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IN QUEST OF THE POMERINE JAEGER By Charles Hanson

February 26, 1956, will long be remembered by many members of the Audubon Society. At 8:45 a.m. on that date a group of 15 adults and 3 children embarked on the Mana to take a trip offshore of Oahu with the purpose of seeing birds and especially the Pomarine Jaeger. Our skipper, Louis Agard, turned the bow of our boat in a southeasterly direction and we followed this course for about 1½ hours. We then cut back towards Pearl Harbor until about 2 miles offshore, then we paralleled the shore for the remainder of the distance home, arriving about 1:00 p.m.

It was a stormy day with strong trade winds which made the water rough. But except for a couple of cases of mal-de-mar the trip was enjoyed. The first bird sighted was a Black-footed Albatross, the first time seen for many of those present. In all we saw approximately 20 of these birds during the trip. We next sighted several Jaegers at different distances from the boat, but didn't get a really good look until we came near the sewer outlet just off Pearl Harbor. Here were counted 19 birds making an approximate total of 30 Pomarine Jaegers seen during the trip. Also seen was one Frigate Bird.

The members of the group felt that the trip was very worthwhile. Those present were Mr. & Mrs. Ray Greenfield, Mr. & Mrs. Al Stoops and daughter, Michelle, Grenville Hatch, Hannah Richards, Margaret Smith, Coco Rockafellow, Grace Gossard, Blanche Pedley, John Obata, Mace Norton, Joe King, Mr. & Mrs. Charles Hanson and sons, Gary and Denny.

Items of interest besides birds were the two Mahimahi caught by the skipper on 2 trolling lines. Also seen was a school of flying fish that skipped off over the water away from the boat.

FAMILY STERICORAIIDAE

The following is a general description of the Jaeger family which also includes the Skuas.

This family are predatory sea birds and have some characteristics of birds of prey, such as strongly curved beak and strongly hooked claws which are adept at seizing and holding prey.

The Jaegers are dichromatic and show two distinct color phases with intermediate stages in between. The dark phase is almost evenly dark brown but usually faintly lightening on the face and showing a suggestion of a dark cap. The light phase has light or white underparts often more or less barred, especially on flanks, throat, and cheeks and showing a distinct black cap. Except for the long tailed Jaeger all have a conspicuous light band on the under-wing surface across the base of the primaries.

The long central tail feathers of the adult make good recognition marks. This tail is so conspicuous as to have suggested to sailors the names of "Mason" (referring to the trowel-like tail), "Bos'n" (from the tail like a marlin-spike, the special tool of a boatswain), or just "Marlin-spike".

That the nostrils are not in tubes and are at the forward end of the cere instead of at the base of it, differentiates them from the petrels and the shearwaters that also have hooked bills.

The Jaegers are pirates of the air; they pursue successful fishing birds and force them to drop the fish they have caught. Eggs and young birds in the nest are never safe from them.

The name Jaeger is the German word for hunter and is, of course, descriptive of its habits.

SPECIES - POMARINUS

The Pomarine is the largest of the three Jaegers. A Jaeger with a wing over $13\frac{1}{2}$ inches probably belongs to this species. The elongated tail feathers of the adult are wide, instead of pointed, and twisted at the tip so that the ends stand in a vertical plane instead of lying horizontally.

They range from Arctic Seas, south in winter to Peru, South Africa, Ceylon, Burma and Northern Australia. Breeds on tundras of Northern Alaska and Canada, Western Newfoundland and Northern Siberia.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Alexander, W.B., M.A. (Camb.), Birds of the Ocean, G.P. Putnam's Sons, 1928.
Taverner, P.A., Birds of Canada, The Musson Book Company, Ltd., 1947.

Additional ANNUAL BIRD COUNT field note: It is now confirmed that the unidentified birds reported seen off Sand Island, some 30 in number, were Pomarine Jaegers.

