

**Victor Emanuel Nature Tours, Inc.**

**FALL HAWAII TOUR**

**October 12 - 20, 2005**

**Leaders: Bob Sundstrom and Glenn Klingler**

Itinerary and lists compiled by Bob Sundstrom

**DAY BY DAY ITINERARY**

- Day 1** Wednesday, October 12: Arrival in Honolulu (Oahu) and get-acquainted dinner at New Otani Hotel. Night in Waikiki.
- Day 2** Thursday, October 13: Oahu. Birding near Waikiki and Honolulu in morning, including Kapiolani Park, Pia Valley, and Round Top Road (Pua Ualakaa State Wayside). Late morning across H-2 to Haleiwa on North Shore for lunch. Afternoon birding near Kahuku. Returned to Waikiki via H-2. Night in Waikiki.
- Day 3** Friday October, 14: Morning flight from Honolulu to Lihue (Kauai). Birded late morning at Kilauea Pt. NWR. After lunch at Hanalei Bay Resort, birded Hanalei NWR and a couple of rural farm roads before driving south to the Aloha Beach Resort. First of two nights in Kapaa.
- Day 4** Saturday, October 15: Early morning departure for Kokee Forest in northwest part of Kauai, breakfast in Kalaheo. Birded various sites in forest with break for lunch at Kokee General Store. Late afternoon birded the Kekaha area at the sand pits and the road toward Polihale State Park. Night in Kapaa.
- Day 5** Sunday, October 16: Morning flight from Lihue via Honolulu to Kona on the island of Hawaii. Drove south from Kona to have lunch in Captain Cook and bird along the road down to Kealakekua. Drove north, stopping to bird near Puu Anahulu before arriving at Kamuela Inn. Dinner at Merriman's and first of two nights in Kamuela/Waimea.
- Day 6** Monday, October 17: Early departure for Hakalau Forest NWR (Pua Akala section) on the windward side of Mauna Kea. Birded along the road in and intensively along various trails at Hakalau until late afternoon, before retracing the route to Kamuela/Waimea for a second night there.
- Day 7** Tuesday, October 18: After breakfast and bit of birding near Kamuela/Waimea, drove the Saddle Rd. to Puu Laau area on west side of Mauna Kea, only to find the road gated off for the day; decided to return the following day. Birded at Waiakea Pond in Hilo, had lunch at Café Pesto in Hilo, then drove up to Hawaii Volcanoes National Park. Visited Bird Park nearby, then Halemaumau Crater and part of the Chain of Craters Road and Thurston Lava Tube in the national park. First of two nights at Volcano House in the National Park.
- Day 8** Wednesday, October 19: Morning excursion back to Puu Laau area to look for Palila, returning to Hilo for late lunch. Late afternoon drove to end of Chain of Craters road to see Black Noddies along sea cliffs and then walk out to viewpoint for watching lava empty into the ocean after sunset. Dinner and final night at Volcano House.
- Day 9** Thursday, October 20: After breakfast at the Volcano House, drove to Hilo by just after 8:00 a.m. for departures from Hilo airport.

## BIRD LIST

### BIRD LIST LOCATION KEY

O = Oahu K = Kauai H = Hawaii (Big Is.)

**NOTE:** species in ***CAPITALIZED BOLD ITALICS*** are endangered Hawaiian endemics  
species in ***bold italics*** are other Hawaiian Islands endemic species or subspecies  
species in **lower case bold** are uncommon to rare, or unusual sightings for Hawaii

### TUBENOSES:

Wedge-tailed Shearwater (*Puffinus pacificus*) - K,H. We saw a number of downy, near-fledglings sitting at the mouth of their natal burrows at Kilauea Pt. NWR, some at very close range.

