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Hawaii Audubon Society



For the Better Protection
of Wildlife in Hawaii

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HONOLULU CHRISTMAS COUNT
December 22, 1957

()--Estimated
#----Just outside circle
*----Areas 1-3 combined

	AREAS												
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	TOTAL
Black-footed Albatross	2	2
Red-footed Booby	(400)	(830)	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	(1230)
Brown Booby	6	60	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	66
Great Frigate Bird	230	10	.	.	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	241
Black-cr Night Heron	.	1	.	.	.	3	.	.	.	.	.	.	4
European Widgeon	4	4
Baldpate	11	11
Pintail	81	81
Shoveler	.	.	56	.	.	6#	.	.	.	.	.	4	60
Ring-necked Pheasant	.	2	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	2
Common Gallinule	.	2	.	.	.	.	2	.	.	.	.	.	4
American Coot	.	.	538	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	(600)	(1138)
American Golden Plover	.	54	.	.	3	60	10	.	29	.	21	.	177
Black-bellied Plover	2	.	.	.	.	2	.	4
Ruddy Turnstone	.	22	.	.	.	88	.	.	.	.	.	.	110
Wandering Tattler	.	5	.	.	.	3	.	.	.	.	.	.	8
Greater Yellow-legs	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1
Sanderling	26	.	.	.	.	.	.	26
Hawaiian Stilt	.	.	24	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	24
Pomarine Jaeger	17	.	17
Bonaparte Gull	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	1
Herring Gull	1#	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Noddy Tern	.	12	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	12
Spotted Dove	.	19	.	.	9	.	15	.	1	1	14	.	59
Barred Dove	.	67	.	5	41	2	38	6	38	5	15	1	219
Mockingbird	1	.	.	1	2
House Sparrow	-----	35*	-----	.	32	1	5	.	12	.	.	11	96
Cardinal (North Amer)	.	5	.	.	5	.	10	1	.	.	.	1	22
Brazilian Cardinal	.	1	.	.	2	.	5	.	.	.	.	.	8
House Finch	2	.	44	9	.	1	.	1	57
Japanese Varied Tit	1	.	.	1
Shama Thrush	.	.	.	2	3	.	.	1	.	.	.	.	6
Red-billed Leiothrix	.	.	.	21	13	.	.	20	.	18	.	.	72
White-eye	.	4	.	17	21	.	8	38	.	13	1	.	102
Mynah	.	157	.	.	77	.	6	.	5	.	.	.	245
Ricebird	.	13	.	.	14	.	31	16	68	36	.	.	178
Elepaio	.	.	.	2	.	.	.	4	.	4	.	.	10
Amakahi	.	.	.	4	.	.	.	3	.	17	.	.	24
Creeper	1	.	.	1
Apapane	.	.	.	11	.	.	.	5	.	225	.	.	241
TOTALS	(636)	(1300)	618	62	222	187	174	103	154	322	70	717	(4565)
Nr. of Species:	-----	22*	-----	7	12	10	11	10	7	11	6	11	39

Honolulu Christmas Count, December 23, 1956 - Continued

AREAS	1-3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	TOTAL
Hours on foot:	6'	2'05"	45"	1'05"	1'30"	3'20"	-	3'45"	-	2'	20 $\frac{1}{2}$
Hours by car:	1'40"	-	51"	15"	30"	-	15"	-	1'	-	4 $\frac{1}{2}$
Miles on foot:	2	1.5	1	1	2	3	-	3.5	-	1.5	15.5
Miles by car:	15	-	10.1	.5	3.2	-	1	-	5.8	-	35.6

The following areas (as listed on front page) were covered in this year's count:

- AREAS: 1) Moku Manu (Through telescope from Ulupau Head)
 2) Ulupau Head, Kaneohe Peninsula and Ponds
 3) Kaelepulu Pond and Kailua
 4) Manoa Falls
 5) Residential Areas (Manoa, Nuuanu and Kaimuki)
 6) Kuliouou Beach Area, Kuapa Pond
 7) Bellows Field
 8) Tantalus Trail
 9) Punchbowl Memorial Cemetery
 10) Aiea Trail
 11) Sand Island
 12) Damon Pond and Salt Lake (Through telescope)

