

# THE ELEPAIO

Journal of the  
Hawaii Audubon Society



For the Better Protection  
of Wildlife in Hawaii

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## PLUVIALIS DOMINICA FULVA

By George C. Munro

The group of Pacific Golden Plover that frequented the picnic end of Kapiolani park for the last two seasons from the end of October 1953 to the end of April 1954 and from August 25, 1954 till the end of April 1955 are much missed.

They were an interesting group evidently young birds of the 1953 breeding season. After their arrival this year on August 24 and 25 and by September 5 I had decided that they were all or nearly all almost certainly the same birds as of the season before. One of them was exceptionally tame, when approached it would run a little and then stop and watch me till I was about 20 paces from it when it flew. I paced it repeatedly and it kept it up for the two seasons. The others would repeatedly run before me and I had to walk fast to induce them to take wing. It was necessary to get them to fly to find if they kept over their separate areas.

One was found dead by two boys. It had evidently been killed by a golf ball as golfers practice in the vicinity. Its side was smashed in, but the wing was uninjured. I mounted it for the Children's Museum in Ala Moana Park.

Some of the birds in adjoining areas may have been mates, but of that there was no definite evidence. On one or two occasions a pair appeared differing in size like the pair I called Moki and Mele some years ago, but they were not on the beat of the former two and did not stay. Occasionally other birds than the usual group would come but did not stay as far as I could tell. Perhaps mating couples would change. One might be absent for a time and then return.

About the end of November I noticed a change in the behavior of the birds. They were not so active looking for food and became more sociable frequenting the borders of their beats adjoining the others and visiting on each others sections. A new caterpillar had appeared, a night feeder, devastating lawns. The plover learned to come before daylight and gorge on the caterpillar so that when I arrived after it was quite light they were replete and sociable. Several mornings I timed it to arrive in the Park before it was fully light and found the plover actively feeding. They saved the lawns of the Park while those of house lots suffered. The mynah birds did not seem to catch on to the idea of getting out before it was light and sharing in the harvest.

The plover eventually became so demoralized that some of the boundaries of the separate areas became confused. In their flights they circled as before but flew over parts of what before were well defined boundaries. It would seem that when food is plentiful separate areas for each bird is not necessary.



It will be interesting to see if the same birds return this August or will they bring a new lot as has been the habit every two years since this study was taken up in 1949? This last lot being younger than those coming in former seasons they may stay longer than two years.

(Written May 22, 1955)

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FINANCIAL STATEMENT  
AUDUBON SCREEN TOUR FUND

1954 Series:

RECEIPTS:

Ticket sales	\$1295.40	
School showings	<u>1500.00</u>	\$2795.40

DISBURSEMENTS:

Brochures, printing, stationery	144.00	
Postage, radiograms	79.56	
Advertising and posters	199.11	
Auditorium and projectionists	275.00	
Entertainment and leis	32.34	
License and excise tax	216.75	
Other expenses	47.80	
To National Audubon Society		
(schools and travel expenses)	<u>1725.00</u>	<u>2719.56</u>
Gross Profit		75.84
To National Audubon Society		
(division of profit)		<u>37.92</u>
Net Profit		<u>37.92</u>

GIFTS FROM HUI MANU AND FOUNDATIONS:      \$600.00

1955 Series:

RECEIPTS:

Ticket sales	\$1100.25	
School showings	<u>625.00</u>	\$1725.25

DISBURSEMENTS:

Brochures, printing, stationery	206.88	
Postage, radiograms	92.83	
Advertising	269.34	
Auditorium and projectionists (evening)	202.50	
Projectionists (schools)	60.00	
Entertainment and leis	24.50	
License and excise tax	136.55	
Other expenses	40.81	
To National Audubon Society		
(schools and fees)	<u>775.00</u>	<u>1808.41</u>
Loss		83.16

GIFTS FROM HUI MANU AND FOUNDATIONS:      \$800.00

To National Audubon Society		
(travel expenses)	<u>600.00</u>	
Balance		<u>200.00</u>

Balance in Screen Tour Fund, June 13, 1955

\$754.76



AUDUBON, PENNSYLVANIA  
By Grenville Hatch

Members of the Hawaii Audubon Society will be glad to have news of our first president, d'Arcy Northwood, and of his wife, Olive, who are in Audubon, Penn., where the old home of John James Audubon has been made into a museum and wildlife sanctuary. Mr. Northwood is curator, and intensely interested in building up the sanctuary, and developing an awareness of conservation among the many visitors.

