

THE ELEPAIO

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*For the Better Protection
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NA LAAU HAWAII IN THE LAST TWO YEARS By George C. Munro

The wet season of 1956-57 was a favorable one for growth at Na Laau Hawaii. On October 4 and 6, 1956, the ground was soaked over a foot deep and in the middle of May 1957, moisture was still in the ground a few inches down. In 1957-58, though rains were much heavier, they were not so well distributed. The first was not till November 20, 1957, when there was over two inches of rain, then light rains till December 6 and 11. Then there was a dry spell till February 5, which set things back a little and spoiled the season altogether for the native moon flower which had made a wonderful growth from the first rains and was flowering beautifully. We looked forward to a harvest of seed, but it dried up completely in the dry spell and did not recover with the downpour of February. We expect, however, that its tuberous root will send out shoots when the next rains start. It is a plant we are anxious to establish. The February rains soaked the ground again and runoff did no damage. The Puakala and Hibiscus are flowering and all seed will be saved. A number of new smaller plants have come up which we hope to bring through the dry season. The Emoloa is seeding heavily and the Soil Conservation staff is testing some of the seed to find if it might be of use in their work.

The studies on plant rotation and the moisture seepage noticed in 1956 are being continued. The latter is not showing as it did then. Silt may have sealed the bottom of the lagoon in the crater so that it will not be soaking through, but we hope it is from something on the outside of the crater where it will not be affected by any future works there.

As you know, Governor William Quinn signed an executive order on March 7, 1958, creating a Territorial park, under the Board of Agriculture and Forestry on the four ridges of Diamond Head westward from Makalei, which will include Na Laau Hawaii, making it safe. We have not yet had word from the Board as to the exact boundaries of the park and how it may affect Na Laau Hawaii, but there are no fears on that score and we are going on as before till we are notified that plans are completed.

WHAT GOES INTO GETTING OUT THE ELEPAIO

Most of us who read and enjoy the Elepaio each month are probably unaware of the great amount of time and effort required and the number of people involved in the "publication" of our journal. Grenville Hatch, being Editor-in-Chief, has the major responsibility of seeing that material is on hand for each issue and that it gets out on time. In selecting and editing feature articles, field notes, etc., she is assisted by associate editors, Charlotta Hoskins and Euphie Shields, but it is Grenville who must spend time on the telephone assembling the information on hikes and meetings and worrying about details.

Although the sequence of events varies somewhat, at present, I believe, each issue is handled as follows: Grenville does any preliminary typing that may be necessary, arranges the different sections of the paper after editing and passes it on to Unoyo Kojima who types the stencils. Unoyo has been performing this painstaking task for several years. Grenville picks up the stencils and delivers them to the Hawaiian Mission Academy. This organization runs off the designated number of copies of each page on a "cost basis" of about \$3.00 an issue. Our Society furnishes the paper. Grenville again makes her appearance, picks up the printed but unassembled pages at Hawaiian Mission Academy, takes them home, where she assembles and staples each copy. Next they are delivered to Hannah Richards who folds the requisite number of copies and inserts them in envelopes. Irma Botsford types the addresses of recipients on stick-on labels which are attached to the envelopes by Blanche Pedley. Blanche returns the envelopes to Hannah Richards for mailing. Because of this volunteer system, the total cost of one year's issues is about \$1.50.

So, in order that the rest of us may enjoy the Elepaio -- and to keep its costs within our means -- several members of the Society generously invest considerable time, gasoline, telephone calls and leg work. Did I hear someone complain that their copy was two days late last month?

Joseph King

THE WARBLERS OF AMERICA

A popular account of the Wood Warblers as they occur in the Western Hemisphere. Ludlow Griscom, Alexander Sprunt, Jr. and other ornithologists of note. Illustrated by John Henry Dick. Devin-Adair Co., New York, 1957.

