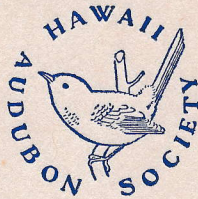


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HAWAII AUDUBON SOCIETY BIRD COUNT 1952

Tabulation of the bird count taken on the Island of Oahu by members
of the Hawaii Audubon Society on December 21 (Poamoho)
and December 28, 1952

	Kaneohe M.A.S.	Bellows Kuapa	Tantalus Trail	Resid. Areas	Poamoho Trail	Total
Amakihi					39	39
Apapane					348	348
Booby, red-footed	215est*					215
Cardinal						
Brazilian	4	7		2		13
Kentucky	9	39	15	8	4	75
Coot, Hawaiian	153est					153
Dove						
Barred	40	31		95	9	175
Chinese	21	38	1	13	8	81
Duck						
Pintail	273	23				296
Shoveller		2				2
Elepaio			12		17	29
Finch, house	2	1				3
Frigate bird	21	11				32
Gallinule	4	1				5
Iiwi					2	2
Liothrix			20		19	39
Mynah	35	29		86	6	156
Owl, Hawaiian		1				1
Plover, Pac. Golden	58	12		2	59	141
Ricebird	33	141est		105	99	378
Sanderling	2	1				3
Skylark, English					2	2
Sparrow, English	24	4		51		79
Stilt, Hawaiian	31	38				69
Tattler, Wandering	5	3				8
Tern, Hawn. noddy	6					6
Turnstone	40	7				47
White-eye	17	9	10	1	15	52
Waterfowl, unident.	906					906
TOTALS	1909	398	58	363	627	3355
Species	20	19	5	9	13	Total: 28

* estimated

December 1952 Bird Count: (all Areas except Poamoho)

Temperature: 65°-81°; Wind, NE, 0-24 m.p.h.; partly overcast.

Time: 6:45 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Total miles covered: 107½ (13½ on foot, 94 by car).

Terrain: ponds and marshes, 18%; tidal flats, 8%; sandy beach, 4%; open country, 16%; lower forest, 22%; residential areas, 22%; coastal headland and adjacent water, 8%.

Members present: 8 as follows: Priscilla Harpham, Grenville Hatch, Bernice Kuhns, Louetta Kuhns, Hans Meinhardt, Randolph Moore, Helen Peterson, Ruth Rockafellow.

Note: This report may or may not be interesting to other bird clubs. The National Audubon Society is no longer publishing reports from outside continental United States, which gives us liberty to adapt this yearly count to our own conditions, when such change seems necessary.

ACCOUNTS FROM PARTICIPANTS:

Poamoho. Christmas count and rain on Poamoho are apt to coincide, so the Poamoho group agreed to go on the 21st, if that day promised to be fair. Heavy rains during the night of the 20th made the project doubtful, but we left town at 6 the next morning, alternately rejoicing in the stars and gloomily contemplating the cloud-shrouded mountains. At 6:45 we stopped close to Wheeler Field. The birds were just beginning to stir, and we picked up a fair count of rice birds, a few plover, and, to our delight, two skylarks greeting the dawn.

Mr. Norton skillfully guided the car over the treacherously slippery pineapple roads, and parked close to the entrance of the jeep road. The weather was perfect: cool, clear, with occasional clouds, but no rain. The paper-bark trees had almost completed their blooming, though enough remained to attract some apapane. There was no lehua in flower. The large apapane count this year was almost wholly gained by slow progress, stopping at each gulch along the way. It could probably be duplicated at any time, by the same method.

Iiwi were so elusive that we began to despair, and the two counted were heard, not seen. We looked and listened in vain for the garrulax, and twice tried very hard to turn an amakihi into a creeper, but honesty prevailed. However, there were no complaints--it had been a perfect Christmas count.

A stop at the old Aiea railway station added 8 stilt, 3 plover, 2 tattlers and 2 sanderlings to the numbers seen, but were not included in the Poamoho count.

Blanche Pedley, Ruth Rockafellow, Grenville Hatch and Mace Norton
(leader)

Area covered: Poamoho trail, adjacent pineapple fields, Wheeler Field.
Temperature and weather: 58°-73°, wind, NE, 0-18 m.p.h., sky mostly clear

Time: 6:45 a.m. to 1:15 p.m. Total hours (on foot) 6¼

Terrain: Upper forest, 92%, open country 8%.

