

# KAUAI AND HAWAII: THE GARDEN ISLE & THE BIG ISLAND

MARCH 22 – 30, 2009

©2008

*For a warm and relaxed retreat from winter and a fascinating natural history experience, a tour of the Hawaiian Islands focusing on two of the four major islands is a perfect choice. Avoiding the urban bustle of Honolulu, the tour begins on the lush island of Kauai—"The Garden Isle." There we begin a leisurely exploration of the chain's two most distinctive main islands, Kauai and Hawaii, geologically the oldest and newest of these volcano-born outposts. As principal elements of the most remote archipelago in the world, Kauai and Hawaii offer—like the Galapagos—a living study of evolution in isolation. Here is a place that boasts the greatest proportion of unique plant and animal species on earth, some truly magical tropical scenery, a mild climate, and excellent dining and lodging.*

*The entire tour will take the best possible advantage of inter-island airline schedules, lodging close to our best birding destinations and away from tourist density, and the experience of our over two dozen past Hawaii tours to offer a truly memorable two-island nature tour. A number of relaxed days will be alternated with some longer days of more serious birding in remote sites. Our hotel in Kauai sits alongside the ocean, while our two different hotels on the Big Island are at higher elevations, well away from most tourist concentrations. One, the Volcano House in Hawaii Volcanoes National Park, is situated in highland tropical forest at 4000'. The tour concentrates on locations and native habitats off the beaten track. We will sidestep the pre-packaged Hawaii of golf courses and condominiums, to take full advantage of the unique and varied tropical forests and coastal regions of both islands, while still enjoying Hawaii's relaxing amenities and wonderful cuisine. The tour will search out the special endemic Hawaiian forest birds, as well as the fabulous seabirds that nest here in the remote Pacific. We'll also have some opportunities to learn about Hawaii's history and culture.*

*Kauai's active volcanic days are long gone. What remains is an island of emerald green lushness, with sheer, scenic canyons and coastal cliffs. From the island's eastern shore we'll traverse the wildlife hot spots of this smaller island. In the lush Kauai rainforest, we'll search for such honeycreeper specialties as Anianiau, Akekee, and the Kauai Amakihi. On the flooded taro fields can be found Hawaii's endangered wetland birds, including the scarce Koloa (or Hawaiian Duck).*

*A March visit to Kauai also coincides with its peak of seabird diversity. Many seabirds nest in these distant Pacific Islands. Some of the most spectacular of all seabirds, including nesting Laysan Albatross (adults gliding by at eye-level and huge nestlings sitting in the shade of ironwood trees), can be found at Kilauea Point. Two species of tropicbirds—perhaps the most elegant seabirds in the world—are a regular sight here, with glistening Red-tailed Tropicbirds seen regularly in aerial courtship displays and White-tailed Tropicbirds winging by to their cliff ledge nests. Red-footed Boobies, and a few early arriving Wedge-tailed Shearwaters, enormous Great Frigatebirds, and a few Brown Boobies will also be on hand. In the springs of 1998 to 2003, a Red-billed Tropicbird also frequented the*

*point, putting the entire world's tropicbird species in one spot! This is also an excellent place to view Humpback Whales and Spinner Dolphins.*

*Our days on the Big Island will take us from the Kona Coast, where we have an excellent chance of seeing the endemic Hawaiian Hawk, to the forested slopes of the extinct giant shield volcano, Mauna Kea. Here, on walks through these fascinating tropical woodlands, we should encounter a good share of the more widespread indigenous Hawaiian bird species, including the Common Amakihi, Apapane, Elepaio, the comical scarlet Iiwi, and Hawaii's beautiful and unique goose, the Nene. A special effort will be made to locate as many of the Big Island endemics as possible, including the Omao, Palila, Akepa, Hawaiian Creeper, and the incredible, woodpecker-like Akiapolaau. We have had very good success in finding many of these endemics.*

