



'ELEPAIO

Journal of the
Hawaii Audubon Society

For the Protection of
Hawaii's Native Wildlife

VOLUME 71, NUMBER 2

MARCH 2011

State of the Society 2010: Report to the Membership

By John Harrison, President

MISSION STATEMENT: To foster community values that result in the protection and restoration of native ecosystems and conservation of natural resources through education, science and advocacy in Hawai'i and the Pacific.

The Hawai'i Audubon Society (HAS) was founded in 1939 as an independent, nonprofit membership association dedicated to the protection of Hawai'i's native wildlife and habitats through education, science and advocacy. Current membership consists of approximately 1,978 individuals and institutions and operates in accordance with a constitution and by-laws under the supervision of a Board of Directors elected by the members. In 1978 HAS was named a certified chapter of the National Audubon Society (NAS), while continuing to function independently in all fiscal, policy and programmatic matters. An office manager, an aquatics programs director, and several independent contractors provide administrative and professional services for HAS, but many necessary tasks and responsibilities are accomplished through the efforts of dedicated volunteers statewide. HAS publishes the *'Elepaio*, a peer-reviewed journal, and operates two websites: www.hawaii.audubon.com and www.pacfish.org. It is my privilege, as the current President of HAS, to offer the following review of the past year's activities and our principal goals for the coming year.

Officers, Directors, Managers and Volunteers: The 2010 HAS Board of Directors consisted of President **John Harrison**, First Vice President **Wendy Johnson**, Recording Secretary **Missy Sprecher**, and Directors **Carol Bebb**, **Phil Bruner**, **Arlene Buchholz**, **Tom Jacobs**, **Lauren Goodmiller**, and **Rab Guild**. We are grateful to all the Directors who have given so much of their time voluntarily to further the mission of HAS. At year's end, Tom Jacobs and Rab Guild retired from the Board, and the Nominating Committee offered five new nominees. For 2011, **Melissa Kolonie** will become the HAS Treasurer, and **Nicole Galase**, **Landin Johnson**, **Kristen Nalani Mailheau**, and **Laura Cottongim Sheehan** will join the returning Officers and Directors on the HAS Board. We also gratefully acknowledge the constant advice and support of our in-house counsel, **Linda Paul**, who works tirelessly to keep us in compliance with Federal and State regulatory provisions. Also, I deeply thank **Casey Primacio**, our Office Manager, without whose cheerful efforts and diligent attention to daily queries from members and directors alike HAS would quickly descend into confusion!

Casey and Scientific Editor **Dave Leonard** have done a terrific job assembling and editing the *'Elepaio* this year, for which we all are immensely grateful. Finally and especially, we extend heartfelt appreciation and thanks to the many members and volunteers for all of their time and dedicated efforts on behalf of furthering the HAS mission during the past year.

Membership: Prevailing economic conditions continue to present major challenges to all of us, and during recent years membership numbers showed some decline. Recognizing the critical importance of a robust membership base, the Board of Directors invited Mike Corcoran, principal of Gull Rock Services, a professional membership development consultancy, to submit a proposal to initiate direct mail invitation services. Mr. Corcoran presented his proposal, along with a thorough analysis of existing membership service employed by HAS at the time, at the Annual Retreat in January 2010. The Board voted to engage Mike's services, and during the ensuing months, the Society reorganized renewal procedures and streamlined processing. The first of a series of membership invitations went out mid-year and resulted in 75 new memberships.

A second effort presently is underway that targets a wider geographic base to meet the inherent challenge of sustaining growing operational and programmatic demands that in large measure depend on the support of a membership that is derived from a relatively fixed population. By expanding our base to include more members from outside of Hawai'i, HAS can take advantage of both a larger potential market and an opportunity to extend awareness of the critical conservation needs in Hawai'i to concerned citizens on the mainland. In the long term, the vitality and effectiveness of HAS in meeting our mission goals depends on a strong and committed membership, and we are seeing an encouraging momentum of membership growth.

