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WAAHILA HAWAIIAN GARDEN

By George C. Munro

In the Elepaio of June, 1953, I expressed hope that Mr. Charles Judd's Hawaiian Garden at Waahila might yet be found. I am pleased now to be able to say that the location of it has been definitely brought to light. Among my photographs I recently came across a picture of Waikiki Beach and the Moana Hotel which also took in St. Louis Heights. It gave the contour of the hillside as I knew it in 1933. It was taken by the "Air Service U.S.A.", in November 1923, ten years before I was there. It showed all the plowable ground on the upland as under cultivation and some rough laborers' houses. Now it seemed there was a better chance of finding the Waahila grove. My daughter-in-law, Fan (Mrs. James T. Munro), who had helped me on the other three attempts, was game to assist me on a fourth. So on August 4th we set out. We drove up to where the last road-making and housebuilding is going on, on the center ridge. I talked with Mr. Tom who was surveying the road and he said he thought from certain signs that pineapple had been planted there. I then realized that the photo was of pineapple fields and not of tree plantations, which were not started until some years after 1923. This was corroborated afterwards by Mr. J. D. Dole, who thought Chinese had planted there. Mr. Tom told me of the Government Land and Forest Reserve in the vicinity and that he had seen what looked like markers for trees such as I had seen Mr. Judd use there. This looked hopeful and we started up through the tall Norfolk Island pine plantation, Fan keeping on a trail while I worked along parallel to her within hailing distance. We worked up to near the head of the valley, finding only koa--of the native trees. We came onto a Geological Survey bench mark as indicated by a sign which read BM 1098.89, so I felt sure we were near the grove. Mr. Judd had said it was on government land at about 1000 feet elevation.

We started down, Fan keeping on an old road and I down on the slope near the edge of the steeper bank below. A tree with large divided leaf, strange to me, occupied the slope, but had no flowers or fruit. As we came near where we had entered the Norfolk Island pine plantation, the old road took us out to an open scrub-covered hillside above it on our left, running down alongside the building operations over the top of the ridge. This hillside is between the old road and the new town lots. Below the old road on our right the plantation of tall trees continued down into the bottom of the valley. I recognized the sloping hillside as I had seen it with Mr. Charles Judd in 1933, and about where I had planted seed of the Lanai form of Canavalia galeata. As I was searching through the scrub, Fan called that there was something like a marker. I went down, and read it, "Hibiscus brackenridgii June 1932" stamped on little metal strips tacked to a stake.

We had found Mr. Charles Judd's Hawaiian Garden, but, alas, the trees and smaller plants were not to be seen among the mass of low, foreign vegetation. We continued our search for a while and found another marker, but the painted name had been weathered off. Below the road there was another metal marker which read "Auracaria cunninghamii Aug. 1932". It was by some tall trees of the Queensland, Australia, species of that genus. This showed that we were amongst the labelled trees, what Mr. Judd hoped would be a show-place of the future. Some small, scrubby alii trees were seen and one was loaded with seed, of which I took a good supply for spreading in Na Laau Hawaii, to help make body for the forest, as it is one of the trees naturally there. It was time for us to return, so we left the label for the hibiscus till we could make a more careful search for plants of the species.

On August 12 we made a further search and found labels of Neowawraea phyllanthoides April 1933, Myoporum sandwicense April 1933, Sida meyeniana no date, and Santalum cuneatum, also without date. The first I was pleased to find as only one plant was set out of this tree--probably our largest, and now one of the rarest of our trees. I shall later make a very careful search, in case the live stump of it still remains. Its native name is mehamehame. We found plants of six other species but without labels. They were ohia, naio, alii, ulei, walahee and ko'oko'-olau. I found a few seeds of naio and brought the Myoporum label away and planted the seed in Na Laau Hawaii with it alongside and a typed explanation tacked to the pin. The ko'oko'-olau was flowering, so I shall get the scientific name from Miss Neal and hope to obtain seed from it later. It will make the eighty-first native species which I have planted (by seed) in Na Laau Hawaii, and the first of our numerous species of Bidens, known formerly as a Hawaiian genus Campylothecca.