Ruth R. Rockafellow

HAWAIIAN ORNITHOLOGIST: SANFORD B. DOLE
By Hazel Peppin

Sanford Ballard Dole was a man of varied activities. But so preeminent was he in public affairs that his more than casual interest in Hawaiian avi-fauna is not generally understood. However, when certain biographical influences come to light, it is neither strange nor surprising that natural history was of prime importance in his earlier years.

This gifted son of American missionaries spent his boyhood on Oahu and Kauai. Here he roamed, swam, fished, and hunted; and since he was endowed with a lively intellectual curiosity, he had ample opportunity to learn much from the mountains, valleys, ponds, and sea. One episode tells of a trip he made from Captain Cook's landing place at Waimea Bay to the crest of Waialeale's rugged slopes. In the meantime, he received his academic training at Punahou, or Oahu College as it was then called, which prepared him for Williams College.

The year before Dole left for Massachusetts, two young men arrived in Hawaii on a geologic and botanical mission, which lasted from 1864 to 1866. They were Wm. T. Brigham, a recent graduate of Harvard, and Horace Mann, son of the noted educator. While engaged in their major objective, they made copious notes of the Hawaiian birds they observed, which Brigham later placed at the disposal of his friend, Sanford B. Dole. The young scientists returned to Boston and Brigham was admitted to the bar, but the following year he became a botany instructor at Harvard and also gave a course of lectures in volcanology.

Sanford Dole spent one year at Williams and the next year he studied law in Brigham's office. Returning to the Islands, he not only opened a law office, but he became editor of a weekly journal, "The Islander", which gave much space to scientific research. He also became associate editor of the "Planter's Monthly"; and as a member of the Hawaiian Natural History Society and corresponding member of the Boston Society of Natural History, he seems to have been much occupied with thoughts scientific.

It was in the 1870's that Dole compiled his List of Birds of the Hawaiian Islands which appeared in "Thrums Hawaiian Annual" and as a pamphlet. His purpose was clear: he felt that many of the endemic species had escaped naturalists of different exploring expeditions due to their limited time, and especially was this true for birds of the mountain areas. The author thought that previous lists comprised a little more than half of the avi-fauna of the Island group, and to quote his own words, "-----it seems well to print the brief characteristics given in the original descriptions, which it is hoped that a further study may supplement or correct." In the brief preface, full recognition is given to Brigham's notes and we learn that Dole consulted all authorities and that all species were included which had been previously noticed by naturalists but never before described. In the Dole list which numbered fifty-five, were six additional birds, two already known to naturalists but never before described. One, the *Fringilla Anna*, is said to have been named after Mrs. Dole.

During the days of growing political turmoil, other responsibilities came to Dole. He practiced law, entered the legislature in 1884, served as associate justice in the Supreme Court, and became the first Territorial Governor; and under the many judicial and political pressures, he could not have had much time for his earlier interest in natural history. But Mr. Dole's friend, W.T. Brigham, returned to the Islands in 1887 and for almost forty years continued his scientific studies, ---- for the most part as curator of the Bishop Museum.

In 1926, Hawaii paid final and grateful tribute to two worthy citizens. Sanford B. Dole and Wm. T. Brigham, who had served the Islands long and well, had reached the end of their journey.

Errata: On page 45, Volume 16 of the "Elepaio", in the article on Valdemar Knudsen, for Dr. Vavara should read Dr. Wawra.

HAWAII'S BIRDS IN THEIR HOMES: HOW TO SAVE THEM FROM EXTINCTION By George C. Munro

Published in the Honolulu Star-Bulletin, July 28 - August 25, 1945

XII. Our Interesting Offshore Islands

Let me tell something of Hawaii's interesting offshore islands. Kaohikaipu is the very small island near Makapuu Head. Here there are wedge-tailed shearwaters, Bulwer's petrel and Hawaiian tern. There were no rats before the war as boats could not tie up

to its shore so rats could not get ashore to prey on the birds. Bulwer's petrel is specially vulnerable to attacks by rats. The large rock piles there are very favorable nesting places for the gentle little creature. If former conditions still prevail it would be an ideal place to start a colony of the white tern. Fishermen camping should be taught to leave their camp sites clean and neat. Some had been left in a most disgraceful condition when I last visited there.

