

THE ELEPAIO

Journal of the
Hawaii Audubon Society



For the Better Protection
of Wildlife in Hawaii

VOLUME 20, NUMBER 11

MAY 1960

OCEANODROMA TRISTRAMI SOOTY STORM PETREL By George C. Munro

Early in February 1955 Mr. Paul Breese, Director of the Honolulu Zoo, brought me a specimen of the Sooty Storm Petrel (Oceanodroma tristrami) that came abroad the President Cleveland about 200 miles west of Honolulu, coming from the Philippines. The bird was cared for by Mr. & Mrs. Sexton, who found it was a night bird, moving about at night and refusing to swallow food in the daytime but readily swallowing it at night. This agrees with my experience with one I skinned which was picked up dead on the beach near Kahalepalaoa, Lanai and one I worked on aboard the Coastguard cutter Whippoorwill on the way to Baker and Howland Island in 1924. In both of them were small pieces of cuttlefish bone which I thought at the time to be pieces of light pumice which floats on the surface of the ocean at night and seabirds feed on them. The bones are disgorged later. The one on Lanai had three pieces of the bone still with a light covering of the flesh of the mollusk adhering. The one on the Whippoorwill had a piece about as big as a parsnip seed. When on Laysan Island in 1891 I saw quite a lot of what I then took to be pumice on the dry mud surrounding the lagoon in the middle of the island, but it was evidently cuttlefish bone. When on Midway Island in 1945 I found around the nests of the Laysan albatross large pieces of cuttlefish bone and collected sections about one inch in diameter. Commodore Morgan also told me that the albatross sometimes disgorged cuttlefish bone that looked like a policeman's baton.

The bird was given by the Sextons to Paul Breese, Director of the Honolulu Zoo. Petrels can rarely be kept in captivity and generally die under these conditions. So this one became a scientific specimen for the Bishop Museum. I had the privilege of removing the skin and preserving the specimen. Having done the other two made it particularly interesting. This bird measured $9\frac{1}{4}$ inches from tip of bill to end of tail, spread of wing 21 inches in a straight line. Iris very dark brown, legs, feet and bill black. The specimen I found on the beach on Lanai was very fat. Another specimen was brought to me that was found waterlogged at Kaunapali Harbor. Several times I picked up wings, most likely of this bird, along the coast of Lanai. Dr. Emory found bones of some small bird in the rocks on Puuope off the coast of Manele, Lanai, which may have been of this bird. There are about half a dozen specimens in the Bishop Museum that were collected by Alanson Bryan. I saw them on April 12, 1955, the last time I visited that interesting institution; also my specimens from Lanai and Kauai. They are worthy of study by anyone interested as it may be found that this bird as well as the white-rumped storm petrel may be found to breed on the main group.

In Andrews Dictionary the word o-o is given as the name of a bird living in the mountains in the daytime and flying to the sea at night. "A small brown bird, web-footed." This I believe to be Tristrams Petrel. It does not fit Oceanadroma castro, the whiterumped storm petrel, as the white rump is not mentioned. It also gives o-o as the forest bird which furnished the yellow plumes used by the Hawaiians in their feather work. The sea bird was probably named o-o because it was about the size and

color of the other. Its size, and as no mention is made of its white rump, would make it more likely to be Oceanodroma tristrami than the whiterumped storm petrel (O. castro) which is much smaller. Henshaw in "Birds of the Hawaiian Possessions" p. 119 writing of Oceanodroma castro said the Hawaiians told him of a bird called akeake, met with by native fishermen at sea off the coast of Hawaii. This, of course, might be the whiterumped storm petrel, but would perhaps be more likely this bird as I have made fifteen crossings by sea of the equator to the south and have never seen the whiterumped storm petrel there or anywhere except around Kauai.

There has been some confusion with the species and it has been confounded with Oceanodroma fuliginosa and O. markhami, but Dr. Robert Cushman Murphy says in "Oceanic Birds of South America" 1944 that: "Peters (1931, 73) and other recent writers treat Markham's Petrel as conspecific with Oceanodroma tristrami. I believe, however, that there are no adequate grounds for regarding these two birds as other than thoroughly distinct species." Consequently, any additional facts concerning it should be recorded.

