

# THE ELEPAIO

Journal of the  
Hawaii Audubon Society



For the Better Protection  
of Wildlife in Hawaii

Volume 15, Number 7

January 1955

## Bird-watch on the Rhine (International Ornithological Congress, 1954)

Here every bird is classified at sight,  
Awake, asleep or stuffed; and it if flies  
May feel below it, following its flight,  
Six hundred pairs of knowledgeable eyes  
Turned by six hundred men whose costume shows  
The cut of thirty-seven national kinds,  
But all binocularized, with weathered brows  
And other-wordly minds.

Here Sims and Wade re-tune the crossbill's calls,  
And Kramer gives complacency a jolt  
With sun-steered mass migration; here there falls  
A stricken hush when Ingram speaks of moult.  
Here at this meeting-place of east and west  
For hours on end six hundred of them sit  
Pooling their common human interest  
About the penduline tit.

And Saxon democrats applaud when Slav  
Slaves of totalitarianism tell  
How in between their nuclear bursts they have  
Been not unmindful of the dotterel:  
And hand clasps weather-beaten hand, and man  
With weather-beaten man like woman weeps  
To hear how soft from the recording-can  
The infant curlew peeps.

So sweet is useless knowledge, who can fail  
To be most moved towards the man who shares  
A hoard of hard-won secrets which entail  
No possible effect on man's affairs?  
Show me that man, and I will be his friend,  
And hardly pause to think how strangely can  
The inscrutability of birds extend  
The brotherhood of man.

P. M. Hubbard  
PUNCH, 6/16/54

## CONSERVATION IN NEW ZEALAND

By George C. Munro

Some remarks in Dr. Olaus J. Murie's otherwise fine article on New Zealand in the Audubon Magazine, May-June, 1949, are astonishing to me. In reading it one would think that New Zealand had been a more "horrible example" in lack of conservation than other colonizing countries and that New Zealanders were just awakening to the necessity of protection for its fauna and flora. Could there be a more "horrible example" than our handling of Laysan Island in the enlightened early 1900's?

Dr. Murie did not intend to be critical but even wished to be complimentary to the New Zealanders in that they were realizing the necessity for conservation. But he is quite wrong. He evidently talked with people there who were dissatisfied with what had been done in the past and deplored the mistakes that had been made. They are fighting now for more effective conservation, just as we are doing now in the United States and particularly in Hawaii. I much doubt if they have as hard a fight as we have here in Hawaii. I well remember the fight Theodore Roosevelt, Gifford Pinchot, John Muir and others had for conservation in the United States in the early 1900's.

New Zealanders were very much awake to the necessity for conservation 60 years ago when I joined the Auckland Institute, connected with the Auckland Museum. I received my first column of the Transactions and Proceedings of the New Zealand Institute in 1889. I might explain that the Transactions were compiled from a selection from the papers read before the various scientific societies, then five in number, connected with the museums in the principal cities. I quote from the tenth meeting (in the year) of the Auckland Institute, November 11, 1899: "A discussion arose on the desirability of again pressing on the notice of the Government the suitability of constituting Little Barrier Island a reserve for preservation of the native flora and fauna of New Zealand ... a resolution to that effect was unanimously agreed to ..." At the Annual Meeting, February 19, 1894 it was unanimously resolved, "That this meeting views with regret the delay that has taken place in securing the Little Barrier Island for the purpose of preserving some of the rarer birds of New Zealand ..."

The Auckland Institute did not relax and eventually succeeded. At a meeting in 1899 it was told that: "The Management of the Little Barrier Island ... still remains in the hands of the Institute." Little Barrier Island has been a bird sanctuary for the last 50 years. Dr. Murie, when in New Zealand was no doubt taken to see this wonderful New Zealand bird preserve. How I wish we had an island like it here in Hawaii to preserve our wonderful flora and avifauna. It would mean a big fight to secure it for the preservation of our plants and birds, but it would be well worth it.

New Zealand, for a small and young country has put up a good fight for conservation, in fact she was early in the game. But she has been up against the same thing as we in the United States. That is the people that cannot see anything in spending money or effort on something that does not give a monetary return and those sportsmen who cannot think of any sizeable bird except as something for sport shooting. They have a different view of life to those of us who wish to preserve as much as possible of natural conditions for study and enjoyment of future generations. Things of beauty may appeal to them but a sentiment for the things of the past is not appreciated by them. So it will always be a fight for which side will have the upper hand. The conservationists will win in the end but much will have been lost in the meantime. The three extinct birds of little Laysan or Sand Island can never be replaced.

