

THE ELEPAIO

Honolulu Audubon Society

Honolulu, Hawaii.

May 1941. Vol. 1, No. ¹²~~11~~.

This number of the Elepaio is taken up with the "Identification Key to Familiar Hawaiian Birds", by J. d'Arcy Northwood. It is offered with the hope that it provides compact and orderly information, which should help in identifying a bird. It should need no instruction for use, but it may be mentioned that the thirty-one birds listed are arranged in order of size, the length in inches being given in the first column. No sea birds are listed, except the tropic bird and frigate bird, which are often seen inland.

We shall continue Mr. Munro's "Adventures in Bird Study" in the next number, and also Mr. Bryan's "Check List", which he has kindly released to the Elepaio. This has not appeared in print before and is the latest and most authoritative list of our birds. It will be most useful to students and will appear in parts at the end of each number of the paper, so that when complete the sheets may be detached and bound separately.

Entries for the second Bishop Museum -- Honolulu Audubon Society Photography Contest close September 30th. Cash prizes totalling \$20.00 are offered. Ask for particulars at the meeting.

Bird Notes from Midway, by Walter Donaghho.

Sooty Tern. March 2nd. First arrive, but depart without landing.
March 14th. First landed.

Hawaiian Tern. March 29th. Average young full grown.

Noddy Tern. March 29th. Average young half grown.

Bonin Petrel. January 15th. First eggs appear.

Wedge-tailed Shearwater. March 16th. First seen.

Christmas Shearwater. March 26th. First seen.

Bulwer's Petrel. March 26th. First seen.

Laysan Albatross. Eggs take 63 days to hatch (F.C.Hadden).

We regret that the last number was incorrectly numbered Vol. 1 - No. 12. It should have been No. 11.

IDENTIFICATION KEY TO

by J. d'Arcy

| Length | Name | C o l o r | | Flight |
|--------|---|---|--|---------------------------------|
| | | Above | Below | |
| 4 | RICE BIRD (Introduced) | Brown with light streaks. Dark face and heavy dark bill | Throat chestnut, breast and sides gray, finely marked with small dark crescents. | Fast with quickly moved wings. |
| 4½ | WHITE-EYE Mejiro (Jap) (Introduced) | Olive green, fine white ring round eye. Straight beak | Throat and breast yellow, abdomen whitish. Female is duller. | Flits from bush to bush. |
| 4½ | AMAKIHI (Native) | Green, dark curved beak. | Yellow, female is duller. | Weak |
| 5 | JAPANESE TIT Yamagara (Jap) (Introduced) | Black head, white streak on top, sides of head and forehead white Gray back. | Chin and throat black, sides russet. Below whitish and chestnut. | Light and rapid. |
| 5¼ | APAPANE (Native) | Crimson, black wings and tail. Dark curved beak. | Crimson, white under base of tail. | Weak, wings make humming noise. |
| 5½ | ELEPAIO (Native) | Brown flecked with white. White wing bars. Young: buffy head and shoulders. | Whitish, male has smudgy black breast | Generally short |
| 5½ | LINNET California House Finch Papaya bird (Introduced) | Brown, male has red breast, forehead and rump. | Whitish, streaked with brown. | Rapid and undulating. |

FAMILIAR HAWAIIAN BIRDS

Northwood.

| Calls | Movements | Haunts | Remarks |
|---|---|---|---|
| A wheezy sharp "peep". | Usually in small flocks. | Weedy and grassy areas. | Our smallest bird, damages growing rice. Nest: a woven ball of grass in the upper parts of trees. |
| Tinkling "peep" Song: a hurried chatter. | Lively and restless, searching actively for food. | Trees and bushes. | Widely distributed, eats largely injurious insects some fruit. Goes in small parties. |
| A thin screech. Song: a sudden reeling "tee-tee-tee--". | Searches leaves and twigs for insects. | Forest trees. | Also sips nectar from flowering trees. |
| Loud "tee-tee-tee", four or five times. Song: "tee-tee-tay". | Restless. | Lower forest. | Conspicuous and noisy, but not common. |
| A plaintive whistle. Song: a jangle of musical notes. | From one tree to another, often makes longer flights. | Forest. | In addition to nectar often feeds on insects. Probably most abundant native forest bird. |
| A clear whistle of three notes, a scolding "chack-chack". | Flits among trees, often approaches intruder. | Widely distributed through forest. | Inquisitive. Hunts insects on ground. Long cocked-up tail. |
| A coarse chirp: a pretty rippling song. | Often in flocks. | Usually in lowlands but also in forest. | Feeds on weed and grass seeds. |

