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HAWAII AUDUBON SOCIETY BIRD COUNT 1950

Tabulation of the bird count taken on the Island of Oahu by members
of the Hawaii Audubon Society on December 31, 1950:

	<u>Kaneohe</u> <u>N.A.S.</u>	<u>Bellows</u> <u>Field</u>	<u>Kaelepulu</u> <u>Kuapa</u>	<u>Tantalus</u> <u>Trail</u>	<u>Resid.</u> <u>Areas</u>	<u>Poamoho</u> <u>Trail</u>	<u>Total</u>
Amakihi						26	26
Apapane				2		477	479
Booby							
Red-footed	811						811
Brown	7						7
Cardinal							
Brazilian	8	7			1		16
Kentucky	21	25		25	22	3	96
Coot, Hawaiian	24		628				652
Dove							
Barred	41	20		35	105	10	211
Chinese	64	23	24	40	121	40	312
Duck							
Pintail	50		228				278
Unidentified			1				1
Elepaio				9		4	13
Finch, house		8		2			10
Frigate bird	1						1
Heron, black- crowned night	2		1				3
Iiwi						5	5
Liothrix				20			20
Mynah	114	3	48	7	348	3	523
Pheasant, ring- necked						1	1
Plover, Pacific golden	46	22	146		5	17	236
Ricebird	131				102	126	359
Sparrow, English	5				288		293
Stilt, Hawaiian	11		8	12			31
Tattler, wandering	3	18	4				25
Thrush, Chinese				5			5
Turnstone, ruddy	111	7	23				141
White-eye	2	7		25	5	6	45
Unidentified waterfowl			150				150
TOTALS	1452	140	1261	182	997	718	4750
Species	18	10	11	11	9	12	
Total species:	28						

DECEMBER 1950 BIRD COUNT

Temperature: 59°-82°; Wind: E to SE, 0-38 mi. per hour;

Time: 6:55 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.; Total hours: 23 (on foot);

Total miles covered: 224 (15 on foot, 209 by car).

Terrain: ponds and marshes, 9%; sandy beach, 14%; residential areas, 24%; lower forest, 14%; tidal flats, 14%; coastal headland and adjacent crater, 24%.

Members present: 17 - as follows: Carolyn Crawford, Catherine Delamere, Ruth Dingus, Laura Draper, Charles Dunn, Grace Gossard, Ray H. Greenfield, Grenville Hatch, Unoyo Kojima, Bernice Kuhns, Louetta Kuhns, Mace Norton, Helen D. Peterson, Ann Fowlison, Euphie Shields, Howard Tobey, and E. B. Hamilton.

AREA REPORTS

Poamoho Trail

Those who read the Oahu count in Audubon Magazine, will not find our Poamoho census included, but to many of us it is one of the most thrilling of our count areas. Certainly without it a false impression of Hawaiian bird life is conveyed by the Christmas figures, with very few perching birds listed.

The Poamoho party left town a little before 6:30, driving through intermittent showers to the vicinity of Wheeler Field. Here we stopped and walked up the road beside the golf course, admiring and counting the plover that were feeding in the field and along the roadside. Ricebirds were in fairly large flocks in the weed patches and broccoli gardens nearby. At Wheeler Field, both on the way out and on the return, we listened and looked long and hopefully for a skylark, but to no avail.

Poamoho was still shrouded in clouds and mist, but we decided to attempt it. At 8:15 we parked at the entrance to the jeep road, and walked the 3 miles to the entrance of the trail. We have about decided that we should cover the entire trail. Two such counts as we have turned in from Poamoho will probably have the entire Society competing for the privilege of going next year!

Rain started almost at once, and for the first hour we counted birds in such a downpour that little color could be seen on the apapane. The eucalyptus grove, so full of birds last year, was again in bloom, but the paper-bark trees had passed their peak of flowering. Again we had the experience of seeing the apapane come in flocks, every tree full of birds. The birds sang, but not with the same abandon, the same delirious song which so fascinated us last year, nor was there the whirling, rollicking flight. Was this because the trees had passed the first lush bloom, or because of the rain? There was enough of the latter to dampen their ardor!

Lest our count of 477 be doubted, let me say that we walked to the center of the road, faced in opposite directions, and counted the birds that flew into the grove. Part of the time Unoyo checked our total by counting those that flew out. When we reached 400 we stopped, though we agreed that our total was conservative. The other 77 we added, by twos and threes, or singly, over the rest of the trail.

The apapane count makes the rest of the count insignificant. Other birds were fewer in both number and species than last year, and the bad weather complicated our counting.