In "Birds of Hawaii" p. 30 it is stated that Professor Schauinsland found a few on Laysan. This is in error. Schauinsland found only bones of a petrel he had not seen there, but a later expedition found a few of the species breeding there and sent a specimen to the Bremen Museum which Schauinsland loaned to Rothschild for study. It evidently was Oceanodroma tristrami.

Additional notes on bird taken on the Whippoorwill in 1924.

Sept. 19, 1924. A small brown and black petrel came aboard in the night of 19th in thick weather, uniformly sooty black with line of secondaries along wing silver grey, small tuft of open greyish feathers on joint of leg. Upper tailcoverts also lighter. Iris dark brown, bill black, legs grey, outer toe with webs brownish black, outer half of inner web the same, claws black, inner toe grey, knuckle and heel brown, black spot on left leg below heel and middle of back of tarsus on right leg. Length 11 inches (evidently Oceanodroma fuliginosa Gmelin, Sooty Petrel, female adult). Stomach empty except for the cuttlefish bone mentioned before. On the 20th one flew past showing the grey band along wing well defined.

Mr. Deverill, April 15, 1891, told me of oweowe, a small black petrel found in cliffs. Might be Bulwers, Tristams or whiterumped.

SOME 1960 BIRD OBSERVATIONS IN SAMOA AND FIJI

By William W. Dunmire
(Park Naturalist, Hawaii National Park)

Ernst Mayr, in his introduction to Birds of the Southwest Pacific, has stressed that until recently, very little was known of the birds in this area. Even today the habits of many of these birds are virtually unknown.

Early this year on our way to and from New Zealand my wife and I spent several days in the Samoa-Fiji area. We offer the following checklist and observations with the thought that it may be useful to future travelers to these islands. We are indebted to Mr. E. H. Bryan, Jr., for his generous loan of Mayr's field guide (now out of print) - without which it would have been impossible to identify the numerous unfamiliar species.

1. Tutuila Island, American Samoa, January 20 and 22. About four hours were spent along the coast road northwest of Pago Pago.

White-tailed Tropic Bird (Phaethon lepturus), one.
Least Man-o'-War (Fregata ariel), 2.
Reef Heron (Demigretta sacra), 3 (All dark phase).

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Golden Plover (Pluvialis dominica), 3.

White (Fairy) Tern (Gygis alba), common soaring along coastal cliffs. Also seen perched in trees.

White-rumped Swiftlet (Collocalia spodiopygia), 8.

White-collared Kingfisher (Halcyon chloris), 5.

Samoa Starling (Aplonis atrifuscus), 7.

Wattled Honey-eater (Foulehaio carunculata), 6.

2. Manua Islands, American Samoa, January 21. We spent most of a day in and around the coastal village of Tau (where Margaret Mead did much of the research for her famous study of primitive Samoan culture). A Samoan boy explained how the larger birds (such as the native doves, pigeons and rails) made very good eating; thus, none of these were seen near the village!

White-tailed Tropic Bird (Phaethon lepturus), one.

Banded Rail (Rallus philippensis), one.

Wandering Tattler (Heteroscelus incanus), one.

White (Fairy) Tern (Gygis alba), very common.

Tern (Anous sp.), common at sea and along cliffs.

Blue-crowned Lory (Vini australis), 5, in palm tops.

White-rumped Swiftlet (Collocalia spodiopygia), 2.

Samoa Starling (Aplonis atrifuscus), common.

Wattled Honey-eater (Foulehaio carunculata), abundant.

3. Upolu Island, Western Samoa, January 22-23. Just outside the city of Apia is an excellent habitat for birds at the Robert Louis Stevenson estate. We spent about $3\frac{1}{2}$ hours on these grounds which are open to the public. The following list is from this single locality.

White-tailed Tropic Bird (Phaethon lepturus), 4.

Banded Rail (Rallus philippensis), one.

Golden Plover (Pluvialis dominica), 3.

White (Fairy) Tern (Gygis alba), 3

Crimson-crowned Fruit Dove (Ptilinopus porphyraceus), one.

Many-colored Fruit Dove (Ptilinopus perousii), one.

White-rumped Swiftlet (Collocalia spodiopygia), abundant.

Polynesian Triller (Lalage maculosa), very common.

