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BIRDING ON KAUAI By John Bowles

On the morning of the 2d of September, 1961, Dr. and Mrs. S. Dillon Ripley and I started on the trail that leads from the end of Camp 10 Road, past the Mohihi River and into the Geological Survey cabin in the Koaie River valley in the Alakai Swamp area on Kauai. The weather was partly cloudy and quite warm along the trail and the commoner species of Drepanids such as the Amakihi, (Loxops virens stejnegeri), Anianiau (Loxops parva), Apapane (Himatione sanguinia sanguinia), and Iiwi (Vestiaria coccinea) were seen and heard quite frequently. The Elepaio (Chasiempis sandwichensis sclateri) was common along the trail as were several introduced birds including the Chinese Dove (Streptopelia chinensis), the Ricebird (Munia nitoria) and the Mejiro or White-eye (Zosterops palpirobosus). An occasional White-tailed Tropicbird (Phaethon lepturus dorotheae) soared overhead. It took about 4½ hours to make the hike in as the trail is still difficult in places due to fallen trees. The afternoon was spent near the cabin in the Koaie Valley. Here again the commoner species of Drepanids with the very noticeable exception of the Amakihi were observed visiting the few Ohia trees (Metrosideros collins) that were in bloom. The particular trees that were observed had very orange colored flowers. Occasionally the Akepa of Ou-holowai (Loxops coccinea caeruleirostris) and the Creeper or Akikiki (Loxops maculata bairdi) would also visit the trees with the orange blooms. There was no sign of the rarer Drepanids, the Akialoa (Hemignathus procerus), the Nukupuu (Hemignathus lucidus hanapepe), or the Ou (Psittirostra psittacea), or the Oo (Moho braccatus). One native thrush was seen but not identified on the side of the valley across the river from the cabin. There were two Golden Plovers wading around the rocks in the Koaie River itself.

The next day we hiked up the trail that runs along the Kawaiiki Ridge toward the Waialae cabin. The weather was drizzly and fairly windy so not many birds were seen. Several Oo were heard in a number of small valleys including the area near the Koaie cabin but they seemed to be far less responsive to squeaking this time of year than they did in the early part of August of 1960. Several Kamao (Phaeornia obscura myadsetina) were heard and seen along this ridge trail. Again no sign of the rarer Drepanids or the Puaiohi (Phaeornia palmeri), and only a fleeting glimpse of an Oo as it went from one valley to another. That afternoon near the cabin it rained steadily and the only major observation was of two Koloa (Anas platyrhynchos wyvilliana) that flew down the river, circled around and went back up the valley. The following morning in the drizzle we hiked the long trail back to the Mohihi Valley and the end of the Camp 10 Road. This time it took us about 3½ hours.

The observations that seemed to be the most significant during this trip to the Koaie region were: 1) the continuing activity of the birds in spite of the fairly heavy and constant drizzle; 2) the large number of Mejiro (White-eye) in this area; 3) the scarcity of the Amakihi in the Koaie; 4) the lack of response of the Oo at this time of year; 5) the relative scarcity of Iiwi and Apapane in immature plumage. In the early part of August 1960 many more were seen in this plumage; 6) No sight or

sound of the Hill Robin (Leiothrix lutea).

At about 4:30 on the afternoon of the 4th on the way from Kokee to Hanalei we observed a Pueo (Asio flammeus sandwichensis) hovering over a field at Anahole in search of food. After about five minutes of searching in this way it landed on top of a fence rail. At about 11 a.m. on the 5th we stopped at the lookout in Hanalei Valley and saw about 12 Stilt, 3 Aukuu (Nycticorax n. hoactli) and one Gallinule (Gallinula chloropus sandwichensis). Dr. Ripley also reported seeing about 8 or 10 ducks that morning over Hanalei Bay but was unable to identify them positively. On the way back to the Lihue airport we stopped at Kilauea Lighthouse. There were far fewer Red-footed Boobies (Sula S. rubripes) nesting there than in late June of 1960, with only 3 or 4 downy young and half a dozen birds in brown plumage. Very likely the time of year is significant. A few White-tailed Tropicbirds were seen over head and about 12 or so Iwa (Fregata minor palmerstoni) could be seen roosting on Mokuaeae, the little island off the lighthouse area.

BIRDING ON MAUI
By Althea Marrack

During the first two weeks of October my husband and I were guests in a home in Waiakoa, Kula, Maui. The extensive gardens about the house and the surrounding fields could have provided us with enough interesting birding to keep us occupied without going further than half a mile away.

