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EDWARD LEONARD CAUM
By Marie C. Neal

Soon after arriving in Hawaii, early in 1920, I became acquainted with Mr. Edward L. Caum. At that time he was a young man, 27 years of age, who since February 8, 1916, had been employed in Honolulu at the Experiment Station of the Hawaiian Sugar Planters' Association as assistant pathologist. Ten years later, he was appointed assistant botanist, and January 1, 1936, he became associate botanist, the position he still held at the time of his retirement in January, 1949. His connection with the H.S.P.A. was continuous except for four years, 1922 to 1926, when he was plant inspector for the Territorial Board of Agriculture and Forestry.

Mr. Caum was born in Philadelphia, April 3, 1893, and came to Hawaii with his parents at the age of 15. His father was a Navy officer, and Ed, as he was called, was an only child. After graduating from high school in Honolulu, he entered Swarthmore College in Pennsylvania and earned two degrees there, B.A. in 1914 and M.A. in 1924. He was married in 1919, having met his wife at Swarthmore.

In between degrees, Mr. Caum began to demonstrate other interests besides those of botany and forestry. He was familiar with Hawaiian shells, and in 1928 published a Bulletin in the Bishop Museum series, his master's thesis, A Checklist of Land and Fresh Water Mollusca.

Another interest was in stamps, his specialty being stamps of U.S.A., of which he had an excellent and valuable collection. Of new issues he bought whole sheets. All were cared for in a heated cabinet.

In appearance, Mr. Caum was a tall man of slight build, with a fine, intelligent face. He had thick, black hair, which later grayed, an aquiline nose, and keen brown eyes. He invariably wore a broad-brimmed Army hat. And unless khaki-clad for field trips, he always wore a gray suit, perhaps due to his Quaker forbears and friends. Though himself not a Quaker, his wife is.

Mr. Caum was a sincere friend and was blessed with an excellent sense of humor. He was modest and helpful, aiding people with various botanical problems, some of whom were amateur botanists who had manuscripts about plants which they wished to publish. His loyalty to the H.S.P.A. is evident in his refusal to continue using his favorite brand of cigarets after the ad appeared: "Reach for a Lucky instead of a sweet." For many years he was treasurer of the Credit Union at the Experiment Station, and in that office, during World War II, he sold thousands of dollars worth of war bonds.

He was also a helpful member of the Hawaiian Botanical Society, which he served for many years as secretary, in 1936 as president. For seven years, in the Hawaiian Academy of Science, he held another thankless office, that of secretary-treasurer.

Mr. and Mrs. Edward Caum lived with his parents in their home on Piikoi Street, Honolulu, until 1938, when they moved into their own home, which was built for them at the Manoa Arboretum by the H.S.P.A. It was not only the Caums' home but also his headquarters as guardian of the experimental forest planted there. Mr. Caum had participated in the development of this Arboretum since its beginning, and took great pride in its many beautiful trees. He enjoyed leading friends along the trails and telling them how fast and large some seedlings had developed into trees. Yes, he also found it necessary to police the Arboretum due to trespassers, some of whom came to steal plants.

Close to the Koolau Range, near the head of Manoa Valley, this was a beautiful location for a country home, especially for people who had felt cramped in a city house. They had a wide lawn and a flower garden. In the city they hardly had room for Mr. Caum's experimental hibiscus bushes. They now had views of mountains, waterfalls, and distant glimpse of the ocean to enjoy. They opened hospitable doors to friends and during World War II to any military connections stationed on Oahu or passing through. As a matter of fact, they had shown the same hospitality when they used for week ends a smaller house, which had been built on the same location when the Arboretum was first established.

Here Mr. Caum's former Sunday hikes with the Trail and Mountain Club were substituted by climbs into the mountains to oversee plantings and even at times to rescue inexperienced or foolhardy hikers, who, without permits to enter the Forest Reserve, without guides or knowledge of the terrain, had left trails and become lost or blocked by precipices. Sometimes this rescue work kept him and other rescuers up all night. All this in spite of a chronic lame knee that resulted from a fall Mr. Caum had on Maui. Mrs. Caum, in the meanwhile, was also helping by making coffee at home to refresh the men when they came back from time to time.