Birds: Chinese dove, 8; barred dove, 9; Pacific golden plover, 59; Kentucky cardinal, 4; mynah, 6; red-billed liothrix, 19; ricebirds, 99; skylark, 2; white-eye, 15; amakihi, 39; apapane, 348; elepaio, 17; iiwi, 2. Total birds, 627; total species, 13.

Bellows Field and Kuapa Pond. December 28, 1952. This particular Sunday morning I was up before the birds--just what was expected of me if I was to participate in the annual bird count. Nevertheless, an effort! I arrived at the meeting place just in time to be picked up by Grenville Hatch.

We reached the head of Kuapa Pond, on the way at 6:45 a.m. All of nature was awakening and the air was full of songs. Within half an hour we had the following count:

Kentucky cardinal, 5; White-eye, 2; Hawaiian stilt, 38; Turnstone, 7; Plover, 5; Shoveller, 2; Pintail, 23; Sanderling, 1; Chinese dove, 1. In all, 9 species.

Delighted with our day's start, we headed for Waimanalo, counting en route. While passing thru Kentucky cardinal territory, we were greatly disappointed in not seeing more of them. Perhaps it was a bit too early for the red bird. A look-see at Rabbit Island added nothing to our list, but we did see an owl along the highway a few minutes later.

We arrived at Bellows Field at 8 a.m. This is a recreation area for military personnel who have been to Korea. It is a beautiful place for them, and right it is that they alone have the hunting and fishing privileges which the area provides. We went to Bellows Field merely to see if a count in this area was advisable, and were amazed at the numbers of birds. When we left, at 11:00 a.m., our list read:

Gallinule, 1; Tattler, 3; Sparrows, 4; Kentucky cardinals, 34; White-eye, 7; Plover, 7; Chinese doves, 37; Frigate birds, 11; Rice birds, 141; Mynah, 29; Barred doves, 31; Brazilian cardinals, 7; Linnet, 1; Owl, 1.

Signed by "The Birder whom Santa remembered with binoculars"

Kaneohe and Kaelepulu Pond, December 28, 1952. There were just two of us on hand to cover the Kaneohe Marine Air Station and Kaelepulu areas. We counted the boobies on the farther slope of Ulupau Head through binoculars, since they were not nesting, but were wary as we approached. By the time we passed through their territory many had risen into the air. Our count was short of previous counts. Frigate birds were more numerous, possibly one cause for booby scarcity, for some could be seen disturbing the boobies in flight.

Near the gate, on the way out, we observed four small Hawaiian tern, sitting quietly on a long board at the far end of a tiny pool marked KAPU, in which were thousands of tiny fish. Two other tern were perched on the ends of poles sticking up out of the water. Occasionally one would flutter off its perch and down to pick up a fish a few inches away. We approached them slowly, to take pictures at close range. The birds were apparently unconcerned for we were able to get within five feet of the nearest before it flew away. The birds ignored the KAPU sign and enjoyed their lazy meal, gorging themselves with little effort.

We did not join them at their lunch but ate near the shore, hoping for a brief glimpse of a bristle-thighed curlew, but nary a sign. Most prominent were the stilts and turnstones in their brilliant plumage.

At Kaelepulu a large percentage of water-fowl stood or sat along the shore. With the sun facing us across the water, against bright clouds, it was almost impossible to identify fowl either on the water or on the shore at any distance. However, we took a total count and then subtracted what coots and gallinules we were

able to identify positively. One gallinule enjoyed apparent solitude on the marsh at the opposite side of the road where we had hoped to spy a few Hawaiian ducks. We also observed the electrically operated trap on the open ground near the pond where birds were evidently segregated for banding or other purposes. Grain covered its floor, but not a single bird was seen near the trap.

Our bird count:

	<u>Kaneohe Marine Air Station</u>	<u>Kaelepulu Pond</u>
Pintail ducks	92	253 est.
Coots	4	653 est.
Gallinules	0	4
Boobies	215 est	0
Frigate birds	21	0
Sanderlings	2	0
Turnstone	38	2
Hawaiian stilt	25	6
Hawaiian tern	6	0
Tattler	5	0
Plover	25	43
Laceneck dove	19	2
Barred dove	30	10
Mynah	9	26
Kentucky cardinal	5	4
Brazilian cardinal	3	1
White-eye	11	6
Linnet	2	0
Sparrow	22	2
Rice bird	18	15
	552 est	1,023
Total species:	19	14

