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For the Better Protection
of Wildlife in Hawaii

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HONOLULU CHRISTMAS COUNT December 31, 1961

	AREAS												TOTAL
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	
Black-footed Albatross	.	.	.	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1
Brown Booby	150±	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	150±
Red-footed Booby	500±	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	500±
Great Frigatebird	450±	2	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	452±
Black-cr Night Heron	.	.	2	.	.	.	.	4	8	.	.	.	14
Canada Goose	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1
Pintail	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	51	.	.	.	51
Green-winged Teal	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	.	.	.	1
Lesser Scaup	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1
Ring-necked Pheasant	1	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	2
Common Gallinuel	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	2	.	.	.	3
American Coot	.	12	15	8	.	.	.	.	12	.	.	.	47
Semipalmated Plover	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	2	.	.	.	2
American Golden Plover	37	73	26	2	182	.	5	29	22	.	57	.	433
Ruddy Turnstone	20	19	.	.	84	.	.	35	2	.	.	.	160
Wandering Tattler	7	9	.	1	11	.	1	8	6	.	.	.	43
Greater Yellowlegs	.	.	.	.	2	.	.	2	.	.	.	.	4
Long-billed Dowitcher	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1
Sanderling	27	.	.	.	71	.	.	4	15	.	.	.	117
Hawaiian Stilt	94	2	.	1	30	.	.	35	25	.	.	.	187
Pomarine Jaeger	.	.	.	.	16	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	16
Glaucous-winged Gull	.	.	.	.	2	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	2
Spotted Dove	.	10	20	9	19	.	50	3	9	5	1	4	130
Barred Dove	9	10	22	6	42	2	112	8	17	4	17	12	261
Short-eared Owl	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	1
Mockingbird	.	.	.	3	4	.	.	.	.	.	1	.	8
Shama Thrush	.	.	2	.	.	1	1	.	.	3	.	1	8
Red-billed Leiothrix	.	.	8	.	.	8	13	.	.	56	.	29	114
Elepaio	.	.	.	.	.	7	.	.	.	13	.	34	54
Mynah	20	.	58	.	6	1	226	8	1	.	61	.	381
White-eye	.	.	20	2	2	6	93	5	.	59	2	42	231
Amakihi	.	.	.	.	.	4	.	.	.	10	.	28	42
Oahu Creeper	.	.	.	.	.	2	.	.	.	.	.	2	4
Apapane	.	.	.	.	.	2	.	.	.	8	.	47	57
Ricebird	9	22	12	49	.	.	6	.	20	.	37	1	156
House Sparrow	.	.	12	1	40	.	34	4	.	.	34	.	125
North American Cardinal	1	3	12	10	.	.	44	2	1	21	2	7	103
Brazilian Cardinal	3	.	5	6	7	.	19	2	.	.	.	2	44
House Finch	.	.	5	1	.	.	15	.	.	8	.	18	47
No. of Individual Birds:	1329±	165	220	99	519	33	619	149	194	187	212	228	3954±
No. of Species:	15	13	15	13	16	9	13	14	16	10	9	14	39

Honolulu Christmas Count, December 31, 1961 - Continued

	AREAS												
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	TOTAL
Hours on foot:	2'1'30"		1' 45"	30"	30"	2'11'50"	1'30"	1'15"	5'35"		.3'30"		31'25"
Hours by car:	30"	.	45"	30"	30"	.	.	.	30"	.	30"	.	3'15"
Miles on foot:	1	2.5	1	1	.5	1	6	.	.5	8	.	2.5	24
Miles by car:	4	.	5	.	3	.	4.1	.	3.9	.	1	.	21

The following areas were covered in this year's count:

