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BIRD OBSERVATIONS IN THE HAWAIIAN ISLANDS, FEBRUARY 1962 By Haskell B. Curry Pennsylvania State University University Park, Penna.

In February 1962 my wife and I made a two weeks stop in the Hawaiian Islands. This was part of a trip around the world; after leaving the Islands we visited Fiji, New Zealand, Australia, the Philippines, Japan, Hong Kong, Malaya, Thailand, northern India, Egypt and assorted parts of Europe.

Our stay in the islands began when we arrived in Honolulu on February 4. For a few days we stayed in Honolulu, most of the time in the company of my former Penn State colleague Hubert Frings, now professor of zoology at the University of Honolulu, and Mrs. Frings; these friends took us to many places of interest in Oahu. On February 8 we flew to Hilo; we spent one night there, then three nights at Kilauea, and one night at Kona. From there we flew to Maui for two nights; and then on to Kauai for two nights, one of which was spent at Kokee. At the end of this trip it was time to return to Honolulu, and from there to fly to Nadi in the Fiji Islands for the next leg of our journey.

In spite of the hasty nature of this visit, some of our friends have requested that I write up such observations on birds as I made during these two weeks. I am glad to do this; but I must ask the reader to keep in mind certain limitations which circumstances, over and above the shortness of time, imposed on these observations. This was a recreational tour, not an ornithological expedition. Moreover, I was a complete stranger to the islands; and although Mr. Bryan and Miss Titcomb at the Bishop Museum, as well as other friends, gave me helpful advice, it was necessary to do most of my field work alone in strange territory.

The territory covered in the following list is, more in detail, as follows (omitting places unproductive of birds). On Oahu: Waikiki Beach, Kapiolani Park, around the University, Bishop Museum, and Hawaiian Airport; auto trip around island and to Tantalus. On Hawaii: around Hilo, Akaka Falls, Kalapana Park, Ring trail around Kilauea Crater, Mauna Loa Strip Road to end. On Maui: marshes of Kanaha sanctuary near Kalahui and drive to top of Haleakala. On Kauai: around Coco Palms Hotel, drive along south coast and up to Kokee.

In the following list of birds I follow, for taxonomic matters, the "Check List and Summary of Hawaiian Birds" by E. H. Bryan, Jr., Honolulu, 1958. Subspecies have been ignored.

1. Red-tailed Tropic Bird (Phaethon rubricauda). About 10 tropic birds were seen from Kalalau Lookout, Kauai on February 16. Since I could not identify them with certainty, I shall state the facts and leave the reader to draw his own conclusions. The weather was overcast, with heavy rain and fog before and after our visit

On the advice of the American Museum of Natural History in New Yrok City I wrote about these birds to Dr. Frank Richardson of the University of Washington at Seattle. The following is quoted from his reply.

"During our three months of observation of birds on Kauai - June to Sept. in 1960 we saw only two red-tailed tropic birds for sure, and these were down near the water on the Na Pali coast. The dozens we saw flying high in Kalalau Valley and many other places on Kauai seemed always to be white-tailed, yet it seems very probable to me that you saw red-tails. Perhaps they come to Kauai in the winter."

2. Black-crowned Night Heron (Nycticorax nycticorax). 1 on Maui, (Kanaha bird sanctuary). (I found this species all around the world, except that in Australia there is a related species Nycticorax caledonicus, and it is said not to occur in the Southwest Pacific.)

3. Pintail Duck (Anas acuta). About 20 in Kanaha sanctuary, Maui.

4. Shoveller (Spatula clypeata). About 100 in Kanaha sanctuary, Maui.

5. Chukar Partridge (Alectoris graeca). 3 on Mauna Loa Strip Road, Hawaii.

6. Pheasant (Phasianus colchicus). 1 of Japanese blue race (P.c. versicolor) on Hawaii near foot of Mauna Loa Strip Road. Several of ring necked variety, (pre-sumably P.c. torquatus) on Maui, and near Kokee on Kauai.

7. Hawaiian Gallinule (Gallinula chloropus). 1 on Kauai near Lihue.

8. Coot (Fulica americana). About 50, Kanaha sanctuary, Maui.

9. Golden Plover (Pluvialis dominica). Abundant, especially around Honolulu, on Maui, and at Kokee. Found on Haleakala at 9,000 feet, in parks at Honolulu, and even around hotel at Waikiki.