| Length | Name | C o l o r | | Flight |
|--------|--|---|---|--|
| | | Above | Below | |
| 5½ | JAPANESE BUSH WARBLER Uguisu (Jap) (Introduced) | Greenish brown. | Light greenish yellow. | Seldom more than a few feet. |
| 6 | IIWI (Native) | Scarlet, black wings and tail. Long curved red beak. | Scarlet. | Stronger than apapane, also hums. |
| 6 | JAPANESE HILL ROBIN Pekin Nightingale (Introduced) | Olive green, red beak. | Orange throat, yellowish green below. Female duller. | Generally short. |
| 6 | HOUSE SPARROW (Introduced) | Brown streaked with black. Gray crown. | Grayish brown. Male has black throat and breast. | Rapid. |
| 7 | SKY LARK (Introduced) | Brown with darker streaks, outer tail feathers white. | Buffish white with darker streaks. | Slightly fluttering. |
| 7½ | BRAZILIAN CARDINAL (Introduced) | Head and crest red, gray back. | White, red V on breast. | Strong. |
| 8 | KENTUCKY CARDINAL (Introduced) | Red, black face, red crest. Female: reddish brown. | Male red, female light gray brown. | Strong, undulates if prolonged. |
| 8 | BARRED DOVE (Introduced) | Gray, outer tail feathers show white when alighting. | Gray white, fine black bars on sides. Breast some- times rosy. | Swift. |

| Calls | Movements | Haunts | Remarks |
|--|---|-------------------------------------|---|
| Long low whistle with upward twist; rapid "teacher-teacher-teacher." | Very skulking. | Undergrowth of lower forest. | Seldom seen but often heard. Extending range yearly in Waianaes. |
| A rusty squeak; loud metallic notes. | Quickly moves among flowers when feeding. | Upper forest. | Not rare and certainly not extinct, as often stated. Feeds on nectar and insects. |
| Loud alarm chatter. Pleasing song. | Active. | Lower forest. | Increasing on Oahu, common on Hawaii. A handsome bird. |
| A coarse chirp, also a double note "philip". | Hops. | Lowlands, usually near buildings. | Probably beneficial, an adaptable, hardy and wary bird. |
| Call: "chisit". Sings as soars, both ascending and descending. | Runs and walks. | Open grass lands. | The poets' bird, the song is a torrent of shrill notes. |
| A sharp "tick". Song: a musical whistle. | Active and sprightly, runs and walks. | Lowlands, often in gardens. | A fine addition to our bird life. Fond of sunflower seed. Sexes alike in color. |
| A sharp "tick". Song: a clear musical whistle, more varied than Brazilian's. | Bold yet cautious. | Lowlands and lower forest, gardens. | The most striking and popular of the imported birds. Fond of sunflower seed. |
| A rattling coo. | Walks. | Weedy and grassy areas in lowlands. | Often tame and confiding. Incorrectly called Bar-shouldered Dove. |

| Length | Name | C o l o r | | Flight |
|--------|---|--|---|--|
| | | Above | Below | |
| 8 | SANDERLING Hunakai (Haw) (Migrant) | Ashy gray | White | Swift |
| 9 | MYNAH (Introduced) | Black head and neck, brown back. Yellow beak and yellow be- low and behind eye. | Black breast, brown shading into white below. Yellow legs. | Fluttery but strong. Shows white patches in wings. |
| 9 | TURNSTONE Akekeke (Haw) (Migrant) | Black and white head, varied brown back, rump and wing bar white. | White, breast black and white. Short red legs. | Rapid, flock flies in unison. |
| 9 | CHINESE THRUSH Hwa-mei (Chin) (Introduced) | Reddish brown, white ring round eye and white line back from eye. | Reddish brown | Generally short and darting |
| 10 | MOCKING BIRD (Introduced) | Brownish gray, wings and tail blackish. | Gray and white | Conspicuous white patches in wings and tail. |
| 11 | GOLDEN PLOVER Kolea (Haw) (Migrant) | Checkered brown | Brownish white; in summer black. Long legs. | Swift, on pointed wings. |
| 11 | WANDERING TATTLER Ulili (Haw) (Migrant) | Gray, long straight beak | White | Swift. |
| 12 | CHINESE TURTLE DOVE (Introduced) | Grayish brown, shoulder mantle black and white. | Breast rosy, spread tail shows white on alighting | Strong |