GROUPS	AREAS	PARTICIPANTS
A	1. Moku Manu (through telescope from Ulupau Head), Ulupau Head, Kaneohe Marine Air Base. 2 Kaelepulu Pond, Kawainui Swamp. 3 Kapaa Quarry, Old Pali Road. 4 Salt Lake (through telescope) 5 Sand Island, Off shore (through telescope)	Michael Ord, Leader Timothy Burr Jack Altman Major Fred A. Pierce Terri, Trudi, and Toni Pierce
B	6 Manoa Falls. <u>a/</u> 7 University campus, Residential areas. <u>b/</u> 8 Paiko Lagoon, Kuliouou Beach. 9 Kuapa Pond.	Blanche A. Pedley, Leader Euphie Shields
C	10 Tantalus (Manoa Cliffs and Forest Trail No.1). 11 Punchbowl Memorial Cemetery.	Al Labrecque, Leader Althea and John Marrack Grenville Hatch
D	12 Aiea Trail.	Ann Halsted, Leader Sheila Heyel Unoyo Kojima Barbara Lindblom John Obata
E	7 See Group B. This group counted birds in their own neighborhood, some going out for a short time, others spending several hours, went farther afield. Their efforts gave us a much better balanced picture of bird life here, including, as they did, large numbers of the common birds, such as mynahs and doves. Participants were: Mabel Babcock, Laura Draper, Charlotta Hoskins, Tom McGuire, Ruby Munro, Hazel Peppin, Margaret Smith, and Margaret Titcomb.	

a/ A portion of the Manoa Falls count was contributed by Charlotta Hoskins, who was counting in the Arboretum. Though Charlotta believes she identified an Iiwi by the curved beak, she is reluctant to include this without further confirmation.

b/ Eighty-eight individual birds counted on the University campus, all others come from Group E.

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THE 1961 CHRISTMAS COUNT

For the 20th time, the Christmas count was taken in the Honolulu area, over approximately the same ground as in the last eight years. This year, one group was added, Group E, who took count in various neighborhoods, the time spent varying with the individual. Tom McGuire topped the list with more than five hours of counting.

We are particularly pleased with this development which gives a more accurate picture of bird life in and about Honolulu.

The week preceding the count had been relatively dry. The 31st was a beautiful day, clear and practically windless. A little too warm (85°) in the lowlands, it was cool (64° at 7:00 a.m.) in the uplands. There was very little blossom on the eucalyptus and melaleuca, which resulted in a lowered Amakihi and Apapane count.

Group D (Aiea) had the good fortune to see an owl, but were disappointed in their search for the Varied Tit, still on the trail, but invisible on that day. Their Creeper count was very encouraging, and one member, John Obata, feels that it is probably too conservative. They reported that the trail is in very bad condition. It is being used as a bridle path, presumably not with the blessing of the Forestry Division, but is badly cut, dangerously so in some places, and of course befouled. This is the more distressing as it is one of the few easily accessible trails both for birding and for easy walking trips.

Group C (Tantalus) took a longer route this year, going in by way of Manoa Cliffs Trail, out by Forest Trail No. 1, at the Hogback. Manoa Cliffs Trail is overgrown with palm grass, and the entire trip was very muddy. All enjoyed the extended walk, but it is possible that the count did not justify the extra mileage.

Group B started its count at Paiko Lagoon shortly before the tide began to come in. A fairly good count of shore birds was made here. The best find, however, was at Kuapa Pond where two gallinule was located. The University Campus yielded nothing of unusual interest. The Manoa Falls trail was muddy and slippery, but worth the Shama, heard but not seen.

SIGHTINGS OF INTEREST MADE BY GROUP A ON THE 1961 CHRISTMAS COUNT
By Michael Ord

Our first surprise of the day came at Salt Lake. As we approached the water's edge, the sun slowly climbed above the southeastern end of the Koolau mountains, Mockingbirds and American Cardinals seemed to be singing from every high vantage point. Salt Lake, in the past, has been notorious for yielding a high Coot count but this year we had the remarkably low count of eight Coot.

