

**BIRDS OF
KALOKO-HONOKŌHAU
NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK**

**ENDEMIC AND
INDIGENOUS**



Ae‘o

ENDEMIC, ENDANGERED

Hawai‘ian Stilt (*Himantopus mexicanus knudseni*)



- Year-round resident
- 13-15” (35-39 cm)
- Call “kwirk” or “yap” when disturbed
- Large black and white wading bird with long pink legs
- Found near ‘Aimakapā and Kaloko fishponds
- Breeding season: March to August
- Nest locations on mudflats and near brackish ponds
- Diet: invertebrates, shellfish, and small fish
- Threats: habitat loss, introduced predators, altered hydrology, diseases, climate change, non-native invasive plants, and environmental contaminants
- Hawaiian proverb: *Ka manu kāhea I ka wa‘a e holo* (the bird that calls to the canoe to sail)

‘Alae ke‘oke‘o

ENDEMIC, ENDANGERED

Hawai‘ian Coot (*Fulica alai*)



- Year-round resident
- 15” (38 cm)
- Call is sharp “keek” or croak
- Dark grey bird with white bill and frontal shield; white undertail feathers
- Found in ‘Aimakapā and Kaloko fishponds
- Breeding season: December to March
- During nesting season, prefer deeper water (up to 18”) with emergent vegetation
- Diet: seeds, aquatic vegetation, and aquatic invertebrates
- Threats: habitat loss, introduced predators, altered hydrology, climate change, non-native invasive plants, and environmental contaminants
- Native Hawaiians once regarded this bird as a deity, but also considered it good to eat

‘Auku‘u

INDIGENOUS

Black-Crowned Night Heron

(Nycticorax nycticorax hoactli)

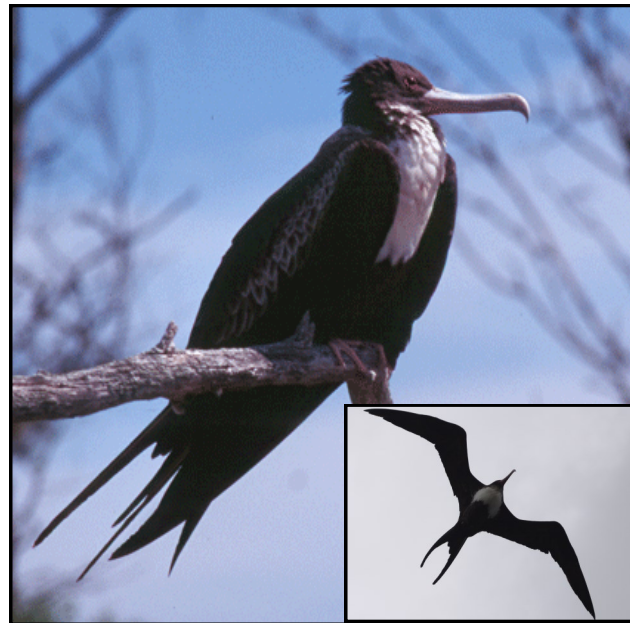


- Year-round resident
- 25” (63 cm)
- Call is a loud “kwok” when flying
- Solitary bird often seen crouching motionless at the edge of ponds and tidepools
- Adults mostly grey with dark head and back, and long white head plume; dark bill, red eye, and yellow feet and legs
- Juveniles are heavily streaked brown and white
- Found near fishponds and tidepools
- Diet: fish, insects, and small mammals
- Threats: habitat loss, introduced predators, altered hydrology, climate change, non-native invasive plants
- Hawaiian proverb: *Kohā ke leo o ka ‘auku‘u* (the voice of the ‘auku‘u is heard to croak)
- Inset photo: juvenile

‘Iwa

INDIGENOUS

Great Frigatebird (*Fregata minor palmerstoni*)