The site of the Waahila Native Garden is a mass of not tall exotics--guava, oi, Christmas berry, strawberry guava, coarse grasses and other foreign plants--but not difficult to search through. There is no doubt that this was the site of Mr. Charles Judd's Hawaiian Garden where representatives of all the native species set out at Waahila were planted and labelled. I hope to visit it frequently, and will later report on anything additional in the native plants I find there.

The Waahila tree plantation is certainly a show place as far as the vigorous foreign trees are concerned. These cover the small valley sides and country above in a dense forest, with some native trees mixed in, up to the native rain forest. But the Hawaiian Garden has no large native trees, as it should have by this time. However, it may be that further research will disclose other groves with the missing trees.

The question now arises, why did the planted native trees die? Those there now are evidently from seed of the original trees. My theory is that, being raised in a nursery, they were not fitted to weather through the extra dry seasons they evidently met in succeeding years without help or protection from overcrowding by exotics. Mr. Judd's successor as executive officer with the Board of Agriculture and Forestry, before the present administration, was evidently not interested in the native plants and so this grove, started with such promise, was neglected and allowed to go to waste. Let us be sure that we make provision that a similar fate does not overtake Na Laau Hawaii. Mr. Colin G. Lennox, now President of the Board of Agriculture and Forestry*, is especially interested in saving the

* Mr. Colin G. Lennox is no longer President of the Board of Agriculture and Forestry, to our regret.

native plants, and is taking effective measures to that end. It is hoped that the effect of his efforts in that line will be perpetuated.

(Note: Written August 22, 1952, but misplaced, hence its late appearance. Other trips have been made to this site but nothing more of note found. But some seed has been obtained for Na Laau Hawaii.)

TANTALUS BIRD NOTES: the Shama thrush
by Priscilla Harpham

Since Christmas, 1952, we have been hearing a different bird with a beautiful song around our home. Needless to say, we have been very, very curious as to just what bird it might be. Our home is located in the lower rain forest, on the makai-ewa slopes of Tantalus, at an elevation of 1340 feet. At first, we only heard him sing occasionally, but of recent weeks we have heard his song every day, sometimes loud, sometimes soft, sometimes for hours at a time, a varied, full-throated song, almost human in quality. We felt that if he were the ugliest looking bird in existence, his song would make one forget his physical features. As it turns out, he is a very handsome fellow indeed, though very shy.

The first time I saw him--and a glimpse was all it was--he flew past our home into the lower branches of an avocado tree behind the hanahouse. I could only make out that he was mostly a glossy black, and that he had an extraordinarily long tail. From the avocado tree he flew a short distance away into a *Philodendron* vine growing up the trunk of a yellow wattle, an impossible place to observe birds. Some days later, Grenville Hatch and I spent part of an afternoon stalking this bird, and we were able to identify it as a male Shama thrush (*Kittaclincla macroura* (Gmelin)).

The area in which we observed this Shama thrush is typical of the lower rain forest, and is approximately one acre in size. The ground is slightly sloping in some places, dropping off sharply in other places. The vegetation includes high grass, some of which grows over fallen tree trunks, guava thickets, yellow ginger and bamboo. There are also many full-grown trees, the types which flourish in the lower forest levels of the Koolau range. His morning song generally starts from a bamboo thicket across the road and about 100 feet from the house. Sometimes he stays in that same location all day, other times he moves about over much of the area. Last Sunday he spent some time practicing a song which used the notes of a well-known bugle call from the panax hedge on the Diamond Head side of our house--and to this song there was an answering call from the forest below. That was the third time I could pick out two distinct calls. The fact that he (and his mate?) has stayed so long in this comparatively small area makes me wonder if it is a bird that settles down to a permanent residency, and if it observes territorial rights, like the Kentucky cardinal.

