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HONOLULU CHRISTMAS COUNT December 23, 1962

	AREAS											TOTAL
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	
Brown Booby	50+	.	.	.	1	51+
Red-footed Booby	600+	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	600+
Great Frigatebird	250+	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	250+
Black-cr Night Heron	.	.	.	.	.	21	.	.	.	.	.	21
Mallard	.	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1
American Widgeon	.	7	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	7
Shoveller	.	.	7	.	.	5	.	.	.	.	.	12
Lesser Scaup	.	4	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	4
Common Gallinule	.	.	2	.	.	.	1	.	.	.	.	3
American Coot	.	51	1	95	.	3	28	.	.	.	.	178
American Golden Plover	11	14	1	4	140	33	.	1	35	.	.	239
Ruddy Turnstone	.	5	.	2	50	35	.	.	.	.	.	92
Wandering Tattler	2	.	.	3	12	5	.	.	.	.	.	22
Sanderling	1	1	.	.	16	7	.	.	.	.	.	25
Hawaiian Stilt	37	42	5	3	35	52	.	.	.	.	.	174
Pomarine Jaeger	.	.	.	.	11	.	.	.	.	.	.	11
Glaucous Gull	.	.	.	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	1
Glaucous-winged Gull	.	.	.	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	1
Ringed-billed Gull	.	.	.	.	3	.	.	.	.	.	.	3
Hawaiian Noddy Tern	2	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	2
Spotted Dove	.	.	3	5	10	.	5	16	10	8	14	71
Barred Dove	4	12	2	24	50	.	7	48	23	38	.	208
Short-eared Owl	.	.	.	.	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	1
Japanese Varied Tit	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	.	1
Chinese Thrush	.	.	2	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	2
Red-billed Leiothrix	.	.	.	.	.	.	4	21	37	14	30	106
Mockingbird	.	.	.	2	.	.	.	.	2	.	.	4
Shama Thrush	.	.	.	.	.	.	3	.	.	.	2	5
Elepaio	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	9	17	6	32
Mynah	.	300+	50	.	.	.	.	71	34	3	4	462+
White-eye	3	.	6	12	.	.	3	18	17	19	7	85
Amakihi	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	4	30	.	34
Apapane	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	4	9	.	13
Iiwi	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	2	.	.	2
Ricebird	2	.	8	30	.	.	3	.	11	11	.	65
House Sparrow	12	.	.	.	24	.	.	35	48	.	.	119
Cardinal	1	.	3	8	4	.	2	6	5	4	3	36
Brazilian Cardinal	1	.	.	1	2	.	1	4	1	.	.	10
House Finch	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	12	2	2	16
No. of Individual Birds:	976+	436+	91	189	360	162	57	220	254	156	68	2969+
No. of Species:	14	9	13	12	15	9	10	9	16	12	8	39

Honolulu Christmas Count, December 23, 1962 - Continued

	<u>AREAS</u>											
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	TOTAL
Hours on foot:	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{4}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	1	1	$\frac{1}{4}$	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	5 $\frac{1}{2}$	3 $\frac{1}{2}$	1 $\frac{3}{4}$	18 $\frac{1}{4}$
Hours by car:	$\frac{1}{2}$	.	$\frac{1}{4}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{4}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{4}$	1	1	.	.	4 $\frac{1}{4}$
Miles on foot:	1	$\frac{1}{2}$	.	1	1	1	.	3	4	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	1	15
Miles by car:	3	.	2	.	1	2	2	3	10	.	.	23

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

<u>GROUPS</u>	<u>AREAS</u>	<u>PARTICIPANTS</u>
A	1 Kaneohe Marine Base, Ulupau Head and Moku Manu (through telescope from Ulupau Head) 2 Kaelepulu Pond 3 Kawainui Swamp and Kapaa Quarry Road 4 Salt Lake (through telescope) 5 Sand Island and lagoon (through telescope) 6 Paiko Lagoon and Kuapa Pond	W. Michael Ord
B	7 Nuuanu Valley 8 University Campus* and residential area	Carl C. Simms
C	9 Tantalus and Punchbowl	Margaret Titcomb Margaret Johnson, Thane Pratt; Guests: Mrs. J. Scott Pratt, Dr. & Mrs. Y. Sinoto and Aki Sinoto
D	10 Aiea Trail	Unoyo Kojima
E	11 Manoa Falls	Blanche A. Pedley Phyllis Turnbull

* University Campus was covered by Group E. However due to the small number of birds recorded there the totals have been combined with those of the residential area for simplicity.

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THE 1962 CHRISTMAS COUNT

Unfortunately this year, the flu and arriving visitors forced some of our members to be excluded from participating in the annual count. We were fortunate in having pleasant weather, though, with ideal light conditions for birding. The total numbers of individual birds were down from previous years, however we were able to find thirty-nine species which equaled last year's number.

