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THOMAS R. L. McGUIRE

The Hawaii Audubon Society takes great pleasure in expressing, in the only way it can, its appreciation of Thomas R. L. McGuire by granting him honorary membership in the society.

But back of this award is a vast amount of affectionate appreciation by all our members for the joy of knowing this delightful person. His inexhaustible generosity in helping us to know the forests of Oahu, under his care for so many years, has been wonderful. To think of Tom brings a glow, because of his warmth of heart, his breadth of spirit, and his friendliness to all.

Margaret Titcomb

CALIFORNIA BLUE JAYS - THEIR ENDEARING CHARMS

By Mary M. Roberts

When I arrived in Glendale, my sister informed me that, true to the general trend of the present population explosion, her blue jay couple was breeding again and we would have an excellent opportunity to befriend their three babies, that had been told in no uncertain bird language and behaviour by their father, to scrounge for themselves.

The little fellows were very shy at first, but it did not take them too long to catch on to the fact that these huge, strange beings were taking over where their parents had left off. Tasty morsels of bread and peanuts appeared on the feeder with which they could fill those ever empty stomachs.

And it wasn't long before decided characteristics began to distinguish one baby from the other. To our great joy we discovered that "Spotty" marked by a white spot on each of his secondary flight feathers--a most unusual phenomenon--had inherited his adorable mother's lack of fear of humans, and decided that flying to the feeder's hand and perching there to pick up titbits assured him the lion's share. Soon he also found ways and means of announcing his feeding time by making his presence heard by rusty squawk at the front of the house when unsuccessful at the kitchen, and when the front door was accidentally left open he did not hesitate to step over the sill into the living room to satisfy his curiosity. At times he tried to bury little pieces of peanuts between our fingers, to return a little later to dig them out again. He did not hesitate to turn his back on us while working away on our hands, so great was his trust in us. Spotty also indulged in stretching exercises, first on our neighbor's clothesline and then, to our great amusement, while standing on our hands. We felt here was the dearest re-creation of them all.

"Fluffy" liked to sit on the branches of the Eugenie tree that stood by the feeder as he liked his table close by, and enjoyed a snooze after meals. He puffed himself up as big as possible and although he opened one eye to see what was going on when I brought my camera close up to him to take a flash picture he quickly rolled his eyelid up again and continued his nap. He was a little slower in accepting food from our hands, but finally stepped up into our hand to feed, but never flew to it as "Spotty" did.

"Fingerling", No. 3, was the shyest of all. He sat at a safe distance, craning his neck to see what was in those hands stretched out to him. We finally succeeded in getting him to pick up bits of peanuts, but he invariably pulled away frantically at each finger first before he decided the peanuts were more tempting after all.

These three little rascals, each with such endearing traits, each with a personality of his own afforded me such pleasure during my stay in Glendale that I found it difficult to leave them, but my sister assures me that I will be kept informed about their progress and further developments.

A LETTER FROM E.J. McCARTHY, A PROFESSOR AT THE UNIVERSITY OF NOTRE DAME:

Aloha friendly birdwatchers:

April 16, 1963

On February 10th, 1963 I was most privileged to join one of your regular Sunday hikes on the Pa Lehua Trail. Alys Chong invited me, but everybody was most cordial. I have only visited with one other club or group, but by contrast your group was extremely friendly and most willing to explain everything and anything to a newcomer. I learned not only about native Hawaiian birds as well as imports, but also about rock formations, plants and flowers. It was truly a most enjoyable experience and I would recommend a visit with your club to any members of the Society.

Further, I would recommend visits with you because of the wide variety of birds which can be seen in a relatively small area--all the way from shore birds (Stilts and Plovers and Egrets) to birds which are seen in the plains and mountains (Ricebirds, Apapane, Amakihi and Elepaio). And all of this variety is available only a few minutes from downtown Honolulu! This is while it is still quite frigid and uninviting back in Indiana!