Manana or Rabbit Island has shearwaters, petrels and noddies. It could be made a good show island. The rabbits should be destroyed and the name "Rabbit Island" with them. The outlook on the eastern side, the noddies in thousands round the rim of the crater and the nightly song of the shearwaters in the breeding season are well worth a visit. At 3 a.m. in the month of September, the wailing of the shearwater can be heard to the consternation of the listener, interesting, but far from musical.

Mokulua (two islands) was a nesting place of the native Hawaiian duck from the mainland of Oahu. The young were hatched there safe from the mongoose and were carried or swam over to Kaelepulu pond where they were also safe. There is evidence that both procedures were followed.

These islands are not spectacular but they are good fishing sites and there is no reason why fishermen can not continue to use them and learn to respect the bird life on the island; to be careful of fire and leave their camps in neat condition. Popoia could be made into a little paradise. With its native plants, shearwaters, and if populated with the little white tern, love bird, fairy tern or whatever you like to call it, it would be an ideal picnicking spot.

Mokolea is frequented by large numbers of the Hawaiian tern and larger noddy. I have been told of a bird like the white tern being seen there, but on all my visits it was absent. It is simply a rock about 30 feet high. Moku Manu is the most wonderful of the chain. It is really two islands connected by a narrow strait. Eight species of birds nest there, some that people in Honolulu never see and some in countless thousands. These birds can be seen at close quarters and there is no reason why at proper times the public can not enjoy them as well as the people of Midway can view their birds without doing them harm. The western part of the island could be used and the eastern part left in its present almost inaccessible condition, a perfectly safe refuge for the birds. Landing at present is seldom easy but that could be remedied. The island is about 100 feet high, but an easily traveled trail could be made to the top with little expense.

There is much to learn about these birds and these offshore islands offer a unique opportunity to study them. Let us get together on some policy whereby the birds may be protected - to increase - and provide the public with added interest and enjoyment.

To be concluded

FIELD NOTES:

Field Trip, January 29, 1956. Clear to overcast; rain in the afternoon. Tide low 1215.

This was a typical monthly winter trip scheduled to observe shore birds. Stopping first at the City Dump near Ft. Armstrong Joe King and Bob Pyle pointed out a Pomarine Jaeger flying over the water. As it was so far offshore, it was identified by shape and flight pattern only. This was a new bird for most of us and we all expressed doubt about being able to identify it again on our own. After a brief check at Damon Pond where the usual birds were seen we stopped at Salt Lake and were rewarded with four, possibly six, mocking birds. The behavior of these birds seem quite different from our memories of the mainland mocker, being more timid, shy and isolated. The bufflehead observed on Salt Lake two weeks earlier was no where in sight. At West Loch we were

amazed at the low stilt and turnstone count, though the latter is a feature we have noticed all winter.

We were pleased at the great amount of water in the pond at Kahuku which covered the area on both sides of the road where the old railroad track had once lain. This was the result of the recent cloud burst in Kahuku, and unfortunately the area will soon drain and dry up. There were a good number of all the common shore birds, but our count is very inaccurate as so many were in the stubby grass which camouflaged them well. The only stray observed was a dowitcher feeding in the mud. Not until it flew could it be positively identified by its white tail and lower back. No coot or gallinule were seen although this is a place we have consistently found them in the past. Four gallinule and two night heron were seen on the far side of the Haleiwa pond as we drove by (not recorded below).