The Publisher's preface to this handsome 356 page book explains that it is intended for the general reader interested in birds, as well as for the more advanced student wishing to have at hand a brief but comprehensive account of the entire family of wood warblers.

It grew out of an original determination by the artist, John Henry Dick, to paint those species which breed regularly north of the Mexican border - to paint them in typical habitat during the breeding season. His field trips took him through the Western mountains, Southern swamps and Canadian woods, so that he was ultimately able to study at first hand such rarities as Bachman's, Swainson's, Kirtland's and the Colima Warbler, and to sketch them all in the field.

Meanwhile it was thought fitting to have a brief write-up accompany each plate; the assistance of the artist's friend and neighbor, Alexander Sprunt, Jr., was sought. These two faced the question of whether another bird picture book, however excellent the artist's work, or a serious contribution to ornithology should be attempted. Ludlow Griscom was consulted; he undertook the editorial direction of the expanded and long-needed book.

As the book grew, Alexander F. Skutch, James Bond, Emmet Reid Blake and Eugene Eisenmann were invited to do their chapters on the resident warblers south of the border, and on the behavior of the migrating species as they winter in Mexico, Central America, the West Indies and Panama.

The behavior of the family in northern latitudes was assigned to Frederick C. Lincoln, J. A. Munro, W. Earl Godfrey, W.W.H. Gunn and Roland Clement, all of whom cooperated magnificently in describing the summer breeding habits of the warblers in Alaska and in Canada from coast to coast. In addition, Dr. Gunn with the assistance of Dr. Donald J. Borrow of Ohio, rendered the songs of 39 species into phonetic interpretations.

The individual write-ups of the species which breed in the United States and Canada were taken on by Alexander Sprunt, Jr., who has done 31 of them himself and assigned the rest to others who have made special studies of particular birds. (Hermit w. and MacGillivray's w. are described by Hawaii Audubon Society's friend, Howard L. Cogswell) The space allotted to each bird naturally varies, but particular emphasis is given to the lesser known species.

The range maps show approximate breeding areas as of publication: they will be altered as new areas are found or habitats change.

The black and white drawings were done primarily as decorations and space fillers and should be judged in that light. They are not to scale but depend upon the amount of space available on the pages.

The 35 color plates of excellent six-color offset reproductions were printed in Holland and in almost all cases are entirely faithful to the originals.

Charlotta Hoskins

FIELD OBSERVATIONS:

GARRULAX ON POAMOHU TRAIL

Lt. Col. H.I. Cone, a liason army officer from Tokyo, on a recent visit to Honolulu was deeply interested in accumulating Hawaiiana for the Tokyo museum. He holds a life membership in the National Audubon Society, which had been given to him at the age of 10 by Mr. Guggenheim of Long Island. He showed a deep and sincere interest in our bird life and had spent a lone morning on the Aiea trail. With the help of a "Munro" he was able to make positive identification of numerous birds including immature Apapane and Oahu Creepers.

He was assigned a jeep so on Sunday, March 16, he and I travelled the Poamohu trail to the summit.

An abundance of *Leiothrix* greeted us first. They are usually shy as is generally known; however, this day they really "strutted their stuff" for the visitor. Many, many immature Apapane were seen (I cannot recall ever having seen one before.); adults also were in numbers. Koa and Lehua were in blossom at this time. The Colonel identified the Bush Warbler by its call and mentioned the Japanese name (Uguisu); he also noted a different call which proved to be the Iiwi -- and then we heard the clear, beautiful call of the Garrulax. Col. Cone was thrilled after being convinced it was not a call made by a human. A variety of the bird's calls were noted as we progressed along the trail. We were a two hour walk from the banana grove when the first note of the Garrulax came to our notice; the notes followed us for another hour and continued through our lunch period, but we could not SEE them. It would almost seem as though these birds have gone deeper into the forest because of the military activities along the so-called jeep road. There is no doubt but that a wee bit of patience exercised in this area would be rewarding for those who still need to add this species to their life list.

