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For the Better Protection
of Wildlife in Hawaii

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S793
KLAMATH-TULE LAKE REFUGE BILL
From AUDUBON WARBLER
Special Edition, July, 1963

Since 1904 the protection of waterfowl in the Lower Klamath-Tule Lake areas has been a matter of continuous concern to the Oregon Audubon Society.

As both the key funneling spot for 80 PERCENT of the ducks and geese passing down the Pacific Flyway and the nesting ground for a host of water birds, including Caspian Tern, White Pelican, American Egret, Avocet and Sandhill Crane, this refuge complex is one of the most vital in the United States. The fall flight into these refuges is one of the nation's most inspiring natural spectacles.

These refuges are on public lands administered by the Bureau of Reclamation. The present law gives reclamation the first claim in use on these refuges. WATERFOWL ARE ONLY A TENANT AND COULD BE PUT OFF TOMORROW. There have been conflicts of interest from the beginning.

Now, this long history of insecurity for wildlife can be resolved with your support of S793, just passed by the Senate.

Essentially S793 stipulates that wildlife has preference in use on both refuges, although consideration would be given to agricultural use wherever compatible with wildlife.

In place of an uncertain future, the waterfowl would have genuine status on these ancestral breeding and resting areas.

THE FATE OF THIS LEGISLATION --S793-- RESTS WITH THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, U. S. CONGRESS.

One of the first formal acts of the Oregon Audubon Society, even preceding incorporation in 1909, was to provide salaries for two wildlife wardens and the services of a patrol boat on Upper and Lower Klamath Lakes. At that time market and plume hunters were slaughtering the colonial nesting birds. William L. Finley and Herman T. Bohlman who went there to photograph the waterfowl spectacle and focus public attention on the plight of these birds stated that 120 tons of ducks were shipped from here in one season of market shooting. Their work and pictures attracted national attention and strongly influenced President Roosevelt to set aside Lower Klamath Refuge in 1908.

After President Theodore Roosevelt set aside the LOWER KLAMATH REFUGE in 1908, an event occurred that portended tragedies to come. The Executive Order of 1908 did not protect the 80,000 acre Lower Klamath Refuge from reclamation development. In 1917 the Bureau of Reclamation put a dike across Klamath River and diverted the flow from Lower Klamath Lake,

In the ensuing years the marshland dried and the peat fires burned uncontrolled. Early attempts to farm the lake bottom failed. Finally, the Bureau of Reclamation used the lake as a sump and this returned enough water for operation of a 29,700 acre waterfowl area -- thus MORE THAN HALF OF THE LOWER KLAMATH REFUGE WAS FOREVER LOST.

ON TULE LAKE REFUGE, created in 1928, wildlife is again a tenant with no fixed or permanent right. Of the original 37,337 acres designated for refuge, 2400 ACRES HAVE BEEN HOMESTEADED. Under the Bureau of Reclamation-Fish and Wildlife Service working agreement at Tule Lake Refuge, the remaining 34,937 acres are used as follows -- 15,000 acres is cash leased to farmers, 2500 acres is put into crops by the USFWS for exclusive use by the birds, and 13,000 acres is kept in marsh (wetlands).

This is a nice "package arrangement" because the vast grain stubble fields of the lease areas adjoining the marsh provide the biggest "banquet table" on the continent for a major flight of ducks and geese passing to their wintering ground. If these waterfowl, mallards, pintails, Canada, snow and white-fronted geese were not fed here there would be serious depredations on surrounding farm lands as well as in the California rice bowl where harvest is not complete until mid-October.

By feeding and holding these migrating birds on the Lower Klamath-Tule Lake Refuges, the California Department of Agriculture figures that in a single year the rice farmers have been SAVED MORE THAN \$2,000,000 in potential loss.

To put the entire above story into simpler facts one only needs to know that around 1900 there were 187,000 acres of wetlands in the Tule and Lower Klamath lakes. Today only 25,000 acres of these ancestral waterfowl wetlands remain. These remaining 25,000 acres are the only marsh, the life blood, for the Tule Lake and Lower Klamath Refuges. These remaining 25,000 acres of wetlands under the present law can also be taken from the waterfowl. Thus the passage of S793 is urgent.

