

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Keālia Pond

*National Wildlife
Refuge*

Watchable Wildlife



Introduction

Welcome to Keālia Pond NWR

Keālia Pond is one of the few remaining lowland wetlands in Hawai'i and the largest on Maui. It provides vital nesting, feeding, and resting habitat for two endangered Hawaiian waterbirds; the Hawaiian Stilt and the Hawaiian Coot.

The refuge is a favorite destination for hundreds of migratory shorebirds and waterfowl, some of them native to Hawai'i. It also provides essential habitat for nesting sea turtles along with other winged creatures like dragonflies, damselflies and butterflies.

Stars of Keālia Pond NWR



Hawaiian Stilt chick

The Hawaiian Coot ('Alae ke'oke'o) and Hawaiian Stilt (Ae'o) share the wetland habitat, but they nest at different times and in different areas of the environment. Hawaiian Coots build their floating nests in the high water season between December and April. Hawaiian Stilts build their nests in the mudflats in the dry season between April and July.



Hawaiian Stilt
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Tips for Watching Wildlife

The best spots for watching the wildlife of Keālia Pond are from dirt paths along the Kanuimanu Ponds near the Visitor Center and from the Keālia Coastal Boardwalk on North Kihei Road.

Bring binoculars with you for a closer look at wildlife. A field guide to the wildlife of Hawai'i will help you identify specific birds and other wildlife.

Key:

- a abundant, very numerous
- c common, likely to be seen or heard in suitable habitat
- u uncommon, present but not certain to be seen
- o occasional (accidental), seen only a few times during a season
- r rare, seen at irregular intervals
- * birds known or suspected to nest on or near the refuge
- ◆ endangered species
- indigenous or endemic species

Hawaiian Coot and chick
© Forest and Kim Starr



Wildlife of Keālia Pond NWR

Common Name	Sp	S	F	W
Grebes				
__ Pied-billed Grebe	r		r	r
__ Eared Grebe	r		r	r
Shearwaters				
__ *•Wedge-tailed Shearwater ('Ua'u Kani)	u	u	u	
Frigatebirds				
__ •Great Frigatebird ('Iwa)	u	u	u	u
Boobies				
__ •Brown Booby ('A)	o	o	o	o
Hérons				
__ Great Egret	r		r	r
__ Snowy Egret	r		r	r
__ *Cattle Egret	a	a	a	a
__ *•Black-crowned Night-heron ('Auku'u)	a	a	a	a
__ Great Blue Heron	r		r	r
Ibises				
__ White-faced Ibis	r	r	r	r
Swans, Geese and Ducks				
__ Tundra Swan	r		r	r
__ Greater White-fronted Goose	r		r	r
__ Snow Goose	r		r	r
__ Brant	r		r	r
__ Cackling Goose	o		o	o
__ Canada Goose	r		r	r
__ ••Hawaiian Goose (Nēnē)	o		o	o

Common Name	Sp	S	F	W
__ Mallard	c		c	c
__ Green-winged Teal	u		u	u
__ *Mallard/Hawaiian Duck	c	c	c	c
__ ••Hawaiian Duck (Kōloa)	r	r	r	r
__ Garganey	r		r	r
__ Northern Pintail (Koloa Māpu)	c		c	c
__ Blue-winged Teal	r		r	r
__ Cinnamon Teal	r		r	r
__ Northern Shoveler (Koloa Mohā)	c		c	c
__ Gadwall	r		r	r
__ Eurasian Wigeon	o		o	o
__ American Wigeon	o		o	o
__ Canvasback	r		r	r
__ Redhead	r		r	r
__ Ring-necked Duck	r		r	r
__ Tufted Duck	r		r	r
__ Greater Scaup	r		r	r
__ Lesser Scaup	u		u	u
__ Common Goldeneye	r		r	r
__ Bufflehead	o		o	o
__ Common Merganser	r		r	r
__ Red-breasted Merganser	r		r	r
Coots				
__ •••Hawaiian Coot ('Alae ke'oke'o)	a	a	a	a
__ American Coot			r	r
Stilts				
__ •••Hawaiian Stilt (Ae'o)	a	a	a	a
__ Black-necked Stilt	r	r	r	r
__ American Avocet			r	r