Operations: HAS supports its basic operations by leveraging income derived from donations, product sales, grants, and membership dues with the volunteer efforts of a committed Board of Directors, engaged members, and tireless efforts of our office manager. The operations budget covers payroll and employee overhead, office rent, contract services, printing and reproduction, postage, and utilities. Contract services include accountant services, website maintenance, and more recently, membership development. The administration of grant programs

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is covered through an overhead expense category included in the budgets of the respective grants. During 2010, carryover funds from prior years supported grant-funded operations that continued work begun previously.

Dividend income from investments and membership income remained relatively unchanged from 2009. Product sales increased by about 50% reflecting generally improving economic trends. Overall, gross profit from all operations decreased about 4%, while total expenses increased by 19% from the prior year. The operating deficit was covered using operating reserves, and the Board has taken steps to increase revenue while decreasing expenses. Already, HAS has renegotiated its office lease to achieve an annual saving of \$10,000, and we are seeking additional operating savings while increasing fundraising efforts. As new memberships are developed, we anticipate increased revenue from dues, and we are actively pursuing external funding grants as a way to both broaden our programmatic efforts and increase overhead returns in support of our operating expenses. For its work in 2011 HAS has already received generous donations, particularly for the Freeman Seabird Preserve (FSP), with a total in excess of \$31,000. A strong return in the general and targeted donation receipts bodes well for the future.

Committees: In fulfillment of our mission, many of the tasks taken on by HAS are delegated to committees voluntarily chaired and populated by Board members and other HAS members. Reports from committee chairs at regular HAS Board meetings help focus attention on timely issues of educational and conservation interest, as well as addressing the programmatic and functional needs of HAS. HAS oversees the operation of committees on Conservation, Education, 'Elepaio, Field Trips, Fundraising, Grants & Scholarships, Marketing, Membership, Programs, Publications, and Website. HAS members are welcome to participate as members or chairs of any of these committees.

Conservation: The HAS Conservation Committee, working to prevent threats to native wildlife and habitats, reviewed and submitted comments on a variety of proposed projects and activities statewide. Members actively screened documents (news releases, permit notices, draft and final EISs) for issues relevant to HAS conservation concerns, assuring accuracy and comprehensiveness of the presentations. In addition, Directors and members represented HAS at conferences, workshops, hearings, and on several steering committees, teams, and task forces. HAS is also an active member of a number of other partnerships, coalitions, boards, advisory groups, and committees working to protect, conserve and restore Hawaii's resources, including the Hawai'i Conservation Alliance steering committee and the Environmental Legislative Network. During the 2010 State legislative session, HAS Legislative Analyst **George Massengale** and HAS in-house counsel **Linda Paul** tracked over three-dozen conservation and environmental bills, and actively supported those most closely related to the HAS mission, including the issues of invasive species, shark finning, Kawainui Marsh, outdoor lighting, and global warming. Throughout the year, HAS advocacy activities fell well within the legally prescribed limitations for 501(c)3 organizations.

Freeman Seabird Preserve: First Vice President **Wendy Johnson** serves as volunteer coordinator for the FSP. In 2007 HAS received a generous gift from Mr. and Mrs. Houghton Freeman of a one-acre ocean front property at Black Point, on O'ahu's southeast coastline. This parcel has long been a nesting area for a colony of Wedge-tailed Shearwaters ('ua'u kani, *Puffinus pacificus*), and the preservation and restoration of this unique native ecosystem will help this state and federally protected species at a time when habitat and other resources are becoming scarce. The seabirds nest during the months between March and December, leaving January and February available for major habitat restoration work. During 2010, members and

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Fieldtrips: Kristen Mailheau

Fundraising: John Harrison

Grants/Scholarships: Phil Bruner

Programs: Vacant

Publications: Linda Paul and

Wendy Johnson

Website: Stephen Bibbs

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Office Manager: Casey Primacio

Executive Director for Aquatics: Linda Paul

other volunteers again made numerous service visits to the FSP, clearing overgrown and invasive vegetation, opening up blocked shearwater burrows, cleaning and removing litter and trash, establishing and servicing predator (rats/mice/mongoose) control bait stations, and creating barriers to prevent shearwaters from burrowing under neighboring fences.

