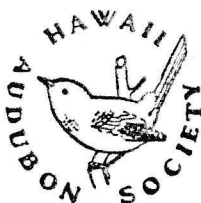


THE ELEPAIO

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For the Better Protection
of Wildlife in Hawaii

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THE VISIT OF ROGER TORY PETERSON June-July, 1960

All the birders in Hawaii were tremendously proud to have Dr. Roger Tory Peterson come for a visit in June and July. The Hawaiian birds will be better known to the world before long, for they will be included in his next guide to the birds of the western USA. Dr. Peterson's time was filled to the brim, as the following reports will show. It was therefore with great appreciation that we who could gather for dinner at a restaurant met him, chatted with him, and heard him tell us of some of his experiences in securing pictures of storks. His pictures were truly wonderful. He had to bring in the sad note, "How can the remaining storks be saved." Through conversations with many of us, Dr. Peterson has helped in our own struggle to save Hawaiian birds. We can cite an authority greater than our own, and Dr. Peterson will help us in the future, when appealed to, we are sure.

Mr. E. H. Bryan, Jr. has given us a little record of Dr. Peterson's itinerary here, which we give below. There follow the intimate accounts of William Dunmire (Hawaii), Frank Richardson (Kauai), and Ruth Rockafellow (Oahu). We appreciate their reports. Through them we know Dr. Peterson even better.

Margaret Titcomb

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Dr. Roger T. Peterson passed through Honolulu on his way to a bird congress in Japan; on his return, accompanied by Eugene Eisenmann, on June 16th, he was met by William Ward (of the Bank of Hawaii, an expert recorder of bird songs) who had been making arrangements for Dr. Peterson at the request of Peter Paul Kellogg (Cornell University). H. McClure Johnson (University of Hawaii) and I also met him. The two visiting ornithologists left for Hilo the next day, and spent two days with William W. Dunmire of the Hawaii National Park staff. On June 19th, they returned and left the next day for Midway, where they spent a week, returning on July 1st. His days in Honolulu are reported by Ruth Rockafellow.

E. H. Bryan, Jr.

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Peterson's Visit on the Island of Hawaii

It is a pleasure to give you a brief account of the birding that Dr. Peterson and Mr. Eisenmann did while on this island a few weeks ago. I was privileged to accompany them on all three days that they spent in the field.

When they arrived on June 17, it was decided that we should concentrate on finding the rarer native birds and that the more common species would surely be seen sometime

during the three days. On the afternoon that they arrived I conducted them on a brief tour of Hawaii National Park, visiting the usual volcanic attractions and spending about an hour at Kipuka Puau (Bird Park) where relatively few Drepanids were seen, since the ohia trees were mostly out of bloom. The final and longest stop was at the Olapa Tract (a 9,000 acre isolated portion of Hawaii National Park, reached via Volcano community) late in the afternoon. Here, after observing many Apapanes and Iiwis, a few Amakihis and Elepaos, and the expected exotic species, we were delighted to watch a pair of Ou, Bulwer's petrel, (Psittirostra psittacea) fly into an olapa tree in the center of a clearing. The visiting ornithologists had good views of the male and female of one of Hawaii's rarest endemics. That evening there was a small get-together where the bird enthusiasts in the park and the Robert Baldwins of Hilo met the visitors.

The next day we traveled to Pohakuloa where the group was conducted through the Nene restoration project by Ronald Walker, Biologist-in-Charge of the State Fish & Game program for this island. Dr. Peterson filmed the caged Nene here. Ron then accompanied the three of us to Puuwaawaa Ranch on the Kona coast where we got good looks at the endemic crows, including one that was feeding on a dead Mynah. Many Pea Fowl and a single Io, Hawaiian hawk, and Cattle Egret were also seen here. The last daytime stop was made at about 7,000 feet elevation in the mamane forest on Mauna Kea, where Palila, a honey creeper, (Psittirostra bailleui) were actually common. We saw at least 20 birds during an hour.