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THE 1957 CHRISTMAS COUNT
 Compiled from the reports of each group

AREAS 1-3: Moku Manu, Ulupau, Kaelepulu

The Brown Booby was the most notable bird at Ulupau, though far surpassed in numbers by the Red-footed. The total number (66) of Brown is remarkable, since we often wait in vain for a glimpse of them. One very curious fellow took about five passes at the census takers, giving them extra close views.

Very few Frigates were in the air at Ulupau, but many were observed to be "parked" on Moku Manu. Some were inflating their red pouches, which showed up brilliantly through the telescope.

Dogs and boys with guns seem to be plaguing the Kaelepulu area. This is most regrettable, since stilts and coots have nested there in previous years. -- Al Stoops, recorder; Jessie Hauck, Jorgan Henrickson, Carol Horning, Hal Horning.

AREAS 4-7: Manoa Falls, Residential Areas, Kuliouou Beach, Kuapa Pond, Bellows Field

As in past years, Shama Thrushes were recorded for the Manoa Falls trail, and in common with last year's census, a number of Apapane were seen. The four Amakihi sighted this year are probably a new record for this trail.

The Kuliouou Beach area yielded two items of interest in addition to the usual shore birds. Two Black-bellied Plover were observed, possibly for the first time in this part of Oahu. The species is an uncommon migrant to Hawaii. A rarer find was a single adult Bonaparte Gull, which was recognized by the conspicuous black spot behind the eye, the white outer primaries and its small size, being one of the smallest of the gulls.

Kuapa Pond produced another rarity: an adult gull of large size, which, on the basis of its light grey mantle and black wing tips, was judged to be a Herring Gull. The legs and feet of the bird were not visible. Both the Herring Gull and Bonaparte's Gull are listed in Bryan's Check List as chance arrivals in the Hawaiian group. -- Joseph E. King, recorder; Blanche Pedley.

AREAS 5 (in part), 8 and 9: Residential Areas, Tantalus Trail, Punchbowl Memorial Cemetery

At dawn the birds at Luakaha began their chatter and soon we were rewarded by the coming of the Shama Thrushes. The area being opened up by the new Nuuanu highway was also included in the residential count. This section was more rewarding scenically than birdwise.

The wind on Tantalus was strong to the point of violence at times, making it difficult to hear or to see birds. There was very little blossom of the Melaleuca, which probably accounts for the Apapane count being less than half of last year's total.

Punchbowl Memorial Cemetery was added to our area this year. The Mockingbird was found, and an unexpectedly high number of Ricebirds were counted. Each section of lawn was dotted with them, among the usual Plover. -- Grenville Hatch, recorder; Al Labrecque.

AREAS 10-12: Aiea Trail, Sand Island, Damon Pond, Salt Lake

Sprinkles of rain and high wind proved a bit of a handicap on the Aiea trail inasmuch as practically no identification could be made by flight or song. Evidences of hurricane Nina's activity were to be seen in the abundance of passion fruit on the ground and the fallen trees. Paper bark (Cajeput tree), Melaleuca leucadendron, was in secondary blossoming stage and the trail was in good condition. -- Ruth R. Rockafellow, recorder; Charles Hanson, Unoyo Kojima.

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The editor has asked for a report on the 4 European Widgeons which were seen on our Christmas count at Salt Lake. I was using the 30X Balsope owned by the Society and had the birds in good light. I had the American Widgeon or Baldpate within just a few feet of the European, so I could make a good comparison. The European Widgeon was a gray-colored bird with a distinct reddish colored head whereas the American Widgeon was a brownish bird with a gray head. The crown patch of the European bird was more buffy and not as noticeable or plain as that of the Baldpate. -- Charles Hanson, recorder.

