



Fourteen hours of searching before we found this stunning Palila, just one of the Critically Endangered endemics of Hawaii! JB

HAWAII

15 – 25 MARCH 2022

LEADER: JOSHUA BERGMARK

We met in Honolulu on a fine spring evening, all overjoyed to be united and virus-compliant on the first Birdquest Pacific Ocean tour to run in three years! Straight up the Aihe Ridge Trail in the morning, we had a relaxing session courtesy of a certain travel-starved leader who had already circumnavigated Oahu between his arrival the previous day and the tour start! As such, within minutes we were watching a pair of rare Oahu Elepaio building their nest and affording superb views at eye-level as they unconcernedly went about their business in a small copse of trees. Next up was the other remaining island endemic, Oahu Amakihi. We spent time working to obtain some excellent views of our first extant “Drep” (the Hawaiian Honeycreepers), marveling at the intriguing bill construction which has somehow evolved from a couple of very lost and very reproductively effective rosefinches eight million years ago. Plenty of introduced species were in evidence, effectively filling the niches which once supported close to 150 endemic landbirds. White-rumped Shama, Red-billed Leiothrix, Red-vented and Red-whiskered Bulbul all the way from Asia, right alongside Red-crested Cardinal and House Finch from North America!



This rare Oahu Elepaio worked hard building his nest as we watched quietly from the track. JB

Back in the vehicle we crossed under the central mountains and worked our way up the east coast towards James Campbell National Wildlife Reserve, which is still closed! No matter, as the Bristle-thighed Curlews using the adjacent golf course was plenty for us, even allowing detailed study of their namesake wispy feathering amongst the tombstones of an old Japanese cemetery which is almost falling into the ocean. The beachfront here held a Wandering Tattler, while the greens were covered with Pacific Golden Plover, Saffron Finch, and Common Waxbill? After some local shrimp for lunch we set our sights on several Hawaiian Coot (both red and yellow knobbed birds) and “Hawaiian” Black-necked Stilts with their tenuously black tailbands that haven’t yet convinced any taxonomic authority to split them. A long drive through the traffic eventually found us on the far south of Oahu, where we spent some time distantly scoping the impressive Sooty Tern colony offshore on Manana Island. A rare Hawaiian Monk Seal was hauled out on the beach here, and several Humpback Whales were evident offshore.



Look at the bristles on those thighs! JB

After a fairly futile attempt to find a few ABA ticks early the next morning, we were soon in the air and back down again on our next island, Kauai (it rhymes with Hawaii!). After a world-record shattering wait for the hire car, we finally managed to get north to Kilauea Lighthouse where we were at least able to spend an hour on dusk. The reserve itself is shut after 3pm, but since the bird activity is easily seen from the carpark our time there was certainly action-packed. Our first Nene (Hawaiian Goose, pronounced Nay-Nay) eyed us from the roadside at point-blank range, and several imposing Laysan Albatross circled the point. Red-footed Boobies flew back and forth with nesting material as Great Frigatebirds tried to steal food. A few Brown Booby were noted flying by, and light morph Wedge-tailed Shearwaters were drifting past offshore but once the sun went down they came careening in and one even landed right in front of us before waddling quickly off to his burrow.



Red-footed Booby looking fairly precarious! Photo by Jakapat Vanichanan

Up early for our pelagic off the south coast of Kauai with some well-sourced chum from a local sushi producer and a very fast boat, the scene was set. Yet despite a long burley line and considerable drifting in the calm conditions, nothing even paused to look at us. Often typical of tropical pelagics (especially with not a breath of wind for most of the morning) but disappointing nonetheless. We picked up a handful of White-tailed Tropicbirds amongst the numerous boobies, and a large inquisitive pod of Short-finned Pilot Whales were appreciated by all on board. Eventually we spotted a feeding flock in the distance, so we changed tactic and motored over there. The birds were following unseen schools of predatory fish, chasing small fish to the surface in quick bursts every 10 minutes which resulted in immediate frenzies as Wedge-tailed Shearwaters and Common Noddies looped in and grabbed food right out from under the ubiquitous boobies. Yet, despite following this flock for the rest of the morning and chumming regularly, the only new species to appear was a duo of Sooty Shearwaters.