It was an interesting coincidence that while driving back to the park I spoke to the ornithologists of hearing a strange mewing outside our house at about 10:00 PM on a foggy night a few weeks before. I had presumed that the sounds were made by some kind of sea bird, possibly the Dark-rumped Petrel, that might nest around Kilauea Crater. Sure enough, about an hour after we arrived home those same mewing cries were heard. Our visitors also heard them from their Volcano House room, and they believed that the Dark-rumped Petrel was the most likely suspect. These petrels are known to nest on Mauna Kea and suspected to be on Mauna Loa, so it is not unlikely that they are here, too.

On the final day we drove up into the Keauhou Ranch behind the park. Although much of the land has recently been cleared for cattle-grazing, this koa parkland seems to provide some of the best remaining habitat for our endemic birds. Omao, Hawaiian thrush, are numerous and Iiwi are definitely abundant. (We estimated seeing 100 to 200 of them during part of a day.) A Chinese Thrush was occasionally encountered, and finally the prize of the day, a pair of male Akepa (Loxops coccinea) passed overhead. We got only a short glimpse of these seldom seen Drepanids, but it was enough for positive identification. (I had gotten a good look at a single male in practically the identical location a few weeks earlier.) That afternoon Dr. Peterson and Mr. Eisenmann left the island for their trip to Midway.

It was a real privilege to have accompanied such distinguished ornithologists. There is no question but that we were lucky to have recorded several of the rare as well as nearly all of the common native birds during just three days. The only birds missed that we should have seen were the White-tailed Tropic Birds - heavy sulphur fumes issuing from Halemaumau had apparently driven them out of the pit. But I note that now that the fumes have died down, the Tropic Birds are back.

William W. Dunmire

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Peterson's Visit on Kauai (excerpt)

I cannot speak completely for Mr. Peterson but in the three days he was with us in the Kokee area (on several trails including those to Pihea, Kilohana Lookout trail (part way), Awaawapuhi, etc.) we saw many Apapane, Iiwi and Elepaio, and a fair number of Amakihi and Anianiau. John Bowles and I saw several Akepa but Peterson was unlucky

in not seeing any. He was much pleased to see the White-tailed Tropic Bird, new to him, and very interested in the Pueo, of which he saw several in Waimea Canyon and elsewhere. Peterson left us on July 1, to photograph the Red-footed Booby colony at Kilauea Lighthouse. What else he saw I can only surmise; surely Frigates, Wedge-tailed Shearwater, etc.

Frank Richardson

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My Participation in Dr. Peterson's Visit - (Oahu)

Mr. Charles Hanson, our president, was in the process of moving to the mainland, and was most distressed at not being able to accompany Dr. Roger Tory Peterson during his visit to Hawaii. I was, therefore, asked to assist. This truly was a pleasure inasmuch as I had "birded" with the Doctor in 1937 and now that treasure volume "A Field Guide to Birds," I then used, bears the Aloha of Dr. Peterson.

He has in press a revision of his Western Bird Guide and intends including Hawaiian birds, perhaps as a supplement. He wanted to do field work, hence his request, "No publicity, please." At that he found his time all too short, but did accomplish his objective, namely, he saw the Brown Booby (*Sula leucogaster*) and the Bulwer's Petrel (*Bulweria bulwerii*).

In order to make this possible Mr. William Ward, who has done extensive work in recording the songs of our island birds and is also a past master at bird photography, was contacted, as well as Mr. Paul Breese, Director of our local Zoo.

Our trip to Ulupau Head was delightful. It was cool, the clouds beautiful and the sky our indescribable blue, all so perfect for photography. Not only was nature's setting near perfect but the Booby colony also put on a show. As we approached we saw literally hundreds and hundreds of white birds balanced on nests with young - here and there an egg - while immatures were trying their wings and some even accomplished a favorable take-off. I have since learned that Major Reed, The Provost Marshal of the Kaneohe Marine Air Base, is most protective in his attitude toward the Boobies. Luckily the birds themselves are in a very favorable locale, the area is highly restricted. What a relief, comfort and satisfaction this is to all bird lovers.