Samoa Triller (L. sharpei), 2. Ascribed by Mayr as restricted to mountain forest, but this pair was seen in the open at the estate.

Red-vented Bulbul (Pycnonotus cafer), a few; very common in town.

Samoa Fantail (Rhipidura nebulosa), 4 (solitary birds).

Polynesian Starling (Aplonis tabuensis), one.

Samoa Starling (Aplonis atrifuscus), very common.

Wattled Honey-eater (Foulehaio carunculata), 5.

Cardinal Honey-eater (Myzomela cardinalis), very common.

4. Viti Levu Island, Fiji, January 26-27; March 10-13. We had been advised that birdlife on Fiji would be scarce; therefore, we were delighted to discover that birds were plentiful in the bush near Korolevu. There was a striking difference between birdlife of the native bush-forest and that of the cultivated areas (mostly sugar cane). The first list below is based on records made during a drive around the north half of the island on January 26-27 and on birds seen around the cultivated areas at Korolevu on March 10-13. Observation time was about 13 hours.

Reef Heron (Demigretta sacra), common.

Australian Gray Duck (Anas superciliosa), 2.

Swamp Harrier (Circus approximans), several.

Golden Plover (Pluvialis dominica), several in January.

Wandering Tattler (Heteroscelus incanus), common.

Rock Pigeon (Columba livia), common at Suva and Nandi.
 Many-colored Fruit Dove (Ptilinopus perousii), one at Korolevu.
 Chinese Ring-necked Dove (Streptopelis chinensis), common.
 Collared Lory (Phigys solitarius), individuals common feeding in palm tops at Korolevu.
 White-rumped Swiftlet (Collocalia spodiopygis), very common throughout island.
 White-collared Kingfisher (Halcyon chloris), 3.
 Pacific Swallow (Hirundo tahitica), common on north side of island.
 Polynesian Triller (Lalage maculosa), 9 (alone or in pairs).
 Red-vented Bulbul (Pycnonotus cafer), abundant throughout island.
 Vanikoro Broadbill (Myiagra vanikornsis), 5 (solitary birds).
 White-breasted Wood-Swallow (Artamus leucorhynchus), common.
 Indian Mynah (Acridotheres tristis), very common.
 Orange-breasted Honey-eater (Myzomela jugularis), 14.
 Wattled Honey-eater (Foulehaio carunculata), common.
 Gray-backed White-eye (Zosterops lateralis), common.
 Red-headed Parrot Finch (Erythrura cyanovirens), 4.
 *Unidentified Ploceid, several hundred in various sized flocks in the near vicinity of Korolevu.

A few hundred feet east of the airplane landing field at Korolevu is the edge of the uncleared Fijian forest. Note how few species observed in the cultivated regions above were also seen here, even though this bush locality was within $\frac{1}{4}$ mile of sugar cane and other domestic clearings. Observation time on March 12-13: 4 hours.

Golden Dove (Ptilinopus luteovirens), one.
 White-rumped Swiftlet (Collocalia spodiopygia), 2.
 White-collared Kingfisher (Halcyon chloris), one.
 Polynesian Triller (Lalage maculosa), 3.
 Spotted Fantail (Rhipidura spilodera), 2.
 Slaty Flycatcher (Mayrornis lessoni), 4 in a flock.
 Fiji Shirkebill (Clytorhynchus vitiensis), one.
 Vanikoro Broadbill (Myiagra vanikorensis), 3 (solitary birds).
 Blue-crested Broadbill (M. azureocapilla), 3. Mayr states that these birds, solitary or in pairs, are "apparently not found below 600 feet." This group of 3, what seemed to be 2 adults and a young, was at about 150 feet elevation.
 Scarlet Robin (Petroica multicolor), 1 pair.
 Layard's White-eye (Zosterops explorator), 1 pair, much more elusive than the common Gray-backed species.
 Gray-backed White-eye (Z. lateralis), 2.

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*Identified by James C. Greenway, Jr., Museum of Comparative Zoology, Harvard University, as "Estrilda amandava subspecies;" and by Dr. Dean Amadon, of the American Museum of Natural History, New York, as "Sporaeginthus amandava or (Amandavus amandava as it is sometimes called)."
 It is an introduced Asiatic weaver finch found in India, Burma, Indo-China, and Java.

