

THE ELEPAIO

*Journal of the
Hawaii Audubon Society*



*For the Better Protection
of Wildlife in Hawaii*

Volume 15, Number 8

February 1955

HAWAII AUDUBON SOCIETY BIRD COUNT 1955

Honolulu Count

The annual Christmas bird count was taken in Honolulu by Hawaii Audubon Society members on December 26, 1954. A week before the count, word was received that two of Hawaii's 1954 Christmas counts will be published in the annual count issue of the magazine, AUDUBON FIELD NOTES. The Honolulu counts had been published there up until a few years ago when a change of policy made it necessary to eliminate Hawaiian and other "foreign" counts from the magazine. But this year this restriction has been rescinded insofar as it applies to Hawaii, so that the counts taken in Honolulu and in the Hawaii National Park at Kilauea will be included along with more than 500 others from the Mainland and Canada. We are happy and pleased that Hawaii is no longer to be classed as "foreign", and this generous action should encourage continued strong support for the National Audubon Society and for AUDUBON FIELD NOTES.

The Honolulu count this year was restricted to a circle of $7\frac{1}{2}$ miles radius centered 0.4 mile NNE of Nuuanu Pali. This included Ulupau Head, Aiea trail from the heiau on up, Kuliouou pond, and all areas in between. Counting extended from 6 a.m. to 5 p.m. The weather was generally clear except for normal trade cumulus over the mountains. Temperature was 60° when our faithful Tantalus observer started on the trail at 6 a.m., and reached a high of 81° in the Sand Island area in the afternoon. The wind was northeasterly 12 to 18 m.p.h. There were 21 observers in the field who spent a total of 52 party-hours observing (42 on foot, 10 by car) and who covered 121 party-miles (29 on foot, 92 by car). This was more observers than had ever before participated in a Honolulu count, and they spent more time afield. As a result, 34 species were found, which again was more than had ever been found within a $7\frac{1}{2}$ mile radius on a single day. The previous high was 32 species recorded on the 1947 count. The total of 7485 individuals is at least 2500 higher than any previous count.

While at Ulupau Head, the party there trained a scope on Moku Manu island and made a rough estimate of the birds there, as follows:

600 Red-footed boobies

145 Man-o'-war birds

14 Brown boobies flying across field of view while other birds were being estimated.

These birds were in addition to those counted on Ulupau Head proper, but since Moku Manu lies outside the $7\frac{1}{2}$ mile radius, these birds were not included in the Honolulu count totals.

The tabulation of birds counted in each area appears on the following page. In the tabulation, the areas covered are identified by numbers, the key to which is to be found on page 43.

	AREAS																	TOTAL
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	
W-T Tropic-bird																	2	2
Red-f Booby																	(880)	880
Brown Booby																	9	9
Man-o'-war-bird																	21	21
Heron																1	2	3
Baldpate																2		2
Pintail		15														(600)	180	795
Shoveller																(200)		200
California Quail																	10	10
Ring-n Pheasant																	2	2
Gallinule		2													2			4
Coot		(303)													1	(120)	25	449
Golden Plover		53	14			7	12			28	5			46	39	(100)	92	396
Black-b Plover														1				1
Turnstone		3	24											96		37	36	196
Tattler		2												7	2		6	17
Sanderling														30				30
Stilt																3	9	12
Common Noddy																	1	1
Spotted Dove	12		10	10		20	2		14	199	23	1		1	19		41	352
Barred Dove	14		89	26		240	40	10		368	65	1	5	24	73		78	1033
Owl	1																	1
Leiothrix	18		12		15							38						83
Shama Thrush			4									2						6
Elepaio	18				5							4						27
Mynah	36		111	35		106	40	31	100	366	412	6	5	2	1	2	334	1587
White-eye	59		30	16	29	27	1		5	3	4	13			6	1	15	209
Amakihi	21				6													27
Apapane	31				2													33
Ricebird	2		22			79	6	25				7	4	6	55		75	281
English Sparrow	37		69			65	16	19	50	146	119						43	564
N Am Cardinal	11		5	7	11	19			5	9	6	5			9		28	115
Brazil Cardinal			7			15	2		2	16	3				1		5	51
House Finch	25			28	2					10	9			5	6		1	86