*We'll spend three leisurely nights at the Volcano House lodge in Hawaii Volcanoes National Park, situated at just over 4000 ft. elevation. Here one can dine overlooking Kilauea Caldera and Halemaumau Crater, while watching honeycreepers forage in the ohia blossoms and White-tailed Tropicbirds coast by to their nests in the crater walls. There is no better home base from which to explore some of the world's most fantastic volcanic landscapes and, if the volcano goddess Pele's timing is right, we may even have a close-up view of a fiery-orange, molten lava flow.*

*An early spring visit to Hawaii and Kauai provides the opportunity to enjoy a unique view of nature while enjoying the comforts and cuisine of the tropical Pacific.*

**March 22, Day 1: Arrival in Lihue, Kauai.** On arrival at the airport in Lihue on the island of Kauai this afternoon, please take a shuttle or taxi to our hotel, where a room will be reserved in your name. The group will meet in the lobby at 6:00 p.m. for a get-acquainted dinner at a nearby restaurant.

**NIGHT:** Resort Quest Kauai Beach at Makaiwa, Kapaa

**March 23, Day 2: Kauai – Kokee Forest and Alakai Swamp.** This morning we traverse some incredible scenery, en route to the wet mountain forest of Kokee State Park in the northwest corner of Kauai. Foremost among visual delights is Waimea Canyon, known as Hawaii's "Grand Canyon," a polychromatic canyon thousands of feet deep, which can be viewed from several eye-popping overlook spots. The route up along the canyon is often a good area to see Pueo, the Hawaiian version of Short-eared Owl, an owl most active during daytime.

As we reach the 3500-4000 ft. level, we will make a number of stops in the native forest to look for our first Hawaiian Islands honeycreepers, and perhaps do some trail hiking as well. In addition to the brick-red Apapane which occurs on several of the main islands, we have a good chance to see such Kauai specialty honeycreepers as Kauai Amakihi, Anianiau, Akekee, and the distinctive Kauai form of Elepaio, a Hawaiian relative of the monarch flycatchers of other Pacific islands. Red Junglefowl are also well established here, descendents of birds originally brought by the Polynesians to these islands over 1000 years ago. Some introduced birds are possible in the forest today too, including White-rumped Shama, Melodious Laughingthrush, and Japanese Bush-Warbler.

Nearby, we will visit a lookout on the Kalalau Valley for a stupendous view of the Na Pali coastline and of the blue Pacific, 4000 feet below, and stop for further views of scenic Waimea Canyon. Time-permitting, we will spend some time birding near Kekaha, in the dry rainshadow area of Kauai. Handsome Black Francolins, the Pueo (Hawaiian Short-eared Owl), and other land birds are possible here, as well as a number of the Hawaiian wetland species on a series of ponds. Other introduced bird species that may be encountered today include Chestnut Mannikin, Red-crested Cardinal, Java Sparrow, and Erckel's Francolin.

**NIGHT:** ResortQuest Kauai Beach at Makaiwa, Kapaa

**March 24, Day 3: Kauai – North Shore.** Our second full day on Kauai is designed to be a somewhat more relaxing day, built around visits to several important birding destinations along the northern edge of the island. Some of the most spectacular of all seabirds, including nesting Laysan Albatross and Red-footed Boobies, can be found at Kilauea Point National Wildlife Refuge. Great Frigatebirds, Brown Boobies, and White-tailed and Red-tailed tropicbirds fly close by the lighthouse, and a few Wedge-tailed Shearwaters should have returned to begin their season of nesting by now. The Nene (Hawaiian Goose) was introduced about a decade ago to Kauai, and is doing well on this mongoose-free island; expect to see these handsome geese at Kilauea Point too. We will also bird at Hanalei National Wildlife Refuge, looking for the endemic Koloa (Hawaiian Duck) and Hawaiian Coot, as well as the Hawaiian subspecies of Black-necked Stilt and Common Moorhen. The countryside here may also turn up Japanese Bush-Warbler, White-rumped Shama, Melodious Laughingthrush, Chestnut Mannikin, Red-crested Cardinal, Western Meadowlark, Northern Mockingbird, and others.

