



FIRST RECORD OF A TEREK SANDPIPER IN THE HAWAIIAN ISLANDS

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On 9 January 2014 at 16:00 hrs, KP observed an unusual shorebird in a flooded field on the northwestern edge of James Campbell National Wildlife Refuge, adjacent to commercial aquaculture ponds in Kahuku, Oahu. He noted that the bird was grayish on the wings and back, whitish underneath with a dark patch extending onto the sides of the breast, and that it had orange legs and a thin, dark bill with an orange base that appeared to be slightly upturned. It was smaller than Ruddy Turnstones (*Arenaria interpres*) foraging nearby.



Terek Sandpiper, Kahuku, Hawaii, 10 January 2014. The pale fringes and dark subterminal bands on some upper part feathers indicate a first-year bird. *Photo by Eric VanderWerf*

This combination of field marks immediately made him suspect that the bird was a Terek Sandpiper (*Xenus cinereus*), a species not previously recorded in the Hawaiian Islands (Pyle and Pyle 2009). The bird was distant and he felt that the identification required additional confirmation. KP posted his sighting on the Hawaii Birding list-serve at 06:54 on 10 January 2014 to notify other birders and encourage them to search for the bird.

EAV visited the site and re-located the bird at 09:00 on 10 January 2014. He obtained several photographs that showed the field marks observed by KP, including the slightly upturned bill (Figure 1), confirming the identification as a Terek Sandpiper. The Terek Sandpiper is distinctive in appearance and is relatively easy to identify if seen clearly; it is usually considered to be the only member of its genus and there are no other species that share the combination of features described above (Hayman et al. 1986, O'Brien et al. 2006). This is the first recorded occurrence of the species in the Hawaiian Islands.

Photographs of the bird showed that the back feathers, scapulars, and wing coverts were a mixture of older, juvenal feathers with narrow pale fringes and dark subterminal bands

and newer and grayer formative feathers (Figure 1). Photographs of the bird in flight showed that it was undergoing an "eccentric" molt, with the fifth primary new, the sixth primary growing, the seventh primary growing or missing, and the inner four and outer three primaries old and juvenal (Figure 2). These feather characters indicate that it was a first-year bird undergoing the pre-formative molt on the wintering grounds (Higgins and Davies 1996). Protracted eccentric molts are common in first-year shorebirds that winter

in the tropics or in the Southern Hemisphere (Pyle 2008).

The Terek Sandpiper had a distinctive, active foraging style, constantly walking or running, changing direction quickly, and occasionally bobbing its tail. It sometimes crouched low to the ground and extended its neck to seize prey from the ground surface. The bird took flight several times with other shorebirds and landed in two other flooded fields on the refuge. The bird was seen subsequently by KP, EAV, and several other observers in January and February, always in the same area of flooded fields, and was last seen on 6 March 2014 by M. Ord (pers. comm.).

Terek Sandpipers are strongly migratory and have a broad range during both the breeding and non-breeding seasons. They breed in marshes and flooded meadows in tundra and boreal forest in northern Eurasia from Finland to Siberia (O'Brien et al. 2006, Birdlife International 2014). Their usual winter distribution extends from southern Africa eastward around the Indian Ocean to Southeast Asia, northern Australia, and New Guinea, and they are rare but regular visitors to New Zealand (Higgins and Davies 1996). During migration the eastern portion of the population follows the coast of Asia, with important migratory stopover sites in China,

Korea, and Japan. They use a variety of coastal wetland habitats during the non-breeding season, including intertidal mudflats, estuaries, beaches, reefs, sandbars, coastal swamps, river mouths, and saltpans (Birdlife International 2014). The species is named for the Terek River, which flows into the Caspian Sea, where a specimen was collected during migration and described by Gldenstdt in 1775. Its conservation status is considered to be Least Concern by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN 2013), though the global population size is not well known and is estimated to be 160,000 to 1,200,000 individuals (Birdlife International 2014). Other vagrant Terek Sandpipers have been observed in Alaska, along the Pacific coast of North America as far south as Baja California, and as far east as Manitoba, Massachusetts, and Barbados (American Ornithologists' Union 1998, Paulson 2005).