I returned to South Bend the next day after my hike and was greeted by below-zero weather and snow! And we had much more cold and over a foot of snow before spring even began to come on the scene. But two weeks ago I saw my first Robin, and a week ago the first Flicker, so spring can't be too far away. Of course we also have Grackles, Sparrows, Starlings and Red winged Blackbirds. But the trees are just beginning to come out now, so we should have more visitors shortly. Our austere environment certainly makes me envious of your beautiful sanctuary. Another attraction I should mention is the presence of imported birds--I recall seeing one Brazilian Cardinal.

In all, I thoroughly enjoyed my visit with your Sunday "Bird Walk." Before closing, I should note that your members are in especially good physical condition because your Bird Walks turn into almost mountain hikes! This was most enjoyable to me, but also a surprising contrast from the sometimes leisurely walks through flat plains which one finds in other environments. Again, I would highly recommend a visit with the Hawaii Audubon Society to anyone who is in Honolulu. Thank you very much for taking care of me.

Data on the Body Temperature of Tropical Sea and Water Birds, by Miklos D. F. Udvardy. (The Auk, vol. 80(2):191-194, 1963)

Dr. Udvardy includes notes on the black-footed albatross, Laysan albatross, wedge-tailed shearwater, Christmas Island shearwater, Bonin Island petrel, Bulwer's petrel, masked booby, Laysan duck. He acknowledges help in capturing birds, and technical assistance from R. E. Warner and others. The study was financed by the National Research Council of Canada.

No summary is given. "These (temperatures) may be compared with similar but more extensive data in the recent literature." On the whole, the temperatures are lower when the birds have been resting than after flight landing; the range is between 37 and 40.5 degrees centigrade. These data resulted from two expeditions, 1959 and 1961, to Laysan Island.

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Two behavior studies on sea birds are reported in "Recent Literature" in The Auk, 80(2), 1963:

The Pecking Response of Young Wideawake Terns Sterna fuscata, by J.M. Cullen. (Ibis, 103b:162-173, 1962)

Behaviour of Boobies Sula spp., by D.F. Dorward. (ibid, pp. 221-234) (display behavior of various types, food-begging of chicks, sun-bathing)

Margaret Titcomb

SUMMARY OF MINUTES

A general meeting of the Hawaii Audubon Society was held on June 17, 1963.

Miss Kojima reported seeing boobies, white-tailed tropic birds and fairy tern on the last bird walk to Ulupau Head.

Miss Titcomb inquired about the procedure for obtaining a permit to Moku Manu, Manana and similar islands. Mr. Woodside told us that the permit application must be made in writing to the Fish and Game Division stating the purpose, date and number of people in the landing party. Some groups are able to obtain yearly permits but they must then notify the Fish and Game people at each landing. A boat must be chartered from a Mr. Ahuna.

Mr. Woodside introduced the Fish and Wildlife representative from Maui, Joe Medeiros.

Before showing us a movie, Mr. Woodside informed us that thirty nene are to be released on Maui soon. Twenty are coming from England (due to arrive after July 21), five are from Pohakuloa and five from a Mr. Ripley in Connecticut.

A lovely color movie showed us nene in the wild, details of the propagation project at Pohakuloa and the last release in Maui of nene from England.

We were glad to hear that fifty-five nene had been raised at Pohakuloa last year.

STILT

Charles H. and Florence Lamoureux noted two stilts at a rainy-season pond at Mana, Kauai, on April 8th. To see stilts on Kauai is an event!

AUGUST ACTIVITIES

August 11 - Birding trip to Manana Island.
This will be restricted to Hawaii Audubon Society members.
Meet at the Library of Hawaii at 7:00 a.m.

(PLEASE NOTE THE TIME)

August 12 - Board meeting at the Auditorium of the Honolulu Aquarium at 7:30 p.m.
Members are always welcome.

August 19 - General meeting at the Auditorium of the Honolulu Aquarium
at 7:30 p.m.
Program for the night: Dr. G. Allan Samuelson will give an
illustrated talk on "A Visit to the Kermadec Islands."

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