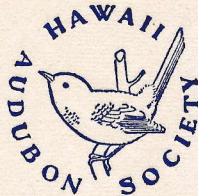


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HAWAII AUDUBON SOCIETY BIRD COUNT 1951

Tabulation of the bird count taken on the Island of Oahu by members
of the Hawaii Audubon Society on December 31, 1951:

	Bellows <u>Field</u>	Kaneohe <u>N.A.S.</u>	Residential Areas <u>Diamond</u> <u>Head</u>	<u>Kamehameha</u> <u>Heights</u>	<u>Total</u>
Booby, red-footed	9	619±			628±
Cardinal					
Brazilian	2		4	1	7
Kentucky	4	8	15	1	28
Coot, Hawaiian		17			17
Dove					
Barred		42	31	3	76
Chinese	5	20		8	33
Duck, pintail	250	86			336
Finch, house			12		12
Frigate bird	1	1			2
Heron, black-crowned night	2				2
Mocking bird			7		7
Mynah	12	70	30	8	120
Pheasant, ring-necked	1				1
Plover, Pacific golden	39	70	6	2	117
Ricebird	8	22		6	36
Sanderling		3			3
Skylark, English	2				2
Sparrow, English			34	2	36
Stilt, Hawaiian		66			66
Tattler, wandering		1			1
Tern, noddy		2			2
Turnstone, ruddy		9			9
White-eye				3	3
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
TOTALS	335	1036±	139	34	1544±
Species	12	15	8	9	
Total species:	23				

December 1951 Bird Count

Temperature, 70° - 76°; Wind, N.E., 13 - 25 m.p.h.; Cloudy, occasional showers
 Time, 6:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.; Total hours on foot - 16½
 Total miles covered - On foot, 8; By car, 115
 Terrain: Ponds and marshes, 14%; sandy beach, 24%; residential areas, 39%;
 tidal flats, 15%; open country, 5%; lower forest, 3%

Members present, 15 in 6 parties:

Irma Botsford, Catherine Delamere, Ethel Greenfield, Ray H. Greenfield,
 E. B. Hamilton, I. N. Hamilton, Bernice M. Kuhns, Louetta Kuhns,
 Ethel M. Matheson, Donald Mitchell, Blanche A. Pedley, Helen Peterson,
 Euphie G. M. Shields, Dorothea L. Taylor, Margaret Titcomb.

ACCOUNTS FROM PARTICIPANTS:

Ray H. Greenfield says: There were four of us, Miss Peterson, Mrs. Matheson, Mrs. Greenfield and myself. We left the Library meeting place at about 8:00 a.m. and arrived at the Naval Air Station gate at 8:30. Our first observations were at the ponds near the gate, pintail duck and Hawaiian coot in close company. Soon we drove to the booby colony (Ulupau Head), where we spent about two hours observing the birds there and on the two islands, Moku Manu, too far off, however, for careful observation. As we approached the colony on Ulupau Head the birds were quiet, but most of them took to the air on our approach. No nests were noted. One of the birds we did not alarm for it was asleep! The day was without either sun or rain; wind strong on the beach areas. Not the most favorable weather for bird observing.

Next we drove through some of the unused, overgrown areas on the base and there noted the Kentucky cardinal, numerous barred doves, mynahs, plover and a flock of ricebirds.

While consuming our lunch on a fine, sandy beach facing the open sea, at some abandoned military quarters, we noted the shore birds for a short time.

Finally we visited various ponds; shore birds were in comparative abundance, and, needless to say, the Hawaiian stilt was the most easily identified bird.

Irma Botsford says: Sunday, December 30th, seemed very gloomy and dark at 6 o'clock in the morning when various alarms shattered the quiet. But by 7 o'clock the world seemed brighter. Four of us were soon on our way to Bellows Field; sky was slightly overcast, no rain, along the shore quite a stiff wind.

We made a detour along the way, going past Lunalilo Home to Kuapa Pond where our reward was the sight of large flocks of pintails flying above and resting on the water; a few golden plover were here also.

The guards at Bellows Field had been notified of our impending arrival. We signed the guest book. One guard looked slightly dubious and mystified, and said, "Well! I'm curious as to just how you'd go about counting birds!"

Leaving the car, we walked along the beach. Boobies circled overhead. In from the shore a short distance, we heard and then saw skylarks. Innumerable plover appeared and we flushed a pheasant - which could not have been more startled than we! In the more inhabited sections, we saw both Brazilian and Kentucky cardinals. Early in the afternoon we turned homeward. Ilima carpeted the place and we wondered what had become of the ilima lei. We paused again on the homeward ride at Kuapa Pond, but could get no nearer to the ducks.

Edward and Ida Hamilton say: It was a typical December morning for Hawaii. We arose at 6 a.m., dressed fairly warmly, for it was chilly, a mild trade wind blowing at about 8 to 12 miles per hour.

By car we proceeded to the Kahala entrance of Ft. Ruger, arriving at 6:30. We proceeded on foot through an open gate to the foot of Diamond Head, the ground thick with kiawe bushes, some carrying old birds' nests, also a lot of coarse grass and some low rambling bushes resembling mallow, thick with yellow blossoms.

Soon the birds began to welcome the new day. First were the doves, next the mocking birds, golden plover, cardinals, linnets, sparrows, and, of course, the old faithful, sweet-singing mynahs. At about 7:30 we walked down Diamond Head Road, then down toward the beach in the residential section and found many Kentucky cardinals, doves, mynahs and sparrows. At about 9:30 we started home.