10. Ruddy Turnstone (Arenaria interpres). About 10 on Maui; another flock of about 10 on Kauai coast near Hanapape.

11. Wandering Tattler (Heteroscelus incanum). At least 3 at Kanaha sanctuary.

12. Lesser Yellowlegs (Totanus flavipes). 1 at Kanaha sanctuary, Maui, with Wandering Tattlers and other Shore birds.

13. Pectoral Sandpiper (Erolia melanotus). 1 on Maui in marsh of Kanaha sanctuary. ( I am familiar with this bird in North America; this bird was typical, with streaks sharply cut off on breast).

14. Sanderling (Crocethia alba). About 20 at Kanaha sanctuary, Maui.

15. Hawaiian Stilt (Himantopus himantopus). About 50 at Kanaha sanctuary, Maui.

16. White-capped Noddy (Anous tenuirostris). 1 on Hamakua coast. (Species

### identification on grounds of probability.)

17. Spotted Dove (Streptopelia chinensis). Abundant in lowlands.

18. Barred Dove (Geopelia striata). Abundant in lowlands.

19. Skylark (Alauda arvensis). Heard singing, abundantly, on slopes of Haleakala.

20. Chinese Thrush (Trochalopterum canorum). 1 singing around cabin at Kokee. (later I saw this bird at Hong Kong, where it was very shy.)

21. Pekin Nightingale (Leiothrix lutea). On Hawaii. Seen around Hilo and in Volcanoes National Park (Kipuka Ki).

22. Mockingbird (Mimus polyglottus). Common on Maui.

23. Hawaiian Thrush (Phaeornis obscura). 1 seen along Ring Trail, Hawaii Volcanoes National Park, about one mile south of Thurston Lava Tubes. Other thrush-like birds were glimpsed at various places, but this one was seen well. Squeaking caused him to dive quickly for cover.

24. Shama Thrush (Kittacincla macroura). Singing on Tantalus, Oahu.

25. Elepaio (Chasiempis sandwichensis). Common on Hawaii. First seen near Hilo; later in Volcanoes National Park it was rather common.

26. Mynah (Acridotheres tristis). Abundant around settlements. There were about 10 around Volcano House, Hawaii, and several on the meadows at Kokee.

27. White-eye (Zosterops palpibrosus). Abundant, not only in lowlands but also in highlands. (There are white-eyes in most of SW Pacific, especially Australia. I did not find this bird as common in Japan as it is in the Hawaiian Islands, or as its relatives are in Australia.)

28. Amakihi (Loxops virens). Not as common as Apapane in Hawaii Volcanoes National Park; but more common at Hosmer Grove on Haleakala.

29. Anianiau (Loxops parva). Common around Kokee Lodge, Kauai.

30. Apapane (Himatione sanguinea). Abundant in Ohia woods - Hawaii Volcanoes. National Park; also in places (Hosmer grove) on Maui, and Kauai.

31. Iiwi (Vestiaria coccinea). A pair feeding a green young on Mauna Loa Strip Road at about 5,600 feet. I searched for this bird in vain at Thurston Lava Tubes.

32. Ricebird (Munia nisoria). Several small flocks seen in various places -One flock was near Kilauea Iki Crater. (In the Orient a similar bird is known as the Spice Finch.)

33. English Sparrow (preferably House Sparrow) (Passer domesticus). Common around settlements.

34. Western Meadowlark (Sturnella neglecta). 1 at Coco Palms, Kauai.

35. Red Cardinal (Richmondena cardinalis). Common around Honolulu, Maui; a few at Kauai.

36. Brazilian Crested Cardinal (Paroaria cucullata). Common around Honolulu.

37. House Finch (Carpodacus mexicanus). Common around Bishop Museum, Hawaiian Village Hotel, Kipuka Ki, and a few other places.

