ΗP For the Protection of Hawaii's Native Wildlife **VOLUME 70, NUMBER 9**

The 111th Christmas Bird Count: Tuesday, December 14, 2010 to Wednesday, January 5, 2011

O'ahu

Honolulu Count

We are currently looking for count leaders for our Maui, and Kauai counts! Please contact Casey at hiaudsoc@pixi.com if you would like to lead a count this year!

From December 14 through January 5 tens of thousands of volunteers throughout the Americas take part in an adventure that has become a family tradition among generations. Families and students, birders and scientists, armed with binoculars, bird guides and checklists go out on an annual mission - often before dawn. For over one hundred years, the desire to both make a difference and to experience the beauty of nature has driven dedicated people to leave the comfort of a warm house during the Holiday season.

This year marks the Hawaii Audubon Society 67th year. We will be having counts state wide. Please let your local contact person know you will be participating. If you would like to lead a count this year or in the future please contact the HAS office. Here are some of the counts we will be having this year please check our website at www.hawaiiaudubon.com for future updates.

This one day event is great opportunity to meet other birders and volunteers near you. It is also a great chance to learn some new birding skills as well as collecting valuable data for Hawai'i. So please remember to sign up and we look forward to counting with you this Holiday season!

From feeder-watchers and field observers to count compilers and regional editors, everyone who takes part in the Christmas Bird Count does it for love of birds and the excitement of friendly competition -- and with the knowledge that their efforts are making a difference for science and bird conservation everywhere.

We look forward to having you join us!

Waipio Count **December 26th with Dave Bremmer** Please email Dave at bremerd001@hawaii.rr.com

Deccember 19th with Pete Donaldson

Please email Pete at pdnldsn.bird@mac.com

Dates and Contacts

Molokai

December 23rd with Arleone Dibben-Young Please email Arleone at nene@aloha.net

Maui

TBA

Kauai

TBA

Big Island

North Kona

Dec 29 with Nick Mitchell and Maile Melrose Please call Nick at 808-322-2735 or email Maile at melloke@hawaii.rr.com

Kulani Forest

December 18th with Eldridge Naboa Please email Eldridge at eldridge.naboa@gmail.com

Annual Meeting and Program Lecture Dec 13th at ING Direct Café 6-8pm

Please join us at 6 pm on Monday Dec 13th at ING Direct Café in Waikiki. We will be announcing our new Board members for 2011 so please remember to vote when you receive your membership renewal package and ballots that will be arriving soon! Following the announcement we will

be having a program by Ron Walker and Phil Bruner to gear up for the Christmas Bird count they will be offering tips on how to identify birds of Hawai'i. We look forward to seeing you there and for your participation in this years Christmas Bird Count.

DECEMBER 2010/JANUARY 2011

Journal of the Hawaii Audubon Society

HAWAI'I AUDUBON SOCIETY FREEMAN SEABIRD PRESERVE **RESTORATION FUND DRIVE**

Your Tax-Deductible Contribution Will Help Finish the Restoration!



Last year, HAS undertook Phase I, removing invasive plants, installing irrigation, and restoring native habitat on the front third of the upper lot. Now, it's time to finish the job! Native plantings and natural rock outcrops and borders will completely fill the remainder of the upper portion of the parcel. Clean fill and rock will provide a foundation for cleaning up the slope break, and sand pathways will offer attractive breaks between landscape features.

Please consider the HAS Freeman Seabird Preserve in your year-end financial giving plans, and we welcome partners willing to leverage our fundraising through matching donation gifts. Checks may be made out to Hawai'i Audubon Society, with the annotation "FSP" on the check. For further information, contact the HAS Office by phone (808) 528-1432 or by email (hiaudsoc@pixi.com).

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For the Protection of Hawaii's Native Wildlife

HAWAII AUDUBON SOCIETY

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November 17, 2010

Aloha Members and Friends:

On a recent evening, I had the privilege of accompanying Dr. Greg Butcher, Director of Bird Conservation for the National Audubon Society, to the Freeman Seabird Preserve. We stood in the gathering twilight while Wedge-Tailed Shearwaters ('Ua'u kani, *Puffinus pacificus*) returned to their nests from foraging at sea, wheeling silently and gracefully around us as night fell. In the soft, still darkness, no longer seeing the birds, we stood, hearing and feeling the stir of air as their wings passed around us. Seldom have I felt as close to a natural wonder.

Hawai'i Audubon is justifiably proud of our stewardship of the Freeman Seabird Preserve, and of each new member of the Shearwater population that is in the final stages of fledging as I write. Sometime next month, the fledglings will set out on their own wings for the first time, and another cycle will begin. Every HAS member and friend who has participated by volunteering, donating, and in countless other ways supporting the HAS effort to restore the Freeman Seabird Preserve shares in our grand-parental pride. As well, we each feel the warmth of gratitude for the astonishing generosity of Mr. and Mrs. Houghton Freeman for their donation of the property, and to Graeme and Nancy Freeman for joining their parents in the challenge grant that energized last year's Phase I fund drive.

