

NATIVE BIRDS FOUND AT KOHANAIKI

Native plants and shrubs have returned to the anchialine ponds and shoreline areas following the removal of invasive species. The restoration has also meant an increase of nesting and foraging habitat for native and migratory birds.

There has been a steady increase of both the native Hawaiian Stilt (Ae'o) nest sites and successful Ae'o fledglings at Kohanaiki. We attribute this to the restoration work, predator trapping, and diligent nesting season surveys performed by the Anchialine Pond Maintenance Team.

Since 2014 we have also observed successful nesting and fledgling events of Least Terns at Kohanaiki. This could be the first successful nesting event in the main Hawaiian Islands for this rarely seen species since the mid-1990's.

We are fortunate to have these unique and rare endemic species at Kohanaiki, and we ask everyone who shares this special place with us to follow a few guidelines to protect Water Birds during their nesting season of December thru August:

- Be observant of adult Hawaiian Stilts and their behavior. If a stilt is witnessed flying aggressively at you, flapping around like it's injured, or making a lot of noise, this is most likely because a nest or juvenile is nearby.
- Hawaiian Stilt eggs look like small pebbles; their nests are small depressions in the rocks and therefore are very hard to see. Please be cautious where you drive or walk if you see adult stilts in the area.
- Pay attention to all signs and barrier fences set up during breeding season to protect nests and eggs. If you notice anything out of the ordinary, or think you may have found a nest or injured bird, please notify park Security.



Ae'o

Hawaiian Stilt

Himantopus mexicanus knudseni

The Ae'o is an endangered waterbird that can be seen year round at Kohanaiki. It has black and white plumage and is most recognizable by its long, slender pink legs. Look for Hawaiian Stilts foraging or nesting in the ponds around Kohanaiki, prime feeding grounds for them. The statewide population of the bird declined to 200 in 1949. Today, they are an estimated 1,500 to 1,800, a couple hundred short of the goal for a stable population of 2,000.



'Aleku'u Kau Pipi

Cattle Egret

Bubulcus ibis

The 'Aleku'u Kau Pipi was introduced to Hawai'i in 1959 to help keep cattle clean of pests. Tall and white, they feed on fish, insects and small invertebrates that live in and around the lakes and anchialine pools. They are not dependent on aquatic habitats but are often found in them. Both sexes participate in nest building and often steal sticks from neighboring nests. They are monogamous for the nesting season and from mating through incubation they do a greeting ceremony when one mate returns to the nest. Both sexes participate in nest building and often steal sticks from neighboring nests. They are monogamous for the nesting season and from mating through incubation they do a greeting ceremony when one mate returns to the nest.



'Akekeke

Ruddy Turnstone

Arenaria interpres

The 'Akekeke is a small migratory waterbird that visits the shores of Kohanaiki from the Arctic Circle to breed. This small bird has rust orange, black and white plumage and is most recognizable by its bright orange legs. During its breeding season in Hawai'i, it feeds on insects that it finds among the rocks and pebbles of the shoreline. The rest of the year it has a broader diet that includes crustaceans, mollusks, worms and small fish.



‘Auku‘u
Black-Crowned Night Heron
Nycticorax nycticorax

A year round resident of the anchialine pools at Kohanaiki, this large, crafty and stealthy predator can often be seen sitting motionless at the water’s edge of ponds waiting for a fish to get close to snatch up and eat. ‘Auku‘u employ a variety of techniques to hunt and, aside from fish, its diet can include insects, mice and the young of other native waterbirds. It nests in low vegetation and builds a bulky stick nest.



‘Alae ke‘oke‘o
Hawaiian Coot
Fulica alai

Hawaiian Coot or ‘Ala ke‘oke‘o is an endangered endemic Hawaiian water bird that can sometimes be seen foraging in the anchialine pools at Kohanaiki. The Hawaiian Coot is very similar to the American Coot but can be differentiated by the red patch on the top of its white beak.



Hunakai
Sanderling
Calidris alba

The Hunakai is a small migratory sandpiper and has the widest winter range of all shorebirds. This tiny white Sandpiper can be seen in small flocks foraging for insects on the golf course and at the Beach Park. The female chooses the nest site, typically on a piece of ground she scrapes clean. She may surround the area with leaves and other materials. Incubation lasts four weeks and the young are independent about three weeks later.



‘Iwa
Great Frigatebird
Fregata minor

The ‘Iwa is found in tropical waters around the world. It is a very elegant bird and has a large wingspan that is designed for soaring. When not breeding, they wander widely in search of fish. Fishermen will sail toward a pile of feeding ‘Iwa because the fish they are seeking are usually chasing the fish the ‘Iwa are after. At Kohanaiki these birds can be seen riding the stormfront winds. They can glide for hours on wingspans of up to 8 feet.



Kōlea
Pacific Golden Plover
Pluvialis fulva

The Kōlea, a migratory bird, is named after its golden plumage, which is highly pronounced during breeding time. It can be seen foraging for small insects all around Kohanaiki and during breeding will also eat berries, leaves and seeds. They can be territorial and will chase intruders away from their food sources. Mating is usually in June-July and the birds form monogamous pairs.



Least Tern
Sterna antillarum

The Least Tern is a species of Tern normally found in North America and northern South America. It is a small bird, no more than 10 inches long, with a wingspan of 20 inches. Least Terns are characterized by their yellow beak, black cap of feathers on their head, grey plumage on their backs, with a white underbelly and yellowish legs. The Least Tern is infrequently seen in Hawai‘i, however, they may be present at Kohanaiki during the December-August nesting season.



‘Ūlilī

Wandering Tattler

Tringa incana

The ‘Ūlilī can be seen year round at Kohanaiki.

This small grey water bird is most recognizable by its bright yellow legs and long beak, which can be almost half as long as its body. It feeds on marine worms, mollusks, crustaceans and small fish. They breed in the summer and the incubation period for eggs is just under 4 weeks.