# SOME NOTES FROM MOLOKAI By Noah Pekelo, Jr. District Fish & Game Warden Kaunakakai, Molokai

In the dense rain forest of Molokai, a bird believed to be "extinct" by some Ornithologists - the Molokai Creeper - still exists! Recently while observing native forest birds on the boggy plateau between Waikolo and Pelekunu valleys I observed two pair of these beautiful birds feeding in their unusual manner on the branches of <u>Metrosideros</u>. The sighting wasn't my first. The following excerpts from my field notes should be of interest:

May 21, 1961, "in a small gully back of Pepeopae bog, taking notes on <u>Gunera</u> <u>petaloidea</u>, spotted small brown bird, lt. about 10.0 cm. working the branches of Ohia, 20 yds from my position, bird not familiar - might be creeper? No binoculars, bird flew off towards valley." Ablut three hours later while looking into Pelekunu valley from the west rim, "on a tall Ohia about 10' from me 2 birds, one entirely brown the other completely red - not a bright red, but a soft tone, similar in size to Amakihi, definitely creepers! Birds unconcerned with my presence, feeding along the branches for about five minutes in full view occasionally emitting chirps."

June 8, 1962, "sighted three creepers feeding on moss shrouded Ohia; the feeding manner of these birds is indeed interesting, the way in which they creep along the branches, at times upside down, from the underside of a branch, one bird a male."

April 29, 1963, "back of Ohia lele, distinct chirping of creepers heard twice during the morning, 1400 hrs.; spotted one male feeding on branch of <u>Cheirodendron</u>, interesting the manner in which bird clings to and creeps along branches while feeding."

Out of five trips that I have made into this area, I have made three sight observations on the Molokai creepers. Peterson (1961, 329) states that the Molokai creeper is "Extinct"; rare should have been the term.

The trails of Molokai traversed by George Munro and Walter Donagho, in their quest for native forest birds, have since become a network of jeep roads throughout the lower areas of the forest. This progress has not affected our native bird population on the Island. The Amakihi and Apapane are common, and are holding their own. The Kakawahie, though rare is not extinct. The possibility of the Black Mamo and Bishop's Oo being found again should not be scoffed at. Pig hunters often report sighting black birds in the forest here. I take serious note of their reports, for they are the men who see more of the forest in a couple of months than I could hope to see in a year. The forest of Molokai is vast, much of it remains unexplored scientifically, much of what we may believe no longer exists will someday be found again. I often compare what I have learned of the forest with my taking of a grain of sand from the beach in back of my home; it's a big beach when one considers sand, if you don't believe come see for yourself!

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REVIEW of "Familiar Shore Birds in Japan; Many are Common in New World" by Dean Amadon (Natural History, April, 1963)

Dean Amadon's last sentence is "Surely, then, bird watchers with whom the shore birds are favorites will find a real challenge in the marshes and shores of Japan." Shall we schedule our next bird walk for Japan?

Amadon first speaks of the nesting species common to Japan and our northeastern coastal states: two or three species of nesting plovers, one each of woodcock and snipe, a common small river sandpiper, and perhaps one or two other species. As to the migrants, they fly from Bering Straits to Australia, Patagonia, and South Africa via the coasts of Japan, and even as far as England or Long Island: the sanderling, knot, black-bellied plover, red phalarope, and gray phalarope. There are other birds of the New World and Old World that differ only in species: turnstones, whimbrels and tattlers; but some are quite distinct: the golden plovers, spotted and common sandpipers, the semi-palmated and ringed plovers. Some "distinctly and exclusively Old World groups" reach Japan as migrants, and do not come "our way."

The sanderling breeds in the high Arctic. I myself have seen one at Haleakala, Hawaii. It is the sandpiper most often seen rushing up and down sandy beaches, following each retreating wave. In the nesting season, its plumage is patterned with bright, rusty brown; winter garb is more somber.

The ruddy turnstone, or calico snipe, is one of the easiest shore birds to identify. It too is a great wanderer. As with other shore birds, non-breeding individuals often linger in the far south.

"It is still a moot question whether migrating shore birds alight on the ocean to rest." Several species--the golden plover, bristle-thighed curlew and, as mentioned above, sanderling, migrate every year from Alaska to the Hawaiian Islands.

The illustrations include the sanderling and the ruddy turnstone.

So! There is a chance that our migrants may rest on the water?