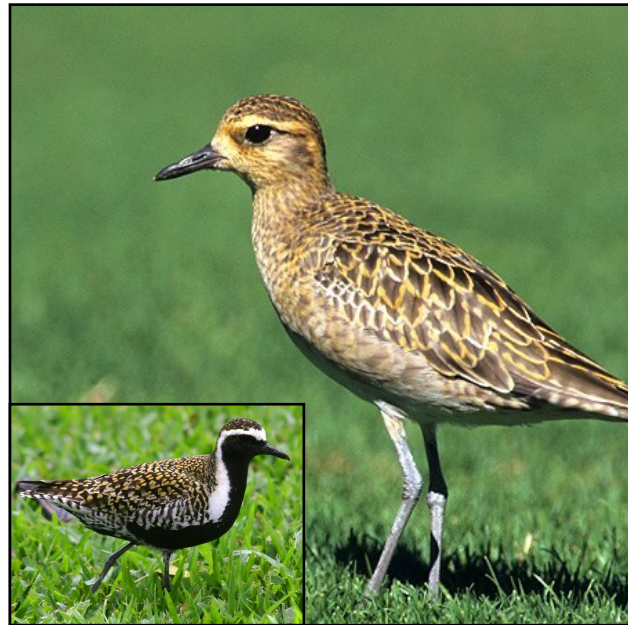
- Year-round resident
- 43” (109 cm) with 7 ft (2.1 m) wingspan; can soar to 500 ft (150 m) in elevation
- Long slender wings, deeply forked tail, and long, pale blue/grey to blackish hooked bill
- Occasionally seen soaring above coastal areas and fishponds in the park and near the harbor
- Adult males are black; during breeding season they inflate a large red throat pouch; most birds in HI are females, with black head and body and white throat and breast; juveniles similar to females but with all white head
- ‘Iwa can not take off from water; they snatch prey from the surface of the ocean or steal food from other seabirds (‘Iwa = thief)
- Diet: fish and squid
- Threats: introduced predators (feral cats, rats, mongoose), climate change
- Hawaiian proverb: *Lele ka ‘iwa malie kai ko ‘o* (When the iwa bird flies [out to sea] the rough sea will be calm)

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MIGRATORY



Kōlea **MIGRATORY**
Pacific Golden Plover (*Pluvialis fulva*)



- Winter visitor from August to May
- 9-10" (23-26 cm)
- Call is a slurred whistle or "chu-eet"
- Mostly solitary birds found in coastal forest habitat and along shorelines
- Breeds in Siberia and Alaska
- Winter plumage: yellowish brown back with light underside
- Breeding plumage (inset photo): black, gold, and white speckling above and black face, underside, and wingtips
- Diet: terrestrial insects
- Threats: habitat loss, introduced predators, altered hydrology, climate change, non-native invasive plants, and environmental contaminants
- Believed to be the incarnation of *Koleamoku*, the god of the art of healing; honored in many traditional Hawaiian stories, songs, chants, and hula

ʻAkekeke **MIGRATORY**
Ruddy Turnstone (*Arenaria interpres*)



- Winter visitor from August to May
- 8-10" (20-25 cm)
- Call "a-ke-ke-ke"
- Common in small flocks along shoreline and in rocky intertidal areas
- Breeds in the Arctic; some overwinter in HI
- Winter plumage: brown above and white below
- Breeding plumage: reddish brown pattern on back and rich black color on head and chest
- Small black bill and bright orange legs
- Turns over stones while foraging on rocky beaches
- Diet: insects and crustaceans
- Threats: habitat loss, introduced predators, altered hydrology, climate change, non-native invasive plants, and environmental contaminants
- In Hawaiian legend, *ʻakekeke* are messengers of the gods along with *kōlea* and *ʻulili*

‘Ūlīlī

MIGRATORY

Wandering Tattler (*Heteroscelus incanus*)