Dr. Peterson was enthusiastic at the sight of the birds on Moku Manu as they appeared through the "scope." He said, "Why, it is crowded with thousands and thousands of them!" He mentioned Red-footed Boobies (*Sula sula*), Frigate-birds (*Fregata minor*), Sooty Terns (*Sterna fuscata*), Noddy Terns (*Anous stolidus*), and Hawaiian White-capped Noddies (*Anous minutus melanogenys*). He was tremendously impressed. Here he saw the Brown Booby (*Sula leucogaster*).

Mr. Breese suggested that we get his boat and go to Popoia. The hospitality extended by Mary Lou and Paul Breese was delightful while preparations were underway to annex the boat and its special carrier. Off we went to locate a Bulwer's Petrel (*Bulweria bulwerii*). One was found with an egg in a burrow. It was an interesting experience to witness a professional at work. The Petrel was very much the "ham" and the sequences shot should be very good. Confidentially, I would like to see those taken of Dr. Peterson while in action during the above performance.

A very dark Wedge-tailed Shearwater (*Puffinus pacificus*) was nesting nearby, which proved of interest also to our famous guest.

Dr. Peterson had a distinct yen to go to Rabbit Island which he had always imagined to be "flat," so a party left Sunday afternoon and spent the night there. I was unable to go. Meanwhile I did arrange a dinner for Monday evening at Ciro's (July 11th) where local Audubonites anxious to meet Dr. Peterson would be given that opportunity.

A sincere effort was made by Mary Riggs and me to contact all local members and a representative showing did gather. Dr. Peterson, with Mr. Ward's facilities, entertained us with a film on "Storks Around the World." This subject deserves and needs much attention; telephone and high tension wires throughout the world prove hazardous to the long legs of the stork while in flight and many break or lose their legs and die. In some instances, Dr. Peterson informed us, storks have been fitted with artificial legs to rehabilitate them (if that is the proper expression).

Dr. Peterson had prepared for the trip to Hawaii by reading all of the back copies of the ELEPAIO furnished to him by our Life Member, Mr. Edgar B. Kincaid, Jr. of Austin, Texas. His account of their friendship was most interesting indeed.

Dr. Peterson believes that we have many potentialities here and advised that we put forth an effort to bring birding to the front and utilize the possibilities we have.

On Tuesday morning he granted an hour and half interview to Star Bulletin reporter, Ben Thompson, the result of which, with the assistance of others, is now history, complete with wonderful pictures by Mr. Ward. (Honolulu Star-Bulletin, July 17, 1960)

Ruth R. Rockafellow

THE BLACK-HEADED MANNIKIN, LONCHURA MALACCA ATRICAPILLA

A NEW BREEDING BIRD ON THE HAWAIIAN ISLANDS

By Miklos D. F. Udvardy ^{1, 2}

On April 24, 1959, while studying the bird fauna of Oahu in the vicinity of West Loch, Pearl Harbor, I found a favorite watering place of the birds amongst the dry kiawe woods and cane fields. The exact locality was between Honouliuli and the abandoned military camp near West Loch, to the west of the Waipahu-Ewa Beach highway, 0.8 miles from the "Barbers Point Housing Development."

Among the birds that came to drink and bathe, were two kinds of strange passerines. The conspicuously coloured, chestnut and black birds with pale beak were easy to recognize as the Black-headed Mannikin, Lonchura malacca atricapilla (synonymous with L. ferruginosa, Chestnut Mannikin, Black-headed Nun, or Black-hooded Nun), while the other small weaver finch, reddish tan in colour with dark and white markings on the head seemed more of a puzzle.

On April 25, I spent more time observing the birds of the waterhole and identified the latter birds as fledged young of the Black-headed Mannikin.

Field identification. When seen from about 30 feet away with 10 power binoculars, the adults of these very active birds seemed to be of the size of the Ricebird (Munia risoria Temm.) and to have the same upright posture when sitting on a branch or grass stalk. The head and lower parts are black, the wings, tail and upper parts dark chestnut-rufous red. The beak is conspicuously white looking, at closer glance, bluish horn-colored. The wary birds all turn toward the observer showing their black head and underside, while those farther away look predominantly chestnut-red. Thus watching a flock, the observer gets the impression that he sees some black and some red birds.

