

THE ELEPAIO

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Hawaii Audubon Society*



*For the Better Protection
of Wildlife in Hawaii*

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CENSUS OF THE TERNS ON MANANA OR RABBIT ISLAND, MAY 30, 1954 Taken by Frank Richardson and Grenville Hatch

The following estimates must be considered rough, but are probably conservative, because of the difficulties of trying to judge large numbers of flocked, mingling, or widely scattered sea birds or their eggs.

	Estimated eggs (and a few young)	Estimated adults
Common Noddy Tern	7620	15350
Sooty Tern	16010	32020

However, a planned attempt was made to census all the tern breeding areas on Manana by one means or another. The route taken to cover the pertinent parts of the island was along the lower S and W slopes starting directly S and under the main peak, above the wave-bench beyond the W beaches, up to the crater rim and around it below the N peak, across the E saddle, up the ridge to the main peak, down the W ridge and around the crater rim to where it was first met.

No standard census method could be used because of widely varying densities of birds or eggs in different regions. Actual egg counts were made three times along the S and W lower slopes and four times along the crater rim over approximately measured areas of from 100 to 400 square yards. These counted areas were used as units in estimating eggs in similar adjacent areas. On broad and steep slopes, generally with well-scattered birds, visual estimates of total adults were made and the number of eggs estimated at half this. Where just eggs were counted, the number of adult birds was estimated at twice the number of eggs.

Just a few Wedge-tailed Shearwaters were seen as we did not traverse much of their breeding ground. One gets the impression, though, that there are fewer than in past years perhaps because the vegetation is so thick on Manana this year. Much of the vegetation is dead now but the shearwaters may find it difficult to get in and out of it especially in the crater. A flock of from 20 to 30 Ruddy Turnstones was seen, a rather late date for these migrants. One Bulwer's Petrel was found above the W wave bench and, although this species was not thoroughly searched for, it seems to be less common than in previous years.

No rabbits were seen but fairly fresh droppings indicate that there are still some on the island. They could best be eliminated in the fall when vegetation is at a minimum. No signs of molestation by humans were seen but returning to the beach, we found that one swim-fin and one fish spear sling had been stolen by someone who had come onto the island while we were above by the crater.

Approximately five hours were spent on the island - 9:30 A.M. to 2:30 P.M. approximately. The day was mostly sunny with some high cloudiness and a brisk E tradewind.

REPORT OF THE AUDITING COMMITTEE FOR THE AUDUBON SCREEN TOURS - 1954

This is a separate account and does not include the regular fund of the Society.

Receipts		
From Foundations	\$400.00	
Hui Manu gift - 1954	100.00	
Hui Manu gift - 1955	100.00	
School showings	1500.00	
Ticket sale	1295.40	
Excise tax overpayment (to be refunded)	<u>103.17</u>	\$3498.57

Disbursements		
Brochures-printing-stationery	144.00	
Postage-radiograms	79.56	
Advertising-posters	199.11	
Auditorium-projectionists	275.00	
Entertainment-leis	32.34	
License-Excise tax	322.87	
Other expense	47.80	
To National Audubon Society (schools and travel expense)	1725.00	
Reserve Fund	500.00	
Profit on lectures	<u>172.89</u>	\$3498.57

Margaret E. Newman (written)
Margaret E. Newman,
Treasurer

Examined and found correct - June 16, 1954

Auditing Committee: Margaret Smith, Chairman
Blanche Podley
Euphie Shields

ALOHAS

This month we find ourselves on the other side of the "gulch;" namely, instead of welcoming mainland visitors, we have had to bid Aloha to the following:

Irma Botsford, who is spending her vacation on the mainland, will return in time for the opening of school to resume her duties as Secretary of the HAS.

Margaret Titcomb, the Screen Tour Chairman, is on sabbatical leave for six months; is visiting in the New England States compiling data and perhaps doing a bit of hanahana. We are eagerly awaiting her return.

Grenville Hatch, whose horizons seem to be unlimited; length of stay indefinite and itinerary the same, however, we do know she will eventually return.

Dr. Frank Richardson and family who have returned to their home in Reno, Nevada. The year they have spent with us has left us with a treasure of fond memories and only the future can reveal the extent of the scientific wealth that has been contributed to the HAS and Hawaii Nei.

To you ALL we say ALOHA NUI LOA.

Ruth Rockafellow

FIELD TRIP - July 11, 1954

The proposed field trip to Green Valley was changed to Pa Lehua at departure time, due to the heavy rain observed in the Koolaus. Pa Lehua was fogged in and only occasionally, until afternoon could the spectacular views be seen. The trail just beyond the bamboo grove is almost overgrown and because it was so wet and slippery half the party remained behind to bird the area around the road, while the others walked on to the cabin. Bird life at the cabin was minimum, only mejiros, a few elepaio, apapane and liothrix were seen. We were interested in a two note call of the apapane which a couple of us had not noticed previously. The first tone sounded like a c, the second down to f#. The party birding the road area spotted in addition to the above amakihi and a white tailed tropic bird soaring across the head of Lualualei valley. Later we walked a distance down to the lower trail to look for the Dyal thrush, and while we heard a call we thought might be it, nothing was seen. Sixteen different species were observed on the trip: 3 stilt and 3 black-crowned night heron at the Aiea-Pearl Harbor junction, Chinese and barred doves, Brazilian and Kentucky cardinals, rice birds, sparrows, majiros, liothrix, apapane, elepaio, amakihi, white tailed tropic bird, mynahs, and linnets.

BIRD NOTES

On June 11 a quick survey was made of the haunts of the migratory shore birds to determine the number still remaining on the island. At the Pearl Harbor-Aiea junction one plover in partial breeding plumage was seen. Further on at the Wai-pahu marsh area two plovers were observed, one in breeding plumage, the other in partial breeding plumage. At Kahuku in the late afternoon we were amazed to find 84 Ruddy turnstones who appeared to be settling down for the night on the rolling hillocks. They did not seem to be in a highly organized flock close together, but rather loosely knit. The plumage seemed a little darker than their usual winter garb. One interesting feature was their tendency to face towards the northeast. We were having a typical trade wind from the northeast, and wondered if there was any connection. We will appreciate comments on this.

Waikiki: A report had been received about the evening flight of flocks of small birds thought possibly to be mejiros. Ruth Rockafellow followed this up and one evening recently observed two flocks following close behind the other near Kaiolu Street flying mauka towards the Ala Wai. There were about 50 to 75 birds in each flock. Their flight was direct, fast and silent. They were possibly 20 feet above the ground. We will look forward to comments about this, whether mejiros tend to flock together at night, and roost in particular trees.

AUGUST ACTIVITIES

FIELD TRIPS:

August 8. To the Zoo to observe the birds with particular emphasis on the distinguishing feature of the ducks which migrate here. Helen Chambers will review the pintail and Dorothea Taylor the shoveller. Meet at the Zoo at 8:00 A.M.

August 23. A trip around the island to the various ponds and beach areas frequented by plover to check on early arrivals. Meet at the Library of Hawaii at 7:00 A.M. Transportation .75.

MEETING

August 16 at 7:30 P.M. in the Community Board Room of the YWCA. Mrs. Florence Macintyre will review the habits and habitat of the Hawaiian owl, known to the Hawaiians as pueo.

HAWAII AUDUBON SOCIETY OFFICERS: President, Miss Grace Gossard; Vice-Presidents, Mrs. Blanche A. Pedley, Miss Margaret Titcomb; Secretary, Miss Irma Botsford; Treasurer, Miss Margaret Newman.

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