The Shama is quick of movement and seems to have a rather short flight span. It moves in darting spurts from branch to branch and from thicket to thicket, often very close to the ground. The manner of its movement, plus the fact that so much of its coloration is black, makes it a difficult bird to sight and follow. It also seems to seek out the shadows, the other side of the branch from the observer, or the largest leaves under which to perch. I have found that, in spite

of its very long tail, its appearance is deceiving, for, from one side-front position in which I saw it, with its tail out of sight, it looked very chubby. On the other hand, the very length and shape of its tail makes it an easy bird to identify, for the tail makes up more than half of the bird's length. Two other outstanding features in its markings are the black bib which comes down its throat, meeting the chestnut belly, and the patch of white on the rump. The picture of it in Munro's "Birds of Hawaii" is very good. E. L. Caum's description of the Shama thrush is as follows:

Length 11 inches, the tail taking over half of this. Male: a patch above the base of the tail white; remainder of the upper plumage, wings, and lower plumage to the lower breast glossy black; remainder of lower plumage bright chestnut except for whitish thighs. Tail black; all except the four middle feathers broadly tipped with white; bill black; legs pale pinkish. Female: similar; the black replaced by slatey brown and the chestnut by rufous; wing feathers narrowly edged with rufous.

The Shama's beautiful song is worth talking more about, though it is difficult to describe. This I should like to point out, however, that because of the timbre of the song, I doubt if anyone having heard and identified it, would ever mistake it for the song of any other bird. One should speak of its fluency, of its repetitious "bugle calls", of the glissanding scale techniques, of the bird's ability to repeat its song in another key. But most of all, one must point out the talent for imitating the songs and calls of other birds, and of humans. The day Miss Hatch and I were observing him, the Shama's singing and scolding and my whistling aroused the curiosity of the elepaio and red-billed liothrix, who also started to sing and scold. We were surprised when the Shama promptly answered the other birds, and in much sweeter tones! A couple of times the Shama has repeated after me a short musical phrase I have whistled to him. I have also heard him imitate our neighbor's chickens. The Shamas are not early birds--to my way of thinking--but confine their singing efforts to mornings and afternoons. I have never heard them earlier than 7:30 a.m. and it is more apt to be around 10 a.m. The latest afternoon performance has been about 4 o'clock.

Lorin Gill reports having seen the Shama in Pauoa flats in 1948, and in upper Manoa Valley in 1949. At intervals for the past three years they have been around his house, which is situated on the Round Top side of Tantalus. Since last summer, Mr. Gill states, three Shamas have been around his home often, and since Christmas of 1952, they have been there regularly. Why these birds should settle down in what appears to be a permanent manner in two widely separated spots on Tantalus at the same time of the year, is something to wonder about. There is also a follow-up on the observation made in upper Manoa valley. Miss Hatch reports having heard one possibly two, on the Manoa Falls trail on Saturday afternoon, April fourth.

The Shama thrush is a native of Ceylon, India, Burma, China, Siam and Malaysia. It is said to be one of the famous song-birds of India. It was first introduced in the Hawaiian Islands in 1931 by Mr. Alexander Isenberg, who liberated some on Kauai. It was introduced on the island of Oahu by the Hui Manu just before the last war, in 1940. It was brought in by Mr. E. H. Lewis, at that time in charge of the Honolulu Zoo, who had made an extensive collecting trip through some of the far-eastern countries. These Shama thrushes were released in lower Nuuanu, on the Alfred L. Castle grounds, in upper Nuuanu, near Luakaha, and at some homes in the

2400 block on Makiki Heights road. Last June some males were released at Luakaha. It is evident that some of these birds, or their offspring, have found their natural and preferred habitat.

Works consulted: Caum, E. L. Exotic birds of Hawaii, 1933, p. 41; Munro, G. C. Birds of Hawaii, 1944, pl. 19; Baker, E. C. S. The fauna of British India, including Ceylon and Burma, Birds, Vol. II, 1924, pp. 117-118; Oates, E. W. The Fauna of British India, including Ceylon and Burma, Birds, Vol. 2, 1890, pp. 118-120.

BIRD STUDY MEETINGS

At the last two meetings of the Hawaii Audubon Society, the major part of the time has been devoted to the study of one bird. Grenville Hatch has done most of the work of looking up all data concerning the birds, and reading it to the group, comments then in order. Books containing considerable data about the native Hawaiian birds are rare, and it is hoped that this will be a simplified way to know more about them. It is hoped too that comments will be made on the reports here given, so that our knowledge may eventually be well-rounded. Please send them in.

(Editor)

The APAPANE, Himatione sanguinea. Description: Length, 5". Crimson body, brighter on the head, white abdomen and under-tail coverts. Wings and tail black. Black, slightly down-curved bill. Black feet and legs. Legs long. Tail slightly notched. Sexes indistinguishable. Immature plumage, brown. Red comes through in blotches as the bird matures. Head first becomes blackish, mixed with orange. Mature plumage is arrived at within one year, and all birds breed in that plumage.