TOTALS	285	378	397	122	70	578	119	85	176	1145	646	77	14	218	214	1066	1895	7485
Nr of species:	13	6	12	6	7	9	8	4	6	9	9	9	3	10	12	10	23	34
Hours on foot:	7 $\frac{3}{4}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	4	3 $\frac{1}{4}$	3	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	3	3	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	2 $\frac{1}{4}$		1	1 $\frac{1}{4}$	$\frac{3}{4}$	4 $\frac{1}{4}$	42
Hours by car:		2	3										$\frac{1}{2}$			$\frac{1}{2}$	4	10
Miles on foot:	3	$\frac{1}{2}$	1 $\frac{3}{4}$		7 $\frac{1}{2}$	4 $\frac{3}{4}$	1 $\frac{1}{4}$	$\frac{1}{4}$	1	5	1	1 $\frac{1}{2}$		$\frac{1}{2}$			1	29
Miles by car:		19	35										12			1	25	92

() = estimated or partly estimated

The following areas were covered in this year's count:

- AREA
- 1) Aiea Trail: Mace Norton and John Obata
 - 2) Salt Lake, Damon Pond, Kalihi Basin, Sand Island: Mace Norton, John Obata, William and Suzanne Ohmstede
 - 3) Nuuanu Valley and Pali Road to Kaneohe: William and Suzanne Ohmstede and Nanette Ohmstede, aged 33 days
 - 4) Pacific Heights Yard: Thomas McGuire
 - 5) Tantalus Trails: Priscilla Harpham
 - 6) Makiki Area: Bernice and Louetta Kuhns
 - 7) Thomas Square, Punchbowl, Queens Hospital: Dorothea Taylor
 - 8) Pensacola Street: Al Stoops
 - 9) University, Mid-Pacific Institute: Irma Botsford
 - 10) Honolulu Zoo and adjoining sections of Kapiolani Park: Art Nakagami
 - 11) Sections of Waikiki: Ruth Rockafellow
 - 12) Manoa Falls Trail: Blanche Pedley, Joe King, E.H. Bryan, Grace Gossard, and Ralph Yorsh
 - 13) Manoa Residential Area: Ditto
 - 14) Kuliouou Pond: Ditto
 - 15) Bellows Field: Ditto
 - 16) Kaelepulu Pond: Bob Pyle, Leilani Pyle, and Chuck Hanson
 - 17) Ulupau Head-Kaneohe Peninsula and Ponds: Bob Pyle, Leilani Pyle, Chuck Hanson, and Al Stoops

DESCRIPTIVE ACCOUNTS OF VARIOUS WALKS

WAIKIKI AREA - Ruth R. Rockafellow

I covered the Waikiki hotel area - Royal Hawaiian down to John Ena Road, Kalakaua Avenue to makai. I stationed myself in the Royal Hawaiian parking lot at 6:30 a.m., firmly determined to count the mynahs that use as their rookery the large monkeypod tree growing at the car entrance of the Hotel. The tree was alive and bouncing with birds and their chatter was terrific. At 6:45 a.m. they started flying. Their procedure was as follows:

First a number would perch at the extreme end or tip of the branches, and at a given signal they would take off and scatter to be followed with others appearing at the take-off point and using nearby trees as a reconnaissance point and then off to yet another area. This system continued for a half hour and the distribution was toward Diamond Head, toward mauka and toward Ewa. My position was Ewa, and my count was 419 mynahs.

I then decided to see what the shoreline presented and while passing through the grounds of the new Reef Hotel (formerly Ocean View Court) I heard quite a disturbance in a date palm. Focusing my binoculars on the tree I found I had located an English sparrow rookery. My count there was 119 birds. I counted no more mynahs or sparrows in the area, feeling certain that those I had counted had fanned out into my immediate district.

I continued to the ocean and followed the shore through Fort DeRussy and into the Niumalu Hotel grounds. The tide was high so no shore bird count was possible. I then crossed to the former parade ground at the Fort where I found 5 Golden plover. I doubled back to John Ena Road, then Diamond Head on Kalakaua to the Royal and home.