The first phase of major landscape improvements began on schedule after New Years Day in 2010. **Rick Barboza** and his team of habitat restoration specialists at **Hui Ku Maoli Ola** completed Phase I of the project, transforming the mauka portion of the parcel into an island of native dry coastal habitat, complete with complex rock features designed to serve as additional nesting habitat for the 'u'au kani. The concerted fundraising effort to underwrite the work was launched at the beginning of December 2009, and HAS successfully raised over \$30,000 to fully cover the costs of the first phase. We were aided in reaching that goal by a generous challenge gift from Buck and Graeme Freeman, whose visionary support has nurtured and inspired the project constantly.

Restoration of the FSP habitat originally was planned to occur in three phases, with full completion in 2012. However, given the momentum achieved with completion of the first phase, Directors and Officers of HAS recognized that in addition to bringing the project to an earlier conclusion, combining the final phases into a single effort would achieve significant cost savings. Accordingly, during the height of the nesting and fledging season this past year, we made the decision to undertake all remaining major restoration activities on a schedule for completion before the beginning of nesting this year. The combined plans include completing construction of nesting habitat mounds at various locations on the upper parcel, restoring a natural transition between the upper and lower sections to cover and landscape the existing demolition rubble, and completing invasive plant removal and replacement with plantings of native species. The cost of the combined Phases II and III was estimated to be just under \$38,600, and HAS launched a fundraising campaign in late November of 2010 with a goal of \$40,000 to complete this work. At the time of this writing, over half of that has successfully been raised, and we look forward to both the completion of the work and the successful completion of the fundraising campaign in the near future.

Pacific Fisheries Coalition (PFC): In 2010 the PFC, under the direction of **Linda Paul**, continued its marine conservation work locally, nationally, and internationally. Linda continued to serve as the Vice Chair of the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands Coral Reef Ecosystem Reserve Advisory Council, a member of the national Marine Fish Conservation Network Advisory Board, the U.S. delegation to the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC) and the U.S. Advisory Council to the WCPFC, the Alien Aquatic Organism Task Force, the multi-partner Marine Debris Cleanup Group, and the international Species Survival Network Board.

The PFC has produced a variety of reports, publications, brochures, posters, and curriculum materials on marine resources in Hawai'i and the Pacific, which are distributed to the general public, students, fishermen, resource managers and policy makers throughout the U.S. and internationally. In 2010 HAS published *The Global Shark Fin Trade: Destroying Biodiversity and Ecosystems*, an illustrated 28-page report, which was distributed to the members of the conference of the parties to the Convention on Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) at their meeting in March in Doha, Qatar. In conjunction with our Ocean Awareness Project, the sixth grade students at the University Lab School edited the latest draft of our *Coloring Hawaii's Ocean Life: An Activity Guide* with the help of their teacher HAS board member Laura Sheehan, which together with our 7th grade marine stewardship curricula will be used to help instill a marine stewardship ethic in middle school students. The Pacific Fisheries Coalition website continued to provide updates on events, conservation and research activities, and materials available for educational purposes, and is found at <http://www.pacfish.org>.

Ho'olaulima and Kawainui Marsh: The protection and restoration of Kawainui Marsh has long been a conservation priority for HAS and establishing a nature center associated with the Marsh is part of our long term strategic plan. In the late 1990s HAS and NAS were instrumental in raising the state matching funds for the construction of waterbird habitat in the southern part of the Marsh, construction of which is now about to begin. HAS is a member of Ho'olaulima, a network of organizations dedicated to the long term protection, restoration and stewardship of Kawainui Marsh, the last large wetland in Hawaii and a RAMSAR site. In 2010 the network finished its interpretive plan for the Marsh, which will go out for public comment in 2011, and served as the steering committee for the annual World Wetlands Day celebration in February.