GENERAL DISCUSSION:

The apapane belongs to the Drepanididae family, nectar eaters. The Drepanids originated in the Americas, although the ancestor is not certain. Some nine families are possibilities, among them the tanagers and honey-eaters of Central America. The original strain came early to Hawaii, and became highly specialized, with many extreme forms. All Drepanids are divided into two classes, the Chlorodrepanids, with plumage which is basically green or yellow, and Melanodrepanids, which have considerable black in their feathers. The apapane belongs to the latter group, and is one of the most primitive, if not the most primitive of the Drepanids. It is found on all islands of Hawaii, undifferentiated, although there is one subspecies on Laysan, Himatione fraithi.

The apapane frequents the middle forest zone (1500-6000 ft.), the area of the most rainfall and the greatest variety of vegetation. It feeds upon nectar and insects, but seems to be more dependent upon nectar than the rest of the Drepanids. The lehua, which it matches exactly in color, mamake and koa are its favorite haunts. It is active while feeding, flicking its wings, and usually holding its tail erect..

The flight is strong, very irregular, dipping, erratic. The wings vibrate rapidly, making a clearly audible noise. In flight the white abdomen is the best field identification mark, distinguishing the apapane from the iiwi, with which it might be confused, though the shades of red of the two birds are not identical.

The apapane sings at all times of the day and year, a sweet song, with some variety of notes. Henshaw speaks of seeing them gather in companies in the tree tops about noon, when the males softly sing themselves and their mates to sleep.

The apapane is a bird of the treetops, frequenting that area, often in company with the amakihi. It usually, though not always, nests in the tops of tall ohia trees, although nests have been found in scrubby ohia, 7 to 10 feet above the ground. It nests early. Helen Shiras Baldwin reports seeing young in December (ELEPAIO, vol. 7:21). On the 1952 Christmas count we found apapane carrying nesting material. Scott Wilson writes of dissecting a female on May 24th, with an egg almost ready for exclusion. The number of broods a year has not been recorded, so far as I can find.

The nest is 4"x6", with a bowl 2"x2". It is made of twigs, grass, moss, and a layer of pulu (fern bark) usually lined with fine grass. The nest is soft, not compact. Three eggs are laid, white with streaky reddish brown spots, thicker in a band around the large end.

The Hawaiians made frequent mention of the apapane in song and myth. The plumage was not used for feather work to a great extent, although some capes and "waist coverings" were made of the feathers.

REFERENCES:

- Amadon, Dean The Hawaiian honeycreepers (Aves, Drepaniidae), p. 174
 Henshaw, W. H. Birds of the Hawaiian possessions, pp. 56-57
 Munro, George C. Birds of Hawaii, pp. 90, 96-97
 Northwood, J. d'Arcy Our familiar Hawaiian birds, p. 49
 Rothschild, W. Avifauna of Laysan, Part 3, p. 141, 143-145
 Wilson and Evans Aves Hawaiiensis, pp. 19-22

Grenville Hatch

FIELD TRIP, March 29, 1953 - to Pa Lehua, in the Waianae Mountains

As far as we were concerned the bird of the day was the Japanese bush warbler. The small group of birders who went on the Saturday hike to Pa Lehua were constantly on the alert for this extremely shy and elusive bird. We heard its call frequently, but it continually escaped our eyes. Shortly before lunch, however, three of the party were rewarded with a fairly close view of one, preening itself on a branch while repeating its distinctive call at short intervals.

Earlier in the day we had all enjoyed watching two perky-tailed elepaio hop and flit about in the lehua trees beside the trail. A third which sat still on one of the branches was found to be a baby elepaio. All during the hike we saw a number of crimson and black apapane and greenish-yellow white-eyes. Also seen, but less frequently, were amakihi, liothrix, linnet and-mostly along the approach road-Kentucky and Brazilian cardinals, barred and Chinese doves, sparrows and mynahs.

Everyone was glad he went on this hike. It was a perfect day, clear and sunny, with a good breeze blowing across the ridge trail. Beside the varied bird life.

the scarlet lehua and yellow ko'oko'olau blossoms added their color. The magnificent views of Pearl Harbor and Diamond Head on one side and Nanakuli and Waianae on the other, contributed their share to the total beauty of Pa Lehua in the Waianae.

