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KE KUA'AINA FROM OCTOBER 1, 1960 TO MARCH 31, 1961
By George C. Munro

Up to October 20, there were only a few light showers but on that date about two inches of rain fell at Ke Kua'aina. This started germination of seeds of the Hawaiian poppy, the tree form of Hibiscus brackenridgii, Portulaca cynosperma, the native Kakona-kona grass and a few others. Then there were only light showers till December 6, when about $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches fell. There were then good showers till the middle of February but no heavy rain to soak the subsoil. Growth was tremendous during this time but March was dry with high winds so we go into the dry season in as bad or worse condition than the last two years but the growth during January and February was inspiring.

The young hibiscus and puaakala would probably have succumbed between the two rains of October and November except for watering and weeding by good friends. Now there are seven fine hibiscus plants in healthy condition. The poppy plants, however, which developed quicker and started flowering in February are now languishing without flowers. They will probably revive if we get showers during the dry season. The Portulaca cynosperma which had been planted near the open dry rocky slope spread out and is now thriving in the open and is not to be seen where we planted it on the rich but more crowded soil. The wiliwili trees came out in small leaves after the October and November rains but by the middle of February normal leaves developed now all in the beginning of April are beginning to fall. We have been looking for them to flower for the last two years. They surely will not fail us before the end of this year.

The kakonokono grass which I listed as Panicum torridum in last report but I think is P. cinerium and which I said would be strongly in evidence this season came away splendidly and by the middle of February was 50 inches high. It seeded well and the straw now in early April is quite dead. It is a remarkable grass appearing in great quantity at intervals of several years yet not crowding other vegetation as do so many of the foreign grasses.

At this writing we are thrilled by the appearance of two seedlings of an extremely rare tree of which only two and some seedlings are known to exist at the present time, recently rediscovered by Mr. Tadayuki Kato of Kapaa, Kauai who sent fruits to Dr. Charles H. Lamoureux, who kindly forwarded some to me. I wrote of this tree in the Elepaio, Volume 13, No. 1, July 1952, and told of Dr. Joseph Rock saving the Hawaiian name of the tree, "Pokalakala," from Mr. Francis Gay's native plant spatter work collection, and of Mr. Charles N. Forbes finding about a dozen trees in the Nonou and one in the Haupu mountains in 1916. Since that time there is no record of the tree except Mr. Laurence Howland McDaniels collecting specimens of a variety in 1927 in the Nonou mountains, till Mr. Kato found one on February 4, this year in the Nonou mountains and another and some seedlings later.

Dr. Earl Edward Sherff in his "Botanical Leaflets" of December 26, 1952, placed the

species in a new Genus which he named *Munroidendron* in my honor so that I am still more associated with the tree and am certainly pleased that Mr. Kato has found it still existing.

It is hoped that many more of our endemic dryland plants now on the verge of extinction will be recovered and perpetuated at Ke Kua'aina and other sanctuaries. The water system soon to be established at Na Laau Hawaii Arboretum will be a great help in this. It is hoped also that more help can be found in obtaining seeds of the more rapidly vanishing endemic plants of the open kula which are facing increasing hazards by the importation of new herb eating game animals.

UNUSUAL WATERFOWL OBSERVATIONS Prepared by Dr. Miklos D. F. Udvardy

The annual waterfowl census of the Division of Fish and Game, State of Hawaii Dept. of Agriculture and Conservation is an important research aiming at the maintenance and management of our wildlife. Through the generosity of Mr. Michio Takata, Director of the Fish and Game Division, and of Mr. Joseph S. Medeiros, game biologist, who leads the census projects, important faunistic data are here published from the waterfowl census reports of 1952 to 1960. On the basis of this present publication the observations of Mr. Medeiros and his collaborators can be incorporated in the forthcoming revision of the Check list of Hawaiian birds.