Common Name	Sp	S	F	W
Shorebirds				
__ Black-bellied Plover	o		o	o
__ •Pacific Golden Plover (Kōlea)	a	r	a	a
__ Semipalmated Plover	u		u	u
__ Killdeer	r		r	r
__ Marbled Godwit	r		r	r
__ Bar-tailed Godwit	r		r	r
__ •Bristle-thighed Curlew (Kioea)	r		r	r
__ Whimbrel	r		r	r
__ Greater Yellowlegs	r		r	r
__ Lesser Yellowlegs	r		r	r
__ Spotted Sandpiper	r		r	r
__ •Wandering Tattler (‘Ulili)	c	r	c	c
__ Wilson’s Phalarope	r		r	r
__ Red Phalarope	r		r	r
__ Red-necked Phalarope	r		r	r
__ Short-billed Dowitcher	r		r	r
__ Long-billed Dowitcher	u		u	u
__ Common Snipe	r		r	r
__ •Ruddy Turnstone (‘Akekeke)	a	r	a	a
__ Red Knot	r		r	r
__ Dunlin	r		r	r
__ •Sanderling (Hunakai)	a	r	a	a
__ Curlew Sandpiper	r		r	r
__ Semipalmated Sandpiper	r		r	r
__ Western Sandpiper	r		r	r
__ Least Sandpiper	o		o	o
__ Baird’s Sandpiper	r		r	r
__ Red-necked Stint	r		r	r
__ Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	o		o	o
__ Pectoral Sandpiper	o		o	o
__ Ruff	r		r	r
Gulls				
__ Franklin’s Gull	r		o	o
__ Laughing Gull	r		o	o
__ Common Black-headed Gull	r		r	r
__ Bonaparte’s Gull	r		o	o
__ Ring-billed Gull	r		o	o
__ California Gull	r		r	r
__ Herring Gull	r		r	r
__ Glaucous-winged Gull	r		r	r

Common Name	Sp	S	F	W
Terns				
__ Gull-billed Tern	r		r	r
__ Caspian Tern	r		r	r
__ Common Tern	r		r	r
__ Arctic Tern	r		r	r
__ Least Tern	r		r	r
__ Black Tern	r		r	r
__ •Brown Noddy (Noio Koha)	r	r		
__ •Black Noddy (Noio)	r	r	r	r
Raptors				
__ Osprey			r	r
__ Peregrine Falcon			r	r
__ Northern Harrier			r	r
Gallinaceous Birds				
__ *Black Francolin	c	c	c	c
__ *Gray Francolin	a	a	a	a
__ *Ring-necked Pheasant	r	r	r	r
Doves				
__ Mourning Dove	c	c	c	c
__ *Spotted Dove	a	a	a	a
__ Rock Dove	c	c	c	c
__ *Zebra Dove	a	a	a	a

Wandering Tattler



Common Name	Sp	S	F	W
Owls				
__ ♦♦*Short-eared Owl (Pueo)	o	o	o	o
__ Barn Owl	o	o	o	o
Mynas				
__ *Common Myna	a	a	a	a
White-eyes				
__ *Japanese White-eye	a	a	a	a
Mimic Thrushes				
__ *Northern Mockingbird	o	o	o	o
Cardinals and Sparrows				
__ *Northern Cardinal	c	c	c	c
__ *Red-crested Cardinal	c	c	c	c
__ *House Sparrow	c	c	c	c
__ *Java Sparrow	c	c	c	c
Finches				
__ *House Finch	c	c	c	c
Larks				
__ Sky Lark	o	o	o	o
Waxbills and Mannikins				
__ *Orange-cheeked Waxbill	c	c	c	c
__ *Nutmeg Mannikin	c	c	c	c
__ *African Silverbill	c	c	c	c
__ *Chestnut Munia	c	c	c	c



Hawksbill
Sea Turtle
USFWS



© Andy Morfiew

Black-crowned Night Heron

Other Birds to Look For

Pacific Golden Plover in non-breeding plumage



© Lewis Scharpf

Pacific Golden Plover in breeding plumage



© Lahaina Photography

Watch for the native Black-crowned Night Heron (‘Auku‘u) in the shallow wetlands of the refuge. A stealth predator, it stalks and spears fish, and hunts stilt and coot chicks on occasion. The use of DDT pesticide in the 20th century had a devastating effect on its water and food sources, but since DDT was outlawed in 1972, its numbers have increased.