Education: Our journal, the '*Elepaio*, has been the central component of HAS's educational outreach efforts since publication of Volume 1 in 1939. HAS published eight issues of '*Elepaio* in 2010, which were mailed to all HAS members, subscribers such as libraries, and a number of complimentary recipients such as exchange institutions and other conservation organizations. Distribution of the '*Elepaio* spans the U.S. and includes international recipients. Volume 70 included six peer-reviewed scientific articles, all of which first were published in '*Elepaio*. A special acknowledgement is due to **Ron Walker** and **David Leonard** for coordinating with scientists to elevate the profile of '*Elepaio* as an important voice of ornithological literature. Throughout the year, '*Elepaio* also included five educational articles and news releases, five book reviews, historic literature, photographs of rare bird sightings, award announcements, program reports, event listings, and other important news of the Society.

The HAS website www.hawaiiadubon.com is a comprehensive source for up-to-date information relating to HAS and its mission. It provides access to electronic versions of the '*Elepaio*, field trip

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and program meeting announcements, grant and scholarship application guidelines and deadline reminders, information on projects and activities, HAS membership information, an online store of HAS products, extensive information on birding in Hawai'i, a gallery of beautiful bird photos, and links to a number of related organizations and issues.

Educational Programs and Events: Between February and October, HAS hosted six bi-monthly program meetings co-sponsored by the UH Manoa Biology Program and open to all HAS members and the general public at no cost. The HAS program meetings include informational presentations on a wide variety of topics related to the mission of HAS. Presenters and subjects covered in 2010 included the following: "Update on Climate Change" by **Dr. Charles Fletcher**; "Albatrosses at Midway Atoll" by **Susan Scott**; "Where did the Kolea Go" by **Dr. Wally Johnson**; "Hamakua: the World of Wetlands" by **Jason Misaki**; "Successful Habitat Restoration" by **Rick Barboza**; and the HAS Awards Dinner presentation by **Dr. Greg Butcher** on "The National and Global Context of Hawaiian Bird Conservation".

HAS actively participated in community events at every opportunity, setting up a booth with volunteers present to speak with interested members of the public about our mission and accomplishments. HAS was instrumental in establishing several of these community events, and our participation, along with other agencies, non-profits, and institutions contributes to solidifying within the fabric of Hawaii's diverse populace a broad awareness of the importance of conservation and responsible environmental management. During the past year, HAS set up educational displays at five major venues, including World Wetlands Day, Earth Day, and the Honolulu Zoo Endangered Species Day. In addition, HAS participated at the Honolulu Pet Expo, where, along with the Humane Society, we advocated for widespread adoption of the National Cats Indoors initiative.

Field Excursions and Service Activities: In fulfillment of HAS's mission to foster enhanced community values in support of protection and restoration of native systems and natural resource conservation, field and service activities offered for member and general public participation are one of the centerpieces of HAS operations. During 2010, HAS scheduled eight field outings, as well as cooperative wildlife surveys and field service opportunities. Scheduled O'ahu field trips included four tours of Paiko Lagoon, two excursions to the Brigham Young University of Hawai'i Museum of Natural History, a whale watch cruise, and a tour of **John Harrison's** renewable energy house.

In December 2009 and January 2010, annual Christmas Bird Counts were held at Honolulu and Waipi'o on O'ahu, Waimea and Kapa'a on Kaua'i, 'Iao Valley and Pu'u o Kaka'e on Maui, Kualapu'u on Moloka'i, and Volcano and North Kona on Hawai'i Island. HAS volunteers served as organizers and team leaders of the counts, which operated in conjunction with Christmas Bird Counts at thousands of locations in the U.S. and around the

world. Results of the Christmas Bird Counts are published in the June/July issue of *'Elepaio* (Vol. 70:5). HAS also promoted participation in the Great Backyard Bird Count, which is held each February as a joint project of the NAS and the Cornell Lab of Ornithology. Both bird counts serve to monitor changes in the size and health of bird populations. As well, HAS promoted annual Humpback whale ocean counts in January, February and March on the Big Island, O'ahu and Kauai.