### TROPICBIRDS, BOOBIES, and FRIGATEBIRDS

White-tailed Tropicbird (*Phaeton lepturus*) – K,H. Our best views of these magnificent seabirds was at Kilauea Pt., where they flew by at close range. Several were also seen in Waimea Canyon and flying over the forest trails in Kokee. At least one was seen flying near Halemaumau Crater on the Big Island.

**Red-tailed Tropicbird** (*Phaeton rubricauda*) - K. A very nice surprise and a tour highlight were the two adult Red-tailed Tropicbird flying close by the lighthouse at Kilauea Pt., affording wonderful views. This species was an unusual sighting for October, not anticipated for the Fall Hawaii tour, and was a new bird for many on the tour.

Brown Booby (*Sula leucogaster*) – O,K; good views from Kilauea Pt.

Red-footed Booby (*Sula sula*) - K; great looks at Kilauea Pt. NWR on Kauai

Great Frigatebird (*Fregata minor*) - O,K; terrific, close views at Kilauea Pt. NWR

### HERONS AND IBISES:

Cattle Egret (*Bubulcus ibis*) - O,K

Black-crowned Night-Heron (*Nycticorax nycticorax*) - O,K,H

### GEESE & DUCKS:

Greater White-fronted Goose (*Anser albifrons*) – H; one at Hilo's Waiakea Pond

***NENE*** (*Branta sandvicensis*) – K,H. Hawaii's endangered state bird, we saw them on Kauai at both national wildlife refuges, as well as a couple spots on the Big Island including near Hakalau Forest NWR.

Canada Goose (*Branta canadensis*) – H; a small flock at Hilo's Waiakea Pond, origin unknown

Cackling Goose (*Branta hutchinsii*) – K,H; truly surprising, there was one at Kilauea Pt. that had been there a month, and two *minima* subspecies Cacklers at Hilo's Waiakea Pond

***KOLOA [HAWAIIAN DUCK]*** (*Anas wyvilliana*) – O,K

Ring-necked Duck (*Aythya collaris*) – H; one hen-plumaged bird at Waiakea Pond

### **EAGLES, HAWKS & ALLIES:**

**I'O [HAWAIIAN HAWK]** (*Buteo solitarius*) – H. We got increasingly better views of this endemic raptor, beginning with soaring views south of Kona and then flying and perched views at Hakalau refuge. The ultimate was a hawk perched on a boulder on the ground seen along the road into Hakalau, not more than fifty feet off the road. The I'o is the only living hawk native to the islands.

### **GALLINACEOUS BIRDS:**

Black Francolin (*Francolinus francolinus*) – K,H; excellent views of six of these handsome francolins at Glenn's spot in the fields not far from Polihale; a few on the Big Is. too.  
Erckel's Francolin (*Francolinus erckelii*) – K,H; lots of excellent views along the roadside  
Gray Francolin (*Francolinus pondicerianus*) – O,H. First seen briefly near Kapiolani Park on Oahu, we watched a number of them right near the road outside Kamuela/Waimea.  
Kalij Pheasant (*Lophura leucomelana*) – H; good looks at these spectacular pheasants in Bird Pk.  
Red Junglefowl (*Gallus gallus*) – K; at higher elevations in Kokee Forest  
Ring-necked Pheasant (*Phasianus colchicus*) – K,H  
Common Peafowl (*Pavo cristatus*) – H; a couple south of Puu Waa Waa  
Wild Turkey (*Meleagris gallopavo*) – H; some large groups along the Saddle Rd. and enroute to Haleakala on the east side of Mauna Kea  
California Quail (*Callipepla californica*) - H

### **MOORHENS & COOTS:**

**COMMON MOORHEN [Hawaiian subspecies]** (*Gallinula chloropsis sandvicensis*) – O,K; seen near Kahuku on Oahu and at Hanalei NWR and elsewhere on Kauai  
**HAWAIIAN COOT** (*Fulica alai*) – O,K; a coot species with an enormous, all white frontal shield