The adults in flight are conspicuously dark, blackish birds. They have an undulating flight, similar to that of the ricebird, and birds of the flock keep fairly close together. The contact call in flight - adults and fledglings use it alike - is a high pitched, staccato whistle, in frequency and pitch reminiscent of the contact call of the Red crossbill (Loxia curvirostra).

1. Contribution #137 of the University of Hawaii Marine Laboratory.

2. University of Hawaii, Honolulu, USA and Univ. of British Columbia, Vancouver, Canada

The fledglings I saw were of near adult size, and had the same posture and flight. The under side is dark ochre, the wings and the upper part of the bird darker, and rufous ochre (tan) more rufous on the crown and nape, and rufous red on the tail. The forehead and the lores around the beak are dark, the beak dark horn-colored, and the whitish edge of the mouth is conspicuous, forming a white stripe with the surrounding dark feathers on these fledglings.

Behavior. The mixed flock of adults and young came to the temporary waterhole about every 40 minutes between 1100 and 1300 hours on April 25, and appeared at the same place on April 26 once between 0805 and 0930 hours. They came flying through half-grown sugar cane fields, from the direction of a Kiawe thicket, with grassy clearings, about 400 yards away. The flock circled the waterhole several times before settling on the bushes where they mixed with ricebirds. The latter species also had fledglings, and on April 26, a Black-headed mannikin fledgling was observed begging food from an adult ricebird. The birds were quite wary. They did not let me closer than about 30 feet unless stalked behind cover, and did not alight at the waterhole when I was exposed.

Habitat. The waterhole where the birds were observed was the only watering place left in the irrigation ditches of the cane fields. It was surrounded by half an acre of kiawe stand with dense brush and grassy understory. Several kiawe woodlots were within half a mile distance, and I suspected that the Mannikins came from these woods, but I searched there for them in vain. The bird fauna around the waterhole was as follows on April 24 - 26:

Ring-necked pheasant	Strawberry finch
Golden plover	Black-headed mannikin
Lace-necked dove	Ricebird
Barred dove	English sparrow
Short-eared owl	Red cardinal
Mynah	Brazilian cardinal
White-eye	House finch

Occurrence. The following extract from my notebook gives the only known observations of the Black-headed mannikin. The locality of all observations is the above described area.

Date

April 24, 1959	8 adult	8-10 young
April 25, 1959	8 adult	10 young
April 26, 1959	10 adult	15 young
May 16, 1959	10 adult	12 young
May 19, 1959	0 adult	4 young
May 23, 1959	None seen, but contact calls heard. The waterhole was dry.	

Origin. The Black-headed Mannikin was introduced as a cage bird to the Hawaiian islands between 1936 and 1941 (E.H. Bryan, Jr. in lit.). I saw specimens of it in 1959 in two Honolulu pet shops, where they were called "Black-hooded mun." On inquiry, I was informed that the birds are imported from the port of Calcutta, India. Thus the wild flock at Ewa evidently originated from escaped cage birds. If the flock originated from one pair, the present number of adults suggests that they must have been free for two years. While they apparently bred successfully in 1959, and they seemed to thrive in the habitat of their close relatives, the ricebird and the strawberry finch, we still have to see whether these handsome birds will spread further on the islands in the coming years.

Status in the Hawaiian avifauna. The following addition should be made to the check list and summary of the Hawaiian Birds (Bryan, E. H., Jr. 1958, Honolulu. p.24).

Family: Ploceidae - 221A. *Lonchura malacca atricapilla*. Black-headed Mannikin. Introduced as a cage bird; escaped and breeds on Oahu. Juvenile male on May 16, 1959, at Ewa, Oahu (Bernice P. Bishop Museum, Honolulu, Acc. No. 5585.).

Acknowledgements. I am grateful to Messrs C.E. Reppun, M. Takata and R. Warner of the Territorial Board of Agriculture and Forestry, Honolulu, for the collecting permit I obtained; to Dr. Jean Delacour, Los Angeles, for information about the taxonomic status of the Mannikins; to the University of Hawaii Marine Laboratory for providing transportation to the field; to the National Research Board of Canada for supporting my Hawaiian field studies.