This is the last chance to reserve wetlands here for water bird purposes. Since 1940, drainage has claimed 34,000 acres of marshlands in the Klamath Basin.

S793 would also assure that we would not have a recurrence of the TULE LAKE IRRIGATION DISTRICT MANIPULATING WATER LEVELS on the refuge, as they did in the late 1950s, in a manner that endangers nesting birds, and poses a threat of botulism.

Over the years there have been many attempts to resolve the many conflicts and the only real solution is S793.

... You need to make your wishes known. Conservationists must act.

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Editor's Note: Our House Representatives are Mr. Spark Matsunaga and
Mr. Thomas Gill.

Representative Thomas Gill is a member of the House Committee
on Interior and Insular Affairs.

They may be addressed at the House Office Building,
Washington 25, D.C.

Letter from Miss Thelma Hensley, Kealia, Kauai, June 3, 1963.

Miss Myrna Campbell has asked me to help her check on the Hasaiian Stilt. We have made two trips recently and saw none on the first trip, but were told that five had been seen earlier in the week. Yesterday we went to Kekaha and saw nine.

CATTLE EGRET

Dear Editors:

Thinking that your membership might be interested, I submit the following notes on the CATTLE EGRET on Oahu:

ROOKERY

In April, another visit was made to the rookery in West Loch previously reported by Michael Ord in your May issue. The nesting area had expanded considerably over our observation in February and we estimated a minimum of 100 active nests, some with eggs, some with newly hatched infants and others with young birds hopping around the Mangrove branches outside the nests. The average was about 2 young per nest.

On May 14th, the rookery was still active as numerous mature birds were observed from across the Loch coming and going from the site.

Also, numerous young birds were seen sunning themselves in the tops of the trees and making short, awkward flights between trees.

FEEDING AREAS

On April 29th, 6 birds were feeding at Sumida's Watercress Farm at Waiiau; over 20 birds were with cattle in tall grass in a paddock makai of Kahua Ranch Company's slaughterhouse at Honouliuli; and, over 150 birds in a single flock were in high grass in the "alfalfa" area at Iroquois Point. The latter birds were working their way across the field, foraging for insects with 15 to 20 birds flying up from the rear of the main flock and landing in front of them. There was almost a constant "leap-frog" movement which was fascinating to watch. An additional 5 or so birds were with cattle at the Hawaii Meat Company's pen feeding lot at Iroquois Point. Numerous birds in the main flock had black and/or black and yellow bills indicating that they were young birds probably less than 8 weeks old.

OTHER OBSERVATIONS

On April 26th, Wildlife Biologist Ray Kramer of the State Fish and Game Division reported sighting 12 Egret near Maunalua Bay and at Kuapa Pond. Later on the same day, he saw the birds flying along the beach below Aina Haina.

On May 13th, M. Sumida reported over 50 Egret in his watercress paddies eating "Louisiana Red Crawfish" (Procambarus clarkii). We had suspected this for some time but had had no real close observations. The six "resident" birds at the Watercress Farm are quite tame and will forage very close to the harvesters. P. clarkii is considered a gourmet delicacy in Louisiana and other parts of the South; however, it is classified as an agricultural pest in Hawaii because it burrows into irrigation ditches, reservoir banks and the embankments surrounding taro, rice and watercress paddies making it extremely difficult to control water levels. It also feeds to some extent on the roots and corms of taro. The Cattle Egret may give us some measure of control over this pest.

On May 23rd, a Kailua resident informed Paul Breese that he had observed 6-8 white birds with cattle in Kawainui Swamp across from the Pohakapu Tract. On May 27th, I sighted one Egret on a cow's back in Kawainui Swamp.

Of great interest were observations made on a single nesting pair at the Honolulu Zoo:

1. March 5, 1963. A pair of Cattle Egret was observed completing construction of a nest about four feet off the ground in a Pluchea odorata bush.

