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BIRD STUDY IN THE HAWAIIAN ISLANDS IS A  
STIMULATING EXPERIENCE  
By Whitney and Karen Eastman  
Minneapolis, Minnesota

At the request of Miss Grenville Hatch we are recording briefly our bird study experiences in Hawaii for THE ELEPAIO, the official bulletin of the Hawaii Audubon Society.

We spent twenty-three days (March 23 - April 14, 1958) on the four islands, Oahu, Maui, Hawaii and Kauai, and drove over practically every charted road on these islands.

We saw a total of 68 species and subspecies - Oahu 38; Maui 27; Hawaii 34; Kauai 28. The birders we met were extremely gracious and helpful in many ways and made our visit all the more enjoyable.

Miss Grenville Hatch, Editor of THE ELEPAIO, in Honolulu, extended us many courtesies including a personally conducted tour around the Aiea Trail. She produced a daintily packed lunch which we enjoyed in the rain under a leaning tree trunk.

A small group of the members of the Hawaii Audubon Society kindly invited us to go on a birding trip with them to Ulupau Head in the Military Reservation where we could observe the nesting colony of sea birds on the cliffs and Moku Manu (Bird Island) a short distance offshore.

Frank and Mahre James, proprietors of Kula Lodge, with whom we stayed on Maui, were extremely cooperative and proved to be gracious hosts.

Robert and Helen Baldwin, of Hilo, took time off to accompany us on a birding trip on Hawaii, having obtained permission to visit the Nene Goose sanctuary in the Pohakuloa Game Bird Refuge. There we were privileged to see 10 nearly full-grown Nene goslings from this year's brood.

Mr. and Mrs. William Paris, Jr., who operate Puuwaawaa Ranch, a short distance from Kona, on Hawaii, were extremely cooperative in permitting us to visit their ranch to see the Hawaiian Crow.

We feel very grateful for the many courtesies shown us by all these friendly and delightful people of the islands, and we hope some day they may visit us here in Minneapolis so that we may have an opportunity to reciprocate.

We did not devote much time watching the Hula dancers as we had gone to the islands primarily to study the bird life and to learn something about the natural



habitat of some of the birds which make the islands their home and others which stop over in their long migratory journeys across the Pacific.

Rather than attempt to describe the various habitats we visited or to convey our enthusiasm about our many interesting experiences on each of the four islands, we feel that a report on our observations, giving the species population and specific location would be of greater value to island dwellers as well as future visitors.

The common and scientific names of the species and subspecies shown are those used by Munroe in BIRDS OF HAWAII, and our list follows the Check List order on the Field Card of the Hawaii Audubon Society.

### Check List of the Species and Subspecies Observed

#### Native Landbirds

1. Hawaiian Hawk - *Buteo solitarius*. 4 birds, 2 in forest clearings at elevation 2,000' and a pair on Puuwaawaa Ranch, Hawaii. Plumage varied from very light to very dark.
2. Short-eared Owl - *Asio flammeus*. 5 birds, one in Iao Valley on Maui; one on Parker Ranch on Hawaii, at elevation 4,000'; one in forest clearing on Saddle Road, near Hilo on Hawaii, at elevation 4,000'; one near Hanalei Lookout on Kauai; and one down in Waimea Canyon on Kauai.
3. Hawaiian Crow - *Corvus tropicus*. 3 birds near ranch headquarters on Puuwaawaa Ranch on Hawaii. Mrs. Paris told us that they have never seen more than twelve and that this number may represent a major part of the colony on the ranch. From inquiries made we concluded that there may be a few more isolated birds in the Kona area.
4. Hawaiian Thrush - *Phaeornis obscura obscura*. We heard about a dozen birds singing on the Saddle Road near Hilo, but they were very shy - between 2,000' and 4,000' elevation. In the Hawaii National Park near the Thurston Lava Tube, not far from Volcano House, we observed two birds feeding on cherries and singing intermittently. They were not at all shy.
5. Elepaio - *Chasiempis sandwichensis* (Oahu - *gayi*), (Hawaii - *sandwichensis*) and (Kauai - *sclateri*). We saw substantial numbers of this species in forested areas (excepting Maui) at medium elevations. They responded readily to "the squeak."
6. Amakihi - *Chlorodrepanis* <sup>(1)</sup> *virens* (Oahu - *chloris*), (Maui - *wilsoni*), (Hawaii - *virens*) and (Kauai - *stejnegeri*). This species was quite common in the forested areas of all four islands feeding on the blooms of the Koa and Ohia.
7. Anianiau (Lesser Amakihi) - *Chlorodrepanis* <sup>(1)</sup> *parva*. The only place we encountered this species was at Kalalau Lookout (elevation 4,000') on Kauai, where we saw only two birds.
8. Creeper - *Paroreomyza* <sup>(1)</sup> (Oahu - *maculata maculata*) and (Hawaii - *bairdimana*). We observed only two birds, one on Oahu on the Aiea Trail with Grenville Hatch and one on Hawaii on the Halemaumau Trail below the Volcano House.
9. Akepa - *Loxops* (Maui - *coccinea ochracea*) and (Hawaii - *coccinea coccinea*). We observed only two birds, one on Maui near Haleakala Mountain Lodge (elevation 7,000' and one on Hawaii on Saddle Road near Hilo (elevation 4,000').
10. Palila - *Loxioides* <sup>(2)</sup> *bailleui*. Saw only one bird of this species in Bird Park on Hawaii. It was a member of a foraging group in the tree tops.
11. Apapane - *Himatione sanguinea*. We found this beautiful bird in large numbers on all four islands between elevations 2,000' and 8,000'. Our observations indicate that it outnumbers any other species on the islands. We found the largest numbers on Hawaii at about 4,000' elevation feeding on Ohia blooms.