The next stop at Sand Island was quite rewarding. A freighter steaming across the horizon had a Black-footed Albatross as an escort. In the ship's wake, Pomarine Jaegers were clearly seen, both light and dark phases. The Albatross and Jaeger, while rarely seen from shore are both fairly common visitors to Hawaiian waters in the winter months. Before leaving Sand Island, we managed to locate a couple of immature Glaucous-winged Gulls. These birds had been seen the previous week in this same area and we were delighted that they had remained for the Christmas Count.

The Canada Goose was our next unusual find. Here again, it was not a complete surprise as it had been under observation in the Kawainui Swamp for the last three weeks.

Prior to reaching Kaelepulu Pond we had high hopes of getting an impressive duck count, but, unfortunately, progress has decreed that the water level be lowered eight feet with the result that where there used to be hundreds of Stilt and ducks, we only saw two Stilt and one Lesser Scaup.

The Red-footed Booby count at Ulupau Head and Moku Manu was rather low this year compared with previous years. However, Brown Booby and Frigatebird were plentiful. The male Frigatebirds, perched on the rocks of Moku Manu, made a memorable sight as they inflated their red throat pouch whenever a female Frigatebird flew nearby.

The rarest discovery of the day was the Long-billed Dowitcher feeding on a mud flat in one of the ponds on the Marine base. While we were able to find some of the more infrequent visitors, we were unable to find some of our resident birds, namely the Chinese Thrush and both Common and Hawaiian Noddy.

HONOLULU CHRISTMAS COUNTS
1952 - 1961

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	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959	1960	1961
Black-footed Albatross	2	2	2	2	.	1
Laysan Albatross	.	.	.	1	3	.	.	.	.	.
White-tailed Tropicbird	.	.	2	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Blue-faced Booby	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	1	.	.
Brown Booby	.	5	9	33	6	66	20	50	53	150
Red-footed Booby	215	450	880	1150	1000	1230	1560	1013	1315	500
Great Frigatebird	32	14	21	86	35	241	728	120	827	452
Black-crowned Night Heron	.	.	3	4	2	4	4	2	7	14
Canada Goose	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1
Mallard	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	4	.
Pintail	296	58	795	256	329	81	438	148	43	51
Green-winged Teal	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1
European Widgeon	.	.	.	.	.	4	.	.	.	.
American Widgeon	.	.	2	.	2	11	9	17	45	.
Shoveler	2	.	200	.	87	60	42	43	14	.
Lesser Scaup	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1
California Quail	.	.	10	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Ring-necked Pheasant	.	.	2	7	3	2	.	.	7	2
Common Gallinule	5	3	4	4	3	4	.	1	.	3
American Coot	153	30	449	224	245	1138	2202	1133	780	47
Semipalmated Plover	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	2
American Golden Plover	82	67	396	366	228	177	260	118	146	433
Black-bellied Plover	.	1	1	.	.	4	.	.	.	.
Ruddy Turnstone	47	66	196	208	115	110	86	2	62	160
Wandering Tattler	8	9	17	24	15	8	11	14	17	43
Greater Yellowlegs	.	.	.	.	.	1	.	.	.	4
Long-billed Dowitcher	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1
Sanderling	3	26	30	36	41	26	4	16	2	117
Hawaiian Stilt	69	28	12	24	211	24	124	124	104	187
Pomarine Jaeger	.	.	.	.	7	17	10	2	4	16
Glaucous-winged Gull	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	2	2
Bonaparte Gull	.	.	.	.	.	1	.	.	3	.
Least Tern	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Noddy Tern	.	.	1	.	.	12	.	.	.	.
Hawaiian Noddy Tern	6	1	.	16	4	.	.	.	.	.
Rock Dove	.	.	.	.	.	.	3	.	.	.
Spotted Dove	73	32	352	195	141	59	81	106	55	130
Barred Dove	166	136	1033	614	216	218	276	176	135	261
Short-eared Owl	1	.	1	1	.	.	.	.	.	1
Skylark	.	.	.	6	.	.	.	.	.	.
Japanese Varied Tit	.	.	.	4	2	1	3	.	3	.
Mockingbird	.	.	.	.	.	2	2	1	2	8
Shama Thrush	.	.	6	10	4	6	9	3	8	8
Chinese Thrush	.	.	.	5	.	.	.	2	.	.
Red-billed Leiothrix	20	2	83	462	150	72	163	76	115	114
Elepaio	12	.	27	74	25	10	63	46	46	54
Mynah	150	114	1587	640	331	245	311	391	192	381
White-eye	37	7	209	402	221	102	130	89	109	231
Amakihi	.	.	27	102	77	24	88	56	24	42
Oahu Creeper	.	.	.	3	2	1	1	1	.	4
Apapane	.	.	33	159	506	241	66	23	64	57
Ricebird	279	119	281	421	176	178	306	179	252	156
House Sparrow	79	140	564	381	109	96	311	68	109	125
North American Cardinal	71	35	115	212	72	22	71	32	53	103
Brazilian Cardinal	13	11	51	94	29	8	9	18	28	44
House Finch	3	11	86	91	101	57	61	3	26	47
No. of Species	24	24	34	34	35	39	34	34	34	39
No. of Individual Birds	2728*	1366	7485	6315	4500	4565	7457*	4076	4656	3954