Time: 3 hours all on foot.

+++++

UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII CAMPUS - MID-PACIFIC CAMPUS - Irma Botsford

December 26, which was a sunny, comparatively windless day in lower Manoa valley. I set off in mid-morning to visit the campus of Mid-Pacific Institute and the University of Hawaii to see what I could discover in the way of birds. The playing field of Mid-Pacific seemed to be alive with birds and I stalked stealthily until I ascertained that they were families of doves. Large flocks of mynahs flew from the trees bounding this area and on the adjacent U. of H. campus, occasionally lighting to forage for food. Here also I observed white-eyes and cardinals, the Brazilians on the ground.

From this vantage point, I wandered down to the vicinity of Farrington Hall, wondering why there were so few birds visible when at such a short distance away, I had seen so many. I soon found the answer - a band of children with slingshots, I lectured them and they took to their bicycles up towards the dairy and University farm. I followed them for a distance and then gave up the pursuit and returned to sit down on the curb by Farrington Hall. As I sat there dreamily soaking in the sun, I was suddenly accosted by a man and woman, who proved to be newcomers to the University faculty. They were much interested in birds and said that they believed that all newcomers to the area should endeavor to acquaint themselves with the flora and fauna of the vicinity. They described one bird in particular which they had observed about their home with which they were unfamiliar, and their description was so accurate, I had no trouble in classifying it as the Brazilian cardinal. I told them of the Hawaii Audubon Society in the hope that perhaps they might come to our meetings or go on the bird walks.

So, though I was not able to turn in a startling bird count, I had a very pleasant morning which I could justify by the human contacts which may prove fruitful.

+++++

TANTALUS TRAIL - Priscilla G. Harpham

I started out in the cold, gray pre-dawn of the morning in the hope of seeing owls, which, when I am not interested in counting them for an annual Christmas count, I have no difficulty in seeing. But of course on this particular day, no luck. Checking back on reports of counts taken on this trail during other Christmas counts, I found that there never had been many species, nor large populations of species, reported. This year proved no exception. At this time of year there are very few trees or shrubs in either fruit or flower, so perhaps the birds that are seen are the few that donot migrate to other more profitable feeding grounds. Elepaos were noticeably scarce, even in the places where I can generally bank on seeing them at any time. The only real find of the day were five amakihi in a mimosa tree, very close to the beginning of the trail. The trail, in general, was in pretty bad shape. There was one very bad landslide, which I surmised by the number of chopped-at guava trees had been started by the Territorial trail crew. (This, of course, is absolute conjecture.) Two foot bridges are in a sad state of disrepair, and the trail leading up the back of the mountain to the top - the one which goes up through the bamboo forest, is completely grown over. I started around on the Manoa cliffs section of the trail, but the under footing was so precarious, I turned back, for hiking over such terrain, is unwise for a lone person. In this particular section of the trail there were numerous liothrix lutea feeding on the thimbleberries.

Inasmuch as this trail is one of the most used, and is also an easy one to get to, I feel that it should be kept in much better condition than it is. Other times when I have been on the trail, I have met up with tourists hiking, complete with picnic lunches packed at the beach hotel where they were staying. Certainly if it is a good trail on which the tourists can become acquainted with our forest fauna and flora, it is worthwhile to keep in good condition. The destruction along it was not caused by any thoughtless hikers - it was on a much larger scale than that.

+++++

KAILUA, ULUPAU HEAD AND KAELEPULU POND - Robert Pyle

It was 6:45 a.m. when the first bird of the day was recorded: a North American cardinal singing loudly along the roadside as we came down the Pali road toward Kailua. In Kailua itself, the mynahs and doves seemed to be everywhere, and it required Mrs. Pyle's full attention just to record them as we passed through the residential sections. Our notion that the early hour explained why so many were in evidence was fully confirmed during return trips later in the day when very few were seen.

