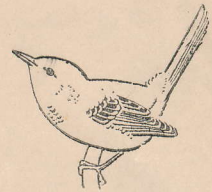


The Elepaio

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

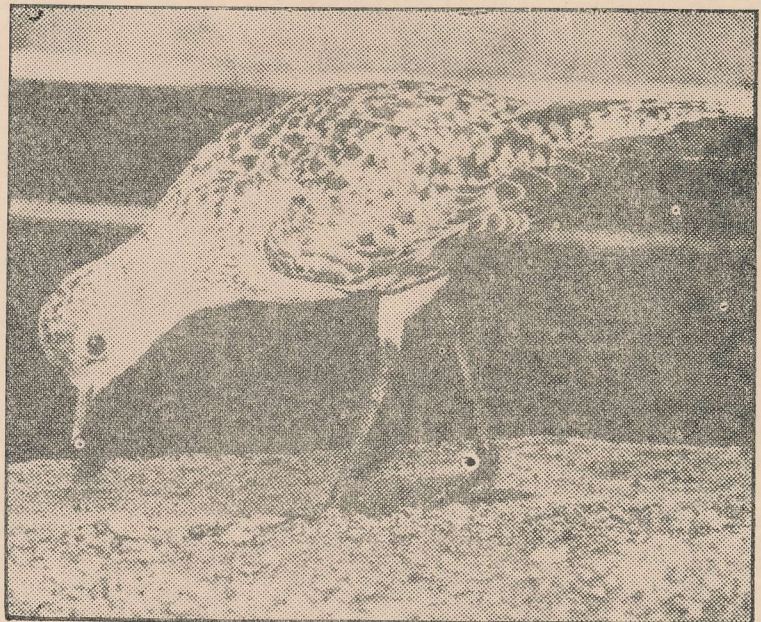


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The Pacific Golden Plover is the most valuable bird in Hawaii to the agriculturalist. They breed in Alaska and fly 2,000 miles across the ocean to Hawaii each fall. After spending the winter here they return to Alaska in the spring. They can be seen on the pasture lands, scattered about and feeding on the injurious caterpillars of the army worms and cut worms. They are protected by law until July, 1941. Let's see that this protection is extended permanently to such a beautiful and useful bird.

Picture is from a stuffed specimen in the Bishop Museum.

A Vanishing Bird.

by

Geo. C. Munro.

A number of species of Hawaiian birds have become extinct and other very rare in the last half century. Others that were common 50 years ago are not common now. One of the saddest experiences in this connection is that of the Ou (Psittacirostra psittacea).

The Ou was in the nineties one of the commonest of the Hawaiian forest birds, except on the island of Oahu where it was then nearly extinct. It is now nearly extinct on all the islands of the group. It was a well known bird because it frequented the outskirts of the forest more than most other forest birds. It was a little smaller than a mynah, bright green in color. The male had a bright yellow head and neck which was a well marked feature. It flew a good deal, sometimes in companies, especially up and down and across the valleys and at these times was conspicuous. It was also a beautiful singer.

The Ou fed on fruit, insects and caterpillars and at times ate the tender leaves of trees. It was fond of the fruit of the Ieie vine, the guava and the Ohia ai or mountain apple (Eugenia Malaccensis). The last two brought it down near the edge of the forest and close to human habitation where it was more exposed to introduced bird diseases from domestic fowls. My theory is that these diseases decimated it. It disappeared from Lanai between the years 1923 and 1932. This was after the human population began to increase.

Its near relative the Laysan canary or Laysan finch (Telespiza cantans) can be taken from one oceanic island to another and does well there. Hundreds were brought from Laysan to Honolulu in the nineties and all soon died. The mosquitoes of Honolulu probably infected them with bird disease. There are no mosquitoes on the small islands to carry these germs.

