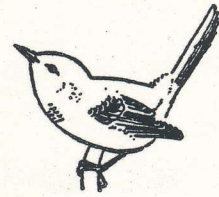


The Elepaio

Official Organ of THE HONOLULU AUDUBON SOCIETY
Honolulu, Hawaii, U.S.A.

For the Better Protection of Wild Life in Hawaii



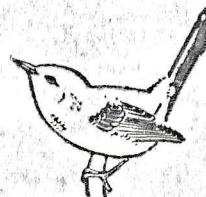
"Elepaio"

Volume 1

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MAN'S INTRODUCTION TO BIRDS

By George C. Munro

According to the theory of evolution man's earliest introduction to birds came as he was changing from a vegetable to an animal diet. It can readily be believed birds had a great deal to do with man's mental development. His brain had to be exercised to circumvent the native wariness of birds in their capture for food.

As man advanced in the scale of intelligence the hunt became a game. The sporting instinct grew and competition was a spur to advancement in mankind. It is hoped this instinct will never die out but will be diverted in man into channels not harmful to his fellow residents of the world. As with war with his fellow man, likely another development of the sporting instinct, the desire for hunting and killing of animals for sport many believe will eventually disappear entirely.

It is not known that bird's feathers and song featured in the development of aesthetics in mankind but it is possible they did. It might easily be claimed that birds by their appreciation of beauty in song and feathers led mankind in aesthetics. **Science now claims that birds are essential to man's continued life on this planet.**

Officers:

J. D'ARCY NORTHWOOD
President

CHARLES M. DUNN
Secretary-Treasurer

EDWIN H. BRYAN, JR.
Advisor

GEORGE C. MUNRO
Advisor

The question now arises are birds appreciated as they should be, in their beauty of form, action, feathers, song and usefulness? This is one part of the education of young people which should have more attention. Fortunately the Honolulu Audubon Society and the Hui Manu are working to this end here. We hope also to see many Junior Audubon Societies established. Scholarships are given by local societies in gift or loan and it might be suggested that a provision accompany one of these that a course in ornithology be taken. A professor of ornithology is much needed in our community at the present time.

How the Honolulu Audubon Society was Organized

By J. D'Arcy Northwood, Pres.

In January 1939 a letter appeared in the local paper from Charles M. Dunn asking all bird lovers to meet at the Library of Hawaii with a view to forming a branch of the National Association of Audubon Societies. Previous to this there had been several letters showing the interest of the public on the question of better protection for our birds, most of them strongly in favor of such protection. There was also an editorial on the same subject.

In March the first meeting took place, the name of the society was decided upon and there was discussion on the activities which the society would undertake. At the next meeting J. d'Arcy Northwood was elected president and Charles M. Dunn secretary-treasurer. A committee consisting of Kenneth J. Williams, George C. Munro and Charles M. Dunn was formed to present the views of the society on bird protection to the Legislature. A bill later became law extending complete protection to the migratory shore birds and ducks and also to the stilt and mudhen for the next two years.

At the next meeting in May a constitution and by-laws were adopted; Mrs. James R. Judd, President of the Hui Mamu; Mr. Riley H. Allen, Editor of The Star-Bulletin; Mr. Raymond S. Coll, Editor of the Advertiser; and Mr. Kenneth J. Williams were elected vice presidents. George C. Munro, who has taken a foremost part for years in urging better protection for our birds and E. H. Bryan, Jr., Curator of Collections at the Bishop Museum, regretted that they were unable to accept active office and agreed to act as advisers.

Cooperation with the Hui Mamu is also assured with regard to bird protection and educational work in the schools.

Since then monthly meetings have been held, at which, talks of interest to bird lovers have been given by Walter Donaghho, E. H. Lewis, Kenneth J. Williams, Dr. Morton E. Cummings and Buster Andrews.

The discussion following the talks were always interesting, many members joining in with their views and observations.

Once a month a bird walk has been arranged, when members and their friends have had the opportunity to see and hear many of our birds. At one lunch time on a trail no less than four of the native forest birds were in sight at once, the elepaio, amakihi, apapane and iiwi.

Now thanks to the energy of our secretary, Charles M. Dunn, we are to have a printed paper giving an account of our activities month by month. Here is the first number of "The Elepaio", named after the little Hawaiian bird which is the emblem of the society.

Members should make an attempt to attend the meetings, which are held at the Library of Hawaii at 7:30 p.m. on the first Monday in each month. We know we have their good wishes in their absence but their presence is often necessary for the proper conduct of business.

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Officers and Members

J. d'Arcy Northwood,
President

Charles M. Dunn,
Sec-Trea.

George C. Munro,
Adviser

Edwin H. Bryan, Jr.
Adviser

Mrs. James R. Judd,

Riley H. Allen

Raymond S. Coll,

Kenneth J. Williams

Vice-Presidents

Members,

Col. Leopold G. Blackman
Walter Donaghho
Mrs. Juliettee Leslie
George Tivy
David Woodside
Mrs. Edgar J. Walker
Mrs. J.E. Fredericks
Mrs. Wanita Hughes
Hung Chun Seung

Otto Degener
Clara Burnett
O.J. Burnett
Mrs. Ernest C. Ebert
Margaret Shafferath
Mrs. Max Shafferath
L. Stan-leigh
Edna Reese
Dr. Morton E. Cummings

Richard Northwood
Evelyn Johnson
Genevieve Hatch
Sophie E. Willard
May Taylor
Richard S. Kelly

Field Work

By J. d'Arcy Northwood

Field work with the birds may be approached in tow ways, it depends largely on the temperament of the observer which may be taken. They may be headed the statistical and the philosophic, or even the factual and the fanciful.

The former is the most popular approach. It is concerned with bird censuses; counts of birds in a particular area at different times of the year and over a period of years. In this way valuable information is gathered about the increase or decrease of certain birds. Each year "Bird-Lore" publishes a Christmas census from reports sent in from all over United States. Our society is preparing to take one this year.

Then there is the gathering of information about the food habits, distribution, breeding habits etc of birds for presentation to legislative bodies. People who make the laws and regulations pay far more attention to properly attested records than they do to pleas based largely on sentiment.

Many other lines of work suggest themselves. One is bird banding which is giving valuable records of individual bird's habits.

Photography offers far more tests of ingenuity and skill than the mere hunting of birds for sport, with the advantage of sparing a joyous life. We have no right to kill for our own pleasure.

The philosophic approach delas with intangible values, with an appreciation of birds for their beauty and for the delight in watching their free joyous lives.

The birds can teach us how to live more happily and completely. There are few of us these days who do so, some have too much and are afraid of losing it, some have too little and envy those who have more. Greed and envy are likely to destroy our civilization, let us learn wisdom from the birds before it is too late.