When I was in New Zealand in 1947 I was told that a man could not "fall bush" i.e. cut down forest, on his own land without a permit from the Government. So great was felt the necessity for preserving the native forest. If I remember correctly it was cited as one of the arbitrary laws that the much criticised Socialistic Labor Government had enacted.



We have read of late of American scientists visiting the Snares Island and might easily get the impression that these sub-Antarctic Islands south of New Zealand are only now being studied. Certainly there is always something to be learned but these islands were studied by New Zealand scientists many years ago. Back in the 1880's the New Zealand Government had depots of provisions in shelters on a number of islands under its jurisdiction. This was for shipwrecked and marooned seamen. The depots were periodically visited and replenished by the Colonial Government steamer "Hinemoa". Scientists were taken on these trips and Captain Fairchild of the "Hinemoa" was very thoughtful in helping them with their studies. I hoped at one time to go as assistant to one of them but it did not eventuate.

A paper by F. R. Chapman treating on one of these trips, read before the Otago Institute May 13, 1890, occupies 82 pages of the Transactions. The Snares, Auckland Islands, Northern end, and West coast, South part; Cauley Harbor, Adams Island; Campbell Island; Antipodes Island; and the Bounty Islands were visited. Macquarie Island was then under the Tasmanian Government and it was mentioned in the article that it would be better under New Zealand as it was so far from New Zealand that seal poaching could be carried on there. I think it has since come under the New Zealand Government. At any rate the remarkable colony of king penguins, its sea lions and fur seals are now protected. For a time the king penguins were killed for their especially fine oil which was hauled out to the waiting vessel in steel drums so rough was the landing. I have read that there was not a piece of wood large enough to make a lead pencil on the island.

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#### BIRD NOTES

For the past few years, a few Liothrix have been heard and seen around Roosevelt High School at certain season of the year, so it was no surprise when I heard a few calls during the last week of October. But on Monday, November 1st, 1954, I could hardly believe my ears when suddenly I became conscious of their song all about me. On the 2nd of November - Election day and a holiday for schools - Miss Evelyn Johnson, registrar at Roosevelt, called to tell me that the banyan trees in front of the school were filled with them. All during this month they have been coming down in large flocks, staying for a few hours, usually in the morning, then disappearing to other feeding grounds, to return a few days later.

Blanche A. Pedley

Two years ago on November first, my husband and I were frantically searching through the guava thicket in the lot next to our home on upper Paty Drive for our newly acquired dachshund who had gone astray, when we both were startled by the loud whistle of a bird within a few feet of us. We were certain the bird was right at hand, but neither of us could spot it. Since then, I have often had that same exasperating experience of hearing it calling and whistling either in the guava trees just outside the window, or singing from a tree at the edge of forest back of our house. But I had never caught more than a fleeting glimpse of it, in spite of the fact that it seemed to stay in the same spot for some time and was not easily alarmed.

Last Saturday, November 20th, I was awakened by its call about seven o'clock, the earliest I had ever heard it. In double quick time I was dressed and outdoors, determined to see it this time. At last luck was with me, and I finally did spot it on an ironwood tree - a large bird about the size of a mynah, olive brown in color, rather chunky and with a long, white mark extending around the eye to the ear. To me, the white marking about the eye looked like a long, white eyebrow. And there was no doubt about it, it was a Chinese thrush. Later in the morning, I got within ten or fifteen feet of him while he was feeding between songs on Christmas berries, and again later while feeding in a wild plum and a guava tree within a few feet of our back door. Each time he would spend several minutes on the same spot, singing lustily. The coloring and the tendency of the bird to remain still while singing is no doubt the reason I have had so much trouble seeing him before. I did not hear him make a call or sound while in flight.



Since we first heard him two years ago, I have noticed that he will be around for a few weeks and then disappear for months. During the time he is here, he comes down from the forest above, about eight in the morning, stays in the vicinity for a half hour or so, then works his way makai, keeping to the edge of the forest. Between eleven and twelve o'clock in the morning, he is usually back again and quite often I hear him again in the afternoon sometime between four and six taking the same route. Although I am not sure of the exact date, I believe he made his reappearance this fall during the last week of October.

