



'ELEPAIO

Journal of the
Hawai'i Audubon Society

For the Protection of
Hawai'i's Native Wildlife

VOLUME 75, NUMBER 2

MARCH/APRIL 2015

State of the Society 2014: Report to the Membership

By Linda Paul, HAS President

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

The Hawaii Audubon Society celebrated its 75th year of operations in 2014. It was established in 1939 by a small group of dedicated birders to further the protection and conservation of Hawaii's native wildlife and the ecosystems that support it. In 1967 it was granted non-profit §501(c)(3) status by the U.S. Treasury Dept. It is now a state-wide conservation organization with a membership of over 2,000. Although it became a chapter of the National Audubon Society (NAS) in 1978, it is independent of that organization in matters of governance, policy, financial control, and programs.

Society Governance

Programs, policies and activities are guided by our Mission Statement and the purpose, organization, and procedures are set forth in our Constitution and By-laws. The Society is governed by a Board of Directors and Officers elected by the membership at its annual meeting at the end of the year. During 2014 officers included President Linda Paul, First Vice President Talia Starkey-Ogliore, Second Vice president Elizabeth Kumabe, and Directors Thorne Abbott, Phil Bruner, Lance Tanino, Don Drake and Mary Roney. Wendy Johnson served as the Society's Executive Director. In January the Board held its annual leadership retreat, which included a Strategic Planning session, the annual budget discussion, and an extended board meeting.

Education and Outreach

The Society has a number of standing committees headed by Directors. In 2014, Thorne Abbott served as Chair of the Conservation Committee and Wendy Johnson was Chair of the Education Committee. The Field Activities Committee included all Board members. Committee membership is open to all members of the Society (Please see our website for more information).

The 'Elepaio: Our peer-reviewed journal focuses on research and conservation work in Hawaii and the Central Pacific. It provides educational outreach to the Society's membership and subscribers. Glenn Metzler served as the 'Elepaio's Scientific Editor. Six bi-monthly issues were published in 2014. The 'Elepaio can be received by members both electronically and by

mail. Scientific articles in 2014 included *Diving Behavior of Wedge-tailed Shearwaters Rearing Chicks on Lehua Islet* by K. David Hyrenbach, Julia S. Gleichman & Nina J. Karnovsky, *Local Prevalence and Transmission of Avian Malaria in the Alakai Plateau*, a report by graduate student and HAS grant recipient Anouk Glad, *First Record of a Terek Sandpiper in the Hawaiian Islands*, by Kurt Pohlman and Eric A. VenderWerf, *A Sociological Study: Human Interactions With Sea Turtles at Laniakea, on the Island of Oahu, Hawaii, 2002-2003*, by Cody Hooven, with Forward by George H. Balazs.

<http://www.hawaii-audubon.org>: The Society's website provides a comprehensive source for up-to-date information on the Society and its activities. It includes electronic versions of the 'Elepaio, field trips, service projects, programs, meetings, volunteer opportunities, membership information, an on-line store, information on birding in Hawaii, a gallery of beautiful bird photos, and links to a number of related organizations and issues.

<http://www.freemaneabirdpreserve.com>: As part of a grant from the Disney Worldwide Conservation Fund, The Hawaii Audubon Society launched a new website in 2014, focusing on the habitat restoration, scientific research and educational components of the Society's conservation programs at the Preserve.

Kawainui Marsh and World Wetlands Day: Each year the Society displays our educational materials and products at the World Wetlands Day celebration in Kawainui Marsh. The Kawainui-Hamakua Marsh Complex is the largest remaining wetland in the State. Society members have been working for years for its protection, including advocating for state matching funds to construct habitat ponds for endangered waterbirds. In 2014 volunteers from HAS, who adopted Pond #10, the Outdoor Circle, who adopted Pond #11, Returned Peace Corps Volunteers of Hawaii, Ho'olaulima, and others continued working on habitat creation in and maintenance of the Ponds.