With this letter, I'm very happy to announce the 2010 HAS Freeman Seabird Fundraising drive. Those of you who have passed by the Preserve recently have seen the transformation wrought by Rick Barboza and his team of native habitat restoration specialists as a result of last year's fund drive. Our original plan was to accomplish the full restoration work in a three-phase operation, but with the success of the first phase so prominent, we are undertaking a bold initiative to complete the entire project in one more phase. Native plantings and natural rock outcrops and borders will completely fill the remainder of the upper portion of the parcel, with meandering sand pathways among the landscape features.

The fundraising climate this year seems as challenging as that we confronted last year, but the full completion of our goal for the restoration of Freeman Seabird Preserve is in sight. Thanks to generous early donations, over \$3,000 already has been received, leaving less than \$37,000 yet to be raised. Checks again may be made payable to the Hawai'i Audubon Society, and please include the code "FSP" in the bottom left corner of your check.

The coming year's end again offers an opportunity for tax savings through donations to non-profit organizations such as HAS, and all proceeds from the FSP Fund Drive will go directly to the restoration effort. Please join me, again or for the first time, in contributing to the completion of this work and its far-reaching value to future generations. Mahalo nui loa.

John T. Harrison, Ph.D., President

Lili'uokalani's Birds

Arleone Dibben-Young¹

Lili'uokalani (Lydia Kamaka'eha $P \Box k \Box$ (1838-1917), was a lover of birds and other animals. While imprisioned at 'Iolani Palace she wrote that her caged canaries (*Serinus canaria*) brought her great pleasure (Lili'uokalani 1895, 1898). Other than these references, however, little is known about other bird species in her possession as Crown Princess prior to her ascension to the throne and as Queen Lili'uokalani while residing at 'Iolani Palace and Washington Place.

The 'Ō'ō, prized by royalty

In 1888, Mrs. [John O.] Dominis, then [Crown Princess] H.R.H. Lili'uokalani, procured twenty pairs of 'D'D (Moho nobilis) from Hawai'i Island, which were most likely delivered to her residence at Washington Place¹ on O'ahu. Of these, three pairs were forwarded on to Mrs. Jean Robertson Sinclair Gay (1823-1916) at Makaweli, the Sinclair family estate six miles upland of Waimea, Kaua'i (Lili'uokalani 1898). The two-hour ascent by horseback to Makaweli was described by Bird (1875) as "delicious... the air became cooler, damper, and more like an elixir" and 'Dhi'a (Metrosideros macropus) "mixed in dense forest masses, with the pea-green of the kukui [Aleurites moluccana]". Mrs. Dominis again visited Makaweli while on a forts-night visit to Kaua'i in July 1889, and found that only one pair of ' \Box ' \Box was known to remain in the area. These frequented the "bush of the mimosa family growing near to the house, which bore fragrant blossoms very similar to the lehua², from which, in its own native island, this bird sucks the honey on which it subsists" (Lili'uokalani 1898). In 1892, Lili'uokalani either again acquired 'D'D or relocated some of her flock to 'Iolani Palace³ where she then resided as Queen. An announcement appeared in the Daily Bulletin (1892) "THE (sic) Queen has let several of her oo birds free in the Palace enclosure. People are requested to be careful, in taking shots at feathered objects, not to mistake any of these valuable birds for others. The oo is the bird from which the two yellow feathers under each wing are drawn for the world-famed Hawaiian cloaks, mantles, etc.".

A rare and most unusual rooster

Queen Lili'uokalani was conferred the Grand Cross of the Imperial Japanese Order of the Sacred Crown in 1892 (Pacific Commercial Advertiser 1892), and may have received a Japanese Long-tail Fowl⁴ as a gift in conjunction with that honor. Within a few months, "A rooster belonging to Her Majesty the Queen was taken to Mr. Congdon's office on Fort street yesterday morning. The bird has a tail measuring nearly seven feet long. It was imported from Japan and is said to be a mixture of the pheasant and game breed" (Hawaiian Gazette 1892). Henry Congdon (1850-1901) (Independent 1901) in all probability knew Lili'uokalani personally as he was an active member of the newly formed Hawaiian Historical Society (1893) and owned California Wine Co. wholesale wines and liquors at 407 Fort Street (Husted 1892), two blocks from 'Iolani Palace.



Queen Lili'uokalani's Scarlet Macaws take sliced apple from Paul Breese, Director of the Honolulu Zoo. Photo courtesy Honolulu Star Bulletin © 1948.