**NIGHT:** ResortQuest Kauai Beach at Makaiwa, Kapaa

**March 25, Day 4: Kauai to Hawaii – the Kona Coast.** This morning we fly from Lihue to Kona on Hawaii, a.k.a. The Big Island. Hawaii is the easternmost and largest island in the chain, and is well known for periods of splendid volcanic activity. Upon arrival, we will begin our exploration of the Kona coast, including checking likely areas for soaring Hawaiian Hawks. Expect a stop at a Kona coffee grower/roaster, where you can purchase 100% Kona coffee, and at a traditional small family macadamia nut operation. We will pay at least a brief visit to the Kona shoreline (either today or on Day 6), which is a favorite wintering spot for Pacific Golden-Plovers, Wandering Tattlers, Ruddy Turnstones, Sanderlings, and sometimes other shorebirds, as well as a good site for seeing Green Turtles either basking on the black lava shoreline outcroppings or feeding just off the beach. Aimakapa Pond is also nearby, home to nesting Hawaiian Coots and Black-necked Stilts and sometimes a resting place for waterfowl and other possible migrants. A number of introduced songbird species will likely be encountered in this area, including Yellow-billed Cardinal, Saffron Finch, and possibly several estrildid finches. Soon we will drive north toward our lodgings, with another possible stop or two enroute, time permitting. Our hotel tonight and tomorrow night is in Waimea, which sits on the hem of Kohala, a long-dormant volcano, at about 2500' above sea level – a bit cooler than the coastline at sea level. (Waimea, which means “red water,” is the name of towns on several of the islands, so on the Big Island the post office uses the name Kamuela for the town, to keep its mail headed to the correct island.)

**NIGHT:** Kamuela Inn, Waimea (a.k.a. Kamuela)

**March 26, Day 5: Hawaii – Mauna Kea and Saddle Road.** Today's birding takes us to one of the unique tropical forests of the Big Island, east of the Kona region and along the lower slopes of Hawaii's massive older volcanic peak, Mauna Kea. Near Puu Laau (“Puu” translates as hill or cinder cone) we enter a dry forest ecosystem of mamane/naio, the remaining home range of the endangered Palila. The Palila is a striking looking finch-like member of the Hawaiian endemic “honeycreepers” and is unique to this island. A thorough search for Palila should also turn up the wren-like Elepaio, more widespread honeycreepers such as Common Amakihi, and introduced birds like Sky Larks, possibly the shy Red-billed Leiothrix, and a host of gallinaceous birds. Returning from the Saddle Road, we will visit other sites in the northwest part of the Big Island in search of Black and Gray francolins, Melodious Laughingthrush, possibly Hawaiian Hawk, and other birds. One stop will be near Puu Anahulu, where we may find some of the introduced estrildid finches such as Warbling Silverbill, Red Avadavat, and Lavender Waxbill (the numbers of these very locally established birds vary a good deal from year to year) and perhaps find Nenes here as well. Terrain ranges from arid scrub to the lush landscape near Hawi and the lime green pastures of the Parker Ranch on the slopes of Kohala.

**NIGHT:** Kamuela Inn, Waimea (a.k.a. Kamuela)

**March 27, Day 6: Hawaii – Kohala to Volcanoes National Park.** We bird south from Kamuela and Kona today, in search of Hawaiian Hawk (I'o) and with a few opportunities to search for any remaining estrildid finches or other species. The route takes us next around the base of Mauna Loa and on to Hawaii Volcanoes National Park, one of the gems of the national park system which reaches from the 4000' rim of Kilauea Caldera to the

black volcanic sea cliffs at the sea level end of the Chain of Craters Road. This afternoon we will begin our exploration of its fantastic volcanic landscapes, perhaps with a walk along Devastation Trail or a stop at Halemau Crater, where White-tailed Tropicbirds sail along the crater edge, sometimes right up to the viewing area. This will be the first of three nights at the Volcano House, a comfortable park lodge perched on the rim of Kilauea Caldera and featuring one of the world's great restaurant views. The forest surrounding the lodge is also home to the more widespread endemic birds, including Omao, Apapane, and Common Amakihi.