The Society is a founding member of Ho'olaulima Ia Kawanui,

which is a network of conservation organizations whose collective mission is to foster public awareness and understanding of the natural, historical, cultural, and scenic resources of the Kawainui-Hamakua Marsh Complex to ensure the long-term protection, restoration and stewardship of its resources. In addition to planning the World Wetlands Day celebrations, the network has been working on a resources interpretive plan and an update of the 1994 Kawainui Master Plan. In June 2014 HAS submitted comments on the Draft Kawainui Master Plan Update urging DOFAW to redraft it into a 25-year plan with the goal of restoring the Marsh to the condition it was in 250 years ago.

Conservation

Freeman Seabird Preserve: In September 2007, the Society was given a one-acre coastal property at Black Point on the southern coast of O'ahu thanks to an unprecedented gift from the Houghton Freeman Foundation. The Freeman Seabird Preserve is home to the island's only remaining south shore nesting colony of Wedge-tailed Shearwaters ('ua'u kani, *Puffinus pacificus*). With the valued guidance of experts and hundreds of volunteers over the years, this vacant residential property now supports over 24 native plants typical of Hawaiian coastal habitats before human disturbance and invasive species altered the natural landscape. A beautiful informational sign for the Preserve was designed by renowned wildlife artist Patrick Ching as part of a grant from the Disney Worldwide Conservation Fund. The sign will be manufactured on the mainland and installed at the Freeman Seabird Preserve in 2015. (See 2014 Update by David Hyrenbach)

Pacific Fisheries Coalition (PFC): The PFC, a project of the Society, is a unique collaboration between conservationists and fishermen who found common ground in their desire to promote the conservation and responsible use of living marine resources in Hawaii and the Pacific Basin. It began in 1998 and over the years received grants from several foundations and other sources. The project is administered by Linda Paul, who serves as project administrator and policy analyst on a pro bono basis. Linda, who has represented Society on the U.S. delegation to the Western & Central Pacific Fisheries Commission since 1999, attended the 2014 meeting of the WCPFC Technical and Compliance Committee meeting in Pohnpei, FSM, and the annual meeting of the U.S. Advisory Council to the Commission, of which she is a member, in Honolulu. Our participation on the delegation over the years has resulted in observers being allowed to attend and speak at Commission meetings, by-catch control and mitigation measures, which have helped to conserve populations of seabirds, turtles, sharks, and highly migratory pelagic fish species.

The Society is also a member of the Marine Fish Conservation Network and in 2014 Linda continued to serve on its Board of Advisors. The Network advocates for national policies to achieve healthy oceans and productive fisheries. It works on the periodic reauthorization of the Magnuson Stevens Act and its implementation, as well as by-catch measures, observer coverage and marine spatial planning. Linda also represents the Society and the broader conservation community on the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands Coral Reef Ecosystem Advisory Council (RAC) and has been its vice chair since 2004. The Papahānaumokuākea Marine

National Monument was the result of an initiative to protect the NWHI begun by the PFC in 1999. The Society is also represented on the Multi-Agency & Partner Marine Debris Cleanup Group and the state Alien Aquatic Organism Task Force, which was created by the Legislature as a result of PFC efforts and a sponsor of the Pacific Rim Marine Debris Conference held at the State Capitol. The PFC has produced a number of educational reports, brochures and posters, which are distributed to policy makers, resource managers, fishermen, students, and the general public.

Legislature: Although budget constraints prevented us from hiring a legislative analyst in 2014, Society members Thorne Abbott and Linda Paul monitored environmental bills related to the Society's mission statement. In 2014 the Legislature created an Environmental Court, passed a bill on climate change focused on planning for sea level rise, and made an appropriation for invasive species prevention, control, outreach, research, and planning.

Field Excursions, Service Opportunities and Educational Programs

Habitat Restoration at the Freeman Seabird Preserve every Saturday, January through March. Volunteers helped maintain native plants and removed invasive species, cleared and reconstructed burrows for the Wedge-tailed Shearwaters, and removed trash and debris from the coastline area.

Kawainui Marsh Restoration on the first Saturday of every month. Hawaii Audubon Society volunteers worked in conjunction with DLNR/DOFAW to support Hawaii's endangered water birds. The Society has "adopted" pond #10, with volunteer efforts there focused on keeping the pond clear of invasive plants and functioning as optimal habitat for the birds.