What may have been his happiest experiences were those Mr. Caum had with birds. In 1923 he went as botanist of the Tanager Expedition, sponsored by the United States Biological Survey and Bishop Museum, to bird reserves of the Hawaiian Islands, including many of the leeward islands, Laysan, Ocean, Midway, Pearl and Hermes, Necker, Nihoa, and French Frigate Shoal. In 1924 he went on the Whippoorwill Expedition to the Line Islands. On these trips he not only collected plant specimens, later publishing about them, but he studied the numerous birds and photographed them. His albums of fine pictures of these birds were a great pride and joy to him and a pleasure to visitors. In fact Mr. Caum was an accomplished photographer, both of plants and birds.

He aided the Hui Manu, in Honolulu, by caring for birds newly imported to Hawaii, protecting and feeding them in large cages until they had regained strength and were ready for liberation. The cages were built near his home in upper Manoa Valley and were in his charge. All this increased his interest in introduced birds and probably led to his publication by Bishop Museum of The Exotic Birds of Hawaii. From 1936 until retirement, he held the title of United States deputy protector of Hawaiian Islands Bird Reservation.

Serious illness caused Mr. Caum's early retirement at the age of 56. Three years later, August 17, 1952, he died in a hospital in Honolulu. He is survived by his mother and wife, who are living in Pennsylvania.

TWO UNUSUAL BIRDS SIGHTED

On the afternoon of October 1, 1956, I was with a party of four (the others were Vernon Brock, Harry Duncan, and Peter Wilson) inspecting some ponds adjoining the Puuloa Rifle Range (Navy) near Ewa, Oahu. As we approached the pond area we saw 30 or 40 stilt, numerous golden plover, ruddy turnstones and coot. The stilt were very noisy

and circled low over our heads, acting as if there might be nesting in the area. Then without our seeing where he came from, there at close range - less than 100 yards - was an osprey being harried by 4 or 5 stilt. The white underparts and markings about the head made the bird unmistakable. It flew off on a fairly straight course to the north over the kiawe trees in what I believe was the approximate direction of West Loch, Pearl Harbor.

Within five minutes I heard a familiar but unbelievable call - the whistle of a bristle-thighed curlew. When first glimpsed the bird was also in flight and while we watched disappeared in the same general direction as the osprey. Without binoculars, the curlew appeared uniformly brown in color, the long, down-curving bill was quite evident and, to my ear, the call could have been made by no other bird.

Neither the Hudsonian curlew nor the long-billed curlew are included in Bryan's "Check list of birds reported from the Hawaiian group;" the bristle-thighed is designated as a "winter migrant in small numbers." I would term the species a common migrant in the Leeward Islands of the Hawaiian Group and also in the Line Islands to the south, but it is presently considered a rare migrant in the major Hawaiian Islands. There is no reason why it shouldn't occur here on occasion, however, in the more isolated areas, as the record shows.

Miss Grenville Hatch was kind enough to check through the Elepaio for the past 10 years and uncovered 4 published records for the bristle-thighed curlew, all sighted on Oahu. John Webb reported seeing a curlew at Punaluu on July 5, 1946. One was sighted by Clifton Koterba and others, including Grenville Hatch and Hazel Peppin at Kahuku, on October 12, 1947. Two were observed at Kahuku on September 12, 1948, by Unoyo Kojima, Grenville Hatch and Ruth Rockafellow. James Munro saw a specimen at Kahuluu in late 1949. Among the unpublished sightings, Ruth Rockafellow states that, in company with Ruth Porter, she saw 2 curlew at Kahuku in 1949. Apparently it has not been reported - at least there are no published records - since 1949.

The osprey is listed by Bryan as a "chance migrant." The only recently published record of its occurrence is provided in an article by Bob Pyle (Elepaio 16(6):31-32) who describes the appearance and behavior of an osprey first sighted by Paul Breese at Hauula on October 8, 1955, and observed the following day by a group of Audubon Society people. In June 1950, I sighted an eagle-like bird on Lisiansky Island, which I decided later was most probably an osprey. In view of the certain and doubtful records, I would guess that the osprey, like the curlew, is a rather frequent straggler to the Hawaiian Islands.

Joseph E. King
October 8, 1956

ALOHA TO GRACE GOSSARD

Miss Grace Gossard leaves Hawaii the first of December, to accept a position in San Bernardino, California. It is with deep regret that we bid farewell to Grace. One of our most active members, able president during a very difficult period, this past year carrying much responsibility as vice-president, she will leave a place that is hard to fill. We shall miss her companionship on the trail, her sound knowledge of Hawaiian birds, her guidance, and her gracious acceptance of an infinite number of tasks. Our best wishes go with her, and the hope that some time she may return to us.