- Winter visitor from August to April
- 11” (28 cm)
- Call “oo-li-li-li”
- Solitary birds found along shoreline and in rocky intertidal areas
- Breeds in Alaska and Siberia
- Winter plumage: dark grey above and light grey below
- Breeding plumage: grey above with dark grey stripes below
- Long black bill and greenish-yellow legs
- Bobs tail while foraging
- Diet: invertebrates and small fish
- Threats: habitat loss, introduced predators, altered hydrology, climate change, non-native invasive plants, and environmental contaminants
- In Hawaiian legend, ‘ulīlī are messengers of the gods along with *kōlea* and ‘*akekeke*

Hunakai

MIGRATORY

Sanderling (*Calidris alba*)



- Winter visitor from August to April
- 8” (20 cm)
- Call is a soft “wick wick”
- Small flocks found along shoreline and in rocky intertidal areas
- Breeds in the high Arctic tundra
- Winter plumage: light grey above and white below (looks white from a distance)
- Breeding plumage: reddish brown head, breast, and back
- Thin black bill and black legs
- Diet: invertebrates and molluscs
- Threats: habitat loss, introduced predators, altered hydrology, climate change, non-native invasive plants, and environmental contaminants
- *Hunakai* means “sea foam” in Hawaiian, which is where these birds get their food

White Faced Ibis

MIGRATORY

Plegadis chihi



- Winter visitor, primarily juveniles
- 23” (58 cm)
- Call nasal “urm”
- Tall dark wading bird with long downcurved bill and red eye
- Found near ‘Aimakapā fishpond
- Breeds on US mainland from Oregon to Texas
- Feathers metallic green bronze in sunlight
- Diet: invertebrates, shellfish, and small fish in mud, water, and along shoreline
- Threats: habitat loss, introduced predators, altered hydrology, non-native invasive plants, and environmental contaminants

Koloa mohā**MIGRANT****Northern Shoveler** (*Anas clypeata*)

- Winter visitor from October to May
- 19” (48 cm)
- Call a nasal “quack” and “took-took”
- Found at ‘Aimakapā fishpond
- Breeding males have green head, yellow eyes, black bills, and rusty sides; females have orange bills and mottled brown bodies
- Both sexes have blue wingpatches in flight
- Large dark bill shaped like a spoon or shovel; bill longer than head, with lamellae along the edges to strain food from water while dabbling
- Diet: seeds and aquatic invertebrates
- Threats: habitat loss, introduced predators, altered hydrology, climate change, non-native invasive plants

Koloa māpu**MIGRANT****Northern Pintail** (*Anas acuta*)

- Winter visitor from August to April
- 26” (66 cm)
- Male’s call is a whistle; female’s a “quack”
- Often seen in small groups at ‘Aimakapā fishpond
- Breeds in Siberia, Alaska, and Canada
- Breeding males are dark brown on the head and upper neck with white across the lower throat extending up onto the head, and gray on most of the body; female plumage is mottled light and dark brown. Nonbreeding male plumage is similar to females
- Both males and females have pointed, pinlike tails
- Diet: seeds and leafy parts of aquatic plants
- Threats: habitat loss, introduced predators, altered hydrology, climate change, non-native invasive plants
- Inset photo: female

Lesser Scaup**MIGRATORY***Aythya affinis*

- Winter visitor from October to February
- 16” (42 cm)
- Calls a sharp “whew” or “purr”
- Found at ‘Aimakapā fishpond
- Males have a dark head with a purple sheen and yellow eyes; sides mottled gray, appearing white at a distance; females are brown with white at the base of the bill
- Males have a blue-gray bill with black tip; females have a dark gray bill
- Diet: shellfish sifted from mud and aquatic vegetation
- Threats: habitat loss, introduced predators, altered hydrology, climate change, non-native invasive plants
- Inset photo: female

American Wigeon

MIGRATORY

Anas americana



- Winter visitor from October to March
- 19" (48 cm)
- Male's call is a slow, high-pitched whistle
- Often seen in small flocks at 'Aimakapā fishpond
- Breeding males have a white crown, green stripe from behind the eyes to the back of the head, and contrasting light and dark plumage on the rump; female plumage is mottled light and dark brown. Nonbreeding male plumage is similar to females
- Feed on the surface and often steal from diving ducks
- Diet: seeds and leafy parts of aquatic plants and grasses
- Threats: habitat loss, introduced predators, altered hydrology, climate change, non-native invasive plants
- Inset photo: female