The estate of Mill Grove was purchased by Jean Audubon, father of John James, when he fled from the slave insurrections in San Domingo in 1789. He soon left America for France, but in 1803 John James, then 19, was sent back to Mill Grove. Here he studied the abundant bird life in the lovely woods, began his first paintings of birds, and did the first bird banding in America by attaching silver wire to the legs of phoebes. Here, too, he brought his young wife, Lucy Bakewell, in 1808.

In 1952 the home and the surrounding large acreage became a wildlife sanctuary maintained by Montgomery County. The house, now a museum, is a delightful old place, little changed from the days of Audubon. Mr. Northwood uses one room, lined with books as his office. An ancient grandfather clock ticks away the minutes; the walls, like those of the other rooms decorated with original Audubon prints and paintings. Other rooms contain Audubon relics and exhibits, such as labelled specimens of flowers and plants, gathered fresh daily.

The sanctuary is a wonderful spot for anyone interested in birds. There are many species of residents, and migrations must afford a bewildering number. The broad acres provide a number of habitats; deciduous and evergreen wood; open fields; bushy areas; ponds and streams. The Peckimoon Creek (most remarkable - so called for it is a broad river which occasionally goes on destructive rampages) forms one boundary. Trails wind through the woods, with comfortable rustic seats placed at strategic spots for bird watching.

The Northwoods live in a delightful old house situated a short distance from the Museum. It has been remodelled to provide all modern conveniences, while retaining its original charm. It was good to spend a little while here, and to leave bearing aloha from the Northwoods to their old friends in our Society.

(Written June 23, 1955)

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#### RECENT LITERATURE

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Special scientific report: Fisheries, No. 154. June 1955. 19 pp. A summary of sightings of fish schools and bird flocks and of trolling in the Central Pacific, by Garth I. Murphy and Isaac I. Ikehara.

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#### BIRD NOTES

Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Bird refuge made from Christmas trees: The state fair grounds police chief, C. A. Elfritz, has found a better use for Christmas trees after the holiday than burning them. He builds bird refuges with them. Inside the race track oval, Elfritz has set trees in iron pipes driven into the ground. In the center of the "grove" he puts feed into a trough covered with brush. Sparrows stay away, he said, because they do not like the particular feed he gets from a feed store. But game birds have flocked to the sanctuary.

Honolulu Star-Bulletin, March 3, 1955



HAWAII AUDUBON SOCIETY  
Minutes for June 20, 1955

The meeting was called to order by the President, Bob Pyle, at 7:30 p.m.

Minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved.

The following guests were introduced: Mrs. Hanson and Mrs. Stoops, wives of our members, Miss Lester, Mrs. Hoefner, Miss Helen Frederick and Ernest Oliver.

The following communications were read and discussed:

1. Letters from officials of Hawaii National Park, Superintendent Wosky and Mr. Ruhle, naturalist, thanking the Society for its aid in advocating that the Legislature make an appropriation for the completion of the Kalapana Extension to the Park, and also in protesting the withdrawal of certain areas for grazing purposes.

Bob Pyle explained that nothing had been accomplished in this area by the Legislature as the bill prohibiting the extension of the Park failed to pass, but, on the other hand, no appropriation was made to purchase the land under condemnation.

In this regard, the Society voted that a note of appreciation be sent to Mrs. Helen Shiras Baldwin, of Hilo, for her valuable work in preparing letters to be sent to our local legislators and to Congressional committee chairmen, and also that we enclose \$2.00 as possible reimbursement for postage used.

Reviewing other legislative actions of interest to this Society, Bob Pyle stated that although the bill authorizing the introduction of axis deer on Maui had passed both houses, it was vetoed by the Governor. Our President sent a letter to Governor King expressing our approval of his action.

A new bill passed by the Legislature put the reef areas and inshore waters of all islands under the Board of Agriculture & Forestry, with the provision that committees be formed on each island to oversee the areas near at hand.

A special appropriation for the nene project probably did not pass. No one seemed to know.

