

THE ELEPAIO

Journal of the
Hawaii Audubon Society



For the Better Protection
of Wildlife in Hawaii

VOLUME 24, NUMBER 7 & 8

JAN-FEB 1964

HONOLULU CHRISTMAS COUNT December 29, 1963

	AREAS										
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	TOTAL
Black-footed Albatross	.	.	.	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	1
Brown Booby	60+	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	60+
Red-footed Booby	739+	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	739+
Great Frigatebird	210+	.	1	.	.	.	8	.	.	.	219+
Black-cr Night Heron	.	2	1	.	.	.	11	.	.	1	15
Pintail	.	.	25	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	25
Shoveler	3	12	150+	.	.	.	30	.	.	.	195+
Common Gallinule	.	.	3	.	.	.	.	.	.	3	6
American Coot	.	40	35	5	.	.	.	.	.	21	101
Am Golden Plover	150	5	.	2	96	.	61	.	.	.	314
Ruddy Turnstone	.	.	.	.	37	.	28	.	.	.	65
Wandering Tattler	.	1	.	.	7	.	7	.	.	.	15
Sanderling	4	.	.	.	37	.	21	.	.	.	62
Hawaiian Stilt	45	2	.	.	79	.	75	.	.	.	201
Pomarine Jaeger	.	.	.	.	23	.	.	.	.	.	23
Ringed-billed Gull	.	.	.	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	1
Common Noddy Tern	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1
Sooty Tern	5000+	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	5000+
Spotted Dove	.	.	2	1	.	.	.	15	5	17	40
Barred Dove	27	.	.	10	3	25	.	22	14	56	157
Skylark	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	.	.	.	1
Chinese Thrush	.	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1
Red-billed Leiothrix	.	.	2	.	.	31	.	15	28	5	81
Mockingbird	.	.	.	3	1	.	.	.	1	.	5
Shama Thrush	.	.	.	.	.	6	.	.	2	3	11
Elepaio	.	.	.	.	.	4	.	9	29	.	42
Mynah	5	39	.	15	40	.	.	.	10	68	177
White-eye	.	.	4	14	.	25	.	8	42	14	107
Amakihi	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	41	.	41
Apejane	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	26	.	26
Ricebird	7	.	.	7	4	6	.	.	17	8	49
House Sparrow	6	15	.	6	12	.	.	.	2	30	71
Cardinal	.	1	2	14	5	6	.	8	11	6	53
Brazilian Cardinal	2	.	2	1	1	.	.	1	2	3	12
House Finch	3	.	.	.	.	.	.	12	31	.	46
No. of Ind'l Birds:	6262+	117	228+	78	347	103	242	90	261	235	7963+
No. of Species:	15	9	12	11	15	7	9	8	15	13	35

Honolulu Christmas Count, December 29, 1963 - Continued

Total hours on foot: 19½
Total miles on foot: 15

Total hours by car: 8
Total miles by car: 39

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

- 1 Kaneohe Marine Air Base, Ulupau Head, Moku Manu (through telescope)
- 2 Kaelepulu Pond, Kailua
- 3 Kapaa Quarry Road, Kawainui Swamp
- 4 Salt Lake (through telescope)
- 5 Sand Island, Keehi Lagoon, Offshore and Bay area (through telescope)
- 6 Manoa Ridge Trail, Manoa Falls Trail
- 7 Paiko Lagoon, Kuapa Pond, Kulioou Beach
- 8 Tantalus, Punchbowl
- 9 Aiea Trail
- 10 Old Pali Road, Nuuanu Valley, Downtown

Participants: Robert Bowen	Margaret Johnson	Michael Ord
William E. Carney	Adrienne Kaeppler	Ruth R. Rockafellow
Alys J. Chong	Unoyo Kojima	Carl Simms
Sadie Doyle	Alphonse Labrecque	Margaret Titcomb
David Gillett	Margaret Lau	Josephine Vaughn
Genevieve Highland	Meredith Ord	Ronald Walker

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AIEA TRAIL, 1963 CHRISTMAS COUNT

Construction work at Aiea trail is over, and the birds are returning to their old feeding areas. Happy to report that the house finch is back. We counted 31 of them compared to last year's 2. The eucalyptus trees were blooming, so the apapane count tripled last year's, and the elepaio is back to normal count. We saw 6 at one time in a koa tree. They were very busy calling, feeding, and flitting from branch to branch. Amakihi and white-eyes were numerous as usual. Barred dove count was only one third of last year's, because the picnic area, their feeding ground, was completely taken over by the campers. There was no tit nor creeper, but there was a mockingbird reported for the first time from this area. It was heard by Mrs. Rockafellow at the picnic area near the Heiau. Shama thrush, Brazilian cardinal, and house sparrow were three additional species for this year. They were all counted at the lower picnic area.

Unfortunately, there were signs of recent horse-back riding at the Ewa end of the loop trail.

Today was a perfect day for birding. The air was brisk, and the scent from the eucalyptus trees added to the excitement of trying to watch, listen, and count the birds.