As we drove back across the pineapple fields, Mr. Norton spied a beautiful ring-necked pheasant cock as it emerged from the Field, obligingly hesitated long enough for us to express admiration - and add another species to our list.

Area: Poamoho Trail, adjacent pineapple fields, Wheeler Field - upper forest 80%, open country 20%; time: 7:05 A.M. to 11:15 A.M.; cloudy, occasional heavy showers; temperature: 72° to 74°; wind: E to SE, 8-12 m.p.h., gusts to 20 m.p.h.; time on foot: 3 $\frac{3}{4}$ hrs.; total miles: 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ on foot, 71 by car. Birds: Ring-necked pheasant, 1; Chinese dove, 40; amakihi, 26; apapane, 477; iiwi, 5; elepaio, 4; Kentucky cardinal, 3; mynah, 3; ricebird, 126; white-eye, 6; Pacific golden plover, 17; barred dove, 10.

Grenville Hatch, Leader
Unoyo Kojima and Mace Norton

Residential Areas

What a wet morning! My daughter and I started out at 7:40 A.M., traveling up Emma Street, along Prospect, over Nehoa, and up Makiki Heights Road as far as the Makiki Nursery. We were caught in two downpours, but managed well, being prepared for it.

Wind was blowing at eight to twelve miles an hour; temperature 68° at the start, rising to 72° three hours later. By eleven the mountain tops were clear, the streets dry, foliage bright and fresh, having dropped the surplus weight of water. Bird activity was great throughout the trip. During the downpour we could not see the busy creatures, but we were happy to come out at the end with the following count: sparrows, 38; mynahs, 98; barred doves 121; Kentucky cardinals, 10; Brazilian cardinals, 1; ricebirds, 102; lace-neck doves, 5; mejiros, 5; and plovers, 5.

Bernice M. and Louetta M. Kuhns

Bellows Field

The Bellows Field contingent reached the main gate of the Field at 9 A.M., turned to the left and drove on very slowly, stopping the car at frequent intervals. The wind was blowing at about 12 miles when we entered, and only a light sprinkle was falling. Soon afterward, however, the wind rose to 25 to 38 miles, driving sharp rain squalls before it. This rainy, gusty weather continued intermittently all day.

Doves, plover and tattlers were the birds most in evidence. During one semi-sunny stretch toward noon we found several dozen small birds flying and fluttering in a low spot protected from the wind and well back from the shore. Both kinds of cardinals, white-eyes, and apparently one other bird were there in greater numbers than we saw elsewhere. Twice we saw a flock of little birds which we judged to be linnets.

Observation on foot among ironwoods along the shore and back up a stream was unrewarding. There was no evidence of shore birds along the beach.

The mileage within the area observed was 8 miles by car, some of the route gone over twice, and about a mile of walking by each of the four in our group, each picking a different part of the area. The count was: doves, 10; barred doves, 13; plover, 22; tattlers, 18; turnstone, 7; Kentucky cardinals, 25; Brazilian cardinals, 7; linnets, 8; mynahs, 3; sparrows, 12; white-eyes, 7; - total 132.

Laura L. Draper, Leader
Carolyn Crawford, Euphie Shields, and
Catherine Delamere

Tantalus Trail

Mr. Dunn and Mr. Greenfield picked this area, and report nothing out of the ordinary except that they stopped just below Round Top, on the Manoa-Makiki Trail, to find some elepaio. Nine obligingly appeared to fulfill Mr. Dunn's promise that some would appear.

Kaneohe and Kaelepulu Pond

Kaneohe region was the first objective of the five in our group. We covered Fort Hase by two different routes and met again at Ulupau Head, at the booby colony there. Hunters on the flat lands and marshy areas kept the smaller birds in hiding, but the boobies in large numbers were still perched on bushes and trees when we arrived, and their bushy white heads were tucked under their wings to keep them dry from the drizzle and intermittent heavy rains. Their huge red, webbed feet looked incongruous on their hilly perches. When the rain let up, they flew off these perches with ease, as they gave a soft, "shooshy" call, and headed toward the open sea or the rocky ledges on the other side of the hill. There was no sign of nesting activity.

The brown booby made no appearance until the rain started in again, and then a few flew out from behind the cliff below us and headed out to sea. We refrained from climbing about because of the soft, wet, crumbling terrain.

At Kaelepulu the rain turned to a light mist, but the mud was very slimy as we ploughed through it to a small hill - our only vantage point, as the unpenetrable marsh grass at the edge of the pond was over seven feet high. In the dim sunlight which finally struggled through heavy clouds we had difficulty identifying bird markings. However we could plainly discern five different-colored fowl on the water. There was an abundance of Hawaiian coots and pintail ducks (both male and female pintails), and two unidentified varieties, one, in large numbers, seemingly all black, possibly a very dark shade of some color, with bushy heads; the other a single red-headed duck seen by Ruth Dingus who had made her way to the other side of the pond in an effort to flush the birds up from the water for observation in flight. Judging by the number of fowl skipping across the surface of the water, the fishing was excellent.