A flock of Leiothrix - ("Robins" to Maui-ites) - made their home in the Jacaranda trees and low bushes at the front of the house, and fed throughout the day at the feeding tray near the front door. A well placed window made it easy to watch them at close quarters. Seen in the open and in sun, instead of in forest shadows and through binoculars, as we had always seen them, their colors seemed surprisingly bright and lovely. Mockingbirds sang morning and evening in tall pines and jacarandas. Occasionally they imitated the calls of barnyard fowl. One Plover had appropriated a bit of garden terrace for himself, but in surrounding pastures dozens of Plover piped their calls when disturbed, and Skylarks filled the air with song. Once a startled Pueo (Hawaiian Owl) whirled out of a rocky cave, as we climbed a path nearby.

Driving the lower Kula road, between Waiakoa and Pukalani, we frequently saw Mockingbirds. Along both Kula highways, the Ulupalakua road and Haleakala Crater road Pheasant are plentiful. We seldom drove along any of these highways without one drab hen or gay cock crossing in front of us; sometimes we saw from three to six within a short distance.

On the Crater road, on three different days, we saw (besides Pheasant, innumerable Plover and Skylarks): two Chukar Partridge; eight or more Japanese Quail; one Pueo; two Erckel's Francolin (a large chicken-like partridge recently released outside the Park boundary).

We made two trips to lovely Hosmer Grove which is within the National Park, one half mile from the entrance on a side road. Rain clouds enshrouded us the first time and we saw nothing. Although we listened for a long time to an Iiwi it remained frustratingly invisible in nearby underbrush. On our second visit we watched and heard large numbers of Apapane in the blossoming Ohias at the bottom of the gulch, and caught glimpses of Amakihi. Rounding a bend in the path we flushed a Cock Pheasant from his dust bath hole. He flew off squawking, no more startled than we. We were disappointed not to have seen some of the rarer birds in the Grove, but it is a delightful forest retreat, even in the rain, birds or no birds.

Our trip to Kanaha Sanctuary, in Kahului, was far too short. Mr. Joe Medeiros of the State Board of Agriculture kindly drove us around the area. Much of it was

still very dry, awaiting winter rains. In the ponds nearest the entrance were more Stilt than we had seen in any one place, scores of them. Sanderling were also there in large numbers, with Ruddy Turnstone, Tattlers and Coot. On a tiny grass covered mud clump in another pond a Coot was nesting, barely distinguishable from her surroundings. From another pond favored by ducks, mostly Shovelers, hundreds flew up at our approach, wheeled in typical fashion, and settled again on the water. Mr. Medeiros estimated their number to be from 700 to 1000.

High point of the hour came when Mr. Medeiros heard an unusual peeping call that roused his curiosity. Backing to the pond where we had seen the Tattlers, we spotted a Sandpiper, strange to us all. After a quick look at his books Mr. Medeiros tentatively identified it as a White-Rumped Sandpiper. When it took flight soon afterwards, showing a completely white rump, the identification was confirmed.

Since our return to Honolulu our Maui hostess has reported that a pair of Chinese Thrush have been visiting her feeding tray. This is the first time she has seen any in the area.

FIELD NOTES:

A Pleasant Surprise at Kaelepulu Pond

On Saturday afternoon, October 14th, 1961, I made one of my infrequent visits to Kaelepulu Pond. The weather was extremely stormy with heavy rain coming in off the ocean every half hour or so. I have done very little birding in this area as I find it rather depressing--considering we are completely surrounded by water it is ironical that modern living requires the liquidation of all our only too few ideal feeding and breeding grounds for wintering migrants and endemic birds.

However, this afternoon proved to be a remarkable occasion. The rains over the past few days had created a complete quagmire of the bulldozed area, with the result that there had been no machine activity. The Golden Plover and Hawaiian Stilt were everywhere. As I trudged through the mud towards Mt. Olomana, several Turnstone flew up in front of me with four other birds which I was unable to identify due to poor light conditions as another storm went over.

In the corner of Kaelepulu Pond nearest Mt. Olomana, I noticed a Cattle Egret sitting on a fence post, intently watching some ducks dabbling in the shallow water. On closer observation, I counted 19 Shoveler, 3 Pintail, 1 Mallard and 2 Baldpate as well as many Stilt. It was here that I again saw the four birds previously unidentified. They were extremely nervous, feeding for a few moments then flying several yards to another spot and going through the same procedure again and again.