Margaret Titcomb

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THE LEOPOLD REPORT (so named for the Chairman, Dr. A. Starker Leopold) in the April, 1963, issue of the <u>National Parks Magazine</u>

"Report of the Advisory Board on Wildlife Management"

This is the answer to Interior Secretary Udall from a four-man Advisory Board on Wildlife Management, appointed by him a year ago. We cite and abstract here some editorial comment on the Report by Anthony Wayne Smith, Executive Secretary and General Counsel of the National Parks Association.

1. The National Parks Association has led the three year fight for defense of the original National Parks policy of management by professional parks personnel and "not by recreational hunting."

2. This holds good for all existing and future-planned national park areas.: "The national parks system cannot be operated under two sets of ground rules."

3. Where hunting has been well established in new areas under consideration for inclusion into the parks system, it may be wisest to exclude any such areas, and manage them as national recreation areas, not national parks. A suggestion is made: "such land might best be preserved in some cases as wilderness or primitive areas, protected against roads, but open to hunting." In other words, the non-hunting policy of the national parks must exclude all such areas; let them be managed differently and distinctly labeled, and classified.

4. As to "national recreation areas", evidently both State and National, they may be managed through controls which permit "hunting...at times and places within...areas, which will minimize conflict with other protective and recreational uses."

The author considers the "method by which the report approaches its problem is its most striking feature... The Leopold report begins with a declaration of goals, followed by an analysis of policy, succeeded in turn by a discussion of methods.

"Central to the theory of the report is the following proposition:

As a primary goal, we would recommend that the biotic association within each park be maintained, or where necessary, recreated, as nearly as possible in the condition that prevailed when the area was first visited by the white man."

This is clear. Mr. Smith amplifies it by giving instances of regeneration in parks, bringing back to previous status both plants and animals, and distinguishes that effort from "interference." He comments on the report's recommendation, or insistence, that such facilities as golf courses, ski lifts, and motor boat marinas should have no part in national parks.

The full report follows. The headings are: historical, the concept of park management, the goal of park management in the United States, policies of park management, methods of habitat management, control of animal populations, wildlife management on national recreational areas, new national parks, and finally a summary, all extending through five pages of fine print.

Most of the summary has to do with the management of animals not found in Hawaii. But these points are of value to all of us:

The goal of managing national parks and monuments should be to preserve, or where necessary to create, the ecological scene as viewed by the first European visitors. As part of this scene, native species of wild animals should be present in maximum variety and reasonable abundance. Protection alone, which has been the core of the Park Service wildlife policy, is not adequate to achieve this goal. Habitat manipulation is helpful and often essential to restore or maintain animal numbers...

Active management aimed at restoration of natural communities of plants and animals demands skills and knowledge not now in existence. A greatly expanded research program, oriented to management needs, must be developed within the National Park Service itself...

Recreational hunting is a valid and potentially important use of national recreational areas, which are also under jurisdiction of the National Park Service. Full development of hunting opportunities on these areas should be provided by the Service.

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Some of these statements have little application in Hawaii, but all the ideas fit our way of thinking. For instance, like a National Park, a bird sanctuary should have no entanglement of marinas, picnic or camping ground, etc. We are already convinced, but it is helpful to be able to quote this Report in trying to convince others of the necessity for singleness of purpose. <u>Multiple use</u> is a phrase that sounds economically wise, but care must be taken that it does not defeat the aim of at least one of the uses in the plan.

As to increasing our knowledge of plants, birds (for Hawaii), and any other animals, native or gone wild, we certainly wish to do that.

We are all familiar with the contest for land and opportunity to use it by hunters, realtors, conservationists.

To have a look at the mainland problems and how they are being discussed and solved should be facilitated by this Report.

## JUNE ACTIVITIES

- June 9 Field trip to Ulupau Head to watch sea birds. Return via Koko Head to look for Fairy Terns. Meet at the Library of Hawaii at 8:00 a.m. Please note the time. Leader: Mike Ord, 587-328
- June 10 Board meeting at the Auditorium of the Honolulu Aquarium at 7:30 p.m. Members are always welcome.
- June 17 General meeting at the Auditorium of the Honolulu Aquarium at 7:30 p.m. David Woodside of the State Fish and Game Division will talk about the work of that Department and also show their movie of the Nene filmed on the island of Hawaii.

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