Particularly conspicuous by their absence this year were the Black-footed Albatross and Pintail Duck - not to mention that the Bristle-thighed Curlew seen the previous weekend at Keehi Lagoon was not in the count area. Moku Manu was disappointing, due mainly to the time of day. Several days before the 23rd, a trip late in the afternoon produced a large flock of Sooty Terns, Noddies and a solitary White-tailed Tropicbird.

The group covering Tantalus were lucky in finding Iiwi, and Unoyo Kojima, on the Aiea trail, found the Varied Tit, which always gives a pleasant boost to our number of species.

W. Michael Ord

HONOLULU CHRISTMAS COUNTS
1953 - 1962

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	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959	1960	1961	1962
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	51
Red-footed Booby	450	880	1150	1000	1230	1560	1013	1315	500	600
Great Frigatebird	14	21	86	35	241	728	120	827	452	250
Black-crowned Night Heron	.	3	4	2	4	4	2	7	14	21
Canada Goose	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	.
Mallard	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	4	.	1
Pintail	58	795	256	329	81	438	148	43	51	.
Green-winged Teal	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	.
European Widgeon	.	.	.	.	4	.	.	.	.	.
American Widgeon	.	2	.	2	11	9	17	45	.	7
Shoveler	.	200	.	87	60	42	43	14	.	12
Lesser Scaup	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	4
California Quail	.	10	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Ring-necked Pheasant	.	2	7	3	2	.	.	7	2	.
Common Gallinule	3	4	4	3	4	.	1	.	3	3
American Coot	30	449	224	245	1138	2202	1133	780	47	178
Semipalmated Plover	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	2	.
American Golden Plover	67	396	366	228	177	260	118	146	433	239
Black-bellied Plover	1	1	.	.	4	.	.	.	.	.
Ruddy Turnstone	66	196	208	115	110	86	2	62	160	92
Wandering Tattler	9	17	24	15	8	11	14	17	43	22
Greater Yellowlegs	.	.	.	.	1	.	.	.	4	.
Long-billed Dowitcher	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	.
Sanderling	26	30	36	41	26	4	16	2	117	25
Hawaiian Stilt	28	12	24	211	24	124	124	104	187	174
Pomarine Jaeger	.	.	.	7	17	10	2	4	16	11
Glaucous Gull	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1
Glaucous-winged Gull	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	2	2	1
Ringed-billed Gull	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	3
Bonaparte Gull	.	.	.	.	1	.	.	3	.	.
Least Tern	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Noddy Tern	.	1	.	.	12	.	.	.	.	.
Hawaiian Noddy Tern	1	.	16	4	.	.	.	.	.	2
Rock Dove	.	.	.	.	.	3	.	.	.	.
Spotted Dove	32	352	195	141	59	81	106	55	130	71
Barred Dove	136	1033	614	216	218	276	176	135	261	208
Short-eared Owl	.	1	1	.	.	.	.	.	1	1
Skylark	.	.	6	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Japanese Varied Tit	.	.	4	2	1	3	.	3	.	1
Chinese Thrush	.	.	5	.	.	.	2	.	.	2
Red-billed Leiothrix	2	83	462	150	72	163	76	115	114	106
Mockingbird	.	.	.	.	2	2	1	2	8	4
Shama Thrush	.	6	10	4	6	9	3	8	8	5
Elepaio	.	27	74	25	10	63	46	46	54	32
Mynah	114	1587	640	331	245	311	391	192	381	462
White-eye	7	209	402	221	102	130	89	109	231	85
Amakihi	.	27	102	77	24	88	56	24	42	34
Oahu Creeper	.	.	3	2	1	1	1	.	4	.
Apapane	.	33	159	506	241	66	23	64	57	13
Iiwi	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	2
Ricebird	119	281	421	176	178	306	179	252	156	65
House Sparrow	140	564	381	109	96	311	68	109	125	119
Cardinal	35	115	212	72	22	71	32	53	103	36

Honolulu Christmas Counts, 1953 - 1962 (Continued)

	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959	1960	1961	1962
Brazilian Cardinal	11	51	94	29	8	9	18	28	44	10
House Finch	11	86	91	101	57	61	3	26	47	16
No. of Species	24	34	34	35	39	34	34	34	39	39
No. of Individual Birds	1366	7485	6315	4500	4565	7457*	4076	4656	3954	2969

*2 unidentified waterfowl included

FIELD NOTES: Saturday, December 8, 1962.

I had the privilege of being invited out with the University of Hawaii Zoology Club on their field trip aboard the U.S. Fish and Wildlife vessel, Charles H. Gilbert. We sailed out of Kewalo Basin at 9:00 a.m. and headed for Penguin Shoals.