(1) Genus now changed to *Loxops* - (Editor)

(2) Genus now changed to *Psittirostra* - (Editor)



12. Iiwi - *Vestiaria coccinea*. We were unable to find this bird on Oahu or Maui. We found substantial numbers of them on Hawaii with the Baldwins on the Saddle Road, between elevations 4,000' to 6,000'. It seemed strange that we should find them in little mixed groups in a "Kipuka", a small clump of trees not hit by a lava flow in a long time. We found them on Kauai near Kalalau Lookout (elevation 4,000').

#### Freshwaterbirds and Shorebirds

1. Black-crowned Night Heron - *Nycticorax nycticorax hoactli*. We found this species only on Oahu at Kuapa Pond in substantial numbers.
2. Hawaiian Goose (Nene) - *Nesochen sandvicensis*. We did not see this species in the wild state. However, at the Nene goose sanctuary in the Pohakuloa Game Bird Refuge we saw several elders and 10 nearly full-grown youngsters from this year's brood.
3. Hawaiian Duck - *Anas wyvilliana wyvilliana*. We saw this species only on Oahu, one at Salt Lake and one at Kaelepulu Pond.
4. American Widgeon (Baldpate) - *Mareca americana*. We saw this species only on Oahu - a small group at Kaelepulu Pond.
5. Shoveler - *Spatula clypeata*. We saw this species only on Oahu and Maui. There were several hundred at Kaelepulu Pond on Oahu and several thousand at the Kanaha Sanctuary near the airport on Maui.
6. Hawaiian Gallinule - *Gallinula chloropus*. We saw only a single bird of this species at Salt Lake on Oahu.
7. Hawaiian Coot - *Fulica americana alai*. We did not observe this species on Hawaii. We saw large numbers running into the hundreds at Salt Lake and Kaelepulu Pond on Oahu, at the Kanaha Sanctuary on Maui and in the streams on Kauai.
8. Pacific Golden Plover - *Pluvialis dominica fulva*. We saw large numbers of this species on all four islands, in public parks, cemeteries, air fields, mountain meadows and on front lawns at all elevations. We also found them in large numbers on the dirt roads in sugar cane fields.
9. Black-bellied Plover - *Squatarola squatarola*. We saw only one bird of this species on the mud flats at Kuapa Pond on Oahu.
10. Wandering Tattler - *Heteroscelus incanus*. We saw single individuals of this species on the beaches and also in mountain streams on all islands. On Kauai we found large numbers on the dirt roads of sugar cane fields with Golden Plovers.
11. Ruddy Turnstone - *Arenaria interpres interpres*. We did not see this species on Kauai. We found substantial numbers on beaches and mud flats on the other islands. On Maui we observed about a hundred birds of this species feeding in a polo pony pasture with Golden Plovers. (Elevation 3,000')
12. Sanderling - *Crocethia alba*. We found small numbers of this species on mud flats only on Oahu and Maui.
13. Hawaiian Stilt - *Himantopus himantopus knudseni*. We did not locate this species on Hawaii or Kauai. On Oahu we observed them in considerable numbers on the Military Reservation near Ulupau Head and at Kaelepulu Pond and also in the Kanaha Sanctuary near the airport on Maui.