Sunset & Shearwaters: Volunteer Appreciation Night at the Freeman Seabird Preserve, March 16th. After three months of hard work restoring native habitat for the Wedge-tailed Shearwaters, volunteers enjoyed a sunset at the Preserve with light pupus and drinks while learning about the success of the 2013 breeding season.

Makapuu Lighthouse Hike, Wednesday, March 25. The group, led by HAS Board member Mary Roney, hiked along the Makapuu Point coastal trail to view humpback whales and migratory seabirds.

Alakai Wilderness Preserve Birding Opportunity. Offered for Hawaii Audubon Society members by experienced bird guide and photographer, Jim Denny. A small group of HAS members experienced a unique guided tour along the Alakai Swamp Trail on Kauai in search of Kauai's elusive native honeycreepers.

Educational Program: Feathered Oceanographers: Natural History of Hawaiian Seabirds. Wednesday, April 2. Dr. David Hyrenbach spoke about the amazing adaptations of oceanic birds and the novel techniques that marine scientists are using to study their habits at sea.

Paiko Lagoon Farewell to Shorebirds Tour, Saturday, April 12. HAS members and other interested participants explored the lagoon and learned about Hawaii's wintering shorebirds.

Honolulu Zoo Behind the Scenes Tour, Sunday, April 13. Jimmy Breeden, Curator of Birds, led the group in viewing native and exotic birds, and shared information about breeding programs and other important avian related programs at the Honolulu Zoo.

Educational Program: Palila Habitat Restoration On Mauna Kea, Thursday, April 24. Robert Stephens, Coordinator of the Mauna Kea Restoration Project, spoke about ongoing activities to protect and preserve habitat for the endangered Palila, and provided current information about the status of the Palila population.

Mokapu Peninsula Tour of the Red-footed Booby Colony, Saturday, May 31. HAS members and other participants were given a guided tour of the Mokapu peninsula at Marine Corps Base Hawaii. Hundreds of Red-footed Boobies were viewed, roosting in the kiawe trees with their large chicks and soaring above the nesting site, the surrounding ocean and the adjacent Moku Manu.

Palikea Forest Restoration Service Trip, Saturday, June 7. Led by the Oahu Army Natural Resources Program, HAS members hiked along the southeast side of the Waianae Mountains to the native forest at Palikea, home to several species of native birds, to participate in the control of invasive grasses, shrubs, and trees.

Paiko Lagoon Low Tide Reef Walk, Saturday, June 12. Led by HAS volunteer Alice Roberts, participants had the opportunity to view a variety of birds, limu, fish and other sea life.

Kawainui-Hamakua Marsh Complex Tour, Saturday, June 21. Jason Misaki, DOFAW's Oahu Wildlife District Manager led participants on a guided walk through the marsh complex to learn about the native wetland birds, habitats and the ongoing restoration work there.

International Island Biology Conference, July 7-11. The Hawaii Audubon Society participated in the poster session of the conference, sharing information about HAS activities and projects with conference attendees from all over the world.

Paiko Lagoon Low Tide Reef Walk, Saturday, July 12. Led by HAS volunteer, Alice Roberts, participants had the opportunity to view a variety of birds, limu, fish and other sea life.

Educational Program: "Recovery Efforts for the Kiwikiu (Maui Parrotbill Pseudonestor xanthophrys)" Saturday, July 19. Hanna Mounce with the Maui Forest Bird Recovery Project (MFBRP) gave a talk about various efforts to recover the critically endangered Kiwikiu with populations of about 500 individuals endemic to the Island of Maui. MDBRP team focuses on research and management of wild bird populations including demographics and genetic analyses as well as restoration efforts to expand the available habitat for this species.

Fourth Annual Shearwater Soiree, Wednesday, August 6. Members and volunteers gathered at Ferguson's Pub in Honolulu for a fundraiser in support of the Society's Freeman Seabird Preserve. The festive event featured a silent auction, pupus and buffet dinner, live music, and an educational presentation by Wedge-tailed Shearwater researcher Dr. David Hyrenbach.