Location Time	City Dump 0820-0840	Damon Pond 0851-0910	Salt Lake 0916-0946	West Loch 1008-1040	Kahuku 1200-1400	Total
Sparrow	12	6			50	68
Pomarine Jaeger	1					1
Brown Booby	1					1
Brazilian Cardinal		4	2			6
North Am. Cardinal		3	6			9
Chinese Dove		10	2			12
Barred Dove		4	8		1	13
Tattler		1		1	6	8
Plover, Pacific Golden		2	2	110	11	125
Black Bellied Plover				1		1
Gallinule		2		5		7
Coot		4	42	3		49
House Finch				1		1
Mynah		8			26	34
Ricebird			15		54	69
Mocking Bird			6			6
Night Heron			1	11		12
Pintail				66	8	74
Shovellers				21		21
Hawaiian Stilt				2	44	46
Sanderling				75	20	95
Ruddy Turnstone				6	124	130
Frigate Bird					1	1
Dowitcher					1	1
White-eye					1 (heard)	1
TOTALS	14	44	84	302	347	791
Nr. of Species:	3	10	9	12	13	25

Grace Gossard

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Field Trip, February 12, 1956. Rainy. Outgoing tide.

A threatening morning, after a wet night, resulted in a smaller group than usual. Two guests were present, Mrs. Betty Lofft of Montreal and Mr. Bert W. Cartwright from Winnipeg of Ducks Unlimited. By noon, the morning's threat had become an actuality, and a very wet group of birders disbanded.

Location Time	Damon Pond 8:27-8:53	Salt Lake 9:00-9:10	Makalapa 9:20-9:40	East Loch 9:52-9:58	West Loch 10:23-10:36	Total
Sparrows	4			2		6
Brazilian Cardinal	2	6				8
North Am. Cardinal	10	5	1	1		17
Chinese Dove	2	7		1		10
Barred Dove	11	6		1		18
Rock Dove			1			1
Tattler		3	2			5
Pacific Golden Plover	1	2	19	7	*	*+29
Black Bellied Plover					1	1
Coot	2				*	*+ 2
Mynah	10		2	3		15
Ricebird	5	16				21
Mocking Bird		2	1			3
Night Heron	2					2
Pintail					*	*
Shoveller					*	*
Sanderling					*	*
Stilt					*	*
White-eye	1	1				2
TOTALS	50	48	26	15	*+1	*+140
Nr. of Species:	11	9	6	6	7	19

* Numerous

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COMMENT INVITED: The form in which these two field trips have been presented is an experiment, upon which we hope our readers will comment freely.

NEWS NOTES:

We are glad to report that Billie and Bob Pyle had a fine restful trip to San Francisco. They report having seen black-footed albatross very frequently, though not close enough to suit Billie who "wants him to alight on the railing and stare at her", and one fairly good look at a Laysan albatross. We shall miss them, and wish them good birding in Washington.

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Another old friend, Hannah Bonsey Suthers, writes on February 17th from Williamston, Michigan, "This month is bringing heavy snows which means the birds are extra hungry, and the customers are increasing at my feeder and trap for bird-banding. Today I banded five cardinals! That is unusual, for they are so wary that they seldom enter a trap. I have been banding, also, slate colored juncos, tree swallows, chickadees (black-capped) and blue jays. Aloha."

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It is good to hear from our absentees.

HAVE YOU BACK ISSUES OF THE ELEPAIO which you do not need?

Our treasurer is having numerous calls for back issues for the purpose of binding. Our files of the following numbers are either exhausted or very low, and we should appreciate receiving any that can be spared.

Call either Mrs. Pedley, 923193 or Miss Hatch 625523.

Volume 2, No. 4,	September 1941
6,	5, November 1945
7,	5, November 1946
10,	8, February 1950
11,	8, February 1951
12,	8, February 1952
12,	10, April 1952
12,	11, May 1952
13,	1, July 1952
13,	3, September 1952
13,	6, December 1952
14,	3, September 1953
14,	8, February 1954
15,	9, March 1955

APRIL ACTIVITIES:

FIELD TRIPS: April 8 - To Kahuku for the monthly check on shore birds and water fowl. Meet in front of the Library of Hawaii at 8:00 a.m.

April 22 - To Kaneohe Marine Air Station, to the booby colony. This trip was scheduled for last month, but due to a change in firing practice, had to be altered to Poamoho at the last moment. We hope for better success this time.

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MEETING: April 16 - At the Aquarium at 7:30 p.m. Mr. Reginald H. Carter of the Hui Manu will talk on the objectives of that Society.

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