E. H. Bryan, Jr.

MONK SEALS ON LAYSAN ISLAND By William R. Smythe

In April of 1959 I had the opportunity to spend $3\frac{1}{2}$ days on Laysan Island. I was a member of a group that made the trip to check the wildlife on the island. The other members of the party were Ray Kramer, Biologist, Hawaii Fish & Game Commission, Dr. George Butler, Entomologist, and Dr. Hubert Caspers, Marine Entomologist.

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The Coast Guard dropped our party off on the lee side of the island near the only tree, an ironwood. Mr. Kramer and I took off in opposite directions to make a count of the Hawaiian seals, Monachus Schaunslandi. This count had to be made immediately since the Coast Guard cutter that brought us was letting 40 men come ashore to look for glass fishing floats and to stretch their legs. We took off ahead of these men to get an undisturbed count of the seals.

The seals were sleeping on the beach and as much as 50 yards inland in the naupaka which grows above high tide line. They were very sound sleepers, but would give a violent start and a grunt when we awakened them with some sand thrown on their bellies, backs or sides, depending upon how they were sleeping. They would rear up and give us a myopic look. If we were more than 15 or 20 feet away they would go back to sleep; if we were closer they would move off 10 or 15 yards, and if we did not press them, go back to sleep.

The pugnacious ones were the females with young. They would give a coughing bark and lunge at us, but they would never get too far from their pups. The pups were splendid looking in their coats of black velvet fur. The young were of all sizes, and some were born during our stay on the island. So it seems as though they have a year around breeding season.

The females were larger than the males and had a dull silver yellow over brown fur. The males were blackish with silvery grey over black belly fur. The females were 6-7 feet long, the males about 4-5 feet. The seals were ashore on every sheltered beach on the lee side of the island; the more sheltered, the more females with young.

Our overall count was 223 seals observed, about one-quarter of these were young. How many seals were at sea when we made our count I could not estimate. These seals are also found on French Frigate Shoals, Pearl & Hermes Reef, Lisianski Island, Midway and Kure. At the present time they are in no danger of extermination and seem to be showing a steady increase.

We enjoyed watching the seals in the water, for it was quite clear and quiet in the lagoons. One young seal came up to our tent one night, looked us over from about 10 feet away and then moved off to one side where he spent the night. So all in all they were a friendly bunch.

FIELD NOTES:

Field Trip, February 28, 1960, Poamoho Trail.

From town the skies looked unpropitious for a visit to the Poamoho area on February 28th, but the thirteen persons who turned out had a fine trip under the leadership of Frank Stephenson. Expecting mud and wet herbage, we found the trail was dry although the clouds hung low. This is high ridge country, close to the clouds, where one can look down on the birds as they fly from koa to eucalyptus to ohia and to other trees as they feed.

Riding through the pineapple fields we saw the usual varieties of doves, ricebirds, white-eyes and plover; but on arriving in the ridge country, we found that a seven o'clock start is too late to catch the birds at breakfast. A few birds were sighted in short flights, but we had to depend on our ears for most identifications. Cardinals, leiotothrix, amakihi, apapane and iiwi were heard.

While waiting for the photographers to capture some fine lehua blossoms on film, Frank saw six birds which he could not identify exactly. In conference with Charles Hanson their opinions narrowed the choice to either garrulax or Chinese thrush.

Homeward bound, Frank's car swung around by way of Fort Kamehameha. At the airport we found skylarks, and at First Canal we had a long look at three wandering tattlers hunting along the margin.

In this vicinity we noticed a bird's nest swinging by a thread in a low tree. Like a small saucer in shape, we judged it to be that of a dove, and its materials showed how birds adapt themselves to modern civilization. The broad base was a folded small paper napkin, then a two by three-inch piece of newspaper from the want-ad section, then pieces of cellophane in many sizes from two inches by one to narrow fragments, perhaps ten wisps of grass and straw, and the whole held together, then thoroughly lined, with length after length of nylon fishing line, to a total of perhaps eighteen feet or more.

When revisiting the Poamoho area, couldn't we consider starting at 6 a.m.?

Margaret Smail

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Field Trip, March 27, 1960, Palehua Lower Fire Trail.