Ruth R. Rockafellow

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WAIKIKI NOTES

Birds and urchins learn quickly especially when anxious to get food.

While having breakfast at the Halekulani coffee shop recently, my guest and I were greatly amused at the antics of a pair of English Sparrows. Coffee shop guests had left several pieces of toast on a plate at a nearby table. Soon the Sparrows came. Finding the slice of bread too large to fly with and knowing they would be shooed from

the table -- they pushed and tugged until it fell off the plate. By and by they managed to get it to the edge of the table -- at this point a waitress disturbed them. Guests know, and so do the birds that "no feeding" is the order. As soon as the coast was clear they were at it again and were successful -- the toast fell to the floor; however, there again was the waitress, but fortunately she did not see them. Those clever little fellows hid behind the table legs each time the waitress appeared, then out they hopped as her feet passed by and continued with their breakfast. We watched for an hour and by the time the waitress brought our bill the toast had dwindled to such size the birds could easily take it with them, which they did.

Ruth R. Rockafellow

FIELD NOTES:

Field trip, April 27, 1958, Waianu Trail.

When it has rained all night long and is still continuing without abatement at five thirty or six o'clock on a Sunday morning, it is easy to turn off the alarm and turn over in bed for another comfortable sleep, but to those who resisted doing this on April 27th and met at the library in the rain at 7 a.m., the rewards were great.

Going across the Pali every crevice had its waterfall and on the windward side arrows of sunlight were reaching the land through gaps in the clouds, splashing areas of sward and brush with glistening gold. Beyond the shore the sea spread pale green and silver. The day was full of promise!

Meeting at the crossroads at the mouth of Waiahole Valley, we found ourselves to number seven adults and two children, one water buffalo and hundreds of snails - the huge African kind. The buffalo turned away in disdain, and we did likewise from the snails, the cars pointing mountainwards. A clay road after a night of heavy rain is one to be negotiated with care and skill. Our drivers proved equal to the occasion, but we all felt a bit more at ease on our own feet when a good parking place was found.

The trail we followed led at first through brushy open land by the side of a trout stream that was dashing through a bed of rounded boulders. We seldom were out of hearing of this stream or its branches throughout the day; its waterfalls and its forest-shrouded pools were equally delightful.

Winding upward gradually, we entered the forested area through a small grove of mountain apple trees (*Eugenia malaccensis*) which were in full bloom, the lovely cerise stamens making a vivid carpet on the ground. White-eyes had been constant companions so far, as had other lowland birds, the Doves and House Finches, but on entering the forest, we could hear the songs of the Brazilian and N. American Cardinals, *Leiothrix* and *Elepaio* but seldom catch sight of them.

One of our first surprises at this time was to find that our trail was paved! Natural rock in times past had been laid more or less evenly to prevent erosion beneath the feet of mules carrying supplies for construction of the water tunnels for irrigating the cane fields of central Oahu. The heavy rainfall of this area can be a problem as well as a source of revenue.

Sometimes the rocks of the trail were covered with the dried "needles" of the Australian pine, making a springy cushion delightful to our feet. And at times the trail was decorated with the handsome scarlet cups of the African tulip tree (*Spathodea campanulata*). Or we might meet with the great knobby roots and white trunks of the *Albizzia Miluccana* trees, or the straight regularly-furrowed boles of the *Eucalyptus robusta*.

Down along the stream were large sword ferns, and higher on the banks were tree ferns, while standing with their feet in the water were the largest specimens of the ape family (*Xanthosoma roseum*) it has been our privilege to see, all in a profusion and splendor thought possible only to Eden. At a turn in the trail was a banana plant with leaves whole, not wind-torn to ribbons, bearing a branch of fruit of good size, so perfect in its setting that it would seem contrived by a landscape gardener. And here also were the rare birds-nest fern, seldom seen on this island now.