At the gate to Kaneohe M.C.A.S. we were joined by Al Stoops and Chuck Hansen, and within a few minutes after 7:00 a.m. we had been cleared to cross the border and were recording birds in earnest. The ponds inside the gate had some pintails and coots, but were otherwise disappointing. A concentration of pintails could be seen standing on the shore at the far end of the pond on the Kahuku side of the gate, but even with Mace Norton's scope their numbers could only be estimated roughly. Through the network of roads leading toward Ulupau Head, the doves, plovers, and cardinals were abundant; and again far more were in evidence at this early hour than later in the day. It was here that we had our first big surprise. A cluster of birds on the side of the road seemed at first glance to be just another bunch of doves. But on closer look they turned out to be California quail! We counted ten of them as they flew up into a dense bush overhead. A moment later we rounded a bend and there in the road was surprise number two: a beautiful cock pheasant with a hen close by. These gamebirds have been stocked here on Kaneohe Air Station by the Territorial Fish and Game Department as part of a program to study the behavior and requirements of these birds in Hawaii.

Continuing out toward Ulupau Head, we stopped at the first vantage point from which we could see the entire slope occupied by the red-footed boobies. It was a few minutes before 8:00 a.m. and the sun had already risen, but the slope was still in shadow and the boobies were just beginning to stir. Although still a quarter of a mile away, the large white birds could be readily picked out with the unaided eye. Using the scope, we scanned the entire slope carefully and counted 880 birds. This is a very large figure, but we all had the distinct impression that there were more birds that morning than we had ever seen there before. Throughout the morning the birds were continually taking flight and riding the currents up the slope and away. By 10:30 less than half the original number were still there. When we returned again in mid-afternoon there was not a single booby on the entire slope! Less than 30 had returned by the time we left at 4 p.m. We could find no nests at all; thus there was no apparent reason for them to stay around through the day. There were very few dark-plumaged individuals; we saw not more than 15.

Since birds were continually leaving, we thought it best not to add any more to the original count of 880. However, from the top of the Head we scanned Moku Manu island through the scope and made a very rough estimate of 600 boobies visible there. Although some of these might possibly have been the same birds that we counted on the slope early in the morning, it nevertheless seems safe to assume that there were at least 1500 boobies in the area.

Man-o'-war birds were disappointingly low. Later in the morning a common noddie appeared in the area where the road comes closest to the brink of the cliff. It was near this spot that we had seen an egg of the common noddie in the spring of 1953. This bird allowed approach to within 10 feet for definite identification and photographing. No Hawaiian noddies were seen all day, either about the cliffs or over the ponds.

We visited Kaelepulu pond for a half hour around noon and again in the early afternoon. Although this pond was drained dry last fall, the recent rains have flooded the area and now the pond seems to be as large or larger than ever before. A mixed flock of ducks and coots was feeding and resting along the seaward side, but looking into the sun we could only estimate total numbers and assign percentages to pintail, shoveller and coot. Two baldpates were identified while scanning the flock through the scope.

We finished off the day at Lanikai looking over at Popoia island in faint hope of spotting at least one wedge-tailed shearwater returning to the island for the night. But this hope was ruined both by a rain shower which cut down visibility and by the fact that shearwaters aren't normally present in numbers at this season anyway.

+++++

NUUANU VALLEY - William D. Ohmstede

We started at 8:50 a.m. at the ponds in Moanalua. Two coots were immediately evident. Small groups of ricebirds and barred doves were counted along the bank. Several Brazilian and North American cardinals were either seen or heard. A lone wandering tattler sunned himself on a box in the center of the western pond. Finally two gallinules cautiously swam out of hiding and cackled at each other. Then we departed. Moving down King Street, we found many barred doves, several Brazilian cardinals and a group of mynahs on the lawns of Moanalua to the west of Fort Shafter.

The city streets were nearly devoid of birds. A few English sparrows were seen about the buildings and a few mynahs flying overhead. At Foster gardens a great number of mynahs were heard in the large banyan trees but not many were seen because of the dense foliage. At the Oahu Country Club, a single group of 43 English sparrows were counted on one of the fairways.

In general, birding was almost impossible along Nuuanu Street because of the heavy Sunday traffic. Along the stream we found little groups of leiiothrix in the hau. Although we did not traverse the whole trail, we found that the Judd trail was ecologically poorly suited for birds. Almost all the undercover was bamboo; while the trees encountered, were large groves of eucalyptus and Norfolk pine. Such vegetation types are usually devoid of birds and Judd trail was no exception. Only a few white-eyes, which ecologically seem to fit in anywhere, were heard.