Hike to Aiea Ridge and Aiea Loop Montane Forest, Saturday, August 16. Participants began the trail in the forest of non-native trees, but reached the ridge where the vegetation is dominated by native, montane vegetation supporting populations of native forest birds.

Paiko Lagoon Welcome Home Shorebirds, Saturday, September 6. Hawaii Audubon Society volunteer Alice Roberts led an early morning walk to look for wintering shorebirds, recently returning to Hawaii from their nesting grounds across the Pacific.

Bishop Museum Vertebrate Collections Tour, Monday, September 8. The Museum's Vertebrate Zoology section includes collections of mammalogy, ornithology, herpetology and paleontology specimens. The Hawaii bird collection of approximately 7,200 specimens includes extinct native species, native breeding species, introduced species, and non-breeding visitors.

Waikamoi Preserve Tour, Saturday, November 22. Laura Berthold from the Maui Forest Bird Recovery Project led a hike through the Preserve and onto the boardwalk. Participants from Maui and Oahu were treated to excellent views of several endangered native birds.

115th Annual Audubon Christmas Bird Count. Society members and friends participated in the longest running citizen science survey in the world, which provides critical data on population trends. All over the United States tens of thousands of people participate. From December 5th to January 5th, Society members and volunteers counted birds in Honolulu and Waipio on Oahu, and at several locations on the neighbor islands. The results will be officially announced later this year

Hawaii Audubon Society's Annual Members' Meeting at Chaminade University, December 8th. In addition to announcing the newly elected officers and board members, the meeting featured a presentation by Dr. Sheldon Plentovich, who discussed the latest research showing the effects of invasive ant species on growth and survival of seabird chicks on Oahu and at other locations in the Pacific.

Awards

Every year the Society presents two awards for outstanding research related to Hawaii's natural history at the Hawaii State Science & Engineering Fair. In 2014 the HAS Senior Division Research Award went to Sarah Jenkins (12th grade, Molokai Intermediate/ High School) for her project entitled "Hot-Biology- Use of Thermal Imaging to Detect Nesting Behaviors of the Endangered Hawaiian Coot". The Junior Division Research Award went to Jared Goodwin (7th Grade, Hilo Intermediate School) His project was entitled "Bacterial Levels at 4-Mile Beach." (See the May/June *'Elepaio* for more details.)

Finances and Fundraising

As the Society has slowly grown over the years the number of tasks needed to be accomplished began to outpace the time and ability of our volunteers. Accordingly, more and more tasks are now done professionally, including office management, bookkeeping, and the distribution of our peer-reviewed journal and educational products. Office coordinator Thompson was hired in August to manage member services and edit the *'Elepaio*. However, volunteers and donors still provide essential leadership, assistance, and support to the Society. We currently derive the majority of our operating and programmatic funding from membership dues, generous gifts, and sales of our educational products. These include our incomparable handbook *Hawaii's Birds* and its audio companion *Voices of Hawaii's Birds* (2 vol. CD), *Treasurers of O'ahu* birding & family hiking map, *Hawaii's Rare & Endangered Birds* Art Collection greeting cards illustrated by Patrick Ching (pkg of 8), Van Zyle Nene lithograph print, 'Elepaio patches, check lists of the birds of Hawaii, Micronesia, and the Mariana Islands, a field check card, and 'Elepaio, Kolea & Ruddy Turnstone "Akekeke" T shirts.

In August the Society held its Third Annual Shearwater Soiree, which included a presentation by Dr David Hyrenbach on the Wedge-tailed Shearwater monitoring program at the Freeman Preserve, a potluck dinner and silent auction. It generated not only a good time for the participants, but funds to support the conservation work of the Society. We also received many generous donations and matching gifts from our members and benefactors.