BIRDS OF KALOKO-HONOKŌHAU NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK

INTRODUCED/NON-NATIVE



Cattle Egret

INTRODUCED, INVASIVE

Bubulcus ibis



- Invasive. Introduced from Florida in 1959 to control insect pests on cattle ranches
- 20" (51 cm)
- Native to Africa and Asia
- Calls are raspy "rick rack" and "raa"
- Large white bird with long yellow bill, yellow legs, and rusty head feathers
- Roost communally in groups of 100 or more near shorelines and around fishponds
- Diet: terrestrial insects and crustaceans
- Threat to native waterbirds because they are aggressive chick hunters

Common Myna **INTRODUCED, INVASIVE**

Acridotheres tristis



- Imported in 1865 from India to control army worms in pastures
- 10” (25 cm)
- Calls are a loud variety of squawks, clicks, whistles, and chirps
- Often walk or skip rather than hop
- Known to pick up and display shiny paper or pieces of plastic
- Communal nests in hollow trees
- Plumage is brown with black on the head; white wing patches in flight
- Legs, bill, and skin around eyes are yellow
- Diet: omnivorous scavengers
- Threat to native birds because they consume eggs and spread diseases

Red-Masked Parakeet **INTRODUCED**

Aratinga erythrogenys



- Released caged bird first seen on the Big Island in 1988
- 13” (33 cm)
- Native to Peru and Ecuador
- Call is a loud screech
- Large flock lives near Honokōhau Boat Harbor and can be found in kiawe trees along the Mauka-Makai trail
- Communal roosting and breeding sites in high elevation craters on the ridge of Hualālai
- Bright green plumage with red crown, face, and shoulder. Pale white eye ring and cream colored bill
- Diet: seeds, fruits, and flowers

Gray Francolin **INTRODUCED**

Francolinus pondicerianus



- Introduced as a game bird in 1958
- 13” (33 cm)
- Native to India
- Call a loud “ki-oh, ki-oh, ki-oh”
- Commonly found in small groups in coastal forest areas and in lava fields in the park, and on golf courses and along roadsides throughout the Big Island
- Small grouse-like bird with orange-brown face and forehead
- Plumage on back is pattern of light brown rectangles bordered by white lines; underside is finely barred with brown and white lines
- Diet: insects and seeds

Northern Mockingbird **INTRODUCED**

Mimus polyglottos



- Imported in 1928 to control pests on Oahu; first established on the Big Island in the 1960s
- 10” (25 cm)
- Large variety of calls including other birds’ songs and environmental noises, mostly whistles, rasps and trills in a long series of repeated phrases
- Found in coastal forest areas along the Mauka-Makai trail
- Plumage is light gray above and pale gray below with a black bill, long black tail, and white wing bars
- Diet: insects and fruits

Saffron Finch **INTRODUCED**

Sicalis flaveola



- Imported in 1965
- 6” (15 cm)
- Native to South America
- Song is a series of one or two notes with an occasional trill
- Gregarious species seen in pairs or small groups throughout the park
- Bright yellow plumage with orange or saffron coloration on forehead and crown, small black bill, and pink legs
- Diet: seeds, grains, insects, and plants

Yellow-Billed Cardinal **INTRODUCED**

Paroaria capitata



- Imported in 1930, currently only found on the Big Island
- 7” (18 cm)
- Native to South America
- Song is a repetitive “chew-wee-chew” and call is a nasal “wee”
- Found primarily on the leeward side of the island and in coastal areas throughout the park
- Plumage is black on the back and white underneath, with a bright red head
- Bill and legs are yellow
- Diet: seeds, fruits, insects, and flowers