Breeding occurs from late May to July, with adults departing in early July to August and juveniles leaving in August and September and arriving on the wintering grounds from August-November. Although the bird on Oahu was first observed in January, it seems likely that it arrived earlier but was not detected. The fields where the bird was observed were dry in October 2013 and supported only a few Pacific Golden Plovers (*Pluvialis fulva*; EAV pers. obs.) and probably became flooded during heavy rains in November 2013. Prior to that, the Terek Sandpiper may have been present but undetected in adjacent areas of James Campbell National Wildlife Refuge. Most Terek Sandpipers begin the northward migration in late March, but as with other shorebirds that make long-distance migrations, a few individuals, primarily one-year-old birds, remain on the wintering grounds and do not molt into breeding plumage (Johnson 1977, Johnson and Johnson 1983, VanderWerf 2013). The fields where the bird was observed began to dry up in early March, which may have caused the bird to move to a different area or encouraged it to begin migrating north.

Acknowledgement

For reports of the Terek Sandpiper we thank Pete Donaldson, Ross Gallardy, Mike Ord, Doug Pratt, Javan Rasnake, Lance Tanino, and Michael Walther. The manuscript was improved by comments from reviewers Peter Pyle and Reggie David and by Elepaio scientific editor Glenn Metzler.



Terek Sandpiper in flight, Kahuku, Hawaii, 10 January 2014. The fifth, sixth, and seventh primaries are new or growing and the inner four and outer three primaries are old. This eccentric replacement pattern indicates a first-year bird undergoing the preformative molt. *Photos by Eric VanderWerf*

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Bird Species Endemic to the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands Receives Hawaiian Name

Press release from Papahānaumokuākea,
Contact: Toni Parras: 808-282-9332, Kekuewa Kikiloi: 808-479-6671

(Honolulu) – The Nihoa Millerbird, an endangered terrestrial bird species living exclusively within Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument (PMNM), has been given a Hawaiian name. Developed by PMNM’s Native Hawaiian Cultural Working Group, the name reflects Hawaiian cultural perspectives of this bird as well as its characteristics and behaviors.

“Developing new Hawaiian names for species in Papahānaumokuākea that have either lost or never had a Hawaiian name is an important step towards honoring Hawaiian traditions and maintaining a living culture here in our islands,” says Kekuewa Kikiloi, Assistant Professor at the Kamakūokalani Center for Hawaiian Studies at the University of Hawai‘i- Mānoa and chairman of the PMNM Native Hawaiian Cultural Working Group.

Hawaiian names were given to the Nihoa Millerbird (ulūlu), as well as the new population of Nihoa Millerbirds established on Laysan Island (ulūlu niau).

“These new names help to connect these life forms to the genealogy of Hawai‘i. As best as possible, we try to ensure that these names are consistent with the Hawaiian world view and traditional ecological knowledge of our homeland,” says Kikiloi.

The name ulūlu – meaning “growing things” – was given to the endemic and endangered Nihoa Millerbird with the hope that its population will continue to grow in the coming years.

In 2011 and 2012, a small number of ulūlu were translocated to Laysan Island by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, American Bird Conservancy and other partners to improve the long-term survival prospects for the species and to fill a gap in Laysan’s ecosystem that was once filled by the now-extinct Laysan Millerbird. During transport, the 650 miles of ocean that separated the two islands were uncharacteristically calm, thus inspiring the name ulūlu niau – niau meaning “moving smoothly, swiftly, silently, and peacefully; flowing or sailing thus.”

“These beautiful birds are part of ancient Hawai‘i, and have been here for several hundred thousands of years, but their future is threatened,” said American Bird Conservancy Science Coordinator for Hawai‘i Chris Farmer, who was also one of the leads for the Millerbird translocation. “These names connect them back to the main islands and the Hawaiian language, raising awareness of

their remote homes in the Northwestern Islands and tying them into the unique tapestry of Hawaiian biodiversity we are all striving to conserve.”