Year	Island	Mallard	Green-winged Teal	American Wigeon	"Scaup"
1950	Oahu	.	.	12	.
1951	Molokai	.	.	10	.
	Maui	.	.	14	.
1952	Hawaii	.	.	37	.
1953	Oahu	.	2	19	.
	Hawaii	2	.	36	7
1954	Oahu	.	2	13	.
	Maui	.	.	40	.
	Hawaii	1	2	59	9
1955	Total	.	.	3	9
1956	Oahu	10	.	5	.
	Maui	.	1	.	2
	Hawaii	1	.	9	4
1957	Maui	.	.	3	20
	Hawaii	.	.	20	3
			Cackling Goose		
1958	Oahu	.	5	17	.
	Hawaii	.	.	9	2
1959	Oahu	.	.	3	.
	Molokai	.	.	7	1
	Maui	.	1	.	30
	Hawaii	.	.	2	3
1960	Maui	.	1	.	14
	Hawaii	.	.	11	.

Thus during the eleven years of January censuses, the Baldpate occurred every winter, often on several islands. The "scaup" - Greater and Lesser Scaup were not distinguished - have occurred regularly since 1953. Green-winged Teal and Mallard have been observed each four times, Cackling Goose three times.

The more rare occurrences are condensed now, the data referring again to the January waterfowl census.

Species	Year	Island	Numbers	How many times observed before
Snow goose	1959	Oahu	1	3
Canada goose	1959	Oahu	1	several
Blue-winged teal	1960	Maui	2	2
European widgeon	1952	Hawaii	1	2
	1958	Oahu	1	.
Canvasback	1960	Maui	1	2
Bufflehead	1959	Maui	1	several
	1959	Hawaii	1	.
Ruddy duck	1952	Hawaii	2	1
California gull	1958	Hawaii	1	1 probable
Ring-billed gull	1957	Hawaii	2 probable	4
	1959	Hawaii	1	.
Bonaparte gull	1957	Maui	1	4
	1959	Hawaii	1	.

PEREGRINE FALCON IN HAWAII NATIONAL PARK

By William W. Dunmire
(Park Naturalist)

When Mr. Ben King, a young naval officer on a three-day leave for bird study on the Big Island, reported seeing a Peregrine Falcon (Falco peregrinus) in Kilauea Iki Crater last month, I was rather incredulous, especially since Kilauea Iki has been the home of a pair of native Ios recently. We were unable to locate the falcon later on the same day (Feb. 27) of Mr. King's report; however, since then I have observed the bird twice on March 1 and 8, and there is no question about its identity.

Except for an unidentified species of falcon reported to have escaped from Hilo in 1927 (Bryan, E.H., Jr. 1958. Checklist and summary of Hawaiian birds), no falcon of any kind has ever been recorded in the state. As their name implies, Peregrine Falcons will certainly migrate great distances, and winter visitors from Siberia are occasionally encountered in the Southwest Pacific. The Kilauea Iki bird is presumably one that accidentally got blown far off course, possibly from coastal Alaska (see Beebe, Frank L. 1960. The marine peregrines of the northwest Pacific Coast. Condor 62:145-189).

Suitable food for this magnificent raptor is unfortunately lacking in any quantity around Kilauea Iki. A few White-tailed Tropic-birds roost and soar during the day in nearby Halemaumau (they have not yet been bothered by fumes from the current eruption), and an occasional Spotted Dove lives within Kilauea Caldera, but these would not provide many meals for a bird accustomed to feeding on duck-sized prey. As I watched the falcon in Kilauea Iki the other day it made three unsuccessful passes at an Apapane that was crossing the crater. Perhaps the falcon can radically change its habits and survive on the song-bird population so unused to aerial attack here in Hawaii, but that seems most unlikely. It is more plausible to suppose that the bird will forage long distances from its new home during the day, or else will permanently move to a different location down along the coast; however, Kilauea Iki with steep rocky walls does provide optimum roosting habitat for this species. We at the park are hoping that such a fine bird will remain here as a new park feature for a few years.

A FURTHER NOTE ON THE BIRDS OF NORFOLK ISLAND

In a letter dated March 13, 1961, a further note of interest was received from Mr. and Mrs. Von Southwick on the birds of Norfolk Island. They mention that they have seen the Bald Coot (Porphyrio melanotus), a gallinule-like bird known to breed on Norfolk. Plovers have also been observed, most likely the Golden Plover (Charadrius dominicus) which is a common visitor to Norfolk Island, although the Double-banded Dottrel (Charadrius bicinctus) has also been recorded as a rare visitor there. Of particular interest is the mention of seeing a skimmer (Rhynchops sp.) on Norfolk Island. This record is of interest, for to my knowledge skimmers had not been previously recorded visiting Norfolk and are not known to breed or regularly visit either Australia or New Zealand.