Pale morph Wedge-tailed Shearwaters are the standard around Hawaii. JB

From the sea to the summit, we arrived at Pu'u O Kila Lookout after lunch and spent the afternoon amongst Ohia trees searching for the three common forest endemics, ultimately succeeding in finding all of them. Kauai Elepaio were particularly friendly, and several lemon yellow Anianiau foraged amongst the canopy displaying mostly scrappy juvenile/female plumages - we were happy to find an adult male soon after! It wasn't until quite late that we finally located a cooperative Kauai Amakihi pair, showing off those impressive thickset bills which split this species from the Oahu and Hawaii species. Of course we can't forget our first sightings of Apapane, a beautiful red and white Ohia-specialist still found on all four main islands. In the late evening we attempted to seawatch some early Newell's Shearwaters we thought might be starting to prospect nesting sites, but despite over an hour scoping from the point where they are known to stream inland during the breeding season we did not spot even one this time.



The lovely lemon-yellow male Anianiau. JB



The relatively thickset bill on Kauai Amakihi is quite obvious in photos at least! Photo by Jakapat Vanichanan

The next day was the big one - an optional trek way up into the Alakai Wilderness to search for the three rarest Kauai endemics, all holding the illustrious title of Critically Endangered. Being the wettest place on Earth, we had obviously been blessed by the birding gods because nothing else can explain the bright and sunny day we enjoyed, making the typically exhausting and cold muddy trail significantly easier than it often is! The majority of the group came along this year, and with a big effort were at altitude (and thus above avian malaria) by 10am. This gave us ample time to search thoroughly for our increasingly rare targets, but the leader had a hard time getting his words right when he saw a nuthatch-like bird right above the group as we started dropping our bags ready to start birding. "Amaki- Akak- Ake- Aki- AKIKIKIKIKIKI right there! In fact there were two adult Akikiki foraging around us, and we were able to follow them for at least half an hour, dumbstruck at the amazing views we were having of what might be the rarest bird in the entire world, with word on the street suggesting there may be only three pairs remaining in the wild. It doesn't get more mega than that.



Puaiohi – thankfully not as difficult to see as it is to spell! JB

We soon heard our next bird, the Puaiohi (Small Kauai Thrush) from the edge of a nearby gully. It sat still for a long time once we found it, so everyone had some good views, which were then improved upon when we found another pair thirty minutes later. The bird activity was impressive up here, with our first bright orange liwi of the tour impressing us as they fed on abundant Ohia blossom alongside more Apapane and Anianiau. Kauai Elepaio a constant companion, and Kauai Amakihi passed by occasionally. However try as we might for the rest of the day, there was unfortunately not a sniff of the third rarity, Akekee. Certainly a dampener on the mood, but as we walked down the hill to the vehicle entirely dry and enjoying White-tailed Tropicbirds soaring against the distant valley cliffs, we all knew the day had been exceptionally successful.



Maybe the rarest bird in the world – we were very very very lucky to see the Critically Endangered Akikiki this year. JB



The stunning Alakai Wilderness, far from any roads as we ascended above the malaria. JB

It was a rush job in the morning heading north to Hanalei in search of Hawaiian Duck. Luckily we quickly found two particularly pure-looking males, one even sporting leg bands to prove his pedigree. Also using the ponds were dozens of Nene, alongside Common Gallinule, more stilts and coots, plus a few intros like Western Meadowlark, Chestnut Munia and Chinese Hwamei. Moving over to the nearby town of Princeville a pair of adult Laysan Albatross strutting across a well-manicured suburban lawn certainly seemed out of place, as did the young chick sitting on a nearby nest in the middle of a turning circle! The adjacent golf course held over a hundred Nene, and a double bonus in the form of “Lesser” Snow Goose and “Aleutian” Cackling Goose. With all of these great birds under our belt it was straight back south to the airport and onwards to the third island, Maui.