2. March 6, 1963. Two pale blue eggs were observed in the nest.
3. March 25, 1963. Both eggs hatched.
4. April 16, 1963. The two fledglings were observed on branches adjacent to the nest.
5. April 26, 1963. The young birds were able to fly from one branch to another in the nest bush.
6. May 2, 1963. The young birds were able to fly to a monkeypod tree about 100 feet from the nest bush. They had black bills and downy feathers on their heads. They are still being fed by the parents, it appears, because they did not follow the adults to their foraging area in the Buffalo Paddock.

Alan Thistle, Head
Division of Plant Industry

Field Trip, Aiea Loop Trail, July 14, 1963.

On Sunday, July 14, two visitors and three members of the Hawaii Audubon Society eagerly waited for Al Labrecque, our guide for the day, to lead us to Tantalus, but because of the heavy rain he decided to take us to Aiea Loop Trail.

As usual the N.A. cardinal greeted us. This handsome red bird was calling and singing. He was especially melodious and sang two to three extra bars to assure us that despite the rain, it was a wonderful morning.

As we watched the bird flit from one branch to another until he finally found a branch tall enough to make his singing ring through the Norfolk pine grove, other beauty caught our eyes--the majestic breadfruit and the sprawling hau stretching their leafy arms welcoming the birds.

The beauty at the Heiau whet our appetite for more, so we reluctantly left the symphony of songs by the Brazilian cardinal, leiiothrix, linnet, and white-eye and drove toward the trail.

We parked our cars at the newly-opened picnic area. It is a well-kept area and easily accessible to the public. We are hopeful that these facilities will help public to enjoy and conserve the natural beauty.

Because of the rain the birds were scarce, but there was a beauty of its own in a wet forest. Not only the scent of the eucalyptus but also the varied geometric pattern on its freshly-peeling moist trunk reminded us of the wonders of the great outdoors. The sparkling rain drops on the ironwood needles added to the enchantment.

We were quietly contemplating the peaceful but forceful rhythm of everlasting and omnipresent beauty of the deep valleys with the interesting patterns made by the conspicuous silver-green leaves of the kukui nut trees, when suddenly we heard, "EL-E-PAI-o, Ele-pai-o." Our eyes turned toward the caller. He was immature. His feathers were still light brown, but his tail was cocked wrenlike. He was oblivious of us and flew from branch to branch snapping at the insects. We were able to watch him without binoculars.

Amakihi were calling, but because of the poor light and the rain, we weren't able to see them too clearly. Though the lehua was in bloom, we did not see any apapane. Of course, the rain contributed to the inactivity.

Unfortunately, a comfortable sprinkle turned into a downpour, so after only about an hour and a half on the trail we turned back. The estimated bird count for the day was as follows:

Amakihi-----	4	Leiiothrix ----	3
Elepaio -----	2	Linnet -----	3
Brazilian cardinal---	2	Ricebird -----	1
N.A. cardinal -----	4	White-eye ----	7
Barred dove -----	2		

Today's bird walk was short, but the intensity of the beauty was powerful.

Unoyo Kojima

ALOHA to our new members:

W. Todd Furniss, 129 Indian Springs Drive, Columbus 14, Ohio
 Dr. Glenn E. Haas, Dept. of Health, State of Hawaii, Honokaa, Hawaii
 Olga Mjedloff, 3421-A Woodlawn Drive, Honolulu 14, Hawaii

SEPTEMBER ACTIVITIES

- Sept. 8 - The trip to Manana Island planned for August was postponed until September. The group will be restricted to Hawaii Audubon Society members. The boat fare depends upon the size of the party. (Max.\$3.00) Be prepared to wade from boat to beach. Bring lunch and water. Meet at the Library of Hawaii at 7:00 a.m. (PLEASE NOTE THE TIME) For reservation call Mike Ord, telephone-587-328.
- Sept. 9 - Board meeting at the Auditorium of the Honolulu Aquarium at 7:30 p.m. Members are always welcome.
- Sept. 16 - General meeting at the Auditorium of the Honolulu Aquarium at 7:30 p.m. Program for the night: President Mike Ord will give an illustrated talk on his trip to Wyoming to attend the National Audubon Camp of the West.

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