An unusual fruit littering the trail proved to be that of the Ho'awa, a *Pittosporum*. These looked like miniature pumpkins, and inch or little more in diameter. Also seen were a few trees with brown clustered fruits looking much like cockle-burs, a native, *Olomea perrottetia sandwicensis*.

Occasionally we came to the bed of an old waterfall, now dry, but white with the foam of the wild *ageratum*. Then there were lovely damp walls of rock and moss gemmed with the fragile beauty of the *impatiens*, and nearby were those weird trees, *Ficus noda*, whose fruits, so prolific as to cover the ground, erupt from the bark of the trunk and heavy branches.

Rounding a turn we were startled by the sound of wings as one of Hawaii's rarer birds, a buff and white owl, took flight, so swiftly that only those in the van of the party caught a view of it.

All this, and nothing has been said about the mountains. At an opening in the forest, where the ground was too rocky to support tall trees, we could see sky, but we had to throw our heads backward as far as possible to do so, for the mountains were as steep as "skyscrapers" and literally did scrape the skies for their tops were lost in leis of mist. Only lichens and moss could cling to their vertical heights.

Yes, to tell the truth, we did meet with some rain on this wonderful trip, but it did not bother for long at a time, and that little near the end of the walk, and by the time we reached the parked cars the sun was shining. We must repeat the trip to the Waianu Trail in the Waiahole Valley!

Margaret Smail

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Field trip, May 11, 1958, Koko Head, Kuapa Pond, Kuliouou Park.

Two days of rain made it inadvisable to take the Manoa Cliffs trail, which is a wet trail, at best. Our leader, Ruth Rockafellow, had considered the question, and proposed that we go to Koko Head instead. The trail leading through the keawes was full of Brazilian and North American Cardinals, and we looked, without much success, for nests. Undoubtedly they were there, but only one was sighted, and it obviously an old one. After walking some distance along the cliff edge, we retraced our steps to the point where the trail led down to the beach, where we explored tide water pools, finding (for some) much treasure in shells and coral. Two Sparrow nests were observed from the beach in the trees just above.

We then went to Kuapa Pond, and were surprised to find no Coots. Ten Stilt were busy feeding close to the dike. Cardinals and White-eyes were noisy in the adjoining trees.

From Kuapa we went to Kuliouou Park. Tattlers were feeding along the mud flat edge, rising with fluty call from time to time. Stilt were seen here, too, and then in the distance we saw a flash of white, which led us farther into the mud flats. We counted at least 25 Ruddy Turnstone, and 16 or more Sanderling. By this time our Stilt count was somewhat confused, as was the Tattler count, but in all, there must have been close to 25 of each.

Grenville Hatch

FROM THE MAIL BAG:

Al Labrecque's friends will be interested in the following letter written on his way to Europe, where he will be for the next few months.

24 April 1958

Just a line to say aloha and give you some highlights of the trip so far. We left Boston in a smooth sea but as the next day wore on it became rougher and rougher. The "Get together dinner" wasn't that at all as half the passengers were already seasick. Rough weather continued until yesterday, when we reached the Azores. Stopped there half a day and I went sightseeing. There are 8 or 9 islands (one with an active volcano spouting clouds of steam) over an ocean area of 400 miles. San Miguel, where we stopped at Ponta Delgade, is nearly as large as Oahu, half as high, with rounded hills all under cultivation. -- grapes, wheat, corn, vegetables. Pineapples are grown in hothouses and exported to all Europe. They are like Hawaiian pines. Wild canaries serenaded us! The people are poor, bare of foot. The land is owned by a few families and rented to farmers. Saw a rich man's beautiful garden with Norfolk pines, hala!, lemon guava trees neatly trimmed.

This old ship rides the seas beautifully and has hardly any vibration. It is clean and well run. The food is excellent, with a good variety; fruit, wine. That string-like stuff coming out of my ears is spaghetti. The tall and handsome Portuguese who was my cabin mate got off at Ponta Delgada and I have the place to myself now.