Laysan Albatross enjoying their American dream in the suburbs! Photo by Jakapat Vanichanan



Nene represent one of the few success stories in Hawaii, once down to a handful of birds and now abundant on Kauai at least! JB

Yet another car delay meant that we didn't ascend Haleakela until the late afternoon, but a short half hour session at Hosmer's Grove already produced an intimate encounter with Maui Alauahio, the only gettable endemic for us on the island. Quite a pretty bird reminiscent of a large yellow warbler, but entirely unrelated! There were dozens of liwi and Apapane flying around flashing orange and red, but we were on a mission and tore ourselves away to continue upwards, reaching the crater rim right on sunset. Amongst the throngs of tourists we examined the endemic Silversword plants and a pair of Chukar Partridge against a stunning backdrop with hardly a cloud in sight. Donning our warmest gear and beginning the dusk vigil, we waited for some time before a loud bubbling above us revealed a trio of Hawaiian Petrel chasing each other and arcing in the wind. We had dozens of good views over the following quarter of an hour, even having petrels passing by at eye level just meters from our faces. They were a bit fast to aim optics at, but even without binoculars we could see the upper and underwing features beautifully and went to bed satisfied!



This Maui Alauahio must not have been happy that I kept pronouncing his name wrong, so refused to pose for a clear photo! JB

Following that action packed day, it was time for a relaxed morning exploring Hosmer's Grove at leisure before our late afternoon flight to Big Island. Perfect birding conditions allowed us to enjoy dozens of honeycreepers feasting on yellow Mamane flowers, the chorus of native birdsong with flashes of yellow and orange across the sky providing a glimpse into what the highlands all across Hawaii were once like. We additionally had good looks at the Maui subspecies of Hawaii Amakihi which we had not seen the previous afternoon, and the photographers managed some lovely close photos of liwi and Apapane.



liwi can still be considered common in places, but their range is slowly contracting upwards... Photo by Jakapat Vanichanan

Finding ourselves on Big Island the next morning we were driven through rocky lava flows and invasive fields of never-ending gorse to reach Hakalau Forest Reserve on the eastward slope of Mauna Kea. We got stuck into it as soon as we arrived and quickly had our first views of the sometimes tricky Hawaii Creeper, and a very polite Omao (Hawaiian Thrush). Hawaii Elepaio of the eastern subspecies flitted about and after several poor views we finally locked onto two bright orange male Hawaii Akepa feeding in Ohia near the lunch shelter. But it was hard work for the following hours as we trudged up and down the trail in intermittent rain, searching for the hardest target, the fabled "Aki". It was down to the wire when finally a determined leader signaled success with a shout, spying the male Akiapolaau feeding in a Koa near the top of the trail and causing a minor stampede. Yet after all that hard work, he was gone before half of the group had seen him. Dejected, the mood lightened when we realised that the female and juvenile were still in the tree feeding unobtrusively, and we were all able to have good looks at this unique (in a present-day sense) songbird!

The day was not over however, and after dinner some enthusiastic volcano chasers rolled out of town to do some lava twitching. Arriving fairly late at Kilauea Crater (which had only resumed activity a few days beforehand), an orange glow in the sky became brighter as we walked west to arrive at the viewing area where the truly magnificent geological spectacle of rapidly flowing lava awaited us. Through the scope we could see exceptional detail as bubbling sections of cooled crust washed down a lavafall and occasional spurts of molten rock arced into the sky from the main vent. Breathtaking stuff!