**NIGHT:** Volcano House, Hawaii Volcanoes National Park

**March 28, Day 7: Hawaii – Hakalau Forest National Wildlife Refuge.** A visit to Hakalau Forest NWR is always among the top highlights of the entire tour. After an early start from the Volcano House and breakfast in Hilo, we will proceed to the eastern slope of Mauna Kea. We have arranged special permission for the group to visit Hakalau, a critical refuge of koa and ohia forest established for the protection of Hawaii's declining forest bird species. Such Big Island endemics as Akepa, Hawaii Creeper and the astounding Akiapolaau are possible here. The Akiapolaau, or Aki' for short, is a unique marvel of special adaptation, with a straight, short lower mandible that serves as a chisel and a long, flexible, decurved upper mandible that works like a probe and nut-pick. This is a bird well worth a careful and persistent search, and we have had very good success in seeing it. Iiwi are downright abundant, Elepaio and Omao call constantly, and Io soars along the canopy top. On the drive up toward the refuge, we typically pass quite an array of gallinaceous birds and pass through some other-worldly volcanic landscapes. Time permitting, a visit to some ponds in Hilo should turn up some new species of waterfowl for our Hawaii compilation. Expect a long and exciting day.

**NIGHT:** Volcano House, Hawaii Volcanoes National Park

**March 29, Day 8: Hawaii – Hawaii Volcanoes National Park.** A leisurely day of exploring the multi-faceted Park is in order, looking for some special birds and learning about the grand and sometimes eerie volcanic landscape that surrounds us. Specific spots to visit today include Thurston Lava Tube (a great spot for Omao), Devastation Trail, and the 1980's lava fields of Mauna Ulu, where one can get a firsthand look and feel for pahoe-hoe and a'a varieties of lava and search for Pele's hair. A walk in Bird Park at higher elevation than the lodge often turns up such fancy exotics as Kalij Pheasant, Red-billed Leiothrix, and Melodious Laughingthrush. The Jaggar Museum, Volcano Art Gallery, Visitor Center, and many possible hikes and walks are among several other facets the Park has to offer. And if the previous day's weather has treated us unkindly, there may be the option of returning to forested areas outside the Park. If there is a nearby active lava flow – best viewed at night when the red glow is much more vivid – we will make an effort to pay a sunset visit. (In spring 2003 several lava tubes were emptying into the ocean and the nighttime lava experience was extraordinary.)

**NIGHT:** Volcano House, Hawaii Volcanoes National Park

**March 30, Day 9: Departure from Hilo for Home.** After breakfast, we will transfer to the Hilo Airport in time for 9:00 am flight departures. Please arrange your return home from the Hilo airport.

**TOUR LEADERS:** Bob Sundstrom and a second leader to be announced

**Bob Sundstrom** has led VENT tours since 1989 to destinations including Hawaii, Mexico, Belize, Trinidad and Tobago, Iceland, Papua New Guinea, the Southwest Pacific islands, Antarctica, the Bering Sea, and many destinations throughout North America. Bob takes a strong interest in both the natural and cultural settings of his tours. He earned his doctorate at the University of Washington. Bob and his wife Sally live in the rural Scatter Creek Valley south of Olympia, Washington. Bob lived in Seattle for more than two decades, continues to teach birding workshops, and leads a program of short, regional tours that begin in the Seattle area. During two seasons of work in the Pribilof Islands, he helped chronicle the occurrence of North American bird rarities. A skilled birder with a special interest in bird song, Bob has served on the boards of several nature and conservation organizations, is a member of the Washington State Bird Records Committee, and is a co-author of *The Na-*

*tional Audubon Society Field Guide to the Pacific Northwest*. When not on tour, Bob keeps busy as the lead writer for the daily public radio program *BirdNote*. *BirdNote* is archived at [www.birdnote.org](http://www.birdnote.org).