Unoyo Kojima

HONOLULU CHRISTMAS COUNTS
1954 - 1963

	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959	1960	1961	1962	1963
Black-footed Albatross	.	.	2	2	2	2	.	1	.	1
Laysan Albatross	.	1	3	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
White-tailed Tropicbird	2	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Blue-faced Booby	.	.	.	.	1	1	.	.	.	.
Brown Booby	9	33	6	66	20	50	53	150	51	60
Red-footed Booby	880	1150	1000	1230	1560	1013	1315	500	600	739
Great Frigatebird	21	86	35	241	728	120	827	452	250	219
Black-crowned Night Heron	3	4	2	4	4	2	7	14	21	15
Canada Goose	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	.	.
Mallard	.	.	.	.	.	.	4	.	1	.
Pintail	795	256	329	81	438	148	43	51	.	25
Green-winged Teal	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	.	.
European Widgeon	.	.	.	4	.	.	.	.	.	.
American Widgeon	2	.	2	11	9	17	45	.	7	.
Shoveler	200	.	87	60	42	43	14	.	12	195
Lesser Scaup	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	4	.
California Quail	10	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Ring-necked Pheasant	2	7	3	2	.	.	7	2	.	.
Common Gallinule	4	4	3	4	.	1	.	3	3	6
American Coot	449	224	245	1138	2202	1133	780	47	178	101
Semipalmated Plover	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	2	.	.
American Golden Plover	396	366	228	177	260	118	146	433	239	314
Black-bellied Plover	1	.	.	4	.	.	.	.	.	.
Ruddy Turnstone	196	208	115	110	86	2	62	160	92	65
Wandering Tattler	17	24	15	8	11	14	17	43	22	15
Greater Yellowlegs	.	.	.	1	.	.	.	4	.	.
Long-billed Dowitcher	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	.	.
Sanderling	30	36	41	26	4	16	2	117	25	62
Hawaiian Stilt	12	24	211	24	124	124	104	187	174	201
Pomarine Jaeger	.	.	7	17	10	2	4	16	11	23
Glaucous Gull	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	.
Glaucous-winged Gull	.	.	.	.	.	.	2	2	1	.
Ringed-billed Gull	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	3	1
Bonaparte Gull	.	.	.	1	.	.	3	.	.	.
Sooty Tern	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	5000
Noddy Tern	1	.	.	12	.	.	.	.	.	1
Hawaiian Noddy Tern	.	16	4	.	.	.	.	.	2	.
Rock Dove	.	.	.	.	3	.	.	.	.	.
Spotted Dove	352	195	141	59	81	106	55	130	71	40
Barred Dove	1033	614	216	218	276	176	135	261	208	157
Short-eared Owl	1	1	.	.	.	.	.	1	1	.
Skylark	.	6	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1
Japanese Varied Tit	.	4	2	1	3	.	3	.	1	.
Chinese Thrush	.	5	.	.	.	2	.	.	2	1
Red-billed Iodothrix	83	462	150	72	163	76	115	114	106	81
Mockingbird	.	.	.	2	2	1	2	8	4	5
Shama Thrush	6	10	4	6	9	3	8	8	5	11
Elepaio	27	74	25	10	63	46	46	54	32	42
Mynah	1587	640	331	245	311	391	192	381	462	177
White-eyw	209	402	221	102	130	89	109	231	85	107
Amakihi	27	102	77	24	88	56	24	42	34	41
Oahu Creeper	.	3	2	1	1	1	.	4	.	.
Apapane	33	159	506	241	66	23	64	57	13	26
Iiwi	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	2	.
Ricebird	281	421	176	178	303	179	252	156	65	49
House Sparrow	564	381	109	96	311	68	109	125	119	71

Honolulu Christmas Counts, 1954 - 1963 (Continued)

	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959	1960	1961	1962	1963
Cardinal	115	212	72	22	71	32	53	103	36	53
Brazilian Cardinal	51	94	29	8	9	18	28	44	10	12
House Finch	86	91	101	57	61	3	26	47	16	46
No. of Individual Birds	7485	6315	4500	4565	7457*	4076	4656	3954	2969	7963
No. of Species	34	34	35	39	34	34	34	39	39	35

*2 unidentified waterfowl included

IN MEMORIAM

George C. Munro

May 10, 1866 - December 4, 1963

The Hawaii Audubon Society is grieved to share with our Mainland friends the announcement of the death of George C. Munro, an honorary life member of the Society, on December 4, 1963.

The December issue of THE ELEPAIO already was being assembled for distribution when word of Mr. Munro's death was received. We were unable, therefore, to write sooner about him. We were privileged to have received his last contributions for our December issue.

Mr. Munro was described by the Honolulu press as an "internationally known naturalist and a leader in chronicling and preserving Hawaiian wildlife," as a "pioneer in Hawaiian botany, ornithology, horticulture, and conservation." We knew him as a leader in and a friend of the Hawaii Audubon Society and one to whom we tried to show our appreciation and affection by dedicating to him our booklet "Hawaiian Birds." We shall miss him. We know, though, that seldom has there been such a long and full life in which so much of merit has been accomplished with real satisfaction and joy. For George C. Munro life was good and valuable.