For more information, visit www.papahanaumokuakea.gov/news/millerbird_hawaiian_name.html

Papahānaumokuākea is cooperatively managed to ensure ecological integrity and achieve strong, long-term protection and perpetuation of Northwestern Hawaiian Island ecosystems, Native Hawaiian culture, and heritage resources for current and future generations. Three co-trustees - the Department of Commerce, Department of the Interior, and State of Hawai‘i - joined by the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, protect this special place. Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument was inscribed as the first mixed (natural and cultural) UNESCO World Heritage Site in the United States in July 2010. For more information, please visit www.papahanaumokuakea.gov. The Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument Native Hawaiian Cultural Working Group is a volunteer advisory group comprised of Hawaiian cultural specialists who lend their expertise to support the Monument’s mission of protecting natural and cultural resources.



This ulūlu niau (Nihoa Millerbird living on Laysan Island) is the first Millerbird fledgling on Laysan in nearly 100 years. Credit: Robby Kohley/USFWS

Hawaii Audubon Society's Manu O Ku Tour By Nicole Galase

Recent Bird Observations May-June 10, 2014 By Lance Tanino

The Hawaii Audubon Society received funding in 2013 from the Atherton Family Foundation for the development of a Manu O Ku Tour on the grounds of Iolani Palace. The majestic trees at this easily accessible location provide nesting sites for the native seabird, Manu O Ku, which was named the official bird of the City and County of Honolulu in 2007. The project was completed in March with the purpose of creating an opportunity to educate Hawaii residents, school groups and visitors about the importance of native plant and wildlife species and their connection to Hawaiian culture and tradition.

Working with the full support and cooperation of the Friends of Iolani Palace, a basic Palace grounds tour script and extensive reference manual were developed for use by docents. Lasting about 45 minutes, the script is readily adaptable to audiences of varying ages and interests. Participants are provided with an educational birding experience and historical tour, using key points of interest as a route guide around Iolani Palace. Besides the native Manu O Ku many introduced urban birds can be viewed on the tour and Koea are seen on the Palace lawn during the winter months. A variety of bird images and songs are available on an iPad for use by docents helping participants to learn to identify the native and introduced birds seen on the tour.

The Manu O Ku Tour is designed to educate participants about conservation issues facing Hawaii's native wildlife and to celebrate the opportunity to view Manu O Ku in downtown Honolulu. Further funding is needed to train docents and implement the program for a wide variety of audiences.

*****CORRECTION:** In the article *Local Prevalence and Transmission of Avian Malaria in the Alakai Plateau* on pages 1-3 of the May/June 2014 (74-4) printed issue of the *'Elepaio*, the author Anouk Glad wishes to make correction to her university name and to a data error on page 2, in paragraphs 6 and 7.

The corrections read:

"Anouk Glad is a graduate student from University of Montpellier conducting an internship and research project with the University of Hawaii at Manoa and Kauai Forest Bird Recovery Project."

"I analyzed 33 mosquitoes by PCR and 37 mosquitoes by dissection. Only one of them (from Halepa'akai) was positive for *P.relictum* (PCR result).

We didn't find any mosquitoes larvae along Halepa'akai Stream in October and Kawaikoi stream in November, January and March. However, in January we found *Culex quinquefasciatus* and *Aedes Albopictus* (Tiger mosquito) larvae in Koke'e in an old fireplace (altitude 1052.2 m) and we found *Culex quinquefasciatus* larvae in a pool of stagnant water along a road near Mohihi trail in October 2013 and March 2014."

May 12 - Least Tern (1) at Makalawena Beach, Kalaoa, Hawaii Island (Josh Van Weiren).

May 13 - Snow Goose (2 subadults) and Laughing Gull (2 subadults) at Kealia Pond NWR, Kihei, Maui (Lance Tanino and Sonny Gamponia).

May 13, 15 - Cackling Goose (1) at La'ie Wetland, Kihei, Maui (Lance Tanino, Sonny Gamponia, Mary Winegar)

May 14, 28, 29, June 1, 5 - Kermadec Petrel (2) at Kilauea Point NWR, Kauai (Thomas and Heather Tamura).
Kleptoparasitism and their frequent sightings close to shore may indicate possible nesting in the area.

May 18 - Bulwer's Petrel (2) and Newell's/Townsend's Shearwater (1) seven miles south of Kalaeloa, Oahu (Dick May and Pete Donaldson).

May 19 - Franklin's Gull (1) at Kealia Pond NWR, Kihei, Maui (Alex Wang).

May 31 - Snow Goose (2) probably same birds moving between Maui and Molokai at Ohiapilo Wetland, Kaunakakai, Molokai (Arleone Dibben-Young).