Lili'uokalani being escorted by guards into the rear entry of 'Iolani Palace 16 January 1895; The aviary is visible behind the carriage. Hawai'i State Archives.



Closer view of the Aviary. Hawai'i State Archives

The Queen's macaws

It is unknown when Queen Lili'uokalani acquired two Scarlet Macaws (*Ara macao*), a male and female, but following her death 11 November 1917, the macaws were sent to the vast Parker Ranch on Hawai'i Island, most-likely to Samuel Parker's daughter-in-law Elizabeth Jane Lanakila Dowsett Parker⁵ (1872-1943), future heir to the ranch (K. Vredenburg, pers. comm.). Under the care of ranch trustee Alfred W. Carter (1867-1949), an 'ardent bird lover' (Brennan 1974), the macaws were allowed free-range in the kiawe trees at the Pu'u '□pelu headquarters for over thirty years (P. Breese, pers. comm., Honolulu Zoo 1948).

No documents are known to exist that might explain why the Queen's macaws were sent to Parker Ranch, although the Dowsetts and Parkers had social ties with Hawaiian ali'i dating far back, and the Queen introduced Elizabeth Dowsett to her future husband John Palmer Parker III (1875-1894). Samuel Parker⁶ (1853-1920) and Lili'uokalani retained a strong bond that continued until her death, and as a close friend and confidante, Parker's wife Harriet Panana Napela Parker (1852-1901) sent gifts of flowers and baskets of sweets to the Queen during her imprisonment (Lili'uokalani 1898).

Carter was appointed trustee of Elizabeth [Parker] Woods' estate following her death in 1943. Five years later, 9 January

1948, the estate was dissolved and Carter gave instructions to his son Alfred Hartwell Carter⁷ (1896-1985) to donate the Queen's macaws⁸ to the Honolulu Zoo, with the condition that the name of the donor and the provenance of the birds not be disclosed at that time (P. Breese, pers. comm., Honolulu Star Bulletin 1948). A few days later the birds were shipped to Honolulu on Inter-Island Airways (P. Breese, pers. comm.) from Bordelon Field, a small graded and oiled landing strip in Waimea on land owned by Parker Ranch (R. Rodgers, pers. comm.). Upon arrival at the zoo it was noted the male "has a blind eye that appears to have been blind for a long time" (Honolulu Zoo 1948). The birds were housed in an 8' x 8' x 20' outdoor enclosure, where they lived for over ten years (P. Breese, pers. comm.).

On 13 April 1959, "One of the two Macaws was found dead near the mauka [east] Diamond Head corner of the cage this morning. There was no sign of external bodily injuries. This Scarlet Macaw is one of the two Scarlet Macaws donated to the Zoo by Parker Ranch in 1948. This dead bird is the one with the one good eye" (Honolulu Zoo 1959a). The female was euthanized 14 December 1959 "The old Scarlet Macaw was put to sleep this morning... This bird came to the Zoo in 1948 and was donated by Parker Ranch" (Honolulu Zoo 1959b). Both birds were a minimum age of 42 years⁹ at the time of their death. The birds were shipped to unidentified museums where their provenance remains unknown to curators. A.W. Carter died April 1949 (Brennan 1974) and A.H. Carter in 1985; with their

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r — — — – 	Men	nbership in	Hawaii Au	dubon Society	2010	
 R	egular Member:		\$ 25.00	Foreign Membe	ership (Airmail)	
1	Student Member:				\$ 26.00	
	Supporting Member:				\$ 28.00	
Fa	Family Membership		\$40.00	All other countri	ries \$ 33.00	
These are annual membership dues, valid January 1 through December 31. Donations are tax deductible and gratefully accepted. Name						
Address City, State, (Country, Zip					
Phone		_	Email			
 Membership	\$	+ Donation \$		= Total \$		
New Membership Renewal						
Please m ∟	1 0		·	il to us at 850 Richard ADDRESS CHANC	ls St., #505, Honolulu, HI 96813. 3ES.	

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passing, the existence of the Queen's macaws has remained a secret held by Paul Breese for over half a century.

Acknowledgments

Mahalo piha to Paul L. Breese, Honolulu Zoo Director Emeritus, whose notations in the Honolulu Zoo's Red Lined Reports were inspiration for this paper, and for the assistance of and review of the manuscript by Zita Cup Choy ('Iolani Palace docent educator, Washington Place volunteer), Corinne Chun Fujimoto (Washington Place curator), Josef Lindholm, III (avicultural historian), Leslie Kawamoto (Honolulu Advertiser), Philip Sinclair Keat, Rick Rodgers (Hawaiian Airlines historian), Malia Van Heukelem ('Iolani Palace collections manager), and Keawe Vredenburg (Hawaiian cultural historian).

