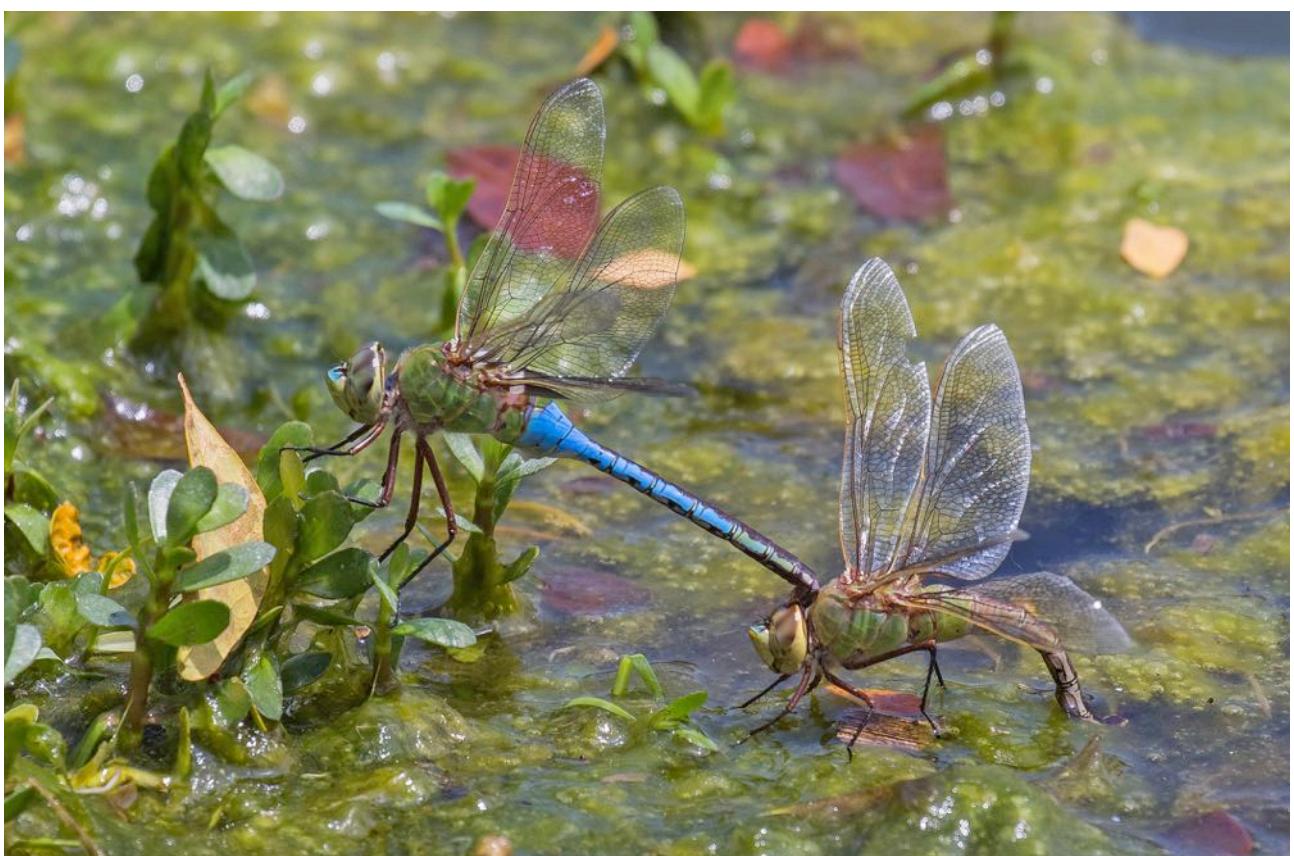
Hawaiian Monk Seal *Monachus schauinslandi* At least four scoped up from the Manana Island viewpoint on Oahu.

Rough-toothed Dolphin *Steno bredanensis* A small pod of c5 seen on the pelagic off of Kuawi.

Short-finned Pilot Whale *Globicephala macrorhynchus* A pod of 30+ seen on the pelagic off of Kuawi.

Feral Pig (introduced) A few piggy porkers were spied trotting along on Oahu and another on Kuawi.

Mouflon (introduced) *Ovis orientalis* One seen on Big Island.