The Omoia (Hawaiian Thrush) is vocal and obliging on Big Island! JB



Now that's hot! JB

The next morning started with a male Black Francolin perched up on a small tree as we headed into the Ka'Ohe Management Area, and we began our search for another distinctive honeycreeper, the dry forest specialist Palila. Plenty of Hawaii Amakihi and a handful of the lovely pale dry forest Hawaii Elepaio kept us entertained for the first hour, but the following seven hours certainly dragged on in this very low-diversity habitat! Despite searching all day, covering over ten miles on foot and coordinating with several other birding parties, nobody was successful (save for a brief flyby bird seen by Peter). The usually easy species had seemingly become difficult this month, possibly due to the uncharacteristically dry winter. We would have to return! The only other birds of note were a pair of Short-eared Owl which flew overhead, and a handful of introduced Erckel's Spurfowl. A bit of daylight was left up our sleeves, although after the rain started on our downhill drive suspicion crept in that this endeavor would be futile. Yet we persevered, and arriving on the coast a welcome break in the deluge allowed us to visit a small "Hawaiian" Black Noddy roost where we could study their unique orange legs and grey tails in detail for as long as we wanted. Or at least until the sun began to set!



"Dry Forest" Hawaii Elepaio is possibly the best looking of the bunch? JB



"Hawaiian" Black Noddy is a stunning bird too which was well worth chasing! JB

We had to quickly stop on the side of the road to scope up a perched dark morph Hawaiian Hawk on our way up to altitude the next morning - much appreciated! The plan was to visit another forest site hoping to have more views of "Aki", but aside from a brief leader-only sighting we saw little else other than more Omao and eastern Hawaii Elepaio. A wall of basalt kissing the edge of the kipuka was a stark reminder of the subterranean risk which birds live with and evolve alongside on these volcanic islands! Then it was back to the dry forest for another seven hours working the habitat in search of our absent quarry! Finally as the sun was starting to dip towards the horizon, our intrepid search team (who had been driven as far down remote dirt tracks as the leader could get and then convinced to walk even further!) heard the distinctive whistled tune of a Palila and almost immediately we were watching a pair of these delightful birds, who ravenously ripped up Mamane seed pods right in front of us for as long as we wanted! Joyous, we headed back to Hilo for a delicious final dinner (and it was no surprise what species won bird of the trip!).



Another Palila photo, because why not?! Photo by Jakapat Vanichanan



Akiapolaau constantly unhinges and reattaches the lower mandible while foraging, allowing it to grip food like pair of chopsticks. It is no wonder the fledglings have to stay with their parents for five months after leaving the nest while learning this technique! JB

Some of us returned to the forest one last time in the morning to finally succeed in photographing a male Akiapolaau plus a bonus pale morph Hawaiian Hawk. Then that was it, and we headed off in our respective directions after a superbly successful “last chance to see” kind of trip! We were very lucky to be able to visit the islands this year, as inevitably the uniquely evolved birds of Hawaii are fighting a war which increasingly seems unwinnable.



Ohia flowers are the lifeblood of Hawaiian avifauna, theorised to have evolved from a New Zealand Metrosideros in the distant past. JB



... and red flowers beget red birds, like this lovely Apapane. JB

BIRD OF THE TOUR (AS VOTED FOR BY THE GROUP)

1. Palila
2. Iiwi
3. Akikiki
4. Akiapolaau
5. Hawaiian Petrel



A tired but ecstatic group, having just seen Palila after two days of hard work! JB

SYSTEMATIC LIST OF BIRD SPECIES RECORDED DURING THE TOUR

Total number of bird species recorded: 81

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).

Nene ◊ (Hawaiian Goose) *Branta sandvicensis* Many great sightings. It was most common on Kauai.
Cackling Goose (Ridgway's C G) *Branta [hutchinsii] minima* Several on the golf course, northern Kauai.
Snow Goose (Lesser S G) *Anser [caerulescens] caerulescens* One on the golf course, northern Kauai.
Hawaiian Duck ◊ (Koloa) *Anas wyvilliana* Great views of about 20 on Kauai. Subtly smart! EN
Mallard (introduced) *Anas platyrhynchos* Several on Oahu - assumed introduced.