### **SHOREBIRDS:**

Pacific Golden-Plover (*Pluvialis pacifica*) – O,K,H; ubiquitous on all three islands  
**BLACK-NECKED STILT [Hawaiian subsp.]** (*Himantopus mexicanus knudseni*) – O,K  
Wandering Tattler (*Heteroscelus incanus*) – O,K,H  
**Whimbrel** (*Numenius phaeopus variegatus*) – O; a rarity in the islands, we saw one of the Eurasian subspecies among the Bristle-thighed Curlews at Kahuku  
**Bristle-thighed Curlew** (*Numenius tahitiensis*) – O. One of the highlights of the entire tour were the fifteen or so curlews we saw at Kahuku – walking, flying, perched on a fencepost, etc. – including a few scoped right down to the bristles.  
Ruddy Turnstone (*Arenaria interpres*) - O,K,H; wintering migrants  
Sanderling (*Calidris alba*) – O,K

### **JAEGERS, GULLS, & TERNS:**

Black Noddy (*Anous minutus melanogenys*) – H. We had good views of this Pacific island version of Black Noddy (with orange feet and a gray wash on the upper surface of the tail) along the black volcanic cliffs near the end of Chain of Craters Rd. in Hawaii Volcanoes National Park.

White Tern [Common Fairy Tern] (*Gygis alba*) – O. A beautiful sprite of a seabird, we had superb views at Waikiki's Kapiolani Park of terns flying terns and perched in trees.

### **SANDGROUSE, PIGEONS & DOVES:**

Rock Pigeon (*Columba livia*) - all four islands

Spotted Dove (*Streptopilia chinensis*) - all four islands

Zebra Dove (*Geopelia striata*) - all four islands

### **OWLS:**

*Pueo [Short-eared Owl - Hawaiian subspecies]* {*Asio flammeus sandwichensis*} – H. Lots of stupendous views of Hawaii's native owl subspecies, including quite a few perched owls. Most were somewhere on or near the open ranch country of the Saddle Rd.

### **LARKS**

Sky Lark [formerly Eurasian Skylark] (*Alauda arvensis*) - H

### **BULBULS**

Red-vented Bulbul (*Pycnonotus cafer*) – O

Red-whiskered Bulbul (*Pycnonotus jocusus*) – O

### **MONARCHS, FANTAILS, and ALLIES**

*Elepaio* (*Chasiempis sandwichensis*) – O,K,H. It is likely that the *Elepaio* forms will be split by island into at least three separate species. Altogether, we saw : the Oahu form (*gayi*), the Kauai form (*sclateri*), and the Hawaii forms *bryani* (Puu Laau) and *ridgewayi* (at Hakalau Forest NWR).

### **THRUSHES**

White-rumped Shama (*Copsychus malabaricus*) – O,K; We first laid eyes on this glamorous thrush at Kapiolani Park, with others to come on Kauai.

*Omao [Hawaiian Thrush]* (*Myadestes obscurus*) – H. Seen well at Hakalau NWR after some quiet, patient observation. Their loud, strange calls rang throughout the refuge.

### **BABLERS**

Melodious Laughing-Thrush (*Garrulax canorus*) – K,H. Nice scope views of a difficult bird to see, off the road along lower Waimea Canyon. Heard widely.

Red-billed Leiothrix (*Leiothrix lutea*) – O,H. Typically a very hard bird to see well, we had nice studies of several in flocks our first morning on Oahu in the Pia Valley. Seen by some at Hakalau and Bird Park on the Big Is.

### **MIMIDS**

Northern Mockingbird (*Mimus polyglottus*) – K,H; a very local species in Hawaii, we saw at least ten north of Kekaha on Kauai.