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS from absent friends and members, who asked particularly to be remembered to all, include d'Arcy Northwood, our first President, and his wife Olive, now in Audubon, Pa.; Thomas M. Blackman, now of Upland, California; Chester Fennell, from Korea; Jim and Margaret Moody, of Carmel; and Bernice Tisdale, of Sacramento, California.

THE NE-NE formed the decoration for the Christmas card designed by Peter Scott for the International Union for the Conservation of Nature -- a line of Ne-ne flying across a blue background.

HONOLULU CHRISTMAS COUNTS
1949 - 1957

	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957
Black-footed Albatross	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	2	2
Laysan Albatross	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	3	.
White-tailed Tropic-bird	.	.	.	.	.	2	.	.	.
Red-footed Booby	387	811	628	215	450	880	1150	1000	1230
Brown Booby	4	7	.	.	5	9	33	6	66
Great Frigate Bird	82	1	2	32	14	21	86	35	241
Black-cr Night Heron	7	3	2	.	.	3	4	2	4
Black Brant	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
European Widgeon	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	4
Baldpate	.	.	.	.	.	2	.	2	11
Pintail	815	278	336	296	58	795	256	329	81
Shoveler	.	.	.	2	.	200	.	87	60
California Quail	.	.	.	.	.	10	.	.	.
Ring-necked Pheasant	.	.	1	.	.	2	7	3	2
Common Gallinule	.	.	.	5	3	4	4	3	4
American Coot	641	652	17	153	30	449	224	245	1138
American Golden Plover	196	219	125	82	67	396	366	228	177
Black-bellied Plover	.	.	.	.	1	1	.	.	4
Bristle-thighed Curlew	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Ruddy Turnstone	116	141	9	47	66	196	208	115	110
Wandering Tattler	22	25	1	8	9	17	24	15	8
Sanderling	15	.	3	3	26	30	36	41	26
Hawaiian Stilt	86	31	66	69	28	12	24	211	24
Pomarine Jaeger	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	7	17
Bonaparte Gull	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1
Least Tern	.	.	.	.	1	.	.	.	.
Noddy Tern	.	.	.	.	.	1	.	.	12
Hawaiian Noddy Tern	11	.	2	6	1	.	16	4	.
Greater Yellow-legs	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1
Spotted Dove	203	272	46	73	32	352	195	141	59
Barred Dove	263	201	236	166	136	1033	614	216	218
Hawaiian Short-eared Owl	2	.	.	1	.	1	1	.	.
Skylark	.	.	2	.	.	.	6	.	.
Mockingbird	1	.	7	.	.	.	.	.	2
House Sparrow	289	293	119	79	140	564	381	109	96
Cardinal (North Amer)	42	93	53	71	35	115	212	72	22
Brazilian Cardinal	11	16	19	13	11	51	94	29	8
House Finch	39	10	13	3	11	86	91	101	57
Japanese Varied Tit	.	.	.	.	.	.	4	2	1
Chinese Thrush	.	5	.	.	.	.	5	.	.
Shama Thrush	.	.	.	.	.	6	10	4	6
Red-billed Leiiothrix	6	20	.	20	2	83	462	150	72
White-eye	30	39	6	37	7	209	402	221	102
Mynah	291	520	241	150	114	1587	640	331	245
Ricebird	136	233	260	279	119	281	421	176	178
Elepaio	6	9	.	12	.	27	74	25	10
Amakihi	2	.	.	.	.	27	102	77	24
Creeper	.	.	.	.	.	.	3	2	1
Apapane	.	2	.	.	.	33	159	506	241
Nr. of Species	28#	23#	23#	24#	24#	34	34	35	39
Individuals	3705	4032*	2194	2728*	1366	7485	6315	4500	4565
Observers	15	13	15	8	9	21	22	18	12

#Poamoho totals not included.

*Certain "unidentified" waterfowl not listed, but included in totals for 1950-1951, 1952-1956.