*Unidentified waterfowl included: 1952 - 906, 1958 - 2.

KE KUA'AINA FROM APRIL 1, 1961 TO NOVEMBER 30, 1961

By George C. Munro

Several important events happened in this period that will give Ke Kua'aina tremendous advancement. The most important of these was the installation of a water pipeline by Mr. R. C. Dunlap, State Park Director under the Department of Land and Natural Resources, Division of State Parks, E. C. Cook Director. This carries water to the new park Na Laau Hawaii Arboretum on the west side of Diamond Head. It was cheering to see the water coming through it when we arrived at Ke Kua'aina on our August 16 visit. This surely means success for the "living Museum" and the main body of the park. Another great advance made possible by the pipeline is that my wife Jessie has taken up the work of starting the plants in jiffy pots and later planting them out. Jiffy pots are small peat moss pots that permit the fine roots of the seedling to penetrate the bottom and sides of the pot and so the plant, if the soil is damp, can be planted out "pot and all" when very young and the roots not be disturbed. A dozen of the pots can be carried out at a time. Jessie has turned her little greenhouse into a nursery for Ke Kua'aina and has now, at the end of November, set out 70 plants of 13 species of indigenous trees and smaller plants. About half of these are endemic to Hawaii. There are many more in the nursery ready to go out. This is all a great advancement over what we have been doing, i.e., planting seed that may not germinate for years and then the seedlings have to combat masses of more vigorous foreign vegetation. The plants can now be seen and tended. The eradication of foreign vegetation is a task for the future which will be well worth accomplishing.

All this progress is attainable only if we can procure seed of the plants needed, so the success of the undertaking, the saving from extinction of as many of our endemic plants as possible, depends basically on the collectors of seeds of these plants.

Numbers of persons have contributed seeds as opportunity offered for which we were always grateful. Drs. Elsa and Otto Degener, Mrs. Adolph H. Desha of Lanai and Mrs. Robert I. Baldwin of Hilo are still spending time in the quest for seed and are now collecting tree seed for the main body of the park, which, it is hoped, can be made an example of the forests which once covered large areas on the dry parts of these islands and are now largely decimated. We have acquired two new and important collectors. They are Dr. Charles H. Lamoureux, Botanist of the University of Hawaii, and Mr. Tadayuki Kato of Kapaa, Kauai who already have contributed rare species for the cause. Mr. Paul R. Weissich, Director of the Foster Botanical Gardens, is raising seedlings in the Garden's nursery for the Arboretum.

Another important event was the break up of the long drought. There was heavy steady rain on October 29 and 30th which must have soaked the ground thoroughly, and there have been good rains since.

