THE ELEPAIO

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Up Woodlawn Ridge

In the last issue we mentioned a walk that leads up the ridge from Woodlawn in Manoa Valley. Last Sunday we took this walk and it may be of interest to describe it. The trail starts from the mauka end of Paty Drive and for the first hundred yards leads up a little valley, through kukui trees. A stream tinkles down through rocky pools filled with milk colored water and overhung with ferns and honohono grass but soon the trail climbs the bank to the left and winds through the guava scrub. We stop at the first koa tree for a few minutes to recover breath and admire the view down the valley.

Now the trail levels off a bit as one enters the trees; lehua trees typical tree of the Hawaiian forest and always productive of birds. A slight movement catches the eye. It is an elepaio, the first forest bird one looks for, The forest would indeed be empty without the elepaio. There were two in that tree, males chasing one another or perhaps only one was chasing and the other being chased, a sign of territory staked out for the new season and a trespasser being warned off. A little farther on another was flitting about in a small tree. It had the russet head and shoulders of an immature bird.

There are many strawberry guavas along the trail, the fruit is attractive to birds, judging from the way it is pecked when ripe. In addition to the common guava and this strawberry guava is there a third species? There are several trees in this locality which are obviously guavas yet grow to a moderate sized well shaped tree with dark glossy leaves, quite unlike the straggly bush of the common variety.

On an earlier trip up this trail we saw a hill robin, those of us who know the bird on Hawaii wish that it were as common on Oahu as it is there. It is a handsome bird with its red bill, green back, orange throat shading into a yellow breast and a red stripe along the edge of its wing. It belongs to the babblers, the family which includes the Chinese thrush and it has a song very similar to the thrush's but not so powerful. Its insistent alarm chatter becomes wearisome when the birds are numerous.

Perhaps the most numerous birds are the white-eyes, they have increased so rapidly in the last ten years that they must have affected the other birds' food supply. Their food is very varied and although naturally insect eaters, as shown by the shape of the bill, they also eat fruit and nectar. We have watched one piercing hibiscus blossoms at the base of the sepals to get at the nectar.

Now comes the steepest bit of the trail and at the top we are on the ridge looking down into Palolo Valley. In the trees we catch a glimpse of the amakihi and hear the pretty tinkle of the apapane. We are only a mile or two from the houses of Manoa Valley and still within sight of them, yet around us are the true forest birds of Hawaii.

J. d'A. N.

BIRDS OF HAWAII
and
Adventures in Bird Study

An Ocean Cruise
By George C. Munro
No. 5

Denis did well with his small galley. The weather was never so rough that he could not bring our meals to the cabin and set them on the table between the bunks. So far no fish had been caught and to satisfy the desire for fresh meat he cut sections from near the tail of a young shark. These fried were very palatable.

June 1. Sharks were numerous at the French Frigate Shoal. The fishermen were busy in the night and when we turned out in the morning there were 13 sharks about 8 feet long lying on the deck. Four or five could be seen at a time under the stern of the boat. They readily took bait, one bit the end off another's fin as it was being hauled in. It was tantalizing to see fish about 3 feet long swimming round the boat refusing the baited hooks. Two small ones of different kinds were caught.

We were put ashore on a small island about a quarter of a mile long and 70 yards wide. It was simply a bank of sand with a narrow strip of vegetation down the center. To pitch our tent we folded in the walls and weighted them down with sand. Sooty and Noddy terns were there in thousands and other birds came in at night. The sooties as usual were nesting on the bare sand but the noddyd made a slight depression in grass bunches for a nest. This is quite different to the nesting habits of the noddys on Manana off the coast of Oahu where they lay on the bare rock. Both species had eggs and young in all stages. The newly hatched sooties are peculiar looking things. The tips of their down are caught in little bunches giving the appearance of being wet. This with their spotted bodies is evidently protective. When just hatched they lie flat on the sand and are guarded by one of their parents till able to run to shelter if a frigate bird appears. Then they crouch at the roots of grass bunches or other plants till the danger is past. The first plumage is brownish with rows of greyish spots. We saw numbers of these on the wing at Nihoa but on the Shoal we learned what they were. The young when taken disgorged small cuttlefish.