There are two bad diseases of this kind, a bird sleeping sickness and a bird malaria. A pigeon malaria has been found here by Dr. Alicata of the University of Hawaii. A friend had a bad experience with her canaries. A new bird was brought into the group. The old birds then drooped and died one after another with symptoms of sleeping sickness.

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HONOLULU AUDUBON SOCIETY LIBRARY.

The Society wants to build up a library of books on birds which will be available to members. The following list, based on one given in Bird-Lore (Vol 40, 1938, page 347) has been compiled. This represents the best books on birds as chosen by experts, with the addition of a few which have particular reference to Hawaii. Most of them can be obtained through the National Association.

Subscriptions will be received by the Librarian and may be earmarked for a particular book or books, which will be inscribed, if so desired, with the name of the donor. Other books on birds will also be welcomed as gifts to the Library.

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|------------------------------|---|
| Bryan. E. H. Jr. | Hawaiian Nature Notes. 1935.
Honolulu: Honolulu Star-Bulletin Ltd. |
| Caum E. L. | The Exotic Birds of Hawaii. 1935.
Bishop Museum Occasional Papers, Vol X, No.9.
Honolulu: Bernice P. Bishop Museum. |
| Henshaw H. W. | Birds of the Hawaiian Islands. 1902.
Honolulu: Thos. G. Thrum. \$1.00. |
| Alexander W. B. | Birds of the Ocean. 1928.
New York: G. P. Putnam's Sons. |
| Allen G. M. | Birds and their Attributes. 1925.
Boston: Marshall Jones Co. \$3.50. |
| Herrick F.H. | Wild Birds at Home. 1935.
New York: Appleton-Century Co. \$4.00. |
| National Geographic Society. | The Book of Birds. 2 vols. 1937.
Washington, D.C. National Geographic Society. \$5.00. |

- 4
- Nicholson E. M. The Art of Bird Watching. 1932.
New York: Charles Scribner's Sons. \$2.00.
- Peterson R. T. A Field Guide to the Birds. 1939.
Boston: Houghton Mifflin Co. \$2.75.
- Hoffman Ralph Birds of the Pacific States. 1927.
Boston: Houghton Mifflin Co. \$3.50.
- Lincoln F. C. The Migration of American Birds. 1939.
New York: Doubleday Doran. \$4.00.
- Taverner P. A. Birds of Canada. 1938.
Philadelphia: David McKay. \$4.00.
- Berg Bengt To Africa with the Migratory Birds. 1930.
New York: G. P. Putnam & Co. \$5.00.
- Chapman F. M. Autobiography of a Bird Lover. 1933.
New York: Appleton-Century Co. \$3.75.
- Chapman F. M. Camps and Cruises of an Ornithologist. 1908.
New York: Appleton-Century Co. \$4.00.
- Pearson T. G. Adventures in Bird Protection. 1937.
New York: Appleton Century Co. \$3.50.

For the best prose on birds any of W. H. Hudson's books,
particularly Adventures among Birds, Nature in Downland, Far Away
and Long Ago, Hampshire Days, Idle Days in Patagonia.

William Beebe: Jungle Days, Edge of the Jungle, Jungle Peace,
Nonsuch.

Donald Culross Peattie: A Gathering of Birds, Singing in the
Wilderness, Almanac for Moderns.

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Taverner P. A. Birds of Canada. 1938.
Philadelphia: David McKay. \$4.00.

Berg Bengt To Africa with the Migratory Birds. 1930.
New York: G. P. Putnam & Co. \$5.00.

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A LIST OF BIRDS NOTED ON THE ISLAND OF HAWAII IN MAY 1940.

by

Walter R. Donaghho.

During a months visit to the Island of Hawaii I visited several localities to study big island bird life. An expedition was made up Mauna Loa, though the real reason was to study the eruption I made studies of the birds also. Three days were spent in the Kilauea region to study birds, and one additional day was spent in the dry regions 6000 ft. up on Mauna Loa in the National Park. An expedition was made through the Hilo Forest Reserve, following no trail, to Keanakolu on the north slopes of Mauna Kea, and two days were spent going out from there to study bird life up on the mountain. Lastly Hualalai was visited.

