

Common Birds of Pu‘uhonua o Hōnaunau

INTRODUCED SPECIES



Saffron Finch

Sicalis flaveola

Size: 7 in (18 cm)
Habitat: Dry areas, roadsides
Origin: South America, 1960s

Males are bright yellow with an orange crown; females are duller.



House Finch

Carpodacus mexicanus

Size: 5.5 in (14 cm)
Habitat: Dry areas
Origin: North America, mid-1800s

Males can vary from yellow to orange to red; females are brown with streaks.



Yellow-Billed Cardinal

Paroaria capitata

Size: 7 in (18 cm)
Habitat: Dry areas
Origin: South America, 1973

These tanager-finches are distantly related to true cardinals. Females have brown heads.



Northern Cardinal

Cardinalis cardinalis

Size: 9 in (22 cm)
Habitat: Sea level to upper forests
Origin: North America, 1929

Males are scarlet red while females are tan brown. Note the head crest and red bill.



Common Myna

Acridotheres tristis

Size: 9 in (22 cm)
Habitat: Urban areas
Origin: India, 1865

Mynas are noisy and considered a nuisance. They tend to congregate in large groups.



Japanese White Eye or Mejiro

Zosterops japonicus

Size: 4 ½ in (11 cm)
Habitat: Sea level to upper forests
Origin: Japan, 1929

Look for the white eye ring.



Java Sparrow

Padda oryzivora

Size: 6 in (15 cm)
Habitat: Urban areas
Origin: Native to Indonesia, brought to Hawai‘i in 1960s

The Java sparrow feeds on seeds with its large pink bill.



Kalij Pheasant

Lophura leucomelanos

Size: 33 in (84 cm)
Origin: Himalayas, 1962
Habitat: Mountains

Once considered a game bird in Hawai‘i.

INTRODUCED SPECIES cont.



Zebra Dove

Geopelia striata

Size: 8 in (20 cm)
Habitat: Urban areas
Origin: Asia, 1922

Once considered a game bird in Hawai'i.



Spotted Dove

Streptopelia chinensis

Size: 12 in (30.5 cm)
Habitat: Urban areas
Origin: Asia, 1800s

A popular game bird in Hawai'i.

MIGRATORY BIRDS



Pacific Golden Plover or Kōlea

Pluvialis fulva

Size: 11 in (28 cm)
Habitat: Wetlands and open areas

Kōlea migrate to Hawai'i from their summer breeding grounds in Alaska at heights of 20,000 feet travelling nearly 3,000 miles in a matter of days! From April to May they put on a "tuxedo" of white and black feathers and return to Alaska. Some stay all summer.



Ruddy Turnstone or 'Akekeke

Arenaria interpres

Size: 9 in (23 cm)
Habitat: Wetlands and open areas

'Akekeke migrate to Hawai'i in August from their Arctic breeding grounds. From April to May their back feathers change to a rusty mottled brown and black as they prepare for the long journey back to the Arctic. Some stay all summer.



Wandering Tattler or 'Ūlili

Heteroscelus incanus

Size: 11 in (28 cm)
Habitat: Wetlands

Can be seen bobbing its tail up and down.

INDIGENOUS BIRDS



Black-Crowned Night Heron or 'Auku'u

Nycticorax nycticorax hoactli

Size: 24-26 in (61-66 cm)
Wingspan: 44 in (112 cm)
Habitat: Coastal wetlands

'Auku'u hunt and forage during the day in tide pools, fish ponds, and anchialine pools.



Great Frigatebird or 'Iwa

Fregata minor palmerstoni
Size: 34-40 in (86-100 cm)
Wingspan: 7 ft (2 m)
Habitat: Marine

'Iwa have a life span of 30 years! They can soar for days in search of food without resting on land.