Volunteer Activities: Members contributed to HAS by volunteering their time during service trips, staffing the HAS booth at fairs, and helping in the office. Directors, members, and helpful students and friends spent countless hours over the course of the year attending such tasks as clean-up of the Black Point property, and organizing and staging the annual awards dinner. Seabird researchers and graduate students from Hawai'i Pacific University and Pomona College volunteered their time monitoring shearwater nesting activities and reproductive success at the Freeman Seabird Preserve during 2010. Reflecting on the accomplishments of HAS as summarized in this report, it's important to note that volunteers have been directly involved in the majority of these wide-ranging activities.

Awards: At the 53rd Hawai'i State Science and Engineering Fair, HAS awarded two prizes for outstanding student research relating to Hawaii's natural history. **Fred Kealoha**, who is a sophomore at Kanu o Ka 'Aina Charter School in Hilo, received the HAS Senior Division Research award for his project entitled "*O'opu Regurgitation*". The HAS award for outstanding Junior Division Research relating to Hawaii's natural history went to a project submitted by **Laurel Fongblatt**, a eighth grader at Hilo Intermediate School for her poster entitled "The Hawaiian Hoary Bat, O'ope'ape'a and its detection in the wild". Both projects are more fully described in the June/July issue of *'Elepaio* (70:5).

Lynda L. Arakawa received the George C. Munro Environmental Law Award, which is given to the top environmental law student at the W. H. Richardson School of Law for the preceding school year.

In October, HAS held its seventeenth Annual Awards Dinner at Treetops Restaurant at Paradise Park in Mānoa. Five awards were presented to distinguished members of the conservation community. **Senator Clayton Hee**, Chair of the Senate Committee on Water, Land, Agriculture, and Hawaiian Affairs received the President's Award for his consistent support and assistance in enacting legislation banning sales and possession of shark fins in Hawai'i. The Organizational Conservation Award, presented to a group whose actions or policy has resulted in a significant conservation achievement, was given to **Cully Judd, President of Interisland Solar Supply. The Hawai'i Youth Conservation Corps**, represented by **Michele Jones** of the **Hawai'i State Department of Land and Natural Resources Division of Forestry and Wildlife**, and **Matthew Bower and Katrina Thompson of Kupu**, received the Environmental Education Award, given to a group whose activities and achievements have

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served to raise public awareness about environmental issues in Hawai'i. The Conservation Award, to an individual whose actions have resulted in a significant conservation achievement went to **Leah Hong**, Hawaiian Islands Program Director for the Hawai'i Trust for Public Land in recognition of TPL's efforts and achievement in acquiring and providing for ongoing stewardship of the Honouliuli Preserve on O'ahu. Finally, the Program Award was presented to **Keith Swindle** of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in recognition of his valuable assistance and advice in regards to the Freeman Seabird Preserve.

Grants and Scholarships: In 2009, HAS awarded two \$500 research grants to student researchers in the University of Hawai'i system. The Summer/Fall grant went to **Colin Phifer** MS candidate at UH Hilo received our Summer/Fall research grant for his study of plant reproductive success in kipukas based on pollinators. **Tony Kovach**, also at UH Hilo received a grant for a project evaluating terminance of avian abundance in fragmented landscapes. Review of scholarship and grant applications for some years has been the purview of **Dr. Phil Bruner**, Chair of the Scholarships and Grants Committee, and we gratefully acknowledge his hard work in administering this valuable program.

Other HAS Activities: Hundreds of HAS members and other interested individuals have signed up for the HAS "Events Email

List" through which recipients are sent HAS announcements via email. In addition to receiving timely information on field trips, program meetings, volunteer opportunities, and other announcements, participants can become a part of HAS's "Birder's Network" which connects local and visiting birders, giving them the opportunity to arrange excursions outside of the Society's scheduled field activities. HAS also continued promotion of weekly Thursday night programming on 'Olelo Community TV offering various educational and conservation-related presentations for the benefit of Hawaii's natural environment.