APAPANE. This bird was found to be very common in the Kilauea region, and was also seen in numbers up on the slope of Mauna Loa in two localities; the scrub ohia of the 7000 to 8500 foot elevation, and in one of the Kipukas at the 5500 foot elevation. The bird was also noted in the ohia forest of the Hilo Forest Reserve, but it was very rare in the koa belt. Also it was found common on the summit of Hualalai in the region of Pukeawe and occasional ohia trees. It is common in the upper Koa forest of that mountain.

AMAKIHI. Found in every locality I visited. Was common in the Mamani belts of Mauna Kea and Hualalai, and exceedingly so in the Koa forest of the former mountain. It was also found common on the summit of the latter mountain. Was not common in the Kilauea region.

ELEPAIO. This bird was found in most of the localities visited and though not as common as some of the other birds, it was nevertheless well holding its own.

IIWI. I found the Iiwi unusually common in the upper Koa forest of south Hualalai, and not uncommon in the mamani belt. In the Hawaii National Park I found it common in the Kipukas at the 5500 foot level of Mauna Loa. It was absent on Mauna Kea above the 5000 foot elevation though present in the ohia forest below.

OMAU. The Omau I found common only on Mauna Kea from about 4000 feet up to 6500 feet. I saw three Omau within 300 yards of the Volcano House and another on the north rim of Kilauea-iki. Another was heard at 8500 feet up on Mauna Loa in the scrub ohia belt, near the timber line. It was absent on Hualalai.

AKIAPOLAAU. The Akiapolaau was not uncommon in the Koa belt of Mauna Kea where I counted 24 birds. I also found it in the Mamani higher up. Two pairs were noted in two different Kipukas on the upper slopes of Mauna Loa in the Park. There were several fledglings on Mauna Kea, their notes resembled that of a chick.

OLIVE GREEN CREEPER. The Olive Green Creeper I found in the same localities that I noted the Akiapolaau and it was slightly more numerous. Both birds were not found on Hualalai.

AKAPIUIE. Noted one male and two female Akepiuie in the Koa belt of Mauna Kea, and two immatures in the Koa forest on the south slope of Hualalai.

ALALA (HAWAIIAN CROW). Noted eight Alala in the upper Koa forest of Hualalai, two unusually high up in the Mamani belt. Several pairs were also noted in the Holualoa Forest Reserve at 4000 foot elevation.

IO (HAWAIIAN HAWK). One hawk was seen on Mauna Kea and four on the lower slopes of Hualalai.

PUEO (HAWAIIAN OWL). Noted two Owls in the open Mamani country of Hualalai (6000). These were the only ones I saw, but the owl is still far from extinction, though it is not at all common.

PALILA. This interesting bird I found not uncommon on the upper slopes of Mauna Kea, mostly in the Mamani belt. I counted 28 birds on two lists taken there.

NENE. Though I saw none, I was informed that there were still geese in the National Park on Mauna Loa, though their numbers have apparently dwindled to six. Ranger Marteen informed me of a dozen on Hualalai which lived about the sheep station there. He also stated that the flock was very slowly increasing.

INTRODUCED BIRDS. Worthy of note are three Mejiros noted near Puu Kauku above Pepekeo. One other was noted above Ookala. The Hill Robin is very common now in a great many localities, and I saw or heard this bird in all the localities I visited. It is common in the gulches of the Hamakua coast, down near sea level.

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MOCKING BIRD. We are glad to report that Mocking birds are increasing on Oahu. There has been a small colony for some years on Upper Alewa Heights and now they have colonised the next ridge and may be seen and heard singing in the grounds of Kamehameha School. They were probably first introduced by Mr. W. McInerny and later by the Hui Mar.

Their song may be confused with that of the Thrush but it has trills which the Thrush's song lacks.

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