Grants

Funding for enhanced research, public awareness and education activities at the Freeman Seabird Preserve was received in September of 2013 from the Disney Worldwide Conservation Fund, for work that took place during 2014. The project included the creation of an informational website (www.freemanseabirdpreserve.com) featuring the conservation history of the site, including data and images of the Shearwaters and native plants, as well as lesson plans for teachers based on the research and monitoring data generated at FSP. The grant also covered informational signage at the site and increased photographic/film monitoring of the Wedge-tailed Shearwater colony at Black Point.

The Society entered into a fiscal sponsorship agreement with the Kauai Forest Bird Recovery Project (KFBRP) in 2014. A pass-through grant from the Mohamed bin Zayed Species Conservation Fund (MBZ) was received by the Hawaii Audubon Society for the purpose of funding KFBRP research on the movements of the critically endangered Akikiki and Akekee within their forest habitats on Kauai. The prioritization and spatial targeting of conservation actions, like habitat restoration and fencing, will be impacted by the identification of specific areas critical to the birds for feeding and reproduction.

2014: Another Record Population Count at the Freeman Seabird Preserve During a Year of Average Breeding

By K. David Hyrenbach, Associate Professor of Oceanography, Hawai'i Pacific University, khyrenbach@hpu.edu

We briefly report on the ongoing restoration and research efforts of the Freeman Seabird Preserve by Hawai'i Audubon since 2009, provide updates on the findings from the 2014 breeding season, and briefly discuss the plans for future monitoring, habitat restoration, and predator control at the site.

2014 Update

This year we documented a new record number of Wedge-tailed Shearwaters (*Puffinus Pacificus*, 'Ua'u kani) nesting at the Freeman Seabird Preserve. The yearly colony-wide census during the peak egg-incubation period (July 14) yielded 216 nests, 7% higher than the 2013 annual count. This record incubation nest count was followed by a post-hatching count of 129 nests (September 14).

Altogether, the annual population counts continue to show a statistically significant trend ($F = 27.55$; $df = 1, 4$; $p = 0.006$) with an annual average increase of 27.5 (+/- 5.2



Wedge-tailed Shearwater nesting in an artificial nest site with a ceramic tile roof. (Photo taken by David Hyrenbach, July 2014)

SD) nests per year, which captures 84% of the year-to-year variability in the time series (Fig. 1). While this trend suggests that the ongoing habitat restoration efforts continue to support a growing number of breeding Wedge-tailed Shearwaters, the low rate of annual increase observed in 2013 (10%) and 2014 (7%), suggests the colony may be reaching an asymptote (maximum size). The demographic monitoring also revealed that 2014 was characterized by average conditions, similar to those documented in previous years. In 2014, chick hatching dates spanned from August 1 to 18, with a mean of August 7 (+/- 5.8 SD days). These hatching dates fell in line with those from the previous years (2009, 2011, 2012, 2013) except 2010, when the mean hatching date was delayed substantially (August 19 +/- 9.0

SD days). Chick peak masses were also comparable to those from recorded in the past. In 2014, chick peak masses ranged from 345 to 600 grams, with a mean of

507.1 grams (+/- 78.8 SD). Again, the value for 2014 fell in line with previous observations during “average” years (2010, 2012, 2013), and were above those during a year of poor provisioning (2009) and below those during a year of good provisioning (2011).

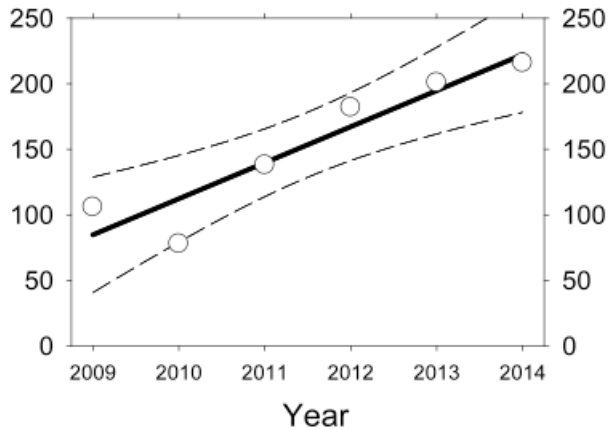


Figure 1. Trend in the number of Wedge-tailed Shearwater active nests at the Freeman Seabird Preserve, from the annual colony-wide census during the peak incubation period (July 14), showing the best-fit linear slope from linear regression (solid line) and the 95% confidence interval envelope (dashed line).