Beautiful Great Hawaiian Darners ovipositing (Pete Morris)

NOTES TO THE SYSTEMATIC LIST

The most up to date referenced taxonomic list referred to in the Tour Report is that of Gill, F & D Donsker (Eds). **2016. IOC World Bird List (v 6.3).**

Nene (Hawaiian Goose) *Branta sandvicensis*

First seen on Waiakea Pond, Hilo, Big Island, but ringed and with a radio transmitter! Three then seen at the Big Island Country Club, another in Volcanoes National Park that day (all ringed). Four un-ringed birds seen in flight at Kanaha Pond, a pair in Haleakala National Park, and loads in Northern Kauai. The reintroduction scheme is clearly doing very well, and by now, it is impossible to differentiate the original surviving population from the reintroduced population.

Laysan Albatross *Phoebastria immutabilis*

Two over the James Campbell NWR, were a surprise, and showed very well, flying around well inland from the beach! Others seen offshore on Oahu and particularly on northern Kauai where breeding adults and well-grown chicks were observed around Princeville and plenty more seen flying around, particularly at Kilauea Point. Seeing these huge creatures at such close range was a real treat.



Laysan Albatross - an impressive bird, especially up close and personal! (Pete Morris)

Hawaiian Petrel *Pterodroma sandwichensis*

Two calling birds were seen at close range near the summit of the Haleakala Volcano. Both birds arced in the strong wind just in front of us, but sadly disappeared before the mass exodus from the van, as most were sheltering from the rather grim weather. Sadly, none seen at sea, despite much effort!

Long-billed Dowitcher *Limnodromus scolopaceus*

Two distant dowitchers seen at the James Campbell NWR, Oahu, were assumed to be this species. Later, we saw a group of four summer plumaged birds much better at Kanaha Pond, Maui.

Bristle-thighed Curlew *Numenius tahitiensis*

At least 10 seen stunningly well at the James Campbell NWR, Oahu. One bird, tagged 88 with green over orange and a transmitter has been followed to Western Alaska and back twice. The 4,500 kilometer (2,800 mile) journey to/from Alaska takes about three and a half days of nonstop flight over the Pacific Ocean at an average speed of 55 kmh (35 mph)!!



Wedge-tailed Shearwaters were numerous around the islands (Pete Morris)

Black Noddy *Anous minutus*

We saw several very well at the end of the Chain of Craters Road in Volcanoes National Park, Big Island. The form here, *melanogenys* is distinctly grey-tailed and notably shows conspicuous orange legs!!

White Tern (Common Fairy T) *Gygis alba*

A few seen on Oahu, but more surprisingly, one seen well on the pelagic from Kikiaola Harbour off the south coast of Kauai. Possibly a first for the island [*candida*].



Oahu Amakihi, one of three closely related (formerly lumped) species (Pete Morris)



Hawaiian Goose or Nene (Pete Morris)

Hawaii Elepaio *Chasiempis sandwichensis*

The only representatives of the monarch flycatchers on Hawaii, all elepaios evidently descended from a single common ancestor, which colonized the islands. We noted the three distinct forms of Hawaii Elapaio on Big Island, and with the way El-epaio taxonomy has gone in recent years, who knows if this may in the future be converted to three species!! The 'Hilo Coast' or 'Volcano' Elapaio (*ridgwayi*) was seen well along the Pu'u O'o Trail, off Saddle Road, Big Island, and along the Powerline Access Road. The 'Mauna Kea' Elapaio (*bryani*) was seen very well in the drier Mamane forests where we saw the Palila at Pu'u La'au and the nominate 'Kona' or 'Kona Coast' Elapaio was seen well at Manuka Forest Reserve south of Kona.

Hawaii Akepa *Loxops coccineus*

With the closure of Hakalau Forest NWR due to Rapid Ohia Death Syndrome, this one became a whole lot more difficult. After a lot of hard work, a juvenile was seen quite well but briefly and shortly afterwards a fine adult male was seen very well. A relief, and it took a 17km round walk!!