2. A letter was read from Mr. George Munro asking the Society to consider using funds left from the Screen Tours for Na Laau Hawaii, the living museum of Hawaii's fast disappearing dryland plants, which has been started on the slopes of Diamond Head and carried on by members of the Audubon Society. This project now is in need of funds for the employment of labor and for the labelling of plants.

Blanche Pedley stated that \$80.00 remained in a fund originally given to Mr. Munro for bird-banding. When the banding project was discontinued, Mr. Munro turned the balance of the fund over to the Audubon Society. She suggested that this money might now be returned to Mr. Munro for the upkeep of Na Laau Hawaii.

It was voted to refer this matter to the Conservation Committee for study of what has been done and what needs to be done. Also that a letter be sent to Mr. Munro assuring him of our interest in this project but that we shall await a recommendation from the Conservation Committee before taking action.

Bob Pyle spoke of the formation of the Conservation Committee, the main part of whose work will be to sift ideas and to suggest a program for conservation work among school-age children. The members of the committee are: Margaret Titcomb, chairman, Grace Gossard, Hazel Peppin, Charles Hanson, Arthur Roy, Al Stoops and Bob Pyle. It was emphasized that our Society hopes to supplement the work done by Mr. Reginald Carter for the Hui Manu, not to duplicate it.

Under new business, Bob Pyle announced that since he considers it essential that as many of the Society's members take part in its activities as possible, he has prepared a questionnaire to be included in a future issue of the Elepaio asking members to indicate the activities in which they would be willing to take a part.



Margaret Titcomb spoke of receiving a postal from Frank Richardson who asked to be remembered to the members of our Society.

The business meeting adjourned, to be followed by the showing of a Castaway film, loaned by the Bishop Museum. Margaret Titcomb gave an introductory statement about the beginning of the Castaway program at the Bishop Museum in February 1942 to aid servicemen who might be stranded on uninhabited Pacific Islands.

Respectfully submitted,  
Secretary

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#### FIELD NOTES

Peacock Flats - June 25 ... On Sunday morning, June 25, at 8 a.m., 18 people set out for Peacock flats, near Waialua. It was a pleasant, sunny day, warm enough to make us grateful for our turn to ride in the jeep a part of the way up the extremely rough road. On the way up, we heard the horse cries of peacocks on our left. None were heard after we reached the wooded levels, but were again heard on our return to the lower road. We were not able to catch sight of any.

Birds were not plentiful except for doves, ricebirds and cardinals. One amakihi was seen and we heard many liothrix. Perhaps my Kauai ears just naturally keep on hearing Chinese thrush - no one else heard this one, except Miss Draper - but I am quite sure the one I heard was really there. Our group on this trip included two visitors from Alaska and New York state.

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Myrna Campbell

Kawailoa - July 10 ... Sometimes it just happens that way - the day was perfect and trail no. 8, Kawailoa, was perfect, but oh! so few to enjoy it. I counted 'em - there were F - I - V - E -, three of them guests.

Our Veep, Al Labrecque, was a delightful narrator enroute and acted as the guide accompanying two of the visitors, Miss Janice Scott from Brooklyn, N. Y. and Miss Alexander Hague from Carmel, California on a stiff hike over the trail while the writer sat in a quiet birding spot and heard many bush warblers but saw not a one.

The trail is now very wide and to my decided annoyance it was being used as a motorcycle hazard course; fortunately it proved just that to them - a hazard - and quiet returned to a most beautiful woods of sturdy koa, sandalwood and the like.

Birds seen during the day: many flocks of ricebirds, white-eyes, Kentucky cardinals, linnets, elepaio, apapane, amakihi, barred doves, lace necked doves, liothrix and 1 pheasant.

Ruth R. Rockafellow

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#### AUGUST ACTIVITIES

FIELD TRIPS: August 14 - To Kahuku. Meet at the Library of Hawaii at 8:00 a.m.  
August 28 - Mr. Munro will conduct a tour of Na Laau Hawaii. Meet at the Library of Hawaii at 8:30 a.m.

MEETING: August 15 - At the Aquarium at 7:30 p.m. The members will show their natural history slides.

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#### HAWAII AUDUBON SOCIETY OFFICERS:

President: Mr. Robert L. Pyle  
Vice-Pres: Miss Grace Gossard  
Mr. Al Labrecque

Secretary: Miss Margaret Newman  
Treasurer: Miss Blanche A. Pedley  
Editor: Mrs. Priscilla G. Harpham

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