Products: As noted earlier, product sales are a vital component of HAS's annual income stream, and we are grateful to **Ron Walker** for the many hours he has devoted to processing and filling the steady stream of PayPal orders that come in on a regular basis. Sales of the 2 disc CD set of *Voices of Hawaii's Birds* which became available in July of 2009, culminating many years of hard work by HAS, **Dr. Doug Pratt**, and the Cornell University Ornithology Laboratory, have been brisk. This audio companion to HAS's book, *Hawaii's Birds*, includes unique recordings of species which, sadly, no longer are found, such as the *Kama'o*, *'O'u*, the *Kauai 'O'o*, and probably the *Po'o-uli*. *Hawaii's Birds* remains the definitive, full color, soft cover field guide published by HAS. Now in its sixth edition, this field guide

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Membership in Hawaii Audubon Society 2011

Regular Member:	\$ 25.00	Foreign Membership (Airmail)
Student Member:	\$ 15.00	Mexico.....
Supporting Member:	\$100.00	Canada.....
Family Membership.....	\$40.00	All other countries
		\$ 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 make checks payable to Hawaii Audubon Society and mail to us at 850 Richards St., #505, Honolulu, HI 96813.

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serves as an important educational tool for thousands of residents, visitors, educators, and decision makers. Other educational products produced by HAS include the *Hidden Treasures of O'ahu* map featuring locations and detailed information on sites for exploring nature and ancient Hawaiian culture, Hawaii's *Rare and Endangered Birds* art collection greeting cards with artwork by Patrick Ching, current checklists of the Birds of Hawai'i, Micronesia, and the Mariana Islands, a field check card of Hawaii's birds, and the *Edge of Forever* poster, an art-quality, limited edition print featuring two endangered nēnē. HAS also offers several T-shirt designs, an embroidered patch featuring the 'Elepaio, and polo shirts embroidered with the HAS logo. Sales proceeds go to support HAS efforts to protect and conserve native species and habitats in Hawai'i and the Pacific.

Looking to the Future: HAS Officers, Directors, and other leaders gather every year in January for the Annual Chapter Leaders' Retreat to discuss the state of HAS and how best to guide the organization in the coming year. The Retreat offers an annual opportunity to assess and evaluate the progress made towards meeting our mission goals in the prior year, while laying out plans and goals for the future. I was We are proud to introduce five new Board members for 2011, all highly qualified and eager to get started on the work of HAS.

The Hawaiian Islands often are called the endangered species capital of the nation, drawing attention to the State's disproportionate share of both listed species in peril and historical extinctions. As noted earlier, many HAS activities serve to either directly support recovery efforts or to offer educational outreach to raise local and national awareness of endangered species issues. Through the programs and activities of HAS, the community has opportunities to become involved in some of the most pressing conservation issues of our time, including but not limited to ongoing efforts to control invasive species, the struggle to ensure the survival of Palila in the Big Island, and the challenge of bringing additional resources to bear on the recovery of the Hawaiian Monk Seal. Looking back on 71 years of continuous dedication by HAS members to solving environmental conservation challenges we face in Hawai'i, our commitment, expertise, and hard work have built an impressive record of accomplishment. Taking full advantage of the resourcefulness of our membership, as well as the incredible opportunities we have to pursue effective conservation at the FSP and elsewhere, we anticipate another year of exciting challenges and accomplishments as well as continued opportunities to build and expand conservation partnerships. On behalf of my fellow Officers and Directors, I sincerely thank each and every one of our members and supporters, and look forward to effective and sustaining accomplishments in this, our 72nd year of operations.

Mahalo Nui Loa To All Of Our Volunteers

March 12 will be our last FSP work party for the year. The Wedge Tailed Shearwaters should be making their return to our Freeman Seabird Preserve any day now! We want to send a huge **thank you** to all of our members, volunteers, and to the school groups that came out to help this year! We could not have done it with out you! Also another huge **thank you** to Rick Barbosa and his crew from Hui Ku Maoli Ola. They have gone beyond our expectations in creating a beautiful Preserve also for the extra thought they put in for the birds in creating of "shearwater motels" that the Shearwaters do love! Mahalo Nui Loa and we look forward to seeing everyone next year! We are still Fundraising to pay for this years work and improvements we are about half way there but still need your help! Please send donations to Hawaii Audubon Society at 850 Richards st s505 Honolulu HI 96813. Please write FSP in the memo.