May 31 - Gray-backed Tern (2) and Masked Booby (15) at Moku Manu Island during HAS field trip to Ulupau Crater, MCBH-Kaneohe Bay (Lance Tanino, Jean Campbell, Anna Vigeland Pickering).

June 7 - Least Tern (2) at Kealakehe (Kona) Wastewater Treatment Plant, Kailua-Kona, Hawaii Island (Lance Tanino and Laurie Sumiye). The pair was observed copulating. Possible nesting in the area?

June 7 - Bulwer's Petrel (1) at Keahole Point (Lance Tanino).

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How the Honolulu Audubon Society was Organized

By J. D'Arcy Northwood, President
An article from the 'Elepaio, Vol.1 No.1

In January 1939 a letter appeared in the local paper from Charles M. Dunn asking all bird lovers to meet at the Library of Hawaii with a view to forming a branch of the National Association of Audubon Societies. Previous to this there had been several letters showing the interest of the public on the question of better protection for our birds, most of them strongly in favor of such protection. There was also an editorial on the same subject.

In March the first meeting took place, the name of the society was decided upon and there was discussion on the activities which the society would undertake. At the next meeting J. d'Arcy Northwood was elected president and Charles M. Dunn secretary-treasurer. A committee consisting of Kenneth J. Williams, George C. Munro and Charles M. Dunn was formed to present the views of the society on bird protection to the Legislature. A bill later became law extending complete protection to the migratory shore birds and ducks and also to the stilt and mud hen for the next two years.

At the next meeting in May a constitution and by-laws were adopted; Mrs. James R. Judd, President of the Hui Manu; Mr. Riley H. Allen, Editor of the Star-Bulletin; Mr. Raymond S. Coll, Editor of the Advertiser; and Mr. Kenneth J. Williams were elected vice-presidents. George C. Munro, who has taken a foremost part for years in urging better protection for our birds and E.H. Bryan, Jr., Curator of Collections at the Bishop Museum, regretted that they were unable to accept active office and agreed to act as advisers.

Cooperation with the Hui Manu is also assured with regard to bird protection and educational work in the schools.

Since then monthly meetings have been held, at which, talks of interest to bird lovers have been given by Walter Donagho. E.H. Lewis, Kenneth J. Williams, Dr. Morton E. Cummings and Buster Andrews.

The discussions following the talks were always interesting, many members joining in with their views and observations.

Once a month a bird walk has been arranged, when members and their friends have had the opportunity to see and hear many of our birds. At one lunch time on a trail no less than four of the native forest birds were in sight at once, the elepaio, amakihi, apapane and iwi.

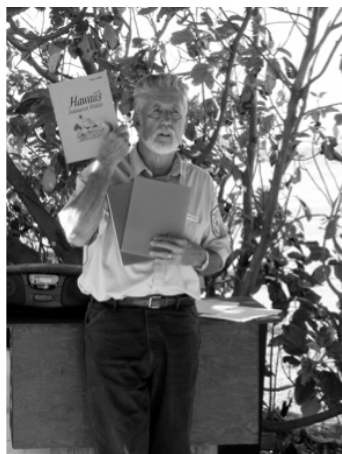
Now thanks to the energy of our secretary, Charles M. Dunn, we are to have a printed paper giving an account of our activities month by month. Here is the first number of "The Elepaio," named after the little Hawaiian bird which is the emblem of the society.

Members should make an attempt to attend the meetings, which are held at the Library of Hawaii at 7:30 pm on the first Monday in each month. We know we have their good wishes in their absence but their presence is often necessary for the proper conduct of business.

Hawaii Audubon Society Celebrates

75th Anniversary in 2014

At the time the 1939 article was written, the Honolulu Audubon Society, now called the Hawaii Audubon Society, consisted of eight officers and 24 members. Since its inception, the Hawaii Audubon Society has grown significantly in our membership numbers as well as in our ability to enjoy and protect the beautiful birds of Hawaii. Thank you to all our members and supporters for your dedication, time, and effort.



Ron Walker at James Campbell National Wildlife Refuge. Photo courtesy of Michael D. Silbernagle.