Rains in December 1960 and January and February 1961 brought up seedlings of the puakala (Argemone alba var. glauc) and the tree form of Hibiscus brackenridgii. These were tended by my wife Jessie, daughter Ruby and nephew Hector G. Munro. The poppies were weeded as the seedlings die if shaded. They grew to about two feet high and some started to flower and formed seedpods, but all died before we were able to soak the ground after the water was piped in. Some of the poppy seedlings have come up since in the plot and Jessie has planted it with other seedlings from her nursery.

Three fine plants of the hibiscus were saved by Ruby's care in weeding and watering, and she has found 21 new seedlings that have come up since the October rains.

The experience with these two plants show the soundness of this system in handling the dryland plants we are trying to establish at Ke Kua'aina. They are endemic plants that have never succeeded in gardens, yet when treated as wild plants they can be grown successfully. With a water supply we can bring seedlings through dry

spells during the wet season and improve on natural conditions without upsetting them entirely as watering in the dry season seems to do. But there is much still to be learned about it.

Hector G. Munro who collected rare seed for the cause before he left Lanai and joined me at Ke Kua'aina in January 1955 has left for his homeland New Zealand. He will be much missed at Ke Kua'aina where he has done a lot of solid work clearing and planting. We are hoping he will return.

We regret that L. W. Bryan, Deputy State Forester at Hilo, has resigned. He was a good friend of Ke Kua'aina. He is now a Consulting Forester at Kailua in which business he will be very much at home. We regret to lose his help.

In my next report which I hope to make at the end of March 1962 I will deal with each indigenous plant growing at Ke Kua'aina.

A FIELD NOTE from Helen Shiras Baldwin (Hilo):

The Brant left Hilo on the 4th of July. The community fireworks at the park by the waterfront were too much for him. He has not come back. Neither has the Garganey Teal returned. This fall very few ducks have come to Hilo's ponds, about 2 dozen, most of them Baldpates. Singularly enough, there are no Pintails--usually the most numerous species.

Cardinals and ground doves have already started calling again--usually early for them. Speaking of cardinals, I saw a Brazilian Cardinal by the roadside near Captain Cook in Kona last summer--the first I have ever seen on this island.

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS were received from David, Judie and Eddie Lupton. David writes, "Good luck on the Christmas Count. I hope it will be as exciting and enjoyable as the one last year! Best wishes to the Society and all of the members for a happy and prosperous New Year. Wish I could be there." (From Madison, Wisconsin)

A NEW MEMBER, Mrs. Ann Elizabeth Wissler of Mentone, California, writes: "You are putting up a good fight... (Paiko Lagoon). We are still fighting poison. Also they want to kill all of the Beaver in our Santa Anna River ... I would like to be a regular member of your Society for the next ten years. Also I would like to give Mary Ann a junior membership for two years. She will be 18 by that time and will have to go into the adult class. I'll put Joe in next year. These are the two members I had with me at the convention. Some of our members have transferred to Hawaii, so they have gone on some of your field trips. I hope to make a trip over to visit them in the near future. Maybe I'll be able to bring some of my film along...." We shall be awaiting Mrs. Wissler's visit with much anticipation.

Will anyone whose garden has birds and sufficient sunshine for photography, please call Michael Ord, phone 587-328?

FEBRUARY ACTIVITIES:

- February 11 - Field trip to Poamoho, one of our favorites.
Meet at the Library of Hawaii at 8:00 a.m.
LEADER: Al Labrecque, phone 983-104.
- February 13 - TUESDAY. Board meeting at the Auditorium of the Honolulu Aquarium at 7:30 p.m.
Members are always welcome.
- February 19 - General meeting at the Auditorium of the Honolulu Aquarium at 7:30 p.m.
Slides and films of birds will be shown.
- February 24 - A trip for our Junior Audubon members and interested parents to Paiko Lagoon to see shore birds.
Meet at 9:00 a.m. at the corner of Thomas Square, Beretania and Victoria Streets.
The trip will end about noon.
LEADER: Michael Ord, phone 587-328.

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