Hawaiian Duck sporting jewelry to prove his pedigree. JB



Cackling Goose having a tropical holiday on Kauai. Photo by Jakapat Vanichanan

California Quail (introduced) *Callipepla californica* Many great looks on Big Island.

Wild Turkey (introduced) *Meleagris gallopavo* Several seen, most on our drive to Hakalau [intermedia].

Chukar Partridge (introduced) *Alectoris chukar* A few seen at the summit of Hakalau.

Black Francolin (introduced) *Francolinus francolinus* One male sitting up in a tree near the center of Big Island.

Erckel's Francolin (introduced) *Pternistis erckelii* Common on Big Island and seen on Kauai too.

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

Kalij Pheasant (introduced) *Lophura leucomelanos* Several inside the forest reserves on Big Island [leucomelanos].

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

Rock Dove (introduced) *Columba livia* No comment needed!

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

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

Common Gallinule *Gallinula galeata* It was seen during our last day on Kauai [sandvicensis].

Hawaiian Coot ♦ *Fulica alai* Both colour morphs seen well on Oahu and Kauai. VU

Black-necked Stilt ♦ (Hawaiian S) *Himantopus [mexicanus] knudseni* Seen well on Oahu and Kauai.



Black-necked Stilts from Hawaii are not currently split by any taxonomy. JB

Pacific Golden Plover *Pluvialis fulva* Common, sometimes far from the coast in the mountains!.

Bristle-thighed Curlew ♦ *Numenius tahitiensis* Eight of these superb birds roosting on Oahu! VU

Ruddy Turnstone *Arenaria interpres* Common at several locations. First at on Oahu [nominate].

Wandering Tattler *Tringa incana* Small numbers seen at several locations, first see on Oahu.

Brown Noddy *Anous stolidus* Several on our Kauai pelagic.

Black Noddy ♦ (Hawaiian N) *Anous minutus* Great views at the coast on Big Island [melanogenys].

White Tern (Common Fairy T) *Gygis alba* Singletons were seen on Oahu, one perched eventually.

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

Red-tailed Tropicbird *Phaethon rubricauda* Best views were had on the southern cliffs of Oahu.

White-tailed Tropicbird *Phaethon lepturus* Flying in the Akalai Wilderness canyons, and on pelagic [dorotheae].

Laysan Albatross ♦ *Phoebastria immutabilis* Amazing experience in the north of Kauai! NT

Hawaiian Petrel ♦ *Pterodroma sandwichensis* Amazing looks of several on Haleakala, Maui. VU

Wedge-tailed Shearwater *Ardenna pacifica* Very common around Kauai, great views on the pelagic.

Sooty Shearwater *Ardenna grisea* A few seen on the pelagic off Kauai. NT



White Terns nest on the main esplanade at Waikiki Beach. Photo by Jakapat Vanichanan



Red-tailed Tropicbirds prefer the quieter southern cliffs! JB

Great Frigatebird *Fregata minor* Small numbers seen well at Kilauea Point and on the pelagic, Kauai.
Red-footed Booby *Sula sula* Quite common. Best looks were at Kilauea Point, Kauai [rubripes].
Brown Booby *Sula leucogaster* Less common. A few seen on the pelagic off Kauai [plotus].
Black-crowned Night Heron *Nycticorax nycticorax* Common and widespread [hoactii].
Western Cattle Egret (introduced) *Bubulcus ibis* A common and widespread introduction.
Hawaiian Hawk ◊ *Buteo solitarius* Dark morph by everyone on Big Island, light morph seen on the last morning. NT



Pale morph Hawaiian Hawk (lo) on our last morning. Photo by Jakapat Vanichanan

Short-eared Owl *Asio flammeus* Our best looks were on Big Island. Local form, sandvicensis, known as Pueo locally.
Rose-ringed Parakeet (introduced) *Psittacula krameri* An introduced pest, seen mostly on Oahu and Kauai.
Kauai Elepaio ◊ *Chasiempis sclateri* Fairly common in the Akalai Wilderness, Kauai, with many seen well. VU
Oahu Elepaio ◊ *Chasiempis ibidis* Excellent looks at a pair nest-building on Oahu. EN
Hawaii Elepaio ◊ *Chasiempis sandwichensis* Regular sightings on Big Island of the two eastern subspecies. VU



Kauai Elepaio is the most subtly marked of the trio. JB

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

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

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

Japanese Bush Warbler (introduced) *Horornis diphone* (H) Heard only at several sites.