By this time the light was better and I was able to identify them as Pectoral Sandpipers. The breast marking was very conspicuous, a heavy streaked bib, with a white belly, and also the black rump feathers stretching down through the tail with the white edges. The back and wings were a dark brown with no real descriptive markings. A pleasant surprise for a miserable wet afternoon.

The following is a list of birds seen that afternoon:

Baldpate	2	Golden Plover	30+	White-Eyes
Mallard	1	Hawaiian Stilt	50+	House Sparrows
Pintail	3	Turnstone	5	
Shoveller	19	Sanderling	2	
Cattle Egret	1	Pectoral Sandpipers	4	
Night Herons	30	Barred Doves		
Tattlers	8	Spotted Doves		
Mynahs		Coots		

One Hawaiian Stilt of particular interest had extremely fascinating markings. Its head and neck were completely black except for a white blaze around the base of the bill; the black ended on the breast like a bib. The remainder was true to Stilt markings.

By the time I reached my car, I was literally saturated but very pleased to see that Kaelepulu Pond still has a great potential as a birding place.

Mike Ord

FIELD NOTES:

From Robert W. Carpenter:

Mrs. James Lindsay saw a pair of Brazilian Cardinals in Makawao, Maui, on October 30th. I have not seen any on Maui, and don't know whether any have been recorded recently. I saw a Ruddy Turnstone about two weeks ago (note dated November 19th) at about the 4500' elevation in the Haleakala Ranch. We saw some here last year also. A strange place for turnstones? away from marsh or pond?

From Fred A. Bianchi:

Mockingbirds are seen, and heard in the Diamond Head area, between the slope and the sea, near my home. On moonlight nights they have been heard singing. (Ed. note: To the best of my recollection, it has been nearly ten years since mockingbirds have been reported in this area. This is indeed good news. GH)

From Michael Ord:

On Sunday morning, October 29th, 1961, I went to the drained pond at Kahuku which can still boast of a marshy area approximately the size of a tennis court. Approaching from the sugar mill end it was possible to drive within 70 yards of an area where shorebirds were feeding. The following were seen:

Hawaiian Stilt	2	Ruddy Turnstone	35
Golden Plover	16	Sanderling	20+

Feeding with the Sanderlings, I noticed a large bird, grayish in colour but not as white as the Sanderlings. It was the size of a Wandering Tattler though a much chunkier bird with a shorter bill. After referring to Peterson's Field Guide I determined that it was a Knot. I was able to study the bird for fifteen minutes before it was finally frightened away by some boisterous fishermen.

Once in flight, it was possible to see the whitish rump which was the last point needed for a complete identification.

Also from Michael Ord:

Kuapa Pond:	Red-backed Sandpiper	1	11-10-61
	Semipalmated Plover	1	11-19-61
	Gallinule	1	11-19-61
Kahuku:	Short-eared Owl	3	11-18-61
	Canada Goose	1	11-18-61
	Green-winged Teal	3	11-18-61
	Bufflehead (female)	1	11-18-61
	Pectoral Sandpiper	1	11-18-61
Laie:	Gallinule	2	11-18-61
West Loch:	Yellowlegs (Greater)	2	11-10-61
	Cattle Egret	40	11-10-61

Kahua Ranch:	Yellowlegs (Greater)	2	11-5-61	
	Long-billed Dowitcher	1	11-5-61	
Kaelepulu Pond:	Scaup	4	11-11-61	& 11-19-61
	Baldpate	6	11-11-61	& 11-19-61
	Pintail	30	11-11-61	& 11-19-61
	Canada Goose	2	11-19-61	
Alfalfa Fields:	Skylark	5	11-10-61	
at	Chestnut Mannikin ^{1/}	30	11-10-61	
Pt. Iroquois:	Pheasant	2	11-10-61	

^{1/} Associates with the Ricebirds, though slightly larger. Has black face, breast and belly, remainder of head, back, wings and tail a deep chestnut brown. Bill a pale slate blue. Sexes similar.

From John Bowles:

There have been several observations and occurrences of birds in the last year that should be recorded in the Elepaio. On the 24th of December, 1959, a female Surf Scoter (Melanitta perspicillata) was picked up in the water in the Diamond Head area off Coconut Avenue by Rodney Tongg. The bird was in an exhausted condition and was turned over to the Honolulu Zoo where it died shortly after. A skin of the bird was made and turned over to the Bishop Museum. Examination of the stomach revealed almost nothing, and the bird was very thin. As far as can be determined this is the first record of the Surf Scoter occurring in the Hawaiian Islands.