A report of this waterfowl aggregation to Mr. Smith of the Board of Agriculture and Forestry led him to make a trip to Kaelepulu shortly afterward. However, he reported quite a few fishermen on the pond, but only a few straggling coots in competition. He went to Kaneohe also to check the whereabouts of the flock we saw, but there was scarcely a bird in sight. He promises to check again soon.

Helen D. Peterson, Leader
Ruth Dingus, Grace Gossard, Ann Powlison, Howard Tobey.

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Bird Study at West Loch, Pearl Harbor

In spite of a soft drizzle and threatening clouds, four members of the HAS - Unoyo Kojima, Mrs. Rockafellow, Mr. Mace Norton, and Helen Peterson - started for West Loch on Sunday, December 9th, in Mr. Norton's car. Up on the hill near some plantation houses we stopped and looked down, back over the marshy land which is being filled in with soft, red dirt and irrigated by a two-foot pipe from a higher elevation. There we could make out several types of shore birds which remained in the vicinity of the newly formed peninsula.

Mr. Norton set up his solid-based, 20-powered telescope on a car fender, and we had a wonderful opportunity to observe the various birds without having to wade in soft mud, get soaked by sudden showers, or risk scaring away the birds.

Our count revealed one black-crowned night heron, which flew off at our arrival, nine Hawaiian stilt, nine Pacific golden plover, twenty ruddy turnstones, one wandering tattler, three yellow-legged sandpipers (we believe), and one tern (perhaps).

We noticed that several of the stilts were very lame, the telescope revealing one with a broken leg. Though they limped badly, the lame birds flew as well as the others. A small boy threw stones at the birds as he walked along the dyke beside the newly formed stream, and we wondered if his aim might have been too good in times past.

During the entire hour or more that we spent there the birds were feeding continuously and voraciously on something apparently very plentiful in the mud, burying their bills up to their eyes. The turnstones seemed the most active feeders.

As we left Pearl Harbor we observed another night heron about 100 yards from the road stalking minnows in the shallow water of the shore.

Giving up any thought of a hike in the mist and mud, we drove to the pond south of the Puuloa Road back of Moanalua Park. There we observed about seven Hawaiian coot and two Hawaiian gallinule swimming about on the pond. Apparently it was not the right season for nesting for we failed to find the gallinule's nest which had been seen there before. Our search, however, was from a distance.

With only half the day gone, we returned to Hickam Village, and drove slowly around Hickam Air Force Base in Miss Peterson's car, counting 30 golden plover, 12 Brazilian cardinals, and seven Kentucky cardinals. Doves, mynahs and sparrows were too numerous to bother counting.

After consuming our lunch near the water at Fort Kamehameha, we returned to Hickam Village and put an official end to the trip. Though we had had no exercise, we felt that the bad weather had not deterred us from enjoying an excellent opportunity for observing shore birds.

Helen D. Peterson

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Mrs. Priscilla Griffey Harpham has resigned, due to the press of personal affairs, from the Editorship of the "Elepaio." During her tenure she has maintained a consistently high standard in the make-up of the Society's publication, and is leaving the paper in a position to command respect among such publications.

Our disappointment at Mrs. Harpham's resignation is tempered only by the fact that we will turn to the able work of Miss Margaret Titcomb, Librarian of the Bishop Museum. Miss Titcomb, as in the case of her predecessors, will require (and, I hope, receive) the fullest cooperation from members of the Society.
Mahalo, Mrs. Harpham! Mahalo Miss Titcomb!

H. Paul Porter

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FEBRUARY ACTIVITIES:

FIELD TRIP: Sunday, February 11, 1951, to Pa Lehua. Meet at the Library of Hawaii at 8:00 A.M. Bring lunch, water, and car (if possible). Pa Lehua is a dry (usually) and interesting trail at the southern tip of the Waianae Range.

MEETING: Monday, February 19, 1951, Auditorium, Library of Hawaii, at 7:30 P.M. Lt. Comdr. W. S. Thomas, Navy Historian on Adm. Radford's staff, and until his recent recall into the Navy, Director of the Rochester Museum of Arts and Sciences, will talk on, "Amateur Ornithologists and Projects Which Can Be Carried Out by Them." Comdr. Thomas is the Author of The Amateur Scientist, A Study of the Contributions of Amateurs in Various Fields of Science. Come and invite your friends.

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