#### Introduced Landbirds

1. California Valley Quail - *Lophortyx californica vallicola*. We did not observe this bird on Oahu. On Maui we saw a considerable number at elevations 3,000' to 7,000'. On Hawaii we saw a single bird on the front lawn of the Volcano House at elevation 3,980'. On Kauai we saw a small group on Waimea Canyon Road at elevation 3,000'.
2. Painted Quail (Japanese) - *Coturnix coturnix japonica*. We saw a single bird near the Volcano House on Hawaii at elevation 3,980'.
3. Hawaiian Fowl (Jungle) - *Gallus gallus gallus*. On Kauai we heard several birds of this species crowing in the forested areas above Waimea Canyon at elevation



- 3,500' to 4,000'. We observed a small flock looking for handouts near the Kokee Museum.
4. Chinese Pheasant (Ring-necked) - *Phasianus colchicus torquatus*. The population of this species varies greatly from island to island. We saw only one bird on Oahu at Kaelepulu Pond. On Maui we saw considerable numbers from sea level to 8,000' elevation. On Hawaii we found substantial numbers on Parker Ranch but in no other area. On Kauai we observed a mother with her flock of young at Wailua Falls and heard a cock crowing in Waimea Canyon.
  5. Green Pheasant (Japanese) - *Phasianus colchicus versicolor*. Observed a single bird near Haleakala Mountain Lodge on Maui. Heard and saw about a dozen in Bird Park on Hawaii. This species greatly outnumbers the Chinese Pheasant in this area. Saw a single bird in sugar cane area on Kauai.
  6. Pea Fowl - *Pavo christatus*. The only place where we encountered this species was on Hawaii. On the Puuwaawaa Ranch in the Kona area we heard the voices of this species coming from a high hill near ranch headquarters. The Paris' told us that these birds are living in the wild in this forest area and no longer come down from their forest home.
  7. Turkey - *Meleagris gallopavo gallopavo*. The only place we encountered this species was on the Parker Ranch on Hawaii where we observed a small flock.
  8. Rock Dove - *Columba livia*. We observed only a small number of this species in the wild on Oahu, Maui and Hawaii.
  9. Chinese Spotted Dove - *Streptopelia chinensis*. We observed this species on all four islands from sea level to elevation 6,000'. The largest concentration of this species was observed on the road from Kaupo to Hana on Maui.
  10. Barred Dove - *Geopelia striata striata*. This species was recorded in large numbers on all islands in most areas from sea level to elevation 6,000'.
  11. Skylark - *Alauda arvensis*. We did not observe this species on Oahu or Kauai. On Maui we saw substantial numbers in the meadow and pasture areas from elevation 3,000' to 8,000'. On Hawaii we observed this species in the lava flow areas and on ranch pasture lands but not in such large numbers as on Maui.
  12. Japanese Tit - *Parus varius varius*. We saw only one bird on the Waimea Canyon road at elevation 4,000' near Kalalau Lookout.
  13. Chinese Thrush - *Trochalopteron canorum*. We did not see or hear this species on Oahu or Maui. On Hawaii we saw a single bird on the outskirts at Hilo at day-break singing in the rain. On Kauai we heard and saw large numbers. They were singing all along the roadway along the north shore from Kilauea Lighthouse to the end of the road where the mountain runs into the sea. On the Waimea Canyon road we heard this species singing from sea level to elevation 4,000'. It was surprising to hear this species singing his beautiful song all day long, even at high noon when the temperature was very hot.
  14. Pekin Nightingale (Red-billed Leiothrix) - *Leiothrix lutea*. This beautiful species with a beautiful song was not observed on Kauai but was observed in the forested areas in substantial numbers on the other three islands at elevations 2,000' to 8,000'.
  15. Mockingbird - *Mimus polyglottos*. On Oahu we observed a pair near Salt Lake. On Maui at elevations of about 3,000' we observed about a dozen pairs on the Ulupalakua Ranch road as we approached the lava flow end of the island.
  16. Shama Thrush - *Kittacincla macroura*. We observed a pair of birds of this species on several occasions at 4005 Round Top Drive above Honolulu. The pair appeared to be nesting. The male sang his beautiful song for long periods at a time as he worked over the territory.
  17. Mynah - *Acridotheres tristis*. We saw this species in substantial numbers on all four islands from sea level to elevation 7,000'. We found the largest concentrations in Honolulu and at the Puuwaawaa Ranch near Kona on Hawaii.
  18. White-eye - *Zosterops palpebrosus japonicus*. We observed this species in substantial numbers on all four islands from sea level to elevation 8,000'. It is one of the commonest birds on all four islands.