Blanche A. Pedley

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### FIELD TRIPS

Our November 28 field trip began in the rain and ended in a deluge. Poamoho was scheduled and seven members and one guest showed up. We were pleased to have De. Edmister, President of the Chapel Hill, North Carolina Audubon Society, with us, though distressed at the paucity of birds we had to show him.

As we approached the Koolau mountains on one of the pineapple plantation roads we recognized we had probably been over optimistic, but when both Bob Pyle's car and my own began to skid around in the mud we knew we could never make the trail. In turning the cars around we were interested in the large number of golden plover feeding on a newly plowed field, but as they were almost the color of the soil, with many hidden furrows, they were impossible to count. A few ruddy turnstone mingled in with them along with the usual doves and ricebirds.

We decided to while away a few hours until low tide and then examine the mud flats at Waipahu. We drove out towards Barbers Point, and for many of us it was our first sight of the Barbers Point lighthouse. We walked up the coast fighting wind and rain. It is a beautiful rough shore which was made more dramatic by the elements tearing at it. Here was one lone sanderling on the beach, and a few plover, dove, and cardinals hiding in the kiae groves.

Returning to the cars we ate our rain-sogged lunch, then drove towards Waipahu. We checked in at an area Mace Norton had found earlier, where, if tide and sun are right we can see shore birds at a close vantage. You enter the road between the high school and the bus station, follow it across the bridge and to a junction a block further on, then turn right for a half block, parking near the last house, then walking down the lane beside the gully to the railroad trellis and shore. (Never drive down the lane unless it is absolutely dry, for it took several men from nearby houses to pull me out a few weeks earlier when my car slid off the road.)

Again the rain was driving and all I could see was that there were some birds in the area. Joseph King and the Pyles, being hardier souls than our group, remained while we headed back to Honolulu. It was a sad mistake for they reported seeing 3 dowitchers. Bob Pyle also saw his first black bellied plover which very accommodatingly stood beside a golden plover, thus easing identification. Ducks were seen in the background, but the rain prohibited closer identification. I might add that this area was heavily flooded that night with considerable property loss to the residents.

Dropping off some of our party at the Ala Wai Terrace, we saw a large, round blue-green ball of lightning strike a light pole a half block away followed by a soul-shattering clap of thunder. Frankly, I was glad to finally reach my doorstep, albeit it was leaking. Incidentally, if you don't think it rained that day, the weather bureau has it that 9.15 inches fell at the airport during the day.

Grace Gossard



Manoa Falls Trail, December 12, 1954

Despite the promise of very unfavorable weather, three persons (Grace Gossard, Mr. Meissner, and J. King) showed up at the Library at the appointed time and proceeded to Manoa where the party was joined by Blanche Pedley. The purpose of the trip was to become better acquainted with upper Manoa Valley which is a heavily wooded area quite accessible to the City but, recently at least, has been rather neglected by the Society, and to make an attempt to see and hear the Dyal bird and the Shama thrush. Both of these unusual birds had reportedly been seen or heard recently in upper Manoa.

When we left our cars at the start of the Manoa Falls Trail, the wind was sweeping down the valley in gusts of 20 to 30 knots and the sky was heavily overcast. Although it did not actually rain during the morning, the weather was definitely not suitable for good birding.

The area of dense hau trees at the beginning of the trail and the heavily wooded section around the bridge and stream a little farther on were examined with binoculars and our ears were cocked for the distinctive whistles or songs of these birds. With nothing sighted except occasional Liothrix and white-eyes we moved on up the trail. Because of the strong wind there were few birds in the open; Liothrix in considerable numbers could be heard calling from sheltered pockets along the stream but few other birds were in evidence.

We reached the falls about 9:30 and returned by the same trail. Things had warmed up a little by this time and on our hike down the trail we observed cardinals (Kentucky), elepaio, Liothrix, ricebirds, and white-eyes. As we neared the bridge we heard the call of the Shama and were fortunate enough to catch a glimpse of its brilliantly marked plumage as it flew across a narrow opening in the undergrowth. For the next hour or so we followed it around through the hau trees occasionally hearing its whistle but failing to see the bird again. About noon we gave up and headed for home.