This 1957 Christmas count is the 16th taken by the Hawaii Audubon Society. In 1939, the year in which the Society was founded, the count was taken by two parties, one going over Poamoho trail to the Summit, and down the Castle trail, where they were met by the group who had covered the Kahuku pond area, and the fields as far as the radio station. This strenuous program was repeated in 1940. The events of December 7, 1941, have blotted from my mind what was planned for that year. Obviously it was impossible to take a count. Poamoho trail and the entire Kahuku area had been taken over by the army, aside from the fact that Christmas count was far from our minds.

No attempt was made to take another count until 1944, when Howard Cogswell, with energetic enthusiasm drew another circle, which included the Woodlawn ti-leaf slide, and upper Manoa, residential areas in town, and for the shore bird areas, Kalihi Flats, Kuapa and Kaelepulu ponds, and Kawainui Swamp.

In 1945, gasoline restrictions were somewhat eased, so that Alewa and Tantalus could be added to the town areas. Aiea Heights trail was also included for the first time, while shore bird areas remained unchanged. That year, a group of energetic young service men, including (I think), Robert Watson and Rus Peterson, covered Aiea trail, Kalihi Flats, Moanalua and Kaelepulu!

In 1946 and 1947, still searching for the best routes, the St. Louis-Woodlawn trail was tried out, with only moderate success. Kipapa trail was used for the mountain area in 1946, with good results. In 1947 Halawa was used, with fairly good results, enough so that it was used again in 1948. However, Halawa is a difficult trail, with undue expenditure of energy for the results. By 1947 the booby colony had been discovered, and Ulupau was included for the first time, and has been included each year since.

In 1949 the list of areas reads very much like our present one. In fact, except for minor shifts designed for better coverage, the circle has remained relatively stable since. The present circle has been in effect for four years, and we hope that it can be continued unchanged.

Poamoho was taken as a separate count in 1949 through 1953. There are certain advantages to Poamoho. The supposed garrulax is found only on that trail. Poamoho is apt, also, to produce the largest number of our native birds, and it is the only one of the trails which we are now able to cover upon which iiwi have been seen. Certainly it is possible to hope for iiwi upon Aiea trail, which has become surprisingly good in the last few years, but so far it is a hope only. With these advantages of Poamoho, it seems unfortunate that we cannot muster sufficient manpower to take count there, for our records, sometime close to the count season.

The number of species this year was gratifying; 39, as above the previous record (last year) of 35. The lowest number of species was 25, in 1939; the average of the 16 counts, 30.5. Going back over the years, 59 species have been recorded at various times. Nine of these have been seen only once, which still gives us a nice figure to aim at in succeeding years.

The lowest number of individuals, 1058, was seen in the 1940 count; the highest, 7485, in 1954. Number of individuals counted is dependent upon many factors, but a moment's study of the 9 year comparison, on page 51, will show that the large total of 1954 is in part due to the numbers of common birds, such as mynahs, which were counted. In 1954 and 1955, both good totals, we had more participants than usual, which is a great help. This year we had insufficient residential coverage. A few hours of neighborhood counting by a number of our members would present a more accurate picture of the bird population.

Access to a telescope during the last two years has made possible the count upon Moku Manu, bringing about a rise in Red-footed Booby and Frigate numbers, given us the albatrosses, and a better count on all water-fowl. Possibly we should credit the

Pomarine Jaeger to the 'scope, although once the characteristic flight has been studied, it may be identified through binoculars.

Questions concerning population trends naturally come to mind as we look over the 9 year comparison. Some apparent changes are probably valid, others need to be considered in the light of weather or other conditions. The Shama Thrush is now sufficiently common that it is almost sure to be found. Mockingbirds are increasing; the trick now is to get one in the circle. Probably most of us would agree that Apapane and Amakihi are increasing, but our conviction is due not so much to the counts, as to our common monthly and yearly observations. The editorial board would welcome your thoughts on these questions.

WHY PHOTOGRAPH BIRDS?