Bird count: 4 plover, 6 rice birds, 1 Kentucky cardinal, 3 Brazilian cardinals, 6 elepaio, 12 bush warblers, 1 linnet, 9 amakihi, and 27 apapane.

Lovetta Kuhns

NOTES:

Interesting news comes from Mr. J. d'Arcy Northwood, president of our Hawaii Audubon Society from its founding until he left Hawaii in 1944 to take a position with the National Audubon Society. He has just been appointed Curator of Audubon Shrine at Mill Grove, Pennsylvania. He sent a leaflet picturing the place--very handsome old place. He and his wife will live in part of the mansion, and enjoy the beautiful spot, which he intends to develop as a sanctuary and memorial to the genius of Audubon, for he lived there as a young man of nineteen when he first came to America. There he met Lucy, his future wife, without whose help he would have been a failure. Mr. and Mrs. Northwood are most excited about this new task and honor. We congratulate them on the opportunity. They are sure to carry out the project well. Perhaps they will occasionally have time to let us know how the development progresses.

Has everyone had a chance to read of the opening of the new headquarters of the National Audubon Society, in the former Harrison Williams mansion at 94th Street and Fifth Avenue, New York City? The New York Times, of February 19th, 1953, gives a short article to the topic, stressing the Society's force in conservation, and ending with: "The interrelationship of wildlife, forests, water and soil--and on man is the premise on which modern conservation rests. In its larger headquarters the Audubon Society will be able more effectively to carry on its excellent work."

All Audubon Societies such as our own feel pride in this good luck for the national headquarters.

A clipping from the Auckland Weekly of Jan. 15th, 1953, says that "The sum of 7000 pounds was paid at Christie's auction room, London, recently for a complete set of John Audubon's four-volumed "Birds of America", the greatest ornithological work ever written.... The purchaser was W. H. Robinson, a book dealer of Pall Mall, who said, 'I have wanted it for years.' Audubon (1785-1851) published his book first in London (four volumes 1827-1833) and in New York in 1840-44 (seven volumes).

NEWS NOTE

Unoyo Kojima writes from Arlington, Virginia, where she is stationed with the W.A.C.s, "Though it is still considered winter (March 9th) and the snow is still on the ground the song sparrows, robins, blue birds, white-throated sparrows all very gently and yet distinctly announce that spring is here. Even the flowers are blooming. Red, yellow and pink crocuses are blooming all over. Daffodils and narcissus are in flower shops."

NEWS OF THE GARRULAX

On April 19th four of us heard the garrulax in at least three separate areas on Poamoho trail, less than a mile from the beginning of the trail proper. The birds were all deep in the gulches, and while they responded to Robert Pyle's whistle, they refused to come closer and display themselves.

G. H.

MAY ACTIVITIES

FIELD TRIPS:

May 10th. To Waianu valley: This is close to Waiahole, beautiful country, with wonderful views of the land and sea. Mr. Thomas McGuire, leader. Meet at the Library of Hawaii at 8:30 a.m.

May 24th. To the booby colony at Ulupau Head. The boobies are nesting, and we should be able to watch them without disturbing them from their nests. Meet at the Library of Hawaii at 7:00 a.m. With an early start, and a short trip, we may be able to go on from Ulupau to other fields. Mace Norton, leader.

MEETING

May 18th, at the home of Miss Margaret Titcomb, 1523 Thurston Ave. Those who can do so, come at 6 p.m., bringing picnic supper. There is a grill in the yard, if you want to broil a wiener. The supper gathering is fun, but if you can't manage that, come for the meeting at 7:30. This time Blanche Pedley will lead the discussion on the creeper. Take the Punahou bus to Wilder and Pensacola, walk one block to Thurston, then a longish block to 1523.

HAWAII AUDUBON SOCIETY OFFICERS: President, Miss Grenville Hatch; Vice-Presidents, Mr. Mace Norton, Miss Margaret Titcomb; Secretary, Mrs. Ruth R. Rockafellow; Treasurer, Mrs. Blanche A. Pedley.

EDITOR, THE ELEPAIO: Miss Margaret Titcomb.

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