Ten people met for the day's trip into the Waianae. Among the group was a recently arrived entomologist keen on the trail of mountain insects.

It was cloudy and pleasantly cool as we began our walk, and remained so most of the day. Silk Oak and Koa trees were in full bloom, the former particularly lovely with their golden and brown blossoms. We saw Amakihi almost at once, but from then on, except for the ubiquitous White-eye, birds were elusive, although the valley was full of singing Leiiothrix. Eventually we saw several Leiiothrix and then Apapane in the distant tree tops. After lunch on the way back a pair of Elepaio performed for us in the nearby bushes.

Mrs. Rockafellow, who reached the cars ahead of the group, had the pleasure of watching a Leiiothrix close by the road.

The high point of the day came as we descended the hill between the two locked gates. Just above the abandoned pineapple fields were flocks of strawberry finches, settled in rows like rosy buds on the dry branches of haole koa and other shrubs. Two members heard and saw skylarks in the same area.

Althea Marrack

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Report of Field Trip to Palehua on March 27, 1960, by Mrs. Jean Morley of San Diego.

You asked me to record my impressions of the trip today with the Hawaii Audubon Society. Here they are ---

First there was our walk along an unused mountain road among strange plants and trees. Blossoms, and birds feeding thereon, seemed to be everywhere.

For a while frustration was the mood. Birds flew quickly overhead, fluttered into hiding among leaves, or teased with their calls. This was replaced by elation when one finally had a good view of an elusive bird. How well the birds in real life corresponded to the descriptions in our little handbook!

When necks and eyes were tired straining into treetops, we could enjoy magnificent distant views. The jewel-like colors of fields, sea, mountains, reminded one of the colors in a Dufy painting. Clouds made interesting shapes in the sky, and equally interesting patterns on the land below. And how frequent were the rainbows!

Some of the same frustration-to-elation cycle was experienced at the alfalfa fields. There was that mysterious sparrow-like bird, never identified. But, oh, what handsome and numerous Golden Plovers, in breeding plumage.

Another feeling during the day was - how pleased National Audubon Society would have been with such a trip because we were not just birding. We looked at plants, bugs, snails - all the world around us.

The biggest impression of the day was the friendliness and helpfulness of the people on the trip. All seemed interested in showing the visitor the peculiar beauties of the area. Time, energy, patience - all were given generously and cheerfully.

Thanks again to all,
Jean Morley

Mrs. Morley has sent word that she saw the Hawaiian Thrush on Hawaii!
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Field Trip, April 10, 1960, Shore birds. (Leader, Mr. Stephenson)

The morning was crisp and windy, the mountains capped with clouds so we went birding along the shores.

First, to Sand Island where plovers were seen on the oyster beds and an albatross on the horizon.

Then to Kahaa Farm which was a delightful place. We saw nine cattle egrets. These birds had been released on the other side of this Island but seemed at home on the Farm.

Driving by an alfalfa field looking for skylarks, we saw many plovers. They were in flocks of a dozen to fifty. All were facing in one general direction as if they were now ready for their long flight to Alaska. May they have a safe flight and a happy summer. When they return to us, I hope they find we have left them some ponds and open spaces. We should treat our feathered tourists as well as we do the human tourists.

We made a trip to West Loch and the pier being built by the Standar Oil Co.

It was a wonderfully rewarding day. Following is a list of birds seen:

Plovers	American Cardinals	Pheasants
Tattlers	Brazilian Cardinals	Ricebirds
Turnstone	Cattle Egrets (9)	English Sparrows
Black-footed Albatross	Linnetts	Skylarks
Black-crowned Night Herons	Mynahs	White-eyes
Stilts	Chukar Partridges (3)	

Hannah Richards

MAY ACTIVITIES:

FIELD TRIPS: FRANK STEPHENSON WILL BOTH TRIPS.

May 8 - {Trails taken will be governed by the weather conditions.}
May 22 - {Meet at the Library of Hawaii at 7:00 a.m.}

MEETING: Board - May 9, at the Hawaiian Mission Academy, 1415 Makiki Street,
at 7:30 p.m. Members are always welcome.
General - May 16, at the Honolulu Aquarium Auditorium at 7:30 p.m.
Charles Hanson will give a talk on Hawaiian birds,
illustrated with slides.

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