By Al Stoops

Why photograph birds? My answers to this query would be: It challenges a person to stalk and hunt wild life without the destruction involved in hunting; the trophy, if it is spectacular enough, can become a continuing source of pleasure, not only to the photographer, but to those who do not get out into the field. And also, because the bird is captured on film, the photographer has an edge on a bird watcher who gets a good but fleeting look at some sought-after bird through a pair of binoculars.

My first problem was the selection of a camera. It would naturally have to be a steady one for the use of tele-lens. An extra-sturdy tripod must be purchased which could meet the requirements for steadiness that the telephoto lens requires.

Professional photographers cautioned me all along that bird photography was perhaps the most difficult kind, and after three years experience I can "second" that statement. So I have fallen into the trap of all photographers--I must buy a better camera, one that allows you to sight through the lens while doing your actual shooting. My choice is the Ariflex; however, Bolex has recently come out with through-the-lens shooting. The advantage to this is probably obvious. Because you are working with telephoto lens, an ordinary finder isn't very accurate, but if you can watch your subject all the time and even focus during shooting, the birds don't really have a chance.

I have shot nearly 3,000 feet of film on birds and related subjects. I am learning all the while--and hoping that my pictures are improving. My present equipment is one Cine-Special camera with wide angle lens, one regular lens, and 27 mm., 155 mm., and 300 mm. tele lenses. The tripod I chose was a Pro Junior with a Miller fluid action head.

The challenge of photography has me in its grip--perhaps someday I will be at the right place at the right time and get something truly wonderful. Hours in the field can mean everything if you can arrange for them--for our friends, the birds, will oblige your patience.

Catching a mynah sitting on a nest inside the red light of a street signal light provided an amusing sequence. Two peaceful, trusting Laysan teal walking down to the sea will be a trophy of lasting enjoyment for me. And then there is the closeup of the glamour queen of the Pacific--the Red-tailed Tropic Bird--a symbol of all the beautiful birds in the world. To make myself and others happy with pictures of these feathered friends is the reason I photograph birds.

FIELD NOTES: The University campus was recently host to a Japanese blue bird (O-ruri-cho). It was a trim slender bird, 6-7 inches long, with a bright blue body and a long tail. It flew from the grass (where I could hear its call but not see it) to a tree too far away for me to see the distribution of color, so I am not sure if the head was

blue also. The call was two notes, a pause, then three or four notes.

Euphie Shields
January 15, 1958

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FIELD TRIP: January 12, 1958, Wahiawa Trail

Eleven members and visitors set out on January 12th to explore a trail new to the Audubon Society, leading out of Wahiawa into the Koolaus.

As we drove out Kam Highway we faced dark clouds down over the Waianaes, but the Koolaus were dappled with light and shadow and we hoped for the best. Fortunately we had it, for we were in good weather all day. The road leads off from California Street into a military area of battered shacks. Immediately we were in a lane of stately and fragrant eucalyptus and from there on we were constantly delighted with the beauty of the trail and of the mountain scenery.

Work had recently been done on the road and we were able to drive to within a quarter of a mile of the start of the trail proper. We found it was in good condition; save for a few sharp pitches it was fairly level and it was full of interest.

Apapane played the major role for the day. They were audible and visible in abundance. The count: Apapane-30+, White-eye-17, Amakihi-8, Leiothrix-7, Elepaio-3.

The chief trees were koa and ohia.

Laura Draper

FEBRUARY ACTIVITIES:

FIELD TRIPS: February 9 - To the Waikane Ditch trail. This is one we have not visited for a long time. It is a very beautiful trail.
February 23- To the Pupukea-Kahuku area, walking down trail No. 9 from the Pupukea Road.

Tom McGuire will lead both trips.

STARTING POINT FOR EACH TRIP:

Punchbowl Street side of the Library of Hawaii, at 8:00 a.m.

MEETING: February 17- At the Auditorium of the Aquarium at 7:30 p.m. Miss Margaret Titcomb will talk on the topic, "BIRDS AND MEN IN ANCIENT HAWAII."

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