Warbling White-eye (introduced) *Zosterops japonicus* A common and widespread introduction.

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

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

Northern Mockingbird (introduced) *Mimus polyglottos* Two were seen on the way to Haleakala.

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

Omao ◊ (Hawaiian Thrush) *Myadestes obscurus* Great looks in the higher elevation forests of Big Island. VU

Puaiohi ◊ (Small Kauai Thrush) *Myadestes palmeri* Several seen well in the Akalai Wilderness. CR

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.

African Silverbill (introduced) *Euodice cantans* A few seen from the first vehicle on Kauai.

Scaly-breasted Munia (introduced) *Lonchura punctulata* Several seen.

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

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

Maui Alauahio ◊ (M Creeper) *Paroreomyza montana* We had good looks of two at Hosmer Grove, Maui. EN

Akikiki ◊ (Kauai Creeper) *Oreomystis bairdi* Extremely rare now, three seen well in the Akalai Wilderness, Kauai. CR

Palila ◊ *Loxioides bailleui* Great views of two at the Pu'u La'au Game Preserve. Finch like vocally and in habits. CR

Iiwi ◊ *Drepanis coccinea* Seen well on Kauai, Maui and the Big Island. A cracker; sadly declining still. VU

Apapane ◊ *Himatione sanguinea* The commonest extant 'Drepanid' seen on three islands.

Akiapolaau ◊ *Hemignathus wilsoni* Several on the Big Island over multiple days. Amazing bill! EN

Anianiau ◊ (Lesser A) *Magnumma parva* Uncommon in the Akalai Wilderness, Kauai. A few seen well. VU

Hawaii Creeper ◊ *Loxops mana* Good views on the Big Island, much easier than usual this year! EN

Hawaii Akepa ◊ *Loxops coccineus* We had several excellent looks in the Hakalau Forest on the Big Island. EN

Hawaii Amakihi ◊ *Chlorodrepanis virens* Fairly common in all forested areas on Maui and Big Island.

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

Kauai Amakihi ◊ *Chlorodrepanis stejnegeri* Uncommon in the Alakai Wilderness, but a few seen well. VU



Hawaii Creeper looks like it belongs within the Akepa / Akekee genus, but is actually monotypic! Photo by Jakapat Vanichanan

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

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

Western Meadowlark (introduced) *Stumella neglecta* Several in the north of Kauai.

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

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

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

Saffron Finch (introduced) *Sicalis flaveola* A common introduction, seen well on Oahu.



The unassuming Oahu Amakihi – the Hawaiian answer to white-eyes! JB

MAMMALS

Total number of mammal species recorded: 6

Small Indian Mongoose (introduced) *Urva auropunctata* One crossing the road in northern Oahu.

Hawaiian Monk Seal *Neomonachus schauinslandi* One scoped on Oahu.

Domestic Goat (introduced) *Capra hircus* From a lookout on Kauai.

Mouflon (introduced) *Ovis orientalis* Several on Big Island.

Short-finned Pilot Whale *Globicephala macrorhynchus* Big and inquisitive pod on our Kauai pelagic.

House Mouse (introduced) *Mus musculus* One seen in the highlands of Kauai



One more liwi, showing off that specialised bill prying open the Mamane flower to reach nectar inside! JB



The boundaries between geology and biology on Hawaii are spectacular, with beautiful forest growing straight out of basalt which still preserves all the depositional lava flow textures from thousands of years prior! JB