19. Ricebird - *Munia punctulata topela*. We found this species on all four islands. It was surprising to find this species at fairly high elevations in forest areas.
20. English Sparrow - *Passer domesticus*. We found this species fairly well distributed in inhabited areas over all four islands.
21. Western Meadowlark - *Sturnella neglecta*. We saw very few birds of this species - all in meadow and pasture areas on Kauai. We noticed that the song, while typical of the song of this species in western United States, was not as full and flute-like.
22. Cardinal (Eastern U.S.) - *Richmondia cardinalis*. We found this species well distributed over all four islands. It was observed and heard singing in substantial numbers in the Honolulu area, on Maui at 3,000' to 4,000' and in Bird Park and in the Kona area on Hawaii.
23. Brazilian Cardinal - *Paroaria cucullata*. We observed this species only on Oahu. The population is substantial on this island. We observed it in sea level areas around the entire island. Several pairs were engaged in nest-building activities.
24. Linnet (House Finch) - *Carpodacus mexicanus frontalis*. We observed this species in substantial numbers on all four islands. Large concentrations were seen around Kula Lodge on Maui and at Puuwaawaa Ranch on Hawaii. We were surprised to find so many of this species in forested areas where we found them nesting. We noticed also that the plumage varies greatly from raspberry to orange to yellow - predominantly orange. This is no doubt accounted for by change in food habits and habitat from their mainland forebears.

#### Seabirds

1. Wedge-tailed Shearwater - *Puffinus pacificus cuneatus*. We found this species only on Kauai. There was a small colony nesting in burrows near the Kilauea Lighthouse.
2. White-tailed Tropic-bird - *Phaethon lepturus dorotheae*. We did not observe this species on Oahu or Maui. We saw several birds foraging along the north shore of Hawaii. We did not find them in Kilauea Crater as reported. We saw a single bird cruising around in Waimea Canyon on Kauai.
3. Red-footed Booby - *Sula sula rubripes*. We observed a fairly large colony nesting near the Kilauea Lighthouse on Kauai. We also observed a similar colony nesting at Ulupau Head in the Military Reservation on Oahu.
4. Brown Booby - *Sula leucogaster plotus*. We saw several birds of this species at Ulupau Head and Moku Manu (Bird Island) on Oahu.
5. Frigate-bird - *Fregata minor palmerstoni*. We did not observe this species on Hawaii or Maui. We saw several birds at Ulupau Head on Oahu. On Kauai we observed 24 birds of this species on or near their nests on the small rocky island offshore from Kilauea Lighthouse.
6. Gray-backed Tern - *Sterna lunata*. We saw only one bird of this species at Kuapa Pond on Oahu.
7. Sooty Tern - *Sterna fuscata oahuensis*. We observed a colony of this species at Ulupau Head on Oahu, but did not see this species elsewhere.
8. Noddy Tern - *Anous stolidus pileatus*. We observed a colony of this species at Ulupau Head on Oahu, but did not see this species elsewhere.
9. Hawaiian Tern (Noddy) - *Anous minutus melanogenys*. We observed about 25 birds of this species foraging over the water areas inside the Military Reservation at Ulupau Head.
10. Black-footed Albatross - *Diomedea nigripes*. We saw only a single bird of this species following a boat into harbor on Maui.
11. Laysan Albatross - *Diomedea immutabilis*. We saw only a single bird of this species resting on the water near shore at the Honolulu Airport. The bird appeared to be injured or sick.
12. Blue-faced Booby - *Sula dactylatra personata*. We saw 15 birds of this species flying low over the water near the lighthouse at Makapuu Point on Oahu.