## **MYNAS**

Common Myna (*Acridotheres tristis*) – widespread on all three islands

## **WHITE-EYES**

Japanese White-eye (*Zosterops japonicus*) – ubiquitous on all three islands

## **CARDINALS, FINCHES, AND MEADOWLARKS**

Northern Cardinal (*Cardinalis cardinalis*) – all three islands

Red-crested Cardinal (*Paroaria coronata*) – O,K; a very striking exotic addition to the islands

Yellow-billed Cardinal (*Paroaria capitata*) – H

Saffron Finch (*Sicalis flaveola*) – H

Western Meadowlark (*Sturnella neglecta*) – K

House Finch (*Carpodacus mexicanus*) – all three islands

Yellow-fronted Canary (*Serinus mozambicus*) – O,H

## **HAWAIIAN HONEYCREEPERS and FINCHES (DREPANIDINES)**

**PALILA** (*Loxoides bailleui*) – H. Oddly quiet and secretive in the mamane forest of Mauna Kea, we only heard a few calling and never even glimpsed one.

**Common Amakihi** (*Hemignathus virens*) – H. Especially good views of this yellow-green Hawaiian specialty in the dry, mamane habitat of Puu Laau.

**Kauai Amakihi** (*Hemignathus stejnegeri*) – K. An amakihi species with a more impressive bill, we saw this island endemic very well in Kokee Forest.

**Oahu Amakihi** (*Hemignathus chloris*) – O. The first Hawaiian honeycreeper species seen on the tour, we saw a couple at Pua Ualakaa State Wayside.

**Anianiau** (*Hemignathus parvus*) – K. Kauai's version of a yellow warbler, we had repeated, excellent looks at this island endemic in Kokee Forest.

**AKIAPOLAAU** (*Hemignathus munroi*) – H. We listened and searched for this endemic for hours at Hakalau Forest NWR, and finally caught up with a juvenile chipping and walking on a lichen-covered koa branch just as we were about to leave the refuge. The Aki' is a very rare Big Island endemic, down to a few hundred individuals.

**HAWAII CREEPER** (*Oreomystis mana*) – H. Another endangered endemic, we had an incredible, close view of one during the afternoon at Hakalau Forest NWR.

**AKEPA** – (*Loxops coccineus*) – H. This endangered endemic was reasonably easy to find, and we saw tangerine orange males again and again during our Iiwi-filled day at Hakalau Forest NWR.

**Akekee** (*Loxops caeruleirostris*) – K. Persistence paid off, and after lunch we hiked a trail at Kokee Forest where we ultimately had extremely good views of this Kauai endemic.

**Iiwi** (*Vestiaria coccinea*) – H. This bird alone would have made the journey into Hakalau Forest NWR worth the effort. We saw scores of this scarlet honeycreeper with the long, curved bill, often at very close viewing range.

**Apapane** (*Himatione sanguinea*) – K,H. The Apapane's easy-going song was heard on both Kauai and Hawaii, and we had many good views of Apapanes coming in to feed on red ohia blossoms.

## **OLD WORLD SPARROWS**

House Sparrow (*Passer domesticus*) – all three islands

**ESTRILDID FINCHES**

Lavender Waxbill (*Estrilda caerulescens*) - H. Seen briefly in flight near Kealahou

Common Waxbill (*Estrilda astrild*) – O; common in Kapiolani Park

Red Avadavat (*Amandava amandava*) - H; a strawberry colored male and a green and red female near Puu Anahulu

Warbling Silverbill (*Lonchura malabarica*) – H

Nutmeg Mannikin (*Lonchura punctulata*) – O,K,H

Chestnut Mannikin (*Lonchura malacca*) – K; striking chestnut colored birds with black hoods and oversized blue bills

Java Sparrow (*Padda oryzivora*) – O,K,H

**MAMMALS and HERPS**

Small Indian Mongoose – O,M,H

Feral Pig - K; one piglet emerged from the roadside brush near Polihale State Park

Feral Sheep - H

Feral Goat – K

Green Sea Turtle – K; one near the islet just offshore from Kilauea lighthouse

Gold Dust Day Gecko - H

House Gecko – H

Small-eyed Skink – K