At the Guard estate, four distinct shama thrushes were heard; two were in the hau just makai of the entrance, a third was somewhere mauka and finally a fourth was heard at the extreme makai end of the estate. Unfortunately we did not see any of them. In addition, a group of curious leiiothrix approached within 25 feet and a number of white-eyes were both seen and heard. Unfortunately the daytime mosquitoes were out in droves and were trying to eat our baby alive, so we had to leave the Guard estate sooner than we should have.

After lunch we proceeded down the old Pali road. By this time, early afternoon, conditions were poor for birds; only some ricebirds and a few white-eyes were counted.

In the open fields to the east of the old Kaneohe MCAS road we counted many barred doves, plovers and turnstones. No sea birds were seen from the beach.

Many barred doves and mynahs were counted in the Kaneohe area, but we were unable to find any shore birds on the beaches. However, a group of ten turnstone were seen in a dairy pasture. We crossed the census circle and stopped counting at 2:40 p.m.

+++++

MANOA FALLS TRAIL, WOODLAWN, PAIKO DRIVE & KULIOUOU PARK, KUAPA POND & BELLOWS FIELD - Grace Gossard

Our team consisted of Joseph King, Blanche Pedley, Edwin Bryan, our guest-Dr. Yorst of Vancouver, and myself. We were at the foot of Manoa Falls trail before dawn, hearing first the song of the mynah and cardinal, and a little later the leiiothrix. We stationed ourselves about 200 feet apart near the hau thicket at the trail's entrance, determined to see the Shama thrush, which we did begin to hear soon after dawn. I was the lucky one to spot it first, feeding, of all places - on the trail below. How could one miss that distinctive, long tail, the white patch above it, and the flashy color of gold and black.

Further on the trail we heard a loud "cowboy" like call, very different from the song we had been attributing to the Shama thrush. Joe took off into the hills, Blanche and I stationed ourselves in the marshy meadow below, while Mr. Bryan and Dr. Yorst remained on the trail. When Joe loped down the hill, we expected a brilliant report of a dyal bird, but we learned that it was actually nothing but a different call of the Shama's, which he had observed singing in a hau thicket. We have been speculating about the Shama, why we find it only in the hau, what it eats, its nesting habits, and particularly about its former oriental habitat and how it compares with the habitat adopted by the Oahu Shama.

In general, birding on the trail was pretty slim, with only a few elepaio, and Liothrix. We moved on to an area above Woodlawn in hopes of seeing or even hearing the Chinese thrush, but the trip was void of any birds.

Our next stop was at Kuliouou park, the pond area which we observed first from the peninsula, and later at the park. Here we saw plover, turnstones, sanderling but only a few stilt, as compared to larger numbers in the past. We were interested in the increased number of sanderling.

Our next stop was at Kuapa pond, and though we thought it was probably outside the 15 mile diameter, we hoped that the line might bulge, when we saw 14 pintails, a coot, some plover and a few stilt.

Bellows Field, though very large in area and seemingly a good birding district was a little disappointing. We did our count mostly by car, though at times we stopped to check the beach, or cautiously walk up a runway, to be sure we were seeing all there was to see, or to gaze hopelessly into the ironwood groves trying to see and hear linnets that weren't there. We did find three gallinule and a coot on one of the streams. Again we observed some of the orange-yellow linnets, in addition to the usual rosy hued linnet, arousing anew the general discussion, is it really just diet, or could it possibly be another subspecies.

Our day was long, but happily ended when we met up with some of the other birders at the Flamingo where notes were compared.

SUMMARY OF CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT - KILAUEA, HAWAII

January 1, 1955

Hawaii National Park, (Kilauea Section), Hawaii: $7\frac{1}{2}$ -mile radius centering $\frac{1}{4}$ mile south of Park Headquarters.