On the sand above the beach were a number of half fledged young black-footed albatrosses, sitting on their haunches on the sand or in small holes they had dug for themselves. Those we took for specimens had nothing in their stomachs except some oil, cuttle-fish bills and small pieces of coral. An adult had a fish about a foot long in its throat. Palmer offered it to a young bird which swallowed it without hesitation. Two of the white or Laysan albatross that were going together proved to be females. Wedge-tailed shearwaters came in in the evening to their shallow burrows among the vegetation. Seven specimens we took were all males. Of interest was one of the brown-breasted phase. It was the only one we saw on the trip and I have no information of more ever seen north of Oahu. On the islands off Oahu about 5% of this species are of the brown-breasted phase of plumage. Later we saw numbers of this species on another islet. They had no eggs but were evidently paired and getting ready to lay. A frigate bird chasing a wedge-tailed shearwater presented an interesting sight. The large bird harassed the small one till it alighted on the water and disgorged. Then the frigate dipped down close to the water and picked the food from the surface. I never saw the wedge-tailed shearwater disgorge in the air as does the brown booby. There were a number of blue-faced boobys with young in different stages close

to the beach and we saw in the evening a small flock of brown boobys. On the other islet we visited we saw the red-footed booby sitting on its well finished nest. Also there we secured specimens of the Christmas Island shearwater and Bulwer's petrel. Pacific golden plover and turnstones were in small flocks, and wandering tattlers were seen.

On the first islet there were a number of turtles sunning themselves on the sand. Some were taken aboard the boat and others rendered immobile by being turned over on their backs on the beach. One has to move quickly to turn over a five foot turtle. If it gets its flipper braced on the sand it takes strength to get it over on to its back. On the other islet they were numerous. I counted 50 lying close together on the beach the last evening we were anchored off the island. When ashore we found the turtles digging holes in the sand for their eggs, but we failed to find any eggs in the holes. They dig very leisurely. A flipper will be flung back carrying a load of sand and then there is a long rest before the other flipper throws out some more. The sand settles on the turtle's head and water from its eyes cuts a channel through the coating and gives the animal a sad appearance. By hooking my fingers into the front of the turtle's shell and bracing my knees against its back I found I could hang on while the turtle humped its way down the beach but as soon as it reached water deep enough for it to swim it quickly shot out from under me. We had a good view of two dark colored rays with light ring spots and wings about four feet across. They were sporting together in shallow water.

After we had been a couple of days on the first island the sharks had been well fed and refused to take bait so the captain decided to change his position. We therefore were rowed aboard with a string of small sharks following in our wake.

We then steered for the rock at the entrance of the lagoon and approached it head on. We experienced a slight fear lest we not sheer off in time and so find ourselves another victim of the treacherous Shoals. The quick wits of Dennis Cashman saved the situation. Seeing the danger he sprang to the proper ropes and the ship came round. We could have existed on one of the sand islands but the rock was an inhospitable lodge. We anchored off another sandbank but it was small and we did not go ashore.

June 4 two small sharks were all the catch for the night so after wending our way amongst reefs we anchored off another island but we did not camp there. It was about as long as the island on which we were camped but much wider with a large bare patch in the middle and no vegetation. It had been the camping place of shipwrecked sailors. It had more birds on it and was a more interesting island than the other.

Dec. 16, 1941

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Of Interest to the Honolulu Audubon Society

Mr. C. S. Childs, Director of the Alexander House Community Association at Wailuku writes on December 4, 1941: "Probably you will be interested to know that there has been one snow goose and five or six Canadian geese in Kanaha Pond for the last four or five weeks."

"We also have a great number of ducks - pintails, mallards, teals, and apparently some koloa or Hawaiin ducks; also a large number of plover and akekeke."

"This is the first time I have ever seen the snow goose down here."

George C. Munro

Genus Muscicapa Linnaeus (1766)

164. Muscicapa cyanomelana Temminck (1828) — Blue niltava, Japanese bluebird, O-ruri-cho, Japanese blue-and-white flycatcher. Introduced from Japan to Oahu, 1929; probably established. Native of Japan, China, Indochina, Borneo, flying to Palawan in winter.