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We are including here the account of Mr. Munro's life, taken from the December 6 issue of the Honolulu Advertiser:

"Mr. Munro, a native of Clevedon, N.Z., came to Hawaii in 1890, and lived here since then except for a few years back on the family ranch near Auckland.

"He leaves behind him a definite handbook on Hawaiian birds; collections of birds, plants, insects and landshells preserved in Bishop Museum and museums in New Zealand, England and Australia, and a State park of endemic dry-land plants on the slopes of Diamond Head.

"He also leaves a long history of Island ranching.

* * *

"HE CAME here as a member of an expedition to collect Hawaiian birds for the Tring collection in England.

"His first job in Hawaii was at Gay & Robinson Ranch, Makaweli, Kauai.

"He later was manager of Molokai Ranch, and for 20 years manager of the Lanai Co.'s cattle ranch under Frank and Harry Baldwin.

"He continued on Lanai with the Hawaiian Pineapple Co.

* * *

"ROWS OF Norfolk pines on Lanai's ridges are the result of his experiments

in water conservation.

"All through his years in Hawaii, Mr. Munro was dedicated to preserving the native birds and flora.

"Just this February, he became the first person to receive a Conservation Council of Hawaii award for his services.

"It was added to an impressive list of awards given Mr. Munro through the years, including the Frances K. Hutchinson Medal of Honor by the Garden Club of America.

"Since 1945 he had been a member of the American Ornithologists' Union, which is limited to 200 outstanding ornithologists of North America, and since 1960 held the title of honorary associate in ornithology for Bishop Museum.

* * *

"PERHAPS HIS most rewarding moments, though, came in 1958 when his dream of the State park on Diamond Head came true.

"Called Na Laau Hawaii Arboretum, it covers nine acres where Mr. Munro, since moving to Honolulu in 1935, had planted thousands of seeds.

"The park is on the upper slopes of the crater, and has a bronze plaque dedicated in Munro's honor.

* * *

"AS LATE as his 96th birthday, Mr. Munro--with the aid of two canes--climbed up the rocky path leading to the park, to inspect his cherished trees and plants and admire the birds that have taken refuge there.

"On that day, the park was formally dedicated.

"Mr. Munro is survived by his wife, Jessie Gallagher Munro; four daughters, Mrs. Roswell M. Rowill, Mrs. Adolph Fankhauser, Mrs. Charles E. Meyer and Ruby Munro; a brother, C.C. Munro of Auckland; a sister, Mrs. George Couldrey of Auckland; eight grandchildren, and 20 great grandchildren.

"He also is survived by a nephew, Hector Munro, who helped him plant the Diamond Head acreage.

"The family asks that flowers not be sent. It is suggested that contributions might be made instead to the Hawaii Audubon Society."

BIRDS OF THE MONTH

The month of November produced some more unusual migratory waterfowl and shore-birds particularly on the island of Maui at Kanaha Ponds.

The Poamoho trail in the Koolau mountains, provided one group of birders with excellent views of the Iiwi--the first sighting to be reported on Oahu for 1963.

Black Brant (1)	Kanaha Pond, Maui	11/11/63
Nene (32)	Haleakala Crater, Maui	11/10/63
Green-winged Teal (6)	Waipio Peninsula	11/17/63
Semipalmated Plover (1)	Kanaha Pond, Maui	11/11/63
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper (6)	" " "	"
" " (2)	Waipio Peninsula	11/17/63
Pectoral Sandpiper (1)	" "	"
Least Sandpiper (1)	Kanaha Pond, Maui	11/11/63
Dunlin (1)	" " "	"
" (1)	Waipio Peninsula	11/17/63
Long-billed Dowitcher (3)	" "	"
Iiwi (abundant)	Haleakala Crater, Maui	11/9/63
" (2)	Poamoho Trail, Oahu	11/28/63
Creeper (4)	Haleakala Crater, Maui	11/9/63
Ring-necked Pheasant (2)	Waipio Peninsula	11/17/63
Strawberry Finch (24)	" "	"

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

Coincidence in articles:

"Operation Duck Rescue," an account of Minnesotans efforts to save oil-drenched wildfowl is reported in the November-December 1963 issue of Audubon Magazine.

"Freeing Flamingos from Anklets of Death," an account of efforts to free flamingos at Lake Magadi, Kenya, from shackling anklets of alkali--a result of evaporation of water containing a high concentration of sodium salts--is given in the December, 1963, issue of the National Geographic.

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Nene:

We note that the Interior Department has selected a drawing of two Nene (Branta sandvicensis) for the 1964-65 Migratory Bird Hunting Stamp. Stanley Stearns of Stevensville, Maryland was the artist. The Nene is the State bird of Hawaii.

(