Wet ohia-fern forest (some with koa): 45% of coverage
 Dry koa-mamane forest (some with ohia and manele): 25% of coverage
 Grassland with scattered brush and ohia groves: 35% of coverage

January 1, 1955: 6 a.m. to 3 p.m.
 Cloudy in a.m., moderate rain and fog in p.m.
 Temperature: 50° to 61°
 Wind: N 5-10 m.p.h.
 Eleven observers in five parties

	AREAS										48
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	TOTAL
Hawaiian Hawk	1										1
California Quail					5						5
Pheasant	1					3	2	6			12
Golden Plover	6				22		4	8		2	42
Spotted Dove	9				1		2			3	15
Skylark	1				5		6	1		1	14
Red-billed Leiothrix	3			4	120	24			43	2	196
Omao				1	1						2
Elepaio	9			4	7	11		3	5		39
Nynah					110	3	9				122
White-eye	9				15	20	10	16	26		96
Amakihi	59	1		4	3	14	1	2	7		91
Akiapolaau					2						2
Apapane	26	18	5	60	46	48	51	2	32	2	290
Iiwi	1			3	9	20			26		59
Ricebird				3	27		16				46
English Sparrow	1				5		6				12
N. Amer. Cardinal						1				1*	2
House Finch	18				6	34	1	5		5	69
TOTALS	144	19	5	79	384	178	108	43	139	16	1115
Nr. of Species											19
HOURS--on foot	$3\frac{3}{4}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	$3\frac{1}{2}$	4	$1\frac{3}{4}$	2+	$\frac{1}{2}$	$3\frac{1}{2}$		20
by car	$\frac{1}{4}$							$1\frac{1}{4}$		$1\frac{1}{2}$	3
MILES--on foot	$1\frac{3}{4}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{4}$	$3\frac{1}{2}$	4	1	$2\frac{3}{4}$	$\frac{1}{4}$	2		16
by car	$\frac{5}{5}$							14		10	29

- AREA: 1) Hilina Pali Road: George Ruhle and Ruth Rockafellow
 2) Thurston Lava Tube: Bob Baldwin and Joe King
 3) CCC Camp (former location): Ditto
 4) Napau Crater Trail to Pulu Factory: Ditto
 5) Nobriga Ranch Road: Dick Burns and Grace Gossard
 6) Bird Park: Helen Baldwin and Blanche Pedley
 7) Bird Park to KMC via golf course: Ditto
 8) Mauna Loa truck trail to 5500' elevation: Bob Pyle, Leilani Pyle, and Curt Butler
 9) Kipuka Kulalio (5500' on truck trail): Ditto

All above in a.m.

- 10) Driving - Wright Road, then around Kilauea caldera: Moderate to heavy rain.
 (Group) In p.m.

* Cardinal observed by Mrs. Burns at feeding table.

On Mauna Loa Truck Trail, December 31st, we saw 2 Hawaiian Hawks and 4 Turnstones, in addition to the species seen January 1st.

Mamane and ohia just beginning to flower, having been greatly delayed by autumn drought. This accounts for drastic reduction in nectar feeders over last year.

DESCRIPTIVE ACCOUNTS OF VARIOUS WALKSNOBRIGA RANCH TRAIL - Grace Goasard

Richard Burns, a Park Naturalist, and I were assigned to the Nobriga ranch area. After filling the car with gas we waited at the Park Headquarters until dawn, and also to see or hear an American cardinal. No luck on the cardinal. As the eastern sky brightened, Mauna Loa's snow banked slopes took on numerous rosy hues, magnificent and splendid. Out on the road we first passed through lovely grazing lands where an abundance of mynahs, a fair number of Pacific golden plover and some English sparrows were seen while in the background the song of the linnet was heard. My day was heightened with the sight of skylarks in the area. The mynahs were easy to count for they flew off their roosts in one general direction. The plovers were more difficult to count for while the plover did the same thing, they would settle some distance ahead of us, then take off as we approached.