From our several visits to this area in more favorable weather, we are convinced that upper Manoa can provide excellent views of the mid-elevation birds such as those mentioned above. It is difficult, however, to reach apapane country from the valley floor. With patience and some dexterity in swinging through the hau thickets one can hope to see the Shama thrush -- or at least hear its tantalizing call. The Dyal bird still remains a mystery.

Joseph E. King

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#### AUDUBON SCREEN TOURS

A small number of the members of the Society have been working very hard in preparation for the Audubon Screen tours. It is the hope of the Screen Tour Committee that every member of the Society will not only attend the tours, but will also be responsible for selling a block of tickets.

Twenty-four hundred of the following letters have been mailed out:

The second series of Audubon Screen Tours will be presented in Honolulu in the spring of 1955, sponsored jointly by the Hawaii Audubon Society and the Bernice Pauahi Bishop Museum, and made available by the National Audubon Society. These programs, featuring wildlife and scenic attractions, have been widely acclaimed as among the most important phases of the National Audubon Society's campaign to increase public awareness of natural resources and the need for their conservation.

Mr. Robert C. Hermes will lead off the series on January 26th, 1955, with his film, "Bonaventure Diary". On the three-mile-long island of Bonaventure, lying just north of the Gaspé Peninsula, is one of the greatest bird cities of the North American continent. The film not only takes you to the heart of this great bird colony, but shows the rural beauty of the lovely little island as well.



The second lecturer, Dr. Telford H. Work, helped pay for his medical education by working as a wild-life photographer. His film, "Arctic to the Tropics", takes us on a sweeping tour from the arctic tundra through Canada and the United States to Fiji and New Zealand, showing bird, plant, and animal life enroute. This film will be shown on March 16th.

On April 20th, Dr. Olin Sewall Pettingill, Jr., will present his film, "In the Hills of Gold". Dr. Pettingill is a nationally known ornithologist whose writings are standard in that field. He found the Black Hills a treasure house of varied flora and fauna and has made a rich and colorful film of this region.

The film series will be presented at Dillingham Hall, Punahou Campus. We urge all of you to avail yourselves of the season tickets and to give them to friends wherever possible. The proceeds from this series will be divided with the National Audubon Society and the balance used by the Hawaii Audubon Society for a conservation project on this island, possibly a sanctuary for migratory birds. Anyone especially interested in assisting this project may do so by purchasing a patron's ticket.

Through the generosity of the Hui Manu and several local foundations the travel expenses of these lecturers have been taken care of, enabling us to offer the series to the schools at a price they can afford.

Please send in your order on the blank below, together with your check.

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Number

_____ Patron's season ticket . . . . .	\$10.00 each
_____ Season ticket . . . . .	3.30
_____ Single lecture-movie:	
_____ January 26th . . . . .	1.25
_____ February 16th . . . . .	1.25
_____ April 20th . . . . .	1.25

Make out check to:  
AUDUBON SCREEN TOURS

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_

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#### JANUARY-FEBRUARY ACTIVITIES:

January 16: Because of the New Year's weekend trip to Hawaii, the field trips for the month of January on Oahu will be taken on the third and fifth Sundays. The one on the 16th will be taken to Poamoho. A count will be taken to compare with previous years Christmas counts on this trail. Meet at the Library of Hawaii at 8 a.m.

January 30: Mr. Thomas McGuire is planning to lead this trip over the Judd Memorial trail in Nuuanu Valley. Meet at the Library of Hawaii at 8:30 a.m.

January 17: The regular monthly meeting will be held at the Honolulu Aquarium. 7:30 p.m.

January 26: First Audubon Screen Tour. Dillingham Hall, Punahou Campus.

February 18: First field trip of the month. Destination to be announced later.

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At the regular December meeting of the Society a slate of trustees and officers were presented to the Society by the nominating committee. The new officers are:

President: Mr. Robert Pyle	Secretary: Miss Margaret Newman
Vice-Pres: Miss Grace Gossard	Treasurer: Mrs. Blanche A. Pedley
Mr. Al Labrecque	Editor: Mrs. Priscilla G. Harpham

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DUES: Regular - \$2.00 per annum. Junior (18 years and under) - \$1.00. Life - \$50.00.