**TOUR SIZE:** This tour will be limited to 12 participants.

**FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS:** The fee for this tour is **\$3895** per person in double occupancy from Lihue, Kauai (tour ends in Hilo). This includes all food from dinner on Day 1 to breakfast on Day 9, all lodging for 8 nights during the tour, ground transportation during the tour, the commercial flight between Lihue and Kona and guide services provided by the tour leaders. It does not include airfare from your home to Lihue, Kauai and return from Hilo, airport departure taxes, alcoholic beverages, special gratuities, phone calls, laundry, or items of a personal nature.

The single supplement for this tour is **\$675**. You will be charged a single supplement if you desire single accommodations, or if you prefer to share but have no roommate and we cannot provide one for you.

The **Hawaii tour** is an exception to VENT's guaranteed domestic departure policy. VENT reserves the right to charge a small-party supplement or cancel the tour due to low enrollment.

**TOUR REGISTRATION:** To register for this tour, please contact the VENT office. The deposit for this tour is **\$300** per person. If you prefer to pay your deposit by check, your tour space will be held for 10 days to allow time for the VENT office to receive your deposit and completed registration form. If you prefer to pay your deposit using a credit card, your deposit must be made with MasterCard or Visa at the time of registration. The VENT registration form should then be completed, signed, and returned to the VENT office. Full payment of the tour fee is due 120 days prior to the tour departure date.

**CANCELLATION POLICY:** Cancellation Penalties and Refunds are based on the following schedule: If cancellation is made 120 days or more before the tour departure date, the deposit less **\$150** per person is refundable. If cancellation is made between 120 and 90 days before departure date, the deposit is not refundable, but any payments covering the balance of the fee will be refunded. If cancellation is made fewer than 90 days before departure date, no refund is available. This policy and fee schedule also applies to pre-trip and post-trip extensions, as well as any transfers from one tour to another. ***We strongly recommend the purchase of trip cancellation insurance for your protection.***

<u>If you cancel:</u>	<u>Your refund will be:</u>
120 days or more before departure date	Your deposit minus \$150.
Between 120 and 90 days before departure	No refund of the deposit, but any payments on the balance will be refunded.
Fewer than 90 days before departure date	No refund available.

**FUEL AND FUEL SURCHARGES:** In the uncertain, often volatile oil market of late, it is difficult – if not impossible – to predict fuel costs over the long term, and more specifically, at the time of operation of this departure. Our prices are based upon the prevailing fuel rates at the time of itinerary publication. While we will do everything possible to maintain our prices, if the fuel rates increase significantly, it may be necessary to institute a fuel surcharge.

**TRIP CANCELLATION INSURANCE:** Application forms for optional coverage for baggage, illness, and trip cancellation can be obtained through the VENT office. We **strongly recommend** that you purchase trip cancellation insurance to protect yourself against losses due to accidents or illness. Check with your insurance agent regarding coverage you may presently have via other insurance policies that may cover illness during your trip. **Waiver for pre-existing conditions is available; however, stipulations apply, usually requiring the purchase of the insurance soon after registering. Contact the VENT office prior to registration for details.**

**Victor Emanuel Nature Tours is not a participant in the California Travel Consumer Restitution Fund. California law requires certain sellers of travel to have a trust account or bond. This business has a bond issued by Travelers in the amount of \$50,000. CST #2014998-50.**

**AIR INFORMATION:** Please take note that Victor Emanuel Travel is a full-service travel agency and wholly owned subsidiary of Victor Emanuel Nature Tours. Victor Emanuel Travel will be happy to make any domestic air travel arrangements for you from your home to Lihue, Kauai and from Hilo, Hawaii. Please feel free to call the VENT office to confirm your air arrangements.

**BAGGAGE:** Baggage space is very limited throughout the tour, as we will be traveling in large SUVs with very limited luggage space. These vehicles allow us to get to the best birding spots. Please do not bring any rigid-sided suitcases. **Duffel bags or lighter material bags/roll-ons** are okay, but nothing over 30" in length. **Please limit baggage to one such luggage piece and one carry-on.** If couples can combine some of their gear in one bag, it would be much appreciated.