CANNIBALISM IN FRIGATE BIRDS

(Mr. George C. Munro has responded most interestingly to the invitation for comment on Robert Phillips article on "Infanticide in Frigate Birds" in the Elepaio, Vol. 13, No. 6, p. 44, 1952)

While with the Rothschild Expedition along the Hawaiian Chain, in June and July, 1891, we saw vast numbers of frigate birds but I think it was only on Laysan Island that we saw cannibalism among them. When we passed through one of their numerously tenanted nesting places on that island, the sitting birds with eggs, or young, rose into the air and floated off to form a spectacular group to windward. Young birds of the same species in different stages of first plumage, distinguished by their white heads, gathered over the nests. A group would select a nest with a downy chick and, one after another, poise over it and try to grab the chick. When one succeeded it rose quickly to a height with the others following closely in its wake. When well up in the air, it dropped the chick and the quickest of the others caught it as it fell. This went on for a time as it passed from beak to beak until one of the followers swallowed it. We saw this repeatedly in the ten days we were

on Laysan. We did not see them take eggs or see adult birds rob nests, nor did we see them rob nests on other islands. On Lisiansky Island, we saw them pick up young tern and fly out over the lagoon with them, not always pursued by others, then drop the tern and catch it before it reached the water. If it failed to catch the chick which fell to the water, the frigate generally poised over it and picked it from the surface without alighting. On one occasion, however, the frigate bird alighted on the water and I was surprised to see it rise without difficulty. I had tested them on perfectly level ground and found that they seemed helpless there. They were, however, able to take advantage of a very slight elevation.

On Baker and Howland Islands of the Equatorial, or Line Islands, in September and October, 1924, and July and August, 1938, as well as on islands of the Phoenix Group, Samoa and Rose Island, frigate birds were seen in very large numbers. I do not remember seeing any cannibalism among them on either of these trips. I saw them try to catch young bridled tern as we released them from banding, but the tern ran for the tall grass, where they were safe.

It seems incredible that it would be the rule on Midway for them to carry off their own eggs or young. But as birds act differently at different times, in different places, and under different conditions, it would be interesting if Mr. Phillips and others who have the opportunity would follow up this custom carefully and find out for sure if it is the parent bird that carries off the egg or young. I have often read of these birds catching flying fish in flight, but I saw it only once, and that was off the coast of Lanai, where frigate birds are seldom seen. They were frequently seen flying over the land on the western end of Molokai but almost never over the land on Lanai.

George C. Munro, Dec. 15, 1952.

DECEMBER FIELD TRIP

Our first walk under the leadership of Mr. Tom McGuire was over the Aiea Trail, December 14th. Leaving the Aiea post office, we drove up the Aiea Heights road to the heiau, recently cleared and restored. An old military jeep road runs from here mauka in a rough ellipse.

Eugenia trees were full of liothrix. Here, too, are Norfolk Island pines, planted for reforestation in 1926. They are comparatively barren of birds. Molasses grass, distinguished by the rough texture of its leaves, and by the molasses-like odor that it exudes, was in light, feathery bloom. Imported into the islands for cattle feed, it has spread widely.

Eucalyptus robusta, or swamp mahogany, is also found along the jeep road. It is distinguished by its very thick, rough bark. All the eucalyptus along the trail are part of the reforestation program. A few birds were here--no white-eye--but when the eucalyptus is in flower, Mr. McGuire said that apapane and amakihi are numerous, even as low on the slopes of the Koolau range as this.

As we reached the trail proper, koa trees were found. Mr. McGuire pointed out that they had been planted many years ago, but do not thrive in this area. The life of the koa is only about forty years, and these doubtless will never be very large. Pukiawe, gayly decked (for Christmas?) with red berries, grew along the trail and along the edge of a wide erosion scar, now partially covered with vegetation.

Close to 1100 ft. elevation, Eucalyptus citriodora perfumed the air with a strong lemon odor. A little farther along, alahahele, a beautiful shrub with bright, shiny leaves was observed. The blossoms resemble those of the orange, but there were no flowers to be seen at this season.

Above 1100 feet, we began to find numerous small sandalwood trees all along the way. To me this was the most noteworthy feature of the trail--to see how sandalwood is coming back. We learned that sandalwood consorts with koa or ohia lehua, drawing nourishment to some extent from these or other trees along root systems.