In the morning, Pomarine Jaegers were by far the most abundant, coming in quite close to the boat to pick up scraps thrown overboard. After lunch, Black-footed Albatross were not an uncommon sight, gliding low over the ocean and also following us for short periods of time. Very few Noddies and Wedge-tailed Shearwaters were seen. In the case of the latter it is understandable, since the breeding season is generally completed by mid November, after which these birds are rarely seen near the main islands. During the afternoon we ran into a large flock of boobies, both Red-footed and Brown, some of which were diving for fish - the remainder were resting on the ocean. As we approached they all took to flight and glided lazily around and over us. At this same time, we were suddenly surrounded by a fairly large school of Porpoises which made a spectacular sight as they jumped out of the water and dived down under the boat and up and out of the water on the other side.

On the way back to Kewalo Basin we saw a number of Frigatebirds and one small Shearwater or Petrel which we were unable to identify positively due to poor lighting conditions.

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Sunday, December 16, 1962

This morning I made a preliminary run on a couple of areas which would be covered the following weekend on the Christmas Count. While viewing the small islets in Keehi Lagoon with the telescope under ideal lighting conditions, I was surprised to see a Bristle-thighed Curlew land in my field of view. It was in the company of several Stilt, Golden Plover, Turnstone and Sanderling.

In the same general area there was an adult Ring-billed Gull and a juvenile Glaucous-winged Gull. Both of these gulls had been seen here earlier this fall.

At Salt Lake, I was pleasantly surprised to see an increase in the Coot population - a quick count produced upward of eighty birds; a vast improvement from previous months when I couldn't even get into double figures counting Coot. Four Stilt were feeding along the shore line in close company with an immature Ring-billed Gull and an immature Glaucous Gull.

One disappointment was in not seeing or hearing the Mockingbirds which were doing extremely well in this area.

W. Michael Ord

BLACK-HEADED MANNIKINS AND STRAWBERRY FINCHES

Over the past six months, a large flock of Black-headed Mannikins (*Lonchura malacca atricapilla*) and Strawberry Finches (*Estrilda amandava*) have been observed by the writer feeding in various grasses and sedges on Waipio peninsula. The flock is predominantly Black-headed Mannikins which number between 400-500 birds, as compared to some 100 Strawberry Finches.

The area favoured by these birds is open land which apparently had been used as salt beds at one time. The Oahu Sugar Company is presently filling in this area but it appears to be a slow process with the result that many birds still frequent the wet as well as the dry portions of the salt beds. Of particular interest in the water areas is the concentration of ducks, primarily Pintail, Shoveller and Green-winged Teal and for the last two months, an immature White-fronted Goose which seems to be eluding all tries by potential poachers in the area.

Early last year I had seen the Mannikins in small numbers down in the alfalfa fields at Iroquois Point but this flock seems to have moved from this area and has probably joined up with the larger flock across on the other side of West Loch. The general colouration is a black head, chest and abdomen with chestnut brown back, wings and tail, 5½" long, with a slate blue bill which is very noticeable when the bird is in flight. Immature birds are a light fawn brown which turns blotchy as the adult plumage begins to show through. The bill, however, is slate blue which makes identification from the slightly smaller Ricebird fairly easy.

W. Michael Ord

A SUMMARY OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE DECEMBER 17, 1962, GENERAL MEETING:

During a discussion of the possibility of making bird sanctuaries out of some locales favored by the stilt, Mr. Ord rated Kaneohe Marine Base as the best possibility on Oahu and Kanaha pond on Maui as the best in the Islands.

The slate of officers was announced and accepted unanimously.

Dr. Frings introduced our guest speaker, Mr. Gordon Boudreau of Phoenix, Arizona, who had consulted him several years ago on a problem of pest birds.

Following suggestions put forth by Dr. Frings, Mr. Boudreau did much research on the problem of control of such bird pests as starlings, prairie horned larks, mockingbirds, finches and blackbirds. Crops such as spring lettuce and table grapes were being attacked. Very effective long-term control was obtained by broadcasting in the fields either a modified alarm or a distress call of the particular bird pest involved.

ANNOUNCEMENT: A Conservation Conference will be held at the Princess Kaiulani on Feb. 12, from 8:30-4:00 p.m. This meeting is sponsored by the Conservation Council for Hawaii; there will be a number of speakers and some movies will be shown.

FEBRUARY ACTIVITIES:

February 10 - Field trip - a mountain hike for native mountain birds, possibly Poamoho Trail. Meet at the Library of Hawaii at 8:00 a.m.

February 11 - Board meeting at the Auditorium of the Honolulu Aquarium at 7:30 p.m.

February 18 - General meeting at the Auditorium of the Honolulu Aquarium, 7:30 p.m. Program to be announced later.

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