Leaving the grazing land, we entered the forest area, skirting large puddles of water on a narrow road. I have never seen such a dense forest of ferns, ohia, koa and other growth, and considered myself fortunate to have had such an able botanist with me who could point out distinctive plants with particular emphasis on the numerous ferns. Liothrix were the most numerous of the birds, and counting was difficult because of their habit of feeding in the undergrowth moving generally in a direction away from us, but singing all the way. We tended on the conservative side in our count, and being anxious to cover the entirety of the road before noon, we did not pause long in making the counts. Elepaio were heard all along the way, but the actual number seen was less than would have been the case had we the time to call them down. They seemed a little larger than the Oahu elepaio, and their coloring a little more intense. Though R.C.L. Perkins may have thought its song surpassed in beauty all other native birds, to me it was a little raucous. We didn't see the omao. Amakihi were more often heard than seen, but to me they seemed greener than the Oahu species. The high light of the day was the akiapolaau, which Munro speaks of as the Hawaii nukupuu. We first heard a loud, clear distinctive thrush-like song, then saw it sitting on a branch of a dead tree. Though the light was such that the coloring was hard to distinguish, you could not miss its identifying characteristic, for in profile its lower mandible was straight, and the upper one markedly curved. Another one was singing in a tree nearby, but we could not spot it. Then the drizzling rain came, as we re-approached the grazing area on our circuitous trip, cutting down considerably our birding, but not to interfere with our finally seeing a small covey of California quail.

+++++

BIRD PARK - Blanche A. Pedley

At the break of day Mrs. Robert Baldwin and I were at the entrance of the Bird park eager to start on our count - in fact we had to wait awhile until it was light enough on the trail to see the birds. It was very wet underfoot as it had been raining the night before and the dew was very heavy, but the weather itself was very good. We found the birds very shy about showing themselves although we could hear them all about us. We saw and heard nothing unusual, as did some of the other more fortunate groups, but to me who has done all my birding on Oahu trails, the trail was an exciting one. On Oahu trails we are not used to having amakihi and apapane all about us with the iiwi thrown in for good measure. To me, seeing the iiwi was the most exciting part of the trip.

Also, I felt myself extremely fortunate in having Mrs. Baldwin as my companion for she was very patient and generous in pointing out the unusual flora along the way.

After leaving the Bird park we took a short cut through more open land to the Military camp and it was at the beginning of this part of the trip that we saw a beautiful specimen of the Kamehameha butterfly resting on the trunk of a tree. It was also along this trail that we heard the skylarks. Just as we approached the Military camp it began to shower and we took that part of our count in a drizzle.

As we were leaving the camp area, we were very happy to be picked up by Grace Gossard and Ranger Burns who took us back to the Park Headquarters. There Ranger Burns was kind enough to show us his very interesting collection of fern specimens, and also the Park collection of bird skins - a very nice way to end up our trip.

+++++

NAPUA CRATER TRAIL TO PULU FACTORY - Joseph E. King

Departed Park Headquarters at 6:10 in company with Robert Baldwin of Hilo. Drove to the end of Chain of Craters road and about 6:50 a.m. began our hike along the Napua Crater trail. During the first mile the trail is actually a fairly decent jeep road, but then narrows to a good foot trail.

Although it was not raining the sky was heavily overcast and at the start of the trail few birds were seen or heard. Shortly after sunrise the air warmed somewhat and soon we began to hear apapane. The trail leads through a generally low ohia forest with occasional short stretches of dense fern and tall ohia trees. Craters near the trail were inspected for white-tailed tropic bird and Hawaiian hawk but without success. The apapane were by far the most abundant bird present and before long their song formed a continuous background of sound. Amakihi, elepaio, leiothrix, iiwi and ricebirds were also sighted but much less frequently.

About 6:30 a.m. we reached the Pulu factory which marked the eastern boundary of our census area. We continued on another $\frac{3}{4}$ mile to see some of the Park's best specimens of lava trees. There in a high, dense forest we heard a loud distinct bird song that was new to me. Rapidly scanning the tops of the ohia, we finally located a gray, chunky bird which we recognized as the Hawaiian thrush or omao. We were rewarded with an excellent view of the bird against the sky before it moved off through the trees. At one point on our return along the Napua Crater trail we again heard this song at close hand but could not locate the bird although it stayed within the area for at least 20 minutes. Here there was also a forest of tall ohia with a dense understory of magnificent tree ferns.