The Pacific Golden Plover (Kōlea) visits the refuge in the wet season. It travels non-stop for many hours from its breeding grounds in Alaska, navigating by the stars to return to the same territory each year. In spring, usually at the same date each year, this normally solitary bird joins other plovers to make the return trip to Alaska.

Sea Turtles

The endangered Hawksbill Sea Turtle (Honu‘ea) feeds on sponges in the offshore reefs, and nests from June to September in the coastal dune habitat of the refuge. The threatened Hawaiian Green Sea Turtle (Honu) nests mostly in French Frigate Shoals, and may be seen basking and resting on the beaches of the coastal dune refuge habitat.

Insects of Kēalia Pond NWR

If you'd like a wildlife-watching challenge, search for the flying insects of Keālia Pond!

Dragon and Damselflies

Rambur's Forktail Damselfly



These beautiful insects are a colorful part of the complex ecosystem of the refuge. As nymphs they live in the water, where they eat other insects and are themselves food for waterbirds. Eventually they crawl out of the water, molt, and become winged creatures.

- Dragonflies hunt and eat on the fly. They are the world's fastest insect at speeds of 19-38 mph.
- Damselflies land on vegetation and use their spiny front legs to capture insects.
- To tell the difference between a dragonfly and a damselfly, look at their wings. Damselfly wings are vertical; dragonfly wings are horizontal, like the wings of an airplane.

- ___ Green Darner Dragonfly
- ___ Darner Dragonfly
- ___ Globe Skimmer Dragonfly
- ___ Roseate Skimmer Dragonfly
- ___ Skimmer Dragonfly
- ___ Vermilion Saddlebags Dragonfly
- ___ Black Saddlebags Dragonfly
- ___ •Giant Hawaiian Dragonfly, the largest dragonfly in the US
- ___ Fragile Forktail Damselfly
- ___ Rambur's Forktail Damselfly
- ___ Common Bluet Damselfly

Roseate Skimmer Dragonfly

© Lahaina Photography



Western Pygmy Blue Butterfly
© Lewis Scharpf

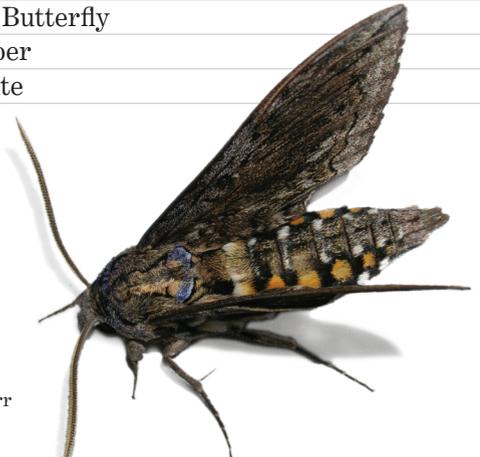
Butterflies and Moths

Keep your binoculars ready so you can see up close the beautiful details of the endangered endemic Blackburn's Sphinx Moth. It is Hawai'i's largest native insect, with a wing span of up to 5 inches! Watch for the many unique butterfly species that fly through the refuge.

- ___ •Hawaiian Blue Butterfly
- ___ •Kamehameha Butterfly
- ___ Western Pygmy Blue Butterfly
- ___ Peablu Butterfly
- ___ Monarch Butterfly
- ___ Painted Lady
- ___ Fiery Skipper Butterfly
- ___ Asian Swallowtail Butterfly
- ___ Passion Butterfly
- ___ Red Admiral Butterfly
- ___ Banana Skipper
- ___ Cabbage White

Blackburn's Sphinx Moth

© Forest and Kim Starr



The refuge is open M-F from 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. It is closed on weekends and federal holidays.

The Visitor Center is open M-F from 8:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. It is closed on weekends and federal holidays.

The boardwalk is open seven days a week and on federal holidays from 6:30 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Admission is free.

For more information, contact:

**Refuge Manager
Keālia Pond National Wildlife Refuge
Maui National Wildlife Refuge Complex
Milepost 6 Mokulele Highway (Highway 311)
P.O. Box 1042
Kīhei, Hawai'i 96753
808 875 1582
http://www.fws.gov/refuge/kealia_pond/**

**U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
<http://www.fws.gov>**

**For the hearing impaired:
Hawai'i Relay Service
TTY 1 877 447 5990
Voice 1 808 643 8255
In-state callers use the 4 digit TTY 1-711**

**Federal Relay Service
TTY and Voice 1 800 877 8339**

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