

OUR OWN PHOTOGRAPHS & TID-BIT INFO...



How did the first settlers find the Hawaiian Islands? Many scientists think it might have been this little guy here. Called the kilea, or golden plover this tiny bird flies over 2,500 miles nonstop to Alaska every year for the summer, returning to Hawaii after mating. Some of these birds continue past Hawaii & fly another 2,500 miles to Samoa & other Southern Pacific islands. The early Polynesians surely must have noticed this commute & concluded that there must be land in the direction that the bird was heading.



At the higher, cooler & windy elevations, there aren't many birds can live. Flying in thin 30 mph winds is not a very efficient means of transportation. So they walk most of the time. The 3 most successful are the native nene & the imported chukar & ring-necked pheasant.



Kalij Pheasant

We saw chickens & roosters wild in the mountains. They didn't seem to have troubles walking the steep grounds.



on the right... Common Myna or Indian Myna, open woodland bird with a strong territorial instinct (can't you tell he was bossy?).



on the left... Zebra Doves. They have beautiful blue around their eyes. Their coloration camouflages them wonderfully against the ground.



on the right... Grey Francolin or Grey Partridge game birds. They eat seeds, grains as well as insects, particularly termites & beetles - they may occasionally take larger prey such as snakes.





Japanese White-eye... In the late 1920s, people intentionally introduced these birds into Hawaiian agricultural lands & gardens for purposes of bug control. A recent increase in the numbers of white-eyes that live in old-growth forests is leaving native bird species with too little to eat - thus they pose a major threat to Hawaii's native & endangered birds



Saffron Finches were around the grounds where we stayed. They had beautiful sounds.



yet to be identified



This little gecko had beautiful blue eyes & a white stripe down its back that had a pattern of black outlines. I have spent hours trying to identify the type but no luck so far.