March Field Trip

Kaena Point Hike Sunday March 27, 2011

8:30 am meet at the end of the road at Yokohama Beach (west side) Please wear hiking shoes (no slippers) and bring sun protection and drinking water also don't forget a camera! For more information and to sign up please contact Casey at the office either by calling 528-1432 or by email at hiaudsoc@pixi.com

Calling for HAS Committee Members

If you are interested in becoming more involved with the Hawaii Audubon Society we are looking for you! We currently have many committee vacancies and would love for you to join us! We really need some help in fundraising and publicity! If you are interested or for more information please contact Casey in the office by phone 528-1432 or email at hiaudsoc@pixi.com

Elepaio Submissions

We are currently accepting submissions for the Elepaio. Please send in your scientific articles, short stories, poems, and photos. Email submissions to hiaudsoc@pixi.com

Freeman Seabird Preserve 2010

Professional landscaping began in January on the upper, flat portion of the one-acre Preserve after resident wedge-tailed shearwater adults and fledglings departed on schedule, migrating to the eastern Pacific for several months. Native plant specialist Rick Barboza and his team from Hui Ku Maoli Ola spent several weeks creating new nesting sites and optimal substrate for the introduction of native plants typical of pre-contact Hawaiian dry land coastal habitat.

Using fill donated by a neighbor at Black Point along with rocks acquired for the project, landscapers created a low terrace, which was then planted with native grass. This free-form area near the street may be used for parking, if needed. The supporting rocks were placed side by side in such a way as to provide crevices and interior space which shearwaters can use as burrows. This extensive "Bird Motel" was designed by Rick Barboza and was the site of much interest from prospecting birds during the 2010 nesting season. Native plants introduced to the site were flourishing by year's end, comprising a rich and varied appearance in distinct contrast to what was essentially a hard, dry, sparsely weeded plot of land before work began. Three native plants, 'Ohelo kai, 'Ilima and Pa'uohi'iaka, were found growing in patches on the Preserve cliff and hillside, and cuttings from these plants were planted along the terrace area where they have thrived. Some of the other endemic or indigenous coastal plants new to the property include: Mau'u, Naio, Nohu, Alena, and 'Aki'aki. The final phase of landscaping at the Freeman Seabird Preserve will be

completed in 2011 and will include several sand mounds for use as additional burrowing and nesting sites, anchored by further native plantings on the seaward end of the upper property.

Hawaii Audubon Society volunteers worked tirelessly throughout the period from January to late March, when the shearwaters were away at sea, restoring habitat for the native plants and migratory seabirds. Alien plant species were weeded from newly planted areas and from the rocky hillside burrows which currently provide prime nesting sites for the majority of the Black Point wedge-tailed shearwater colony. Tree trimming, path repairs, watering, baiting of rat control stations, and educational presentations were also carried out by volunteers..

Population monitoring of the wedge-tailed shearwater colony at the Freeman Seabird Preserve continued for its second year in 2010. Studies conducted by Dr. David Hyrenbach, Assistant Professor of Oceanography at Hawaii Pacific University, and graduate student Andrew Titmus included counting adult birds, eggs and chicks on a regular basis. On July 14, seventy-five shearwaters were observed at their nesting sites on the Preserve, and ninety per cent of those nests contained eggs. Thirty nests were marked and mapped for monitoring chick growth throughout the nesting season. Although some of the birds returned to land and laid eggs somewhat later in the year than in 2009, monitoring data suggests that the chicks exhibited faster growth and higher maximum weight than the previous year.



*FSP upper portion
2010 to 2011 "What
a difference a year
makes"*





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Calendar of Events

March 12, 2011

FSP last work party before the Shearwaters Return!

Field Trip

Sunday March 27, 2011

Kaena Point Hike

FSP Fundraising Drive

We are almost half way there

Please send your donation today!

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