Hawaiian Black-necked Stilt in the shadow of a rainbow (Pete Morris)

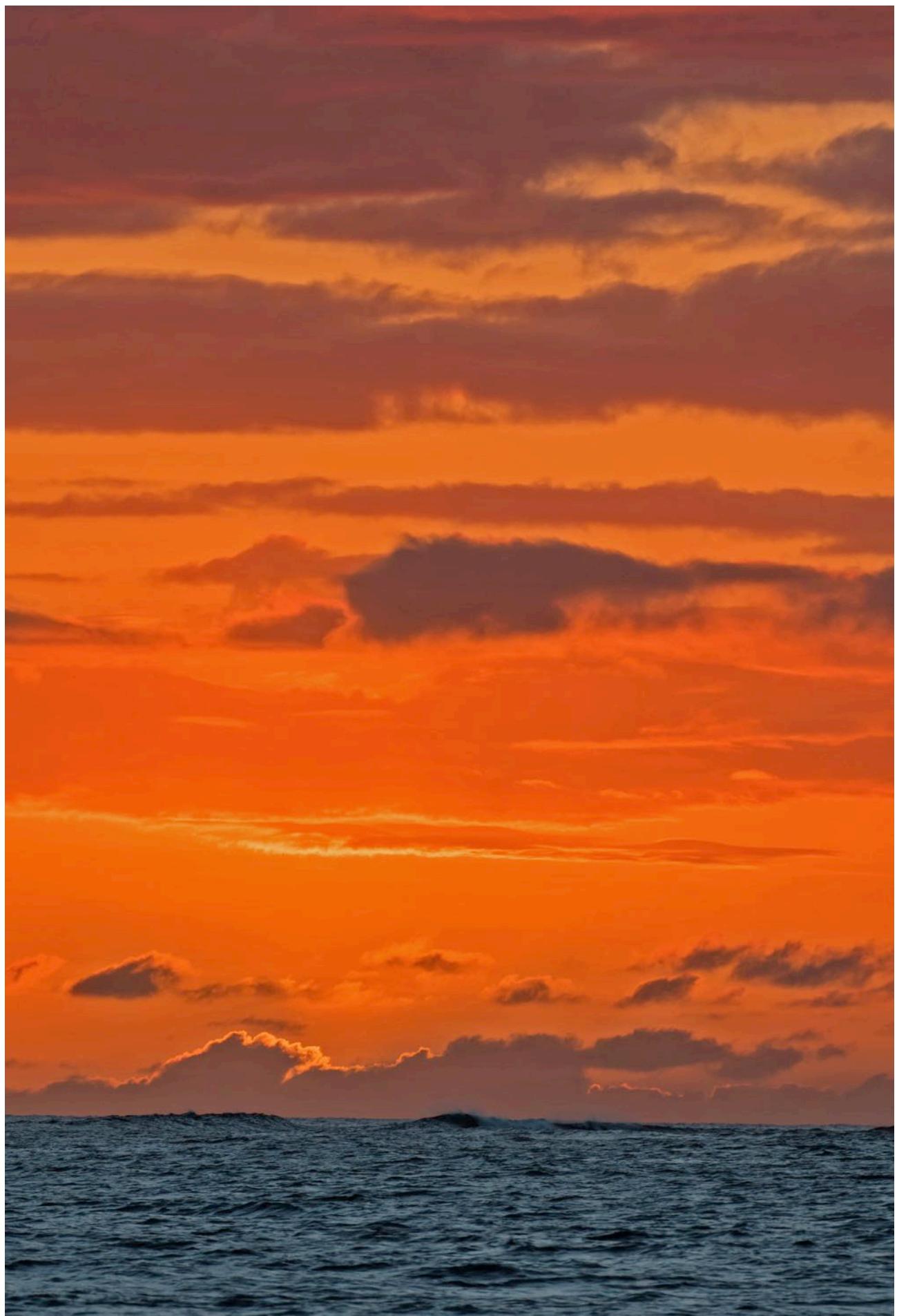
APPENDIX 1

TOP 6 BIRDS OF THE MAIN TOUR

- 1st IIWI
- 2nd AKIAPOLAAU
- 3rd BRISTLE-THIGHED CURLEW
- 4th Akepa
- 5th Palila
- 6th Laysan Albatross



I'iwi in Mamane - what a riot of colour! (Pete Morris)



We enjoyed several spectacular sunsets. This one was at the end of our pelagic on Kauai (Pete Morris)