A more detailed investigation of the chicks’ growth over time, through weekly monitoring, reinforced the notion that 2014 was a year of average provisioning. In spite of episodic periods of low trade winds in September and October, when chick body masses did not increase, parents continued to provision their chicks through early November, as evidenced by increasing body masses late in the breeding season (Fig. 2). This pattern contrasts with previous years, when chick masses declined by the end of the season (Hyrenbach 2011, Hyrenbach & Johnson, 2012).

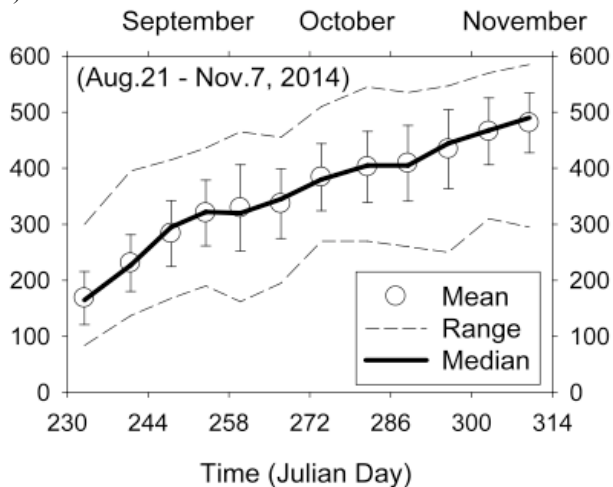


Figure 2. Time series of chick mass collected during the 2014 breeding season, showing the mean +/- SD, the median and the range of values (maximum – minimum). Sample size = 40 chicks.

In summary, these results suggest that 2014 was a year of average phenology and chick provisioning, in the context of the available time series (2009 – 2014). Thus, despite the warm-water conditions observed during the spring and summer, chick growth and productivity were not markedly lower in 2014. Unlike what occurred during the previous El Niño event in 2009

(Hyrenbach 2011), shearwater parents continued to provision their chicks through early November.

Currently, there is an approximately 50 - 60 % chance of an El Niño developing during the early spring of 2015, with neutral conditions being more likely thereafter (See NOAA Climate Prediction Center El Niño / Southern Oscillation Diagnostic Discussion, http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/analysis_monitoring/enso_advisory/). Based on these model predictions, we can anticipate that 2015 will be another “average” year for Wedge-tailed Shearwater breeding at the Freeman Seabird Preserve.

Ongoing Efforts

To investigate the carrying capacity of the Freeman Seabird Preserve, we characterized the type (natural or artificial) and the substrate (soil, boulders, vegetation) of every nest we observed during the egg-laying period (between June 2 and July 14). Of the 252 nests we documented, 93 (37%) and 159 (63%) were artificial and natural, respectively. The artificial nest sites involved “apartments” (rock piles, 21% of total) and “condos” (mounds of rock and soil, 16% of total). The natural nests sites involved birds nesting amidst lava boulders (44% of total), amidst the vegetation (17% of total), or underground in excavated burrows (2% of total). The high proportion of shearwaters nesting under lava boulders or native vegetation, suggests that the availability of nesting sites is not limiting the size of the breeding population.

Habitat restoration efforts continued during 2014. From January through March 2014, while the Wedge-tailed Shearwaters were at sea, Hawai’i Audubon Society members and other volunteers worked to remove alien plant species, to maintain natural nesting sites, and to create new artificial nesting sites. In particular, volunteers built 40 new “apartments” by digging burrows, reinforced with rocks and ceramic tile roofs.

Additional restoration and management efforts in 2015 will continue monitoring the colony and enhancing the breeding habitat at the Freeman Seabird Preserve.

Habitat Restoration: From January through March 2015 volunteers will remove alien plant species and will create new artificial nesting sites on the terrace.