FIELD NOTES:

August 26th. - - - The schedule for the trip read "Around the island to greet the newly arrived shorebirds----." Our start was made at Kulicouou Park where Dr. and Mrs. John W. Cooper joined us; then on to a binocular view of Rabbit Island. Farther on at Bellows Field our guide presented the guard at the gate with adequate credentials and we were off in quest of the Chinese Thrush. We saw two of them just where they had been sighted on the Christmas bird count. Kahana Bay is always a must on these shore bird trips and later we reached another objective, namely, Kahuku. Here we were of the opinion that either we were too early in our check on the migrants or the migrants were late in arriving. Frankly we were disappointed in the numbers seen in this area. West Lock was also included in this "wherever we may find them" check. Tide conditions were none too favorable and the sun too bright and in the wrong direction. Our final count for the trip was:

White-tailed Tropic bird	1	Chinese Spotted Dove	Numerous
Red-footed Booby	4	Barred Dove	Numerous
Frigate Bird	3	Chinese Thrush	2
Sooty Tern	1	Mynah	Numerous
Common Noddy	7	White-eye	Numerous
Hawaiian Noddy	1	Ricebird	Numerous
Black Crowned Night Heron	5	English Sparrow	Numerous
Gallinule	4	North American Cardinal	Numerous
Pintail	4	House Finch	Numerous
Coot	100	Brazilian Cardinal	Numerous
Golden Plover	25		
Wandering Tattler	5	(1 in brown plumage)	
Ruddy Turnstone	5		
Sanderling	5		
Hawaiian Stilt	91		

Ruth R. Rockafellow

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October 14 - - - Just who was responsible ??????

Anyway - no key so we scratched the trip to Pa Lehua and decided instead to go to Aiea. This proved to be a busy day for the Aiea Trail. The passion fruit, which abounds on this trail, was ripe, and consequently, there were numbers of pickers, also many boys, girls, dogs, a class picnic and - - - the Hawaii Audubon Society on the trail. However, the day was beautiful, the trail fairly dry, but there was a paucity of birds, viz:

Damon PondAiea Trail

Mocking Bird	1	Apapane	15
Brazilian Cardinal	2	Ricebird	12
Black Crowned Night Heron	1	Linnet	2
Linnet	2	Amakihi	Numerous
Barred Dove	4	Elepaio	6
Chinese Dove	3	White-eye	Common
Coot	1	Barred Dove	1
North American Cardinal	3	Chinese Dove	1
Pacific Golden Plover	1	Japanese Tit	1
Mynah	7		
White-eye	1		

Our visiting guests were: Mrs. Lloyd Smail, Honolulu; Mr. and Mrs. Paul A. Heady of Honolulu; Mrs. Philip Silmer, Hayward, California; Miss Betty Dahlem, Jackson, Michigan (now on Punahou staff) and new members, Dr. and Mrs. Walter Kohl, from Santa Barbara, California.

Ruth R. Rockafellow

NEWELL'S SHEARWATER, or Ao

Newell's shearwater was feared extinct until 1954, when one flew into the sugar mill at Aiea. It was taken to the zoo and identified by Dr. Frank Richardson and George C. Munro. The bird lived several days, then succumbed.

The first part of October, 1956, a second Newell's was sent from Kauai to Mr. Robert Cross, Territorial Veterinarian, by Dr. McCoy, who had found the bird on the beach near Kapaa, in company with wedge-tailed shearwaters, all in dying condition. The bird was examined for Newcastle disease, with negative results. The cause of death was not determined.

It is good to know that the Newell's is still holding its place. Our readers will remember that the dark rumped petrel has also been found in recent years, and a breeding colony located in the crater of Haleakala by Dr. Frank Richardson, in 1954.

DECEMBER ACTIVITIES:

FIELD TRIPS: There will be no scheduled field trips this month, since members will be busy with the Christmas count, the date of which will be announced later, and the Hawaii Bird Tour, which will run from December 22-31. Members who can help with either of these projects are urged to be present at the December meeting, or to call Al Labrecque, 93-5974.

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MEETING: December 17 - At the Aquarium Auditorium at 7:30 p.m. This is the annual meeting, with election of Executive committee, plans for the Christmas count, and leadership of the Hawaii Bird Tours. Come with your suggestions for an improved program for 1957.

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