All of us were interested in the akia, the crushed leaves of which were used to stupefy fish in shore pools. This was found at about 1200 feet elevation, and here too began to appear the tree ferns and ieie in the gulches. A grove of paper-bark trees, with a few scattered blossoms, was at 1300 feet, some others here and there along the trail.

Three of us decided to go no further when we had reached Pua Uau. We rested and ate lunch under the koa and ohia trees, rewarded by close views of the elepaio that came to inspect us. Others completed the circle and reported that they went little--if any--farther than we did on the return trip.

The bird count was:

Elepaio, 15; Cardinals, 2; White-eye, 7; Amakihi, 11.

We were most grateful to Mr. McGuire for being the leader and teaching us so much about the plants--which is our desire now.

Grenville Hatch

ARTICLES ON PACIFIC BIRDS

Notes on some petrels of the North Pacific. By Oliver L. Austin, Fr. (Bull. Mus. Comp. Zool., Harvard, 107(7):391-407, 1952)

Two mentioned are seen in Hawaii. That is, they breed on Laysan: Pterodroma breviceps and Oceanodroma castro--the gad-fly petrel and the Madeiran fork-tailed petrel (the name certainly shows that this bird knows both of the great oceans!).

The Hawaiian coot. By Charles W. and Elizabeth Reeder Schwatz.

(The Auk, 69(4):446-449, 1952)

The authors state that the Hawaiian coot, or alae keokeo, has "maintained itself in sufficient numbers to be fairly common on most islands at the present time..." They report their own findings at various spots on the islands, give measurements, notes on lice infestation, food. As to their future, "At present sufficiently numerous to insure survival; however, the current reclamation program of the large marsh areas on Oahu will certainly disperse the species to less desirable habitats on that island and in all probability, drastically alter its status there. Barring some unforeseen adverse factor, coot numbers will doubtless remain relatively stable on other islands as long as the present land-use pattern continues."

How long ago was this written? The present land-use pattern seems to be one of constant change. MT

NEWS FROM MEMBERS

Christmas greetings were received from Mr. Thomas Blackman, from Perris, California and from Howard and Bessie Cogswell, from Mills College, California, and Charlotts Hoskins, Westport, Connecticut.

Charlotta Hoskins lives near a pond where swans, ducks, herons, gulls and other water fowl lure her to see them often.

Howard Cogswell is teaching in the Zoology Department, plans a course in ecology for this spring, and a course in ornithology for the next spring. Looking ahead! He reports one student from Hilo, who may or may not return to Hilo, but is already enthusiastic about "nature".

CATASTROPHE at KAELEPULU POND

(Excerpts from Honolulu Advertiser, 1/16/53):

Migratory birds on Kaelepulu Pond decreased sharply in numbers--reported the game biologists of the Territorial Board of Agriculture and Forestry. The trouble is botulism poisoning. Two hundred affected birds have been captured and taken to the Honolulu Zoo, where in pure water they recovered rapidly. Workers are hopeful that the recent rains will raise the water level in the swamp and thus help to destroy the poisonous organism.

Birds taken to the Zoo include a green winged teal, reported only once or twice before here. It is the smallest, fastest and "considered second prettiest" of all the ducks.

NEW APPOINTEES:

Mrs. Antonia Burritt has kindly consented to handle the publicity for the Society. The good articles which have appeared in January attest to her efficiency. Mrs. Audrey McTaggart has taken over the scrap book, and we may rest assured that nothing will escape her scissors. Mahalo, Mrs. Burritt and Mrs. McTaggart!

FEBRUARY FIELD TRIPS: We are experimenting with a second trip during the month.

February 8th: The Manoa Cliffs trail. This is a cleared, gradual ascent on Tantalus, with many interesting native and exotic plants, and good birding. Mr. Thomas McGuire, leader. Meet at the Library of Hawaii at 8.30 a.m.

February 22nd: To Poamoho. Let's get off early enough really to see birds. (This still is not quite early enough, but perhaps we had better work up to early hours gradually!) Meet at the Library of Hawaii at 7:00 a.m.

FEBRUARY MEETING:

February 16th, 7:30 p.m. We will meet this time in the Board of Parks and Recreations Building, which is the small red brick building next to the Board of Water Supply, behind the old Mission Memorial. There is ample parking space on the Hotel St. side. Specimens brought back from the Feb. 8th trip will be examined and discussed. We shall also take up study of the elepaio in detail, with all members contributing information and questions.

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.

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