A DISTINGUISHED VISITOR: DR. KLAUS IMMELMANN

Dr. Immelmann, Ornithologist of the staff of the Zoo at Frankfurt am Main, came through Honolulu July 18-20. The eighteenth was the date of our July meeting; his coming was at a lucky time for all of us. Dr. H. McClure Johnson was already scheduled for that meeting, but graciously divided the time with the visitor, his own talk being on a topic that will stimulate our effort for many meetings.

The Frankfurt Zoo is unique in that it carries on scientific studies on animal behavior as well as the normal activities of a zoo. Dr. Immelmann's own interest at this time is in behavior of zebra finches. In Europe they have been bred as cage birds for many years, the stock introduced from Australia and bred without new introductions for, it is estimated, eighty generations. This gave an excellent opportunity to compare the behavior of the domesticated species with the wild. Dr. Immelmann spent a year in Australia and Tasmania for that purpose and we shall be interested in his results when he has assayed and published them. One result of his observations concerned the breeding time of the finches. They seem to respond to the coming of the rains each season, instinctively estimating the moment when it is due, or noting the indications that it is on the way. When the rains have come and grass turns green again, the mating season is in full swing; when the dry season comes again, the young are already mature enough to fend for themselves. It is nicely calculated, with a close margin.

Besides this study, Dr. Immelmann exploited the chance to acquaint himself with fauna and flora of Australia along his way, traveling from Perth to the north, east, then south to Adelaide, almost circling the continent.

Dr. H. McClure Johnson was able to lead the visitor up the Aiea trail, Blanche Pedley joining them. Though the day was not perfect for observing the forest birds, all expectations were fulfilled, except for the shama thrush. Many elepaio were seen and heard; several birds were heard and only glimpsed; the Japanese tit was heard and not seen; a creeper was spotted by Dr. Johnson.

Margaret Titcomb

BIRDS AT KILAUEA LIGHTHOUSE, KAUAI

I always enjoy reading The Elepaio and am sure that all readers would join me in complimenting the editors on their job of preparing this interesting monthly publication. Such a task often goes on unrewarded and may occasionally be discouraging unless we express our gratitude and appreciation once in a while for the services rendered and the information received.

I was especially interested in Mrs. Baldwin's articles in the July and August issues, because I had occasion to visit Kauai near the end of June. My short trip was

more for sightseeing than birding, so I didn't see nearly as many birds as Mrs. Baldwin did. However, I would like to add my observations of the blue-faced boobies at Kilauea Lighthouse.

It must have been just the right time of year. Adult and immature birds were right near the railing at the edge of the cliff. They did not appear to be unduly disturbed when people came to observe them. The nests, if they can be called that, are merely sticks placed loosely together in the tops of shrubs.

There were adult birds on some of the nests and white downy chicks on others. Some of the chicks were about two-thirds as large as the adults.

While I was watching, one of the chicks was coaxing an adult for a meal. As the young bird thrust its head and neck back and forth, the older bird held its head high at first as though trying to avoid the chick. Then the adult leaned forward and the chick stuck its whole head and part of its neck down the older bird's throat. There were violent convulsive movements as the meal was exchanged.

There were at least two dozen nests visible from this one point and probably more just over the edge of the cliff. On the little island just off shore, much more nesting activity could be seen with binoculars. An occasional frigate bird glided effortlessly by the lighthouse.

While visiting Kauai, anyone interested in birds should drive out to Kilauea Lighthouse. Last November, I saw no boobies there, but there were some young birds, which I was told were frigate birds, at the entrance of their burrows right near the railings. Looking later in bird books, I believe these were the young of the wedge-tailed shearwater. They, too, appeared quite unconcerned as people came within a few feet of them.

Even without the birds, the view from Kilauea Lighthouse is worth the drive.