Northern Cardinal

INTRODUCED

Cardinalis cardinalis



- Imported in 1929; established on the Big Island in 1933
- 9" (23 cm)
- Native to eastern North America
- Males and females sing in a series of two-parted whistles, often ending in a series of whistles "cheer-cheer-birdie-birdie"; the most common call is a loud metallic "chip"
- Found in coastal forest areas along the Mauka-Makai trail
- Males are bright red with a black patch around a red bill; females are dull reddish brown with some red on their wings, tail, and crest
- Diet: insects, fruits, and seeds

African Silverbill

INTRODUCED

Lonchura cantans



- First recorded on the Big Island in 1970
- 4.5" (11 cm)
- Native to Africa
- Call is similar to tinkling bells in flight
- Often seen in pairs or small groups in dry areas near the Hale Ho'okipa
- Pale brown and light gray plumage with black tail, which moves constantly from side to side
- Light blue, thick conical bill
- Diet: seeds picked from grasses or the ground

Japanese White-Eye (Mejiro) INTRODUCED

Zosterops japonicus



- Imported in 1927 to control insects
- 4" (10 cm)
- Native to Japan
- Call is an elongated "twee"
- Found in throughout the park
- Male plumage is green with yellow throat and white abdomen; female coloration is duller
- Prominent white eye ring is diagnostic feature
- One of the most common birds in Hawai'i; adapts easily to new food sources and environments and outcompete native birds for food
- Diet: fruits, insects, and nectar

Rock Dove

INTRODUCED

Columba livia



- Imported from Europe around 1796
- 12” (30 cm)
- Song is a series of throaty coos, often while bowing and strutting
- Found throughout the park and closely associated with humans
- Large dark gray bird with green and purple metallic sheen on neck and black wing stripes
- Diet: seeds and food left by humans such as bread and nuts

Spotted Dove

INTRODUCED

Streptopelia chinensis



- Imported in the 1800s
- 12” (31 cm)
- Native to India and Southeast Asia
- Call is a series of “u-croouw” notes
- Often seen in pairs or small groups throughout the park
- Gray-brown plumage with a rosy breast and black band with white spots on the back of the neck
- Bill is small and black; legs and feet pink
- Diet: seeds picked from the ground or human food scraps

Zebra Dove

INTRODUCED

Geopelia striata



- Imported from Australia in 1922
- 8” (20 cm)
- Native to Southeast Asia
- Also known as Barred Dove
- Call is a staccato series of coos
- Found in throughout the park
- Plumage is light brown to gray with black and white striations on neck and chest, and a bluish-gray face
- Small dove with long tail; reddish legs and feet
- Diet: seeds and insects

References:

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Additional Information:

- All passerines (perching birds or songbirds) found in Kaloko-Honokōhau National Historical Park are non-native, or introduced.
- Native bird populations are threatened by non-native predators (mongooses, rats, dogs, and feral cats), habitat loss, diseases (primarily avian malaria), habitat-altering non-native plants, non-native avian species (e.g. common myna), and climate change effects such as increasing temperatures and sea level rise.
- A small breeding population of pied-billed grebes was established at ‘Aimakapā fishpond in the 1980s, but disappeared in the early 1990s after an outbreak of avian botulism.
- The only native bird species remaining in the park are some of our waterbirds and shorebirds.

Definitions:

- **Endemic:** Native species found only on the Hawaiian islands. Examples - Ae‘o (Hawaiian stilt) and ‘Alae ke‘oke‘o (Hawaiian coot).
- **Indigenous:** Breeding species that arrived and established themselves on the islands unassisted by people. Occur elsewhere in the world. Example - ‘Auku‘u (black-crowned night heron).
- **Migratory:** Species that travels seasonally over long distances. Most migratory birds in Hawaii breed elsewhere.
- **Introduced/Exotic:** Brought in by people. Examples - doves, cattle egrets, and cardinals. Some introduced species are invasive, and are threats to native species.

Photos: USFWS, NPS—Tom Fake, Bryan Harry, Jack Jeffrey