Donate to the Ron Walker Memorial Fund

The Ron Walker Memorial Fund was established in 2013 to support HAS activities and educational programs. If you would like to contribute to the Ron Walker Memorial Fund please send a check or cash to:

Hawaii Audubon Society
850 Richards St.
Suite 505
Honolulu, HI 96813

Donations of \$50 or more receive a 5x7 or 8x10 matted print of your choice of one of Ron's six drawings below.



Upcoming Field Trips, Volunteer Opportunities, & Events

Alakai Wilderness Preserve Birding Opportunity Saturday, July 5th and Wednesday, July 9th

Unique guided hike on the Alakai Swamp Trail of Kauai with renowned bird guide and photographer Jim Denny. Open to current HAS members. Space limited to 4 per day. Contact Mr. Denny at jimdenny@hawaii.rr.com to arrange details.

Kawainui Marsh Restoration

Saturday, July 5th from 9:00 am – noon

Saturday, August 2nd from 9:00 am – noon

Volunteer at the monthly Kawainui Volunteer Day led by DLNR/DOFAW. Support some of Hawaii's most endangered water birds and contribute to the success of the new restoration ponds. For more information about Pond #10 contact HAS. Please meet behind Castle Medical Center – Follow Ulukahiki St. and turn right onto gravel road and continue straight towards the parking area at the end. Please RSVP by email at hiaudsoc@pixi.com or by phone at (808) 528-1432.

International Island Biology Conference July 7-11, at UH Manoa

The Hawaii Audubon Society will participate in the poster session from 12:30-5:30 pm on July 8 at the East West Center on the University of Hawaii Manoa campus. For more information please visit:

<https://sites.google.com/a/hawaii.edu/islandbiology2014/home>

Paiko Lagoon Low Tide Reef Walk Saturday, July 12th at 9:15 am

Check out birds, limu, and sea creatures that may be at Paiko Lagoon! Remember to wear protective shoes, clothing and sunblock. Meet at Kuli'ou'ou Road. Please RSVP to Alice with your name and phone number at 808-864-8122

Speaker: Hanna Mounce of Maui Forest Bird Recovery Project at Manoa Public Library Saturday, July 19th 6:00 pm

Hanna Mounce has been a part of the Maui Forest Bird Recovery Project since January 2006. She has had a wide range of experience with the organization, and currently oversees the day to day operations of the project. Her work includes conduction and facilitation of research on behavior, population, and breeding ecology, and recovery for honeycreepers, primarily the Kiwikiu. Join us for a fun and educational evening, as Hanna presents a topic of her choice.

4th Annual Shearwater Soiree

Wednesday, August 6 from 6:00 – 9:00 pm

Support the Hawaii Audubon Society by attending a fun evening with pupus, a silent auction, entertainment, prize drawings, and a presentation on the Freeman Seabird Preserve by David Hyrenbach, Ph.D. The event will be held at Ferguson's Pub at 729 Bishop Street. See page 7 or visit our website, www.hawaiiudubon.org, for more information.

'Aiea Ridge and 'Aiea Loop Montane Forest Saturday August 16th from 8:00 am – 2:00 pm

Join Hawai'i Audubon Society for a hike along 'Aiea Ridge in the Ko'olau Mountains. The trail begins in a forest of non-native trees, but then switches to a ridge dominated by native, montane vegetation supporting populations of native forest birds. It is not steep, but it can be narrow and muddy. Park at the upper (northeastern) end of the parking lot in Keaiwa Heiau State Recreation Area, and meet by the by the restrooms and trail sign. We will start at 8:00 and return by 2:00. Bring water, lunch, and protection from sun and rain. Please RSVP by email at hiaudsoc@pixi.com or by phone at (808) 528-1432.

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PRE-SALE TICKET PAYMENT FORM

Wednesday, August 6, 2014 | 6 – 9 pm | Ferguson's Pub Honolulu

Tickets available for pre-sale and at the door. Entry to the event will occur via guest list—just show up!

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Calendar of Events

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 Saturday, July 5th and Wednesday, July 9th

Kawainui Marsh Restoration
 Saturday, July 5th and August 2nd 9am - noon

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Paiko Lagoon Low Tide Reef Walk
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 Wednesday, August 6th from 6 – 9 pm

‘Aiea Ridge and ‘Aiea Loop Montane Forest Hike
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