| Calls | Movements | Haunts | Remarks |
|--|--|--|--|
| A sharp "chit" | Runs easily and rapidly | Mudflats, sandy shores and pastures | Smallest and lightest colored of the shore birds. Often in small parties. Breeds in Alaska. |
| A varied and expressive series of notes | A swaggering walk, also hops | Widely distributed | The most noticeable bird in Hawaii. Gregarious and noisy at roosts |
| A chorus of trilling notes | Searches busily for food, usually in flocks. Tips over stones with beak. | Pastures, mudflats and sandy shores. Often with plover | Beneficial, eats armyworms, cutworms and grasshoppers. Breeds in Alaska. |
| Varied calls. Song: strong and melodious | Skulking | Undergrowth in lowlands and forest | Wary and inquisitive |
| A great mimic, has a beautiful trilling song, often heard at night | Conspicuous | Often near houses, perches on roofs, poles | Alert and bold. Slowly spreading on Oahu. |
| A whistled "toolee" | Runs and walks | Pastures, mudflats, beaches and marshes. | Very beneficial, eats armyworms, cutworms and grasshoppers. Deserves permanent protection. Breeds in Alaska. |
| A musical whistle | Active | Rocky shores, pastures and mudflats | Generally singly. Breeds in Alaska. |
| A soft cooing | Walks | Lowlands, scarce in forest. | Slight nest of twigs, two white eggs. |

| Length | Name | C o l o r | | Flight |
|--------|--|--|--|--|
| | | Above | Below | |
| 13½ | STILT Kukuluaeo (Haw) (Native) | Black, long neck and beak | White, very long pink legs. | Well sustained and strong |
| 13½ | GALLINULE or MUDHEN Alae ule (Haw) (Native) | Dark brownish gray, white on sides and under tail. Red beak and top of head. | Grayish black, shading into white. Long legs and toes not webbed. | Labored |
| 14 | COOT Alae keokeo (Haw) (Native) | Slatey black, darker on head and neck. White beak and top of head | Slatey black, long legs and toes, latter lobed | Heavy, splashes water when rising |
| 14 | OWL Pueo (Haw) (Native) | Brown of various shades | Lighter brown, shading into white | Quick and noiseless |
| 18 | NIGHT HERON Aukuu (Haw) (Native) | Crown and back black, sides gray. Young are streaky brown. Long beak. | White | Heavy and deliberate |
| 32 | TROPIC BIRD Koae (Haw) (Sea bird) | White, black on wings | White | Strong and light |
| 36 | PHEASANT (Introduced) | Black, buff and bronze. White ring round neck. Female: brown. | Bronze and black | Heavy and straight |
| 40 | FRIGATE BIRD Iwa (Haw) (Sea bird) | Black | Black, female has white breast; young has white head and neck | Sails with outstretched wings |

| Calls | Movements | Haunts | Remarks |
|--------------------------------------|---|--|--|
| Chorus of noisy cries, "kek-kek-kek" | Walks and wades deliberately. | Marshes, fish ponds and mudflats | A graceful bird, long legs are extended beyond end of tail in flight. Very sociable. |
| Varied cackles | Swims with nodding head. | Marshes and ditches | Decreasing, due to mongoose and drainage |
| Loud and harsh | Swims with nodding head, often chase one another | Lakes | Feeds largely on water plants and snails. Often dives. |
| A sharp "kek-kek" | Day and night flyer. Sometimes hovers over one spot | Grassy areas, sometimes in forest | Beneficial, eats rats and mice. Nests on ground, decreasing on account of mongoose |
| A guttural "quok" | Stands in shallow water when fishing | Fishponds, mudflats, streams | Wrongly called "fish hawk". Often roosts by day, fishing at night |
| Seldom heard | Circles and sails about haunts | Steep cliffs along shore or inland | Central tail feathers may be 15-18 inches long. Nests in cliffs |
| A loud "cock-cock" | Prefers to run when alarmed but flies well | Open country with good cover | Long tail. Thousands are reared and released at Game Farm each year for sport |
| Seldom heard | Chases other birds and forces them to disgorge | Ocean and along shores, sometimes inland | Wing spread of 7 feet. Long forked tail |