**CLOTHING:** Casual, informal clothing will be fine throughout, including at restaurants. Most daily temperatures will fall in a very comfortable range, but you must be prepared for a variety of potential weather conditions and temperatures. Our time in this tropical region will cover quite a span of elevations, from sea level to at least 8000 ft., and some precipitation will occur over the ten days. Rain showers are likely at some point. Temperatures typically range from a sunny 90°F to a misty 50°F, depending on elevation and weather. Slacks or jeans will suffice at any altitude, shorts will be comfortable lower down, and a mix of short- and long-sleeved shirts is advised. A layered approach is suggested.

Rain showers are possible on the longer walks/hikes, and you will want to be prepared to avoid getting soaked and chilled. To be comfortable under all potential conditions, include a lightweight but effective *waterproof* jacket (like a Goretex parka), together with a synthetic fleece or other quick drying warm layer (two such layers if you get cool easily). We highly recommend that you bring a collapsible umbrella, and also carry it with you on longer walks. A hat for protection from sun/precipitation will come in handy, as will a pair of rain pants in your backpack.. There will be coin laundry facilities and laundry service at our Kauai hotel.

**FOOTWEAR:** We will be doing a fair amount of light hiking and walking, sometimes over uneven or unforgiving terrain. You will definitely need proper hiking footwear for certain key natural areas in the tour. Lightweight (or heavier) hiking boots that provide good traction and solid ankle support are essential. They should be moisture-proof as well. If you want to rule out the chance of damp feet, you may wish to bring along a pair of ankle or higher duck boots or Wellingtons. Tennis or walking shoes will be fine for other activities.

**OTHER ITEMS TO BRING:** You will find a light daypack necessary on several outings, as well as a plastic water bottle. Binoculars will be essential. The leader will have a spotting scope, although additional scopes are welcome. The basic field guide to carry along is H.D. Pratt et al, *A Field Guide to the Birds of Hawaii and Tropical Pacific* (1987), which is out of print in some areas, but still available. A new edition is being prepared. There will be many photo opportunities, so you may wish to bring along a camera and ample film/digital storage. Sunscreen and sunglasses (and a hat) should be part of your basic kit.

Few if any biting insects are to be expected; there are no venomous snakes; the tap water is potable; no inoculations or special travel documents are required; and a wide variety of foods to suit all diets and special needs are available.

**HEALTH:** If you are taking prescription medication or over-the-counter medicine, be sure to bring an ample supply that will allow you to get through the tour safely. Please consult your physician as necessary. Remember to pack all medication in your carry-on baggage, preferably in original containers or packaging. As airline baggage restrictions can change without warning, please check with your airline for procedures for packing medication.

As standard travel precautions, you should always be up to date with tetanus shots, and strongly consider inoculations against Hepatitis types A and B.

In addition to your physician, a good source of general health information for travelers is the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in Atlanta, which operates a 24-hour recorded Travelers' Information Line (877) FYI-TRIP. You can check the CDC website at [www.cdc.gov/travel](http://www.cdc.gov/travel). Canadian citizens should check the website of the Public Health Agency of Canada: [www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/new\\_e.html](http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/new_e.html) (click on travel health).

**SUGGESTED READING:** Our website at [www.ventbird.com](http://www.ventbird.com) offers an affiliated online store that carries a wide variety of items for birding and nature lovers, including over 6,000 books. A portion of the sales from the store benefits the Cornell Lab of Ornithology. You might also want to visit such other online stores as [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com), and for those out-of-print and hard-to-find titles, [www.abebooks.com](http://www.abebooks.com), or [www.buteobooks.com](http://www.buteobooks.com), which specializes in ornithology books.

***Birds:***

Berger, Andrew J. *Hawaiian Birdlife*. 2nd ed. Honolulu: University of Hawaii Press, 1981. [The standard home reference "state bird book." Includes quotations from much older literature that make fascinating reading.]