On the 3d of July, 1961, a Newell's Shearwater (Puffinus puffinus newelli) was picked up in an exhausted condition in the parking lot of the Donald Duck Drive-In at 2840 Kapiolani Blvd. This bird was also taken to the Zoo where it died a few days later. A study skin was made and turned over to the Bishop Museum. The stomach contents revealed a considerable amount of green material, possibly algae, that might have been taken in while fishing, but no sign of fish was present. The bird, a female with partially developed ovaries, was not particularly thin. There was quite a bit of dirt on the bill and feet from digging in the ground at the Zoo.

Dr. S. Dillon Ripley reports seeing a Semipalmated Plover (Charadrius semipalmatus) on 30th August, 1961 on the mud flats in Paiko Lagoon. There were also the commoner shore birds such as the Sanderling (Crocethia alba), the Stilt (Himantopus h. knudseni), Wandering Tattler (Heteroscelus incanum), the Ruddy Turnstone (Arenaria interpres), and the Golden Plover (Pluvialis dominica fulva). On the 5th of September he saw the Common Noddy Tern (Anous stolidus) sitting on a telephone line on Kalakaua Ave., near Ohua St. The bird was facing toward the mountains at the time it was observed at about 3:30 p.m.

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FIELD TRIP to Hanauma Bay and Kuapa Pond, October 8, 1961.

Eight members and guests took the short trip to the Hanauma Bay area, hoping to see the White Terns which have been breeding in the little valley above the bay. The young terns have left the nest -- if one can call it that -- but only a few days earlier adults had been seen in the neighborhood. However, much to our disappointment, no terns could be seen.

Leaving Hanauma we went on to Kuapa Pond, and drove into the Hawaii-Kai development. Al Labrecque, leader, had secured permission for us to enter, so we drove along the roads, seeing strange sights in the way of mud flats, ponds and streams which have been altered in the carving up of the old Kuapa Pond. There were numerous shore birds, the most exciting being the single Semipalmated Plover feeding on a mud flat deep inside the development. With the scope we were able to see him clearly, and compare the markings with those of the other shore birds.

The last stop was made at Kuliouou Beach Park, where Stilt, Plover, Turnstone and Tattler were seen in small numbers. No count was made. An immature Frigate-bird soared overhead, the white head and throat clearly visible. Here the group disbanded, after eating lunch under the palm trees.

Birds seen at Hanauma

Frigate-bird 1
Barred Dove
Calif. House Finch
White-eyes
(No count)

At Kuapa Pond

Wandering Tattler 8
American Golden Plover (no count)
Hawaiian Stilt 58
Black-crowned Night Heron 2
Ruddy Turnstone (no count)
Sanderling 26
Semipalmated Plover 1
Shoveler 3
Coot 8

Grenville Hatch

FIELD TRIP to Aiea Heights Trail, November 12, 1961.

We were an international group of seven adults and two young people making the trip up Aiea trail, Sunday, Nov. 12th, with a guest from Germany, another from Switzerland, and two members formerly from France and England.

Despite the rains of the preceding week the day was clear and sunny. The trail showed signs of heavy recent rain, but was drying out quickly.

For some time we heard Leiothrix and Amakihi calling but saw no birds. Even at the tree with leaking sap where Amakihi have been seen so often none were visible. Presently the group separated. Those lagging behind stationed themselves in an advantageous spot and waited, hoping to see Creepers. No Creepers appeared but the Apapane and Elepaio were soon busy in the trees before us.

Later, in the same area where it has been seen before, and after a long wait, a Japanese Varied Tit appeared. We had a beautiful, clear view of it as it rested in full sunshine on the branch of a dead tree, then flew across near us into the underbrush. Its bib and crown were shiny black, its nape and cheeks more yellow than buff. A second Tit called from nearby but remained out of sight. As Tits are rarely seen on Aiea trail this was a rewarding experience.

As we ate our lunch we caught frequent glimpses of Apapane, Amakihi and Elepaio.

Al Labrecque, our leader, reported seeing and hearing an Iiwi near the top of the trail.

Althea Marrack

NOTES FROM OTHER JOURNALS:

Mauldin, D.B. The Second Battle of Midway. (United States Naval Institute. Proceedings, 87 (9): 43-49, 1961)

An interesting well illustrated article by the Chief Journalist of the U.S. Navy. The Gooney birds, the Navy and the Air Force are at war, and at present the birds seem to be winning out. The author shows, in realistic terms, the huge losses of equipment and material caused by mid air collisions with the birds, and points out the loss of human life that could occur.