Robert W. Carpenter, Park Naturalist
Haleakala Station, Hawaii National Park

A TRIP TO THE LAND OF THE MIDNIGHT SUN

One day's train journey to the north of Helsinki brought me to the lake country in the interior of Finland. Here is a labyrinth of lakes, some of them large and others quite small, connected by channels or by short rivers. Where there are rapids in the rivers there are locks to go around them. This is a rocky country, the rocks having been worn smooth and rounded by glaciers of the last ICE AGE. The trees are mostly fir and birch, but as we go north, there are less firs and more birch until the firs disappear altogether, leaving beautiful forest of birch. Then the birches change from the white to the red species, become shorter and shorter and disappear altogether. A small black birch takes over. This one branches out at ground level and in the extreme north the branches trail on the ground. There are small flowering plants, such as buttercups, bluebells, dandelions, some pink and purple flowers. And also, of course, mosses and lichens. We left the lakes two days ago and are now traveling by bus for three days, over low mountain passes and then along fjords that stretch long fingers from the north. We are in the Lapp country, which stretches across Finland, Sweden and Norway. The Lapps are a Finnish people, I was told, and they are blondes with blue eyes. They wear blue or black garments embroidered with red and orange. At this time of year there are very few reindeer to be seen as they are in the summer pastures in the mountains. The roads are narrow and winding, unpaved. The days have been getting longer and longer. We cross the Arctic Circle and there is daylight around the clock. We leave Finland and enter Norway. Towns have names like these: Rovaniemi, Karasjok, Karasjok. We reach Hammerfest, the northernmost town in the

world. The population is around 6,000 and the chief industries are fishing and tourists. Houses are large, square and substantial. They are painted in vivid colors, reds, yellows, greens, blues, etc. Curiously enough, the weather has been getting warmer and warmer going north. (Did I bring an overcoat for nothing?) I go around without a coat, wearing only a sport shirt. Kids play in wading pools; men work without shirts. Everyone tries to get as much sun as possible, as the night will be long and dark. Now the sun doesn't set at all. It just works its way around to the north, dipping towards the horizon, then going up again.

A small passenger steamer takes us to North Cape in four hours. Now the wind coming off the water is quite cold. Reaching the Cape at 10 P.M., the ship anchors in a small cove and a launch takes us ashore. We climb a zigzag trail to the top, about 1,000 feet above sea level, then walk a mile on level ground to the tip of the Cape. Here is a large stone building, where refreshments and souvenirs are sold. It is 11 o'clock and the main reason most of us are here is to take a picture of the sun at midnight. I take one right away, just in case it should cloud up later. And it does - at 11:40. I waited until midnight, then took a picture of the people waiting for the sun to appear and started back. It was, of course, broad daylight.

Back aboard ship, we rounded the cape and docked at a small town called Rusenes. Then by bus for three days and by train one day through Norway to Oslo. At first there were only a few small fishing villages along the fjords, then came farms with cattle, potato patches and, later, grain, fruit trees, etc.

All through the Scandinavian countries there is lumbering and paper making. On the Finnish lakes we often met small tugs towing rafts of logs, some of them a quarter of a mile long.

The people are mostly friendly and many of them speak English. There were many hikers, most of them carrying huge packs. Some were going fishing, others just hiking.

On the way back three days' journey from the Cape I had a hotel room facing north. All night long the sun shone into my room!

Al Labrecque

A hearty welcome is extended to our new member, Mr. E.J. Britten, 3670 Alani Dr, Hon 14.

SEPTEMBER ACTIVITIES:

FIELD TRIP: UNOYO KOJIMA WILL LEAD THE TRIP.

Sept. 11 - To forest trail if the weather permits. If inclement weather to the ponds to study shore birds, especially the status of the migratory birds. Meet at the Library of Hawaii at 7:00 a.m.

Please Note: - There will be ONLY ONE field trip per month until the demand warrants more trips.

MEETING: Board - Sept. 12, at 3653 Tantalus Drive at 7:30 p.m. Members are always welcome.

General - Sept. 19, at the Honolulu Aquarium Auditorium at 7:30 p.m. Mr. Ernest C. Holt will tell us about his "Junket to Java."

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