The passengers are mostly Italian, with a few Americans, Canadians, Germans, Austrians, Portuguese, Greeks, etc. We speak five languages at our table. Instead of some saying "auf wiedersehen" and others "arrivederci" they have combined the two into "aufverderci"! They are a colorful, fun-loving and interesting lot, from highly educated and distinguished people to peasants. (I am travelling tourist class.)

And, oh yes, the birds. I saw two, a day apart, in mid-ocean -- looked like terns. The rest were seagulls at Boston and the Azores.

Tomorrow we reach Lisbon. I have signed up for a 4-hour sightseeing tour. Next stops Gibraltar, Palermo, Naples, Patras, Venice and Trieste.

Aloha to all, Al

BARN OWLS have been introduced into the Territory during the week of May 12th, to be released at Waipio valley on Hawaii, and on Kokee, to combat the rats. Very complete studies have been made of the diet of barn owls, which indicate that their food consists almost wholly of rodents. It seems that there should be no conflict with other birds, and we were assured that tests would be made to insure that the imported owls carry no disease. It is hoped that this importation will bring only good to the Territory.

The Honolulu Aquarium Society is holding its 6th annual fish show at the 49th State Fair grounds, Honolulu Stadium, from June 27 to July 6, 1958. The show will be interesting, attractive and educational. Everyone is invited.

We welcome the following members added to our list since December 1, 1957:

<u>On Oahu</u>			
Mrs. William C. Baker, Jr.	Ft. Shafter	Miss Ruth L. Munro	Honolulu
Miss Charlotte Hale	Honolulu	Mrs. Martha Rosenquist	Ewa Beach
Mrs. Lulu H. Johnson	Honolulu	Miss Miriam Sinclair	Honolulu
Mrs. James R. Judd	Honolulu	Mrs. Jeanne K. Skinner	Honolulu
Mr. Thomas R.L. McGuire	Honolulu	Miss Eleanor Westendorf	Honolulu
Miss Joan Miller	Honolulu		

<u>Junior Members</u> - Anne Harpham	Honolulu	Bonnie P. Lind	Honolulu
Douglas Harpham	"	Ian Y. Lind	"

Others

Dr. Dean Amadon	New York, N.Y.	Mr. C.F. Graefe	Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio
Mr. Whitney H. Eastman	Minneapolis, Minn.	Dr. & Mrs. A.C. Hofsommer	Webster Groves, Mo.
Mr. Phil Du Mont	Washington, D.C.	Mr. Hubert O. Jenkins	Sacramento, Cal.
Mr. Chester M. Fennell	Korea	Mrs. David J. Martin	Vancouver, B.C.
Dr. Hubert Frings	University Park, Pa.	Mr. J. d'Arcy Northwood	Audubon, Pa.
		Dr. George C. Ruhle	Haw. Nat'l Park

JUNE ACTIVITIES:

FIELD TRIPS: June 8 - To Waimanu trail, led by Mace Norton. This promises to be an interesting trip, in an area new to us. Meet at the Library of Hawaii at 7:00 a.m.

June 22 - We will take a short trip to the Judd trail, in Dowsett. The trail is only a mile and a half long and very easy. Shammas have been seen and heard in the area. Bring the family and picnic supper, and after the walk meet at the home of Grenville Hatch, 3127 Alika Ave., to eat supper on the lawn. Hot coffee will be provided. Meet at the Library of Hawaii at 2:00 p.m.

MEETING: June 16 - At the auditorium of the Aquarium at 7:30 p.m. The bird slides, which we did not use last meeting, plus some others, will be shown, with Chuck Hanson as leader.

HAWAII AUDUBON SOCIETY OFFICERS:

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	Thomas R.L. McGuire
Secretary:	Mrs. Ruth R. Rockafellow
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	Miss Charlotta Hoskins
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