 Note: These reports are pleasant reading. Next year we hope that others will share their stories. Editor

December 1951 Bird Count for Poamoho:

Oahu, T.H. (Poamoho Trail, fields adjacent to Wheeler Field), upper forest, 92%; open country, 8%. December 30, 7:05 a.m. to 10:45 a.m. Continual light rain; temperature, 62° to 64° F.; wind, N.E., 13-25 m.p.h. Five observers in one party. Total hours, 2 $\frac{3}{4}$ on foot; total miles, 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ on foot, 71 by car. Pacific golden plover, 2; Mynah, 2; Ricebird, 19; White-eye, 24; Red billed Liothrix, 6; English skylark, 1; Elepaio, 2; Amakihi, 13; Apapane, 110. Total, 9 species, 179 individuals. Observers: Grenville Hatch, Unoyo Kojima, H.M. Norton, Eva Rhodes, Ruth Rockafellow

Grenville Hatch says: At a few minutes past 6 o'clock, five of us started from the Library of Hawaii, bound for Poamoho: Mrs. Ruth Rockafellow, Miss Unoyo Kojima, Mrs. Eva Rhodes (a member of a Southern California Audubon Society), Mace Norton and myself. All, except our guest, had taken Christmas count on Poamoho in recent years, and looked forward to the event with keen pleasure.

It was broad daylight when we reached the field across from Wheeler Field, but the area was not fruitful -- two lone plover, and a few ricebirds. We were about to get back into the cars again when Unoyo's sharp ears caught the sound for which we have listened in vain at that area so many times in the last few years -- a skylark's song! We rejoiced.

The eucalyptus and paper bark trees which had drawn such wonderful numbers of apapane the last two years had almost finished with their blooming season, hence we could not return with the spectacular numbers of those years. But Poamoho was beautiful, as always, and we felt dissatisfied only in missing an iiwi, or perhaps the garrulax to make up for the missing iiwi.

A continual fine rain and the chilly atmosphere (62° - 64°) reminded us that this is winter in Hawaii. But it did not dampen our ardor.

REVIEW:

Schwartz, Charles W. and Elizabeth Reeder Schwartz The Hawaiian Stilt. (Auk, 68(4):505-506, 1951, pp 16 21) Notes on this "vanishing bird." Though there were about 200 in 1944, there seemed to be about 1000 on 1946 47, due to protection. They find the most favorable habitat on Oahu, "mud flats and the fresh and brackish marshy areas and shallows of reservoirs, lakes, and ponds." Niihau, Kauai, and

Maui have smaller flocks, however. The stilt's breeding time is not well known. "...in the first week of April, 1947, we observed what appeared to be three family groups of adults and young. ." The six plates are of stilts in flight, resting on a pond, probing in the mud and merely standing at ease.

LETTER from Helen Shiras Baldwin (Island of Hawaii):

(Excerpts) I'd like to mention that in late August or early September I saw ten nene flying in the saddle between Mauna Kea and Mauna Loa. There were four of us in the party that saw them. The nene were almost overhead. We could see the striping on their necks plainly. The same day we saw and heard the omao in a kipuka ("island" in a lava field) near the spot where we saw the nene.

Last month my husband and I were at Puuwaawaa and saw and heard seven crows. They were very noisy, but shy, and we could not get near them in the time we had... A Mr. Nakamura, working on a fish survey, reported seeing a small flock of uau in November near Malama-ki. He described them as black-headed, white-faced birds with white underparts and glossy black head and wings. Said they flew like bats...

FIELD TRIP:

On Sunday, January 13th, the field trip was made up of seven members. We left our scheduled meeting place at 8:25 a.m., our destination, Kahuku Plantation, the specific objective to observe the shore birds at what little remains of the formerly large ponds between the Kahuku Plantation and the ocean front. Our weather was excellent. A stop was made at the Kahana Bay marshes where 4 coot, 2 Hawaiian gallinule and 1 mallard was seen. (Pearsall thinks the latter must have been a Hawaiian duck.) On the flats at Kahuku there were noted a single flock of about 200 pintail duck. Also the following were seen: ruddy turnstone about 200, golden plover 50, black-crowned night heron 6, and tattler 2. (not sure of the latter) Among trees and along the highway were noted: several Chinese and barred dove, Brazilian cardinal 2, ricebird 25, and mynah 40.

A good observation area has been the location around the Kahuku air base landing strip. This day, however, and likely it takes place every Sunday, we found the air strip in use by a group of people operating a hot rod club. Thus car races were being held which rendered bird observation in the vicinity unfavorable.

We left for home at about 1:30 p.m.

Ray H. Greenfield

FEBRUARY ACTIVITIES:

FIELD TRIP: Sunday, February 10, 1952, to Pa Lehua. Meet at the Library of Hawaii at 8:00 a.m. Bring lunch, water, and car (if possible).

MEETING: Monday, February 18, 1952, Auditorium, Library of Hawaii, at 7:30 p.m. Mr. George F. Arnemann will show colored slides of the Island of Kauai. Mr. Arnemann has gone into the most remote areas of the Island, and many of his slides show places which few persons have ever seen.

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HAWAII AUDUBON SOCIETY OFFICERS:

President:	Miss Margaret Titcomb
Vice-President	Mr. Ray H. Greenfield
Secretary:	Miss Grenville Hatch
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Editor, Elepaio:	Miss Margaret Titcomb
Address all mail to:	P.O. Box 5032, Pawaa Station, Honolulu 14, Hawaii

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