Colony monitoring: Population censusing and nest monitoring for phenology, chick growth and reproductive success will continue in 2015, to augment the ongoing time series started in 2009.

Predator Control: Ongoing surveillance for predators is planned during the 2015 nesting season, to minimize and document cat predation on breeding shearwaters.

Literature Cited

Hyrenbach, K.D. 2011. Tale of Two Years: Monitoring Wedge-tailed Shearwaters at Freeman Seabird Preserve in Black Point, O’ahu. *‘Elepaio* 71(3): 17-20.

Hyrenbach, K.D., and Johnson, W. 2012. 2011: A Mixed Year at the Freeman Seabird Preserve. *‘Elepaio* 72(2): 13-14.

Upcoming Field Trips, Volunteer Opportunities & Events

Please RSVP with name and contact information to
Hawai'i Audubon Society at 808-528-1432 or hiaudsoc@pixi.com unless otherwise specified

Habitat Restoration at Freeman Seabird Preserve Saturday, March 7th, 14th, 21st, 28th from 9am to noon

Help maintain native plants and remove invasive plants, trash, and debris. We will meet every Saturday at Triangle Park near Diamond Head at 8:45am to carpool to the site. Bring drinking water, and sun and rain protection. Please RSVP.

Kawainui Marsh Restoration Saturday, March 7th, April 4th from 9am – noon

Volunteer at the monthly Kawainui Volunteer Day led by DLNR/DOFAW. Support some of Hawaii's most endangered waterbirds and contribute to the success of the new restoration ponds behind Castle Medical Center in Kailua (at the end of Ulukahiki St.)

Nature Hike to Kahuku Point & Wetlands at Turtle Bay Saturday, March 21; Meet outside the Helipad @ 8:45am

Due to the popularity of this hike on February 7th, a second date is being offered. Be prepared to see Hawaiian monk seals, turtle nest sites, endangered and endemic plants, rare Hawaiian bee nesting areas, shore birds, sea birds, endangered water birds, possibly nene and who knows what else. Folks can either join us for the 4 mile round trip walk to Kahuku Point (1.5 hours) or do the 5 mile loop which would include seeing the waterbirds (3 hours).

RSVP ahuntemer@aol.com or 808-224-3101 with the number in your party and cell phone numbers. More details emailed a few days before the 21st.

Sunset and Shearwaters: Volunteer Appreciation Night Saturday, March 21st from 5pm-sunset

We want to say a big Mahalo to all of our volunteers at the Freeman Seabird Preserve for their tireless efforts on the restoration and maintenance of native habitat for the Wedge-tailed Shearwaters. Join us for a potluck and BYOB at the Freeman Seabird Preserve at Black Point. RSVP. See ad on page 15

Wally Johnson's Talk Friday March 27th 6:30 – 8:30pm

Location to be announced

Dr. Johnson is an Affiliate Professor of Ecology at Montana State University and a world-renowned expert on the Pacific Golden-Plover. This will be the latest chapter in 35 years of researching plovers. Talk will cover a wide swath of ploverology including flight times to/from Alaska, where the birds breed in Alaska, survival rates in the Punchbowl, details of flights beyond Hawaii, and the dramatic spring stopover of plovers in Japan. Please visit our website for more details: www.hawaiiiaudubon.org.

Introduction to Birding in Honolulu Thursday, March 26th at 9am

Join us for a leisurely walk through Kapiolani Park to learn how to watch for birds and become acquainted with some of the common birds of Honolulu. Get familiarized with using binoculars and identifying birds using field markers such as shape, size, color, habitat, and behavior. This will be a good opportunity for kids, novice and casual birdwatchers, and people new to the Honolulu area, as well as more experienced birders who would like to share their expertise. The walk will last about an hour and be slow-paced over flat ground; come prepared with water and sun protection gear. Meet at the duck ponds by the bandshell near the intersection of Kalakaua Ave. and Monserrat Ave. Please RSVP.