Mr. and Mrs. Southwick mention that although there is not any organized bird society on Norfolk, there is one man living there who is interested in birds and who also bands them.

David W. Lupton
April 3, 1961

MOCKINGBIRDS

Mrs. Alfred Castle has reported that the Hui Manu released a large group of mockingbirds on Maui in 1933. Other groups were released on Oahu in 1931, 1932, and 1933.

Mr. Robert Carpenter, Park Naturalist, Haleakala, reports that "mockingbirds are occasionally seen around the park headquarter at the Haleakala section of the Hawaii National Park. They have been observed also along the park road as high as the 9,000 foot elevation and inside Haleakala Crater itself at 7,000 feet."

CONSERVATION COUNCIL ACTION

Two more resolutions passed at the recent annual meeting of the Conservation Council ask the Legislature for a qualified biologist to work with the Department of Agriculture and Conservation on non-game bird problems, and for adequate funds for the Nene project.

Field Trip, March 12, 1961, Poamoho Trail

Led by Grenville Hatch, three members and two guests, all feminine, enjoyed a fine spring day on the Poamoho Road in the Koolau Mountains. At the edge of the pineapple plantations the road was found to be so deeply rutted by military equipment that it was deemed inadvisable to proceed further by car since no masculine brawn was available in case of accident, a challenging climb in the Waianae Range having tempted some of our members.

The reason for the deeply rutted road was found in "Kara Village," where huts made of pili grass and arboreal materials evidently were used in training for survival in jungle warfare.

A heavy dew was converted by the sun into diamonds on every blade and leaf. Mynahs and flocks of ricebirds undulated over the pineapple fields; doves cooed and North American cardinals rang out blithely. In the tree belt, white-eyes gossiped, leiiothrix were heard by the dozen, elepaio and amakihi were both heard and seen, and eight mature and one immature apapane were seen. Many birds were seen in flight, but generally such flights were too short and swift for positive identification. Since we could not reach the trail at the end of this long road, we cannot report on the rare birds of the

Poamoho Ridge.

Finding sandalwood trees in bloom in the pili grass region was a high reward. In loose panicles, deep pink buds opened into four-petaled male and female flowers, one deep scarlet velvet and the other smooth cream in color. Associated was the lehua, the red of the new leaves vying for attention with the red blossoms. Almost as red were new leaves on eucalyptus. Mountain naupaka guarded cliff shoulders while pearl flower grew knee-high at the edges of the road as it wound through forest of deep green koa, silvery-trunked paper bark and towering eucalyptus. Jewels of amethyst were the Philippine ground orchids springing from the emerald of fern and grasses. The day was highly satisfying despite disappointments.

Margaret Smail

The following new members are welcomed:

May V. Hess, P.O. Box 31, Patton, California
 Mrs. R.A. Hoolhorst, 11 Maloelap Drive, Honolulu 18, Hawaii
 Mrs. Joseph A. Jordan, 14 Sherbrooke Road, Scarsdale, New York
 Miss Kathleen Keating, 730 Captain Cook Avenue, Apt 718, Honolulu 13, Hawaii
 Dr. and Mrs. John C. Milnor and Miss Mary Milnor (Junior member), Straub Clinic, Honolulu, Hawaii
 Miss Caroline Shipman, Hilo, Hawaii
 Miss Hermine Van Gelder, 2602 Stuart Street, Berkeley 5, California
 Mr. William C. Yoder, Route 1, Box 85, Goshen, Indiana
 Mrs. Fred C. Zeitler, Kalia Hotel, Apt 1101-A, 425 Ena Road, Honolulu 15, Hawaii

MAY ACTIVITIES:

FIELD TRIP: AL LABRECQUE WILL LEAD THE TRIP.

May 14 - To Pupukea to see mountain birds. Meet at the Library of Hawaii at 7:00 a.m.

MEETING: BOARD - May 8, at 3653 Tantalus Drive at 7:30 p.m. Members are always welcome.

GENERAL - May 15, at the Honolulu Aquarium Auditorium at 7:30 p.m.
 Dr. Ernest Reese of the University of Hawaii, Zoology Department, will give a lecture with movies on the Birds of Clipperton Island.

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