BIRDS AND AIRCRAFT ON MIDWAY ISLANDS by Karl W. Kenyon, Dale W. Rice, Chandler S. Robbins, and John W. Aldrich, published by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as Special Scientific Report - Wildlife No. 38, January 1958, describes investigations made from November 1956 to June 1957. It estimates the number of albatrosses as follows:

	Sand Island	Eastern Island	Hawaiian chain
Black-footed	10,300	5,700	116,000
Laysan Island	131,000	105,000	647,000

There is considerable danger to airplanes, particularly jet planes, from striking these birds, although no lives have been lost as a result, to date. Between April 8 and May 31, 1957, 29 albatrosses struck planes during 388 landings and takeoffs, about 5 per cent. Between November 20, 1956 and May 31, 1957, seven planes, during 1638 landings and takeoffs, were struck 99 times. About half of these birds were nesting on the islands at the time; the other half were unemployed birds. Studies also are recorded for Sooty Terns. Methods for controlling these birds are discussed.

E.H. Bryan, Jr.

#### FIELD NOTES:

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Field trip, May 24, 1958, Aiea Trail

The Saturday afternoon field trip, planned and led by Ruth Rockafellow, was voted most successful by those attending. Five children were initiated into the art of bird watching. Several members who are usually unable to go on the longer trips enjoyed the time spent at the park and on the lower part of the trail. Tom McGuire's talk on the heiau was both interesting and informative. And supper in the out-of-doors is always pleasant! Those taking the trail to the top were rewarded by seeing young Elepaio being fed by the parents, and by the sight of two Creepers. Apapane were heard only once, but Amakihi were plentiful. It is hoped that other short afternoon walks will be as successful with good attendance, including our family members.

Grenville Hatch

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Field trip, June 8, 1958, Waimano Trail

A party of 12 under the leadership of Mace Norton set off at 7 a.m. on June 8th in bright early sunshine which seemed to hold the promise of a fine hot day.

We stopped briefly at Aiea by the water and counted 3 stilts, 2 golden plover, one wandering tattler and one black-crowned night heron flying over. Numerous white-eyes were singing in the nearby treetops.

We drove to the Waimano Home and at the top of the rise stopped to look back over the coloured scene spread out below; green pastureland, red soil, deep blue water of Pearl Harbor and away beyond the green ocean with its line of white breakers pounding on the reef.

From the back of the Home we started our walk along the trail. Among the mass of staghorn fern were flowering Cayenne Vervain (*Stachytarpheta cayennensis*), many Philippine mountain orchids and a lobelia. We heard and eventually saw two elepaio, heard all around the song of the leiothrix and one distant bush warbler.

The path went steeply down a gully - most conveniently edged with stout hanging vine providing the perfect hand-hold - crossed a stream and up the opposite bank. From the top we looked down into a wide valley of which the farther slope was covered with lehua in bloom.



By this time rain was falling quite heavily - not enough however - to subdue the enthusiasm of the North American cardinal. Their calls were to be heard at intervals throughout the entire day.

On the return trip along the same trail, five leiothrix and two elepaio were seen at close quarters. Apart from hearing a linnet and the barred dove, no other birds were reported.

The sun eventually broke through the cloud. Lovely shafts of light caught the yellow tops of the massed kukui trees and here and there a rosy leafed mango - out of the encircling mist.

We returned to the track and rounded off a glorious day with a "bonne-bouche" of strawberry guava.

Euphie G.M. Shields

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# JULY ACTIVITIES:

FIELD TRIPS: BLANCHE PEDLEY WILL LEAD THE JULY TRIPS.

July 13 - To Manoa Falls trail. This is a short trip, and easy. Bird life seems to be on the increase in the area, and we are apt to find Shamas here, with a possibility of a few native birds.

Meet at the Library of Hawaii at 8:00 a.m.

July 27 - To the Honolulu Zoo. This trip is planned as a follow-up of Mr. Breese's talk at the July 21st meeting.

Meet at the entrance of the Zoo at 9:00 a.m.

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MEETING: July 21 - At the Aquarium auditorium at 7:30 p.m.  
Mr. Paul Breese, Director of the Honolulu Zoo, will talk on "Birds of the Zoo."

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