Harrison, Craig S. *Seabirds of Hawaii: Natural History and Conservation*. Ithaca and London: Cornell University Press, 1990. [very readable scientific overview]

Harrison, Peter. *Seabirds: An Identification Guide*. Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 1991. [A world-wide reference.]

Harrison, Peter. *A Field Guide to Seabirds of the World*. Lexington, MA: Stephen Green Press, 1987. [A smaller and more portable guide by the previous author. Illustrated with photographs.]

Hayman, Peter, John Marchant, and Tony Prater. *Shorebirds: An Identification Guide to the Waders of the World*. Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 1991. [A definitive, well-illustrated reference.]

Olson, Storrs L. and Helen F. James. *Prodromus of the Fossil Avifauna of the Hawaiian Islands*. Smithsonian Contributions to Zoology, No. 365. Washington, D.C., 1982. [Hawaii's fossil bird record is astounding; this is the original scientific summary of the data.]

Pratt, H. Douglas. *Enjoying Birds in Hawaii*. Mutual Publishing, 1993. [site guide]

Pratt, H. Douglas and Jack Jeffrey. *A Pocket Guide to Hawaii's Birds*. Mutual Publishing, 1997. [A handy informal bird guide with excellent photos. A better, more modern choice as an informal guide than Hawaii Audubon Society's *Hawaii's Birds*.]

Pratt, H. Douglas, Phillip L. Bruner and Delwyn G. Berrett. *A Field Guide to the Birds of Hawaii and the Tropical Pacific*. Princeton, New Jersey: Princeton University Press, 1987. [The only field guide to illustrate all Hawaii birds; color plates by Pratt. The serious field guide of choice for the islands.]

Scott, J.M., S. Conant, and C. Van Riper, III, editors. *Evolution, Ecology, Conservation, and Management of Hawaiian Birds: A Vanishing Avifauna*. (Studies in Avian Biology No. 22, Cooper Ornithological Society, 2001. [Current scientific articles.]

***Mammals, Reptiles & Amphibians:***

Kaufman, Gregory D. and Paul H. Forestall. *Hawaii's Humpback Whales*. Island Heritage Publishing, 1996.

McKeown, Sean. *A Field Guide to Reptiles and Amphibians in the Hawaiian Islands*. Diamond Head Publishing, 1996.

Minasian, Stanley M. *Whales of Hawaii*. Hamilton Publishing, 1991. A guide to all species of marine mammals in Hawaii.

Scott, Susan. *Oceanwatcher: An Above-Water Guide to Hawaii's Marine Animals*. Honolulu: Green Turtle Press, 1988. [Includes seabirds.]

Van Riper, Sandra G. and Charles Van Riper III. *A Field Guide to the Mammals in Hawaii*. Honolulu: Oriental Publishing Co, 1982. [The best guide for field use. Scarce, but try [www.abebooks.com](http://www.abebooks.com).]

***Plants:***

Kepler, Angela Kay. *Hawaiian Heritage Plants*. Honolulu: Oriental Publishing, 1983. [An excellent guide to plants of significance to the history of Hawaii. Out of print, but try [www.abebooks.com](http://www.abebooks.com).]

Lamoureux, Charles H. *Trailside Plants of Hawaii's National Parks*. Booklines Hawaii, Ltd., 1996 (revised edition). [Useful in any forest area.]

Merlin, Mark David. *Hawaiian Forest Plants*. University of Hawaii Press, 1996. [A very good, small popular guide.]

Pratt, H. Douglas. *A Pocket Guide to Hawaii's Trees and Shrubs*. Mutual Publishing, 1998. [A very handy pocket sized guide.]

Sohmer, S.H. and Robert Gustafson. *Plants and Flowers of Hawaii*. Honolulu: University of Hawaii Press, 1987. [Well-written and well-illustrated. Not exactly a field guide, but recommended to anyone interested in native plant communities.]

***Geology, Geography and Archaeology:***

Blay, Chuck and Robert Siemers. *Kauai's Geologic History: A Simplified Guide*. TEOK, 1998.