Genus Rhipidura Vigors and Horsfield (1825)

165. Rhipidura leucophrys (Latham) (Turdus leucophrys Latham, 1801) (Muscicapa tricolor Vieillot, 1818) — Willie-wagtail, black-and-white fantail, shepherd's companion. Introduced from Australia to Oahu, 1926. Not known to be established. Native of Australia, New Guinea, Bismarck Archipelago, Solomon Is.

Family PRIONOPIDAE, wood shrikes.

Genus Grallina Vieillot (1816) (Oppel, 1811-12?)

166. Grallina cyanoleuca (Latham) (Corvus cyanoleucus Latham, 1801) (Grallina picata (locally)) — Magpie or peewee lark. Introduced from Australia to Oahu and Hawaii, 1922-1929. Native of Australia.

Family STURNIDAE, starlings.

Genus Acridotheres Vieillot (1816)

167. Acridotheres tristis (Linnaeus) (Paradisea tristis Linnaeus, 1766) — Mina or mynah. "Piha'e-kelo". Introduced from India, 1865. Established on all the main islands of the Hawaiian group. Native of India Burma, and Siam.

Family ZOSTEROPIDAE, white-eyes.

Genus Zosterops Vigors and Horsfield (1826)

168. Zosterops palpebrosus japonicus Temminck and Schlegel (1848) — White-eye, mejiro. Introduced from Japan to Oahu, 1929. Widely established and abundant. Native of Japan.

(Family Meliphagidae, nos. 214 to 218, probably belongs here, according to recent classification.)

Family DREPANIDIDAE, Hawaiian honey-creepers (By some considered a subfamily of Melephagidae.)

Genus Drepanis Temminck (1820)

169. Drepanis pacifica (Gmelin) (Certhia pacifica Gmelin, 1788) — Mamo. Formerly endemic on island of Hawaii; now extinct.

170. Drepanis funerea Newton (1893) (Drepanorhampus fenerea) — Perkins' Mamo, Oo-nuku-umu. Endemic on Molokai; now very rare or extinct.

Genus Sessius

171. Sessius simplex Rothschild and Hartert (1926) — Hawaiian islands (?) (Based on one old mount in Vienna Museum from Von Stutz collection, 1806, without locality. Not believed to have come from Hawaii.)

Genus Vestiaria Fleming

172. Vestiaria coccinea (Forster) (Certhia coccinea Forster, 1780-1) — Iiwi. Endemic on the main Hawaiian islands.

Genus Palmeria Rothschild (1893)

173. Palmeria dolei (Wilson) (Himatione dolei Wilson, 1891) — Crested honey eater. Endemic on Maui, Molokai; now very rare or extinct.

Genus Himatione Cabanis (1850-51)

174. Himatione sanguinea (Gmelin) (Certhia sanguinea Gmelin, 1788) — Apapane or akakani. Endemic on all the main Hawaiian islands.

175. Himatione fraithi Rothschild (1892) — Laysan Honey-eater. Formerly endemic on Laysan; now extinct.

Genus Ciridops Wilson (1892)

176. Ciridops anna (Dole) (Fringilla anna Dole, 1879) — Ulaaihawane. Formerly endemic on the island of Hawaii; now very rare or extinct.

Genus Chlorodrepanis Perkins (1903)

177. Chlorodrepanis virens stejnegeri (Wilson) — Kauai Amakihi; endemic on Kaua
(Himatione stejnegeri Wilson, 1889)
(Himatione chloris Stejneger (1887) nec Cabanis.)

178. Chlorodrepanis virens virens (Gmelin) — Hawaii Amakihi. Endemic on the island of Hawaii.
(Certhia virens Gmelin, 1788)

179. Chlorodrepanis virens wilsoni (Rothschild) — Molokai Amakihi. Endemic on Molokai.
(Himatione wilsoni Rothschild, 1893)
(Some authorities include Nos. 180 and 181 as synonyms.)