Hike Mt Tantalus and Discover Plant Diversity Sunday, April 12th 9am – 1pm

University of Hawai'i botanists Tom Ranker and Don Drake will lead a hike to learn about the diversity of native and invasive flowering plants and ferns along the Manoa Cliff Trail. Along the way we will have spectacular views of Manoa Valley and the Koolau Mountains. The trail ends at the Manoa Cliff Restoration Area, where we will meet Restoration Group leaders who will show us the impressive results achieved through 10 years of work that volunteers have done to restore the native flora. Assemble at the trailhead for the Manoa Cliff Trail on Round Top Drive at 9:00 on April 12. Be prepared for rain, mud, and a little bit of climbing. Bring water and lunch. Depending on how much we stop to see and talk about plants, we should be back at the trailhead by 1:00. Space for this hike is limited to 15, so please RSVP.

Paiko Lagoon Tour: Farewell to the Shorebirds Saturday, April 18th at 8am

Explore the lagoon while learning about Hawaii's visiting shorebirds. Meet at Kuli'ou'ou Road at 8am. Wear hats, sunscreen, and protective shoes. Please RSVP to Alice with your name and phone number at 808-864-8122.



Hawai'i Audubon Society Membership/Donation Form

- \$25 Regular Member
 \$15 Student Member
 \$40 Family Membership
 \$100 Supporting Member

- International Membership:
 \$28 Canada & Mexico
 \$33 Other

\$ ____ Donation

Donations are tax-deductable and greatly appreciated.

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- E-mail me the 'Elepaio Mail me the 'Elepaio E-mail me volunteer opportunities, updates, & field trips.

Thank you for your concern and commitment to protecting Hawaii's native wildlife and ecosystems.

Pay by credit/debit card at www.hawaiiadubon.org.

Please make checks payable to **Hawai'i Audubon Society**

Mail form and payment to 850 Richards St., Suite 505, Honolulu, HI 96813

Recent Bird Observations

By Lance Tanino

DEC 13 - KILLDEER at Kaunakakai Stream sediment pond, Kaunakakai, Moloka'i (Arleone Dibben-Young).

DEC 16 - Adult winter-plumaged BLACK TERN at Kealakehe WWTP, Kailua-Kona, Big Island (Jay Withgott).

DEC 31 - 'TIWI (3) at Kamakou Forest Reserve, Moloka'i (Arleone Dibben-Young)

Jan. 01 - Adult MEW GULL at Honouliuli Unit, PHNWR. Second state record. (Ross & Melissa Gallardy and Kurt Pohlman).

Jan. 02 - A CASPIAN TERN returned (probably same individual for the past decade) to Nu'upia Ponds WMA. (Jean Campbell and Lance Tanino)

Sunset and Shearwaters: Volunteer Appreciation Night! Saturday, March 21st from 5pm-Sunset

We want to say a big Mahalo to all of our volunteers at the Freeman Seabird Preserve for their tireless efforts on the restoration and maintenance of native habitat for the Wedge-tailed Shearwaters.

Please join us for a BYOB pupu potluck at the Freeman Seabird Preserve at Black Point. Plan on parking outside the community gate on Black Point Road and walking down to the Preserve. RSVP to hiaudsoc@pixi.com or call 528-1432.



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Calendar of Events

Habitat Restoration at Freeman Seabird Preserve
Saturday, March 7th 14th, 21st, 28th - 9am to Noon

Kawainui Marsh Restoration
Saturday, March 7th, April 4th -9am to Noon

Nature Hike to Kahuku Point and Wetlands at Turtle Bay
Saturday, March 21st - 8:45am

Sunset and Shearwaters: Volunteer Appreciation Night
Saturday, March 21st - 5pm-sunset

Wally Johnson Talk
Monday, March 23rd - 6:30pm

Introduction to Birding in Honolulu
Thursday, March 26th - 9am

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Sunday, April 12th - 9am - 1pm

Paikō Lagoon Tour: Farewell to the Shorebirds
Saturday, April 18th at 8:00am

Table of Contents

State of the Society 2014: Report to the Membership.....9

2014: Another Record Population Count at the Freeman Seabird Preserve During a Year of Average Breeding12

Upcoming Field Trips, Volunteer Opportunities, & Events.....14

Recent Bird Observations.....15