Cox, J. Halley and Edward Stasack. *Hawaiian Petroglyphs*. Booklines Hawaii, 1970.

Decker, Robert and Barbara Decker. *Volcano Watching*. Hawaii Volcanoes National Park: Hawaii Natural History Association, 2000.

Hazlett, Richard W. and Donald W. Hyndman. *Roadside Geology of Hawaii*. Missoula: Mountain Press, 1996.

MacDonald, Gordon A. and Douglass H. Hubbard. *Volcanoes of the National Parks in Hawaii*. 6th ed. Hawaii Volcanoes National Park: Hawaii Natural History Association, n.d. (10<sup>th</sup> ed.).

University of Hawaii Department of Geography. *Atlas of Hawaii*. 2nd ed. Honolulu: University of Hawaii Press, 1985. An excellent reference that contains far more than basic maps.

***General Natural History:***

Culliney, John L. *Islands in a Far Sea: Nature and Man in Hawaii*. San Francisco: Sierra Club Books, 1988. An Excellent, worthwhile reading for anyone interested in Hawaiian natural history and conservation.

Mitchell, Andrew and James A. Michener. *The Fragile South Pacific: An Ecological Odyssey*. Austin: University of Texas Press, 1991. Covers the entire South Pacific region and helps to place the Hawaiian Islands in proper ecological perspective.

Rauzon, Mark J. *Isles of Refuge: Wildlife and History of the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands*. Honolulu: University of Hawaii Press, 2001. [Excellent, readable natural history with a lot of relevance to the main islands of the Hawaiian chain too.]

Wagner, Warren L. and V.A. Funk. *Hawaiian Biogeography: Evolution on a Hot Spot*. Smithsonian Institution Press, 1995. [Cladistic analyses of flora and fauna.]

Ziegler, Alan C. *Hawaiian Natural History, Ecology, and Evolution*. Honolulu: University of Hawaii Press, 2002. [The best single natural history guide to the Hawaiian Islands, with entries on nearly every topic of interest.]

**TIPPING:** As noted in our itineraries, tipping (restaurants, porters, drivers, and local guides) is included on VENT tours. However, if you feel one or both of your VENT leaders or any local guides have given you exceptional service, it is entirely appropriate to tip. We emphasize that such tips are not expected and are entirely optional.

**RESPONSIBILITY:** Victor Emanuel Nature Tours, Inc. (VENT) and/or its Agents act only as agents for the passenger in regard to travel, whether by railroad, motorcar, motorcoach, boat, or airplane and assume no liability for injury, damage, loss, accident, delay, or irregularity which may be occasioned either by reason of defect in any vehicle or for any reason whatsoever, or through the acts or default of any company or person engaged in conveying the passenger or in carrying out the arrangements of the tour. VENT and its Agents can accept no responsibility for losses or additional expenses due to delay or changes in air or other services, sickness, weather, strike, war, quarantine, or other causes. All such losses or expenses will have to be borne by the passenger, as tour rates provide for arrangements only for the time stated. The right is reserved to substitute hotels of similar category for those indicated and to make any changes in the itinerary where deemed necessary or caused by changes in air schedules. The right is reserved to cancel any tour prior to departure, in which case full refund will constitute full settlement to the passenger. The right is reserved to substitute leaders on any tour. When this is necessary, notification will be given to tour members. No refund will be made for any unused portion of the tour unless arrangements are made in sufficient time to avoid penalties. The prices of the tours are based on tariffs and exchange rates in effect on June 19, 2008 and are subject to adjustment in the event of any change therein. The right is reserved to decline to accept or to retain any person as a member of any tour. Baggage is at owner's risk entirely. The airlines concerned and their agents and affiliates are not to be held responsible for any act, omission, or event during the time passengers are not on board their aircraft. The passenger ticket in use by said airlines, when issued, shall constitute the sole contract between the airlines and the purchaser of these tickets and/or passenger. The services of any I.A.T.A.N. carrier may be used for these tours, and transportation within the United States may be provided by any member carrier of the Airline Reporting Corporation.