A light rain was falling as we reached the car and headed back toward Park Headquarters. A short, unproductive stop was made at one small crater (Lua Manu) which Mr. Baldwin reported was ordinarily filled with birds during more favorable weather conditions. We made the loop through the Thurston lava tube and adjoining forest area but it was now raining steadily and few birds except apapane were active.

A visit to the former CCC camp revealed that many of the buildings which had harbored English sparrows and linnets in the past were no longer present. A cleared area normally containing a number of golden plover, according to Mr. Baldwin, was without sign of bird life. The rain continued. So we gave up and returned to Park Headquarters at about 12 noon.

+++++

MAUNA LOA TRUCK TRAIL AND KIPUKA KULALIO - Robert Pyle

This portion of the count was rather uneventful and there is little to report. The most memorable feature of the morning had nothing to do with birds; it was in fact the glow of the rising sun on snow-capped Mauna Loa. We left the Bird park gate at 6:30 in the early pre-dawn light, and came out of the woodland a few minutes later to see Mauna Loa spread out before us in all her glory. Sunlight had already reached the top, which was now a rosy pink in harmony with the brighter pink of the eastern sky. The color worked steadily down the mountainside, fading gradually, until finally it reached us as the first sun of 1955 burst forth. How could one possibly have greeted the New Year more appropriately or more impressively than this?

Birds along the Truck trail were scarce. We continued without stopping until we crossed the lava channel at about 5500 feet elevation and entered the woodland immediately beyond. This is part of Kipuka Kulalio, and it was apparently in this area that Paul Baldwin found the akiapolaau on 44% of his visits during his extended studies. Today iiwi were plentiful - for them - but in general there were fewer birds than we had

expected. We wandered about among the mamane and large old koa for three hours searching intently for something that might be akiapolaau, but without success. All was not lost, since another party found it for the count, but that is another story. Most of our time was spent on the southwest side of the road since the woodland there seemed better developed.

At this elevation the day was nearly clear, and with birds scarce our enthusiasm dropped in inverse proportion to the rising temperature. By late morning we were ready to start back, planning to stop frequently to canvas the kipuka for birds. But we soon dropped down into the clouds, and visibility and bird activities were both low. By the time we reached Bird park again it was raining in earnest; a state of affairs that unfortunately continued unbroken for the rest of the day.

+++++

HILINA PALI ROAD - Ruth R. Rockafellow

Dr. Ruhle, the Park Naturalist, and I were assigned to the area one mile mauka of Hilina pali to Kipuka nene. On the 6-mile drive enroute we came to the decision to drive to the most distant part of our area, inasmuch as it was still dark, and then make our count on the return.

As we neared our destination daylight appeared and with it much wind. To our right was Mauna Loa wearing a mantel of snow with a backdrop of Mediterranean-blue sky; to the left the sun was perforating the cauliflower-shaped clouds with rays of beauty which were more reminiscent of Easter than New Year's day, and all about us was the black lava, grey-green ohia and swaying golden grass. As we looked, Mauna Loa turned a rosy-red and I stopped breathing. However, the flutter of a bird soon turned my mind to the task at hand.

Our first bird was an apapane, identified by the Doctor. We worked together at times and also worked separately over the rough terrain, covering about 5 miles on foot and about 1 mile by car. It was rough going and we worked hard for our count, but enjoyed every minute of the four hours we were out. Dr. Rhule was a delightful person to be with in the field and most thoughtful to have supplied hot coffee and lunch.

Editorial acknowledgment: Mr. Robert Pyle wrote the general summaries and made the charts for each of the counts.

FEBRUARY ACTIVITIES:

- FIELD TRIPS: February 13 - We will again check on the shore and water birds, going first to the Waipahu marshes. Meet at the Library of Hawaii at 8:00 a.m.
- February 27 - Second field trip of the month. Destination and time to be decided at the regular meeting.
- MEETING: February 21 - At the Aquarium at 7:30 p.m. Lots of important items of business to be decided upon. Plan to be there.

HAWAII AUDUBON SOCIETY OFFICERS:

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

MAILING ADDRESS: P.O. Box 5032, Honolulu 14, Hawaii
Material for the ELEPAIO: 3661 Tantalus Drive, Honolulu 14, Hawaii

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

DUES FOR 1955 ARE NOW PAYABLE