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- Lothrop, Lee & Shepard Co. Boston, USA. pp. 196, 292. Pacific Commercial Advertiser. 1892, 24 June. Decorations, the
- Japanese Consul-General at the Palace yesterday. p.4(3).

1 A small structure covered by chain-link, possibly the aviary, is visible on the right corner of Washington Place in a photo (ca. 1893) by Theodore P. Severin and Alexander Bolster. Historic American Buildings Survey. Washington Place, 320 South Beretania Street, Honolulu, HI. HABS HI,2-HONLU,28-21. General view, Queen Lili'uokalani sitting on grounds. Library of Congress. www.loc.gov/ pictures/ (Search Liliuokalani) Retrieved 2 August 2010.

2 Lehua is the flower of the 'ōhi'a tree.

3~ The aviary was located adjacent to Hale 'Ākala, the bungalow on the 'Iolani Palace grounds.

4 The Japanese Long-tail Fowl is a domestic chicken with a rare

genetic mutation causing the tail feathers of cocks to grow perpetually for the life of the bird, reaching up to ten meters in length.

5 In 1899, lawyer and judge A.W. Carter was appointed guardian of Elizabeth Parker's daughter, Annie Thelma Kahiluonapuaapiilani Parker (1894-1914) and as such, he became manager of Parker Ranch.

6 Parker was appointed to the House of Nobles in 1886 and the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Commissioner of Crown Lands in 1891 (Parker, S. Office Records. Hawai'i State Archives. Unpublished), and remained a loyalist after the overthrow of the Hawaiian Kingdom.

7 A.H. Carter officially became ranch manager in 1937, although his father remained directly involved in all management decisions until 1947, when he became bedridden (K. Vredenburg, pers. comm.).

8 Both macaws belonged to Lili'uokalani, however, only one was noted as such in the Red Lined Reports (1948) (P. Breese, pers. comm.).

9 The longevity record for a Scarlet Macaw is 48 years and seven months, a bird that was still alive at The Naples Zoo at Caribbean Gardens in Florida in 2009. "This data was provided to me by Richard Weigl, at the Frankfurt Zoo. Mr. Weigl is a recognized authority on the longevity of captive animals" (Lindholm to Dibben-Young, email 6 August 2010).

¹ P.O. Box 580 Kaunakakai, Molokai, Hawai'i 96748 researchbirds@yahoo.com



This beautiful I'o posed perfect the camera of Carol Carraway on the Big Island! Mahalo Nui Loa for sharing such a beautiful Photo with us!

Hawai'i Audubon Society's 17th Annual Awards Banquet

Monday October 18th 2010 the Hawai'i Audubon Society held its 17th Annual Awards Banquet at Treetops restaurant in Manoa. HAS members, friends and honored guests all joined together for a wonderful evening. We had a fantastic Silent auction with many Mahalos' going out to our great donors and generous bidders. We also awarded 5 awards to great individuals and organizations from our community.

HAS was also lucky to have a program lecture by GREG BUTCHER, Director of Bird Conservation for the National Audubon Society the title of his talk "The National and Global Context of Hawaiian Bird Conservation." focused on why Hawai'i plays such a major role in Bird conservation.

The following Awards for 2010 were presented with great appreciation from the Hawai'i Audubon Society Board of Directors. This year the Hawai'i Audubon Society gave out 2 Conservation Awards

Conservation Award

To one whose actions have resulted in a significant conservation action. **Hawai'i Trust for Public Land** for their continuous effort in support for conservation land in Hawai'i.

Corporate Conservation Award went to **Inter Island Solar Supply** this was the first year HAS, has given the award to a renewable energy provider and we are glad to be able to this year! Thanks for being here to help Hawai'i Go Solar!

Environmental Education Award

For notable achievements in raising public awareness about environmental issues in Hawai'i. **Hawai'i Youth Conservation Corps** with the combined efforts of Kupu and DLNR this program offers great learning experiences and opportunities for many of Hawai'i's Youth.



National Audubon Society Director of Bird Conservation, Greg Butcher and Hawai'i Audubon Society president John Harrison

Program Award

To one whose development or involvement in an HAS program has been a significant contribution. **Keith Swindle** who we thank for all his help with our Freeman seabird Preserve and his efforts of raising awareness for the protection of all of Hawai'i's Shearwaters and endangered seabirds.

Presidents Award

To a public servant for action that has had a major effect on conservation in Hawai'i and the Tropical Pacific. **Senator Clayton Hee** for his effort and hard work on shark protection this past session.



HAS Secretary Melissa Spreecher, Environmental Educational Awards Representatives, DLNR Michelle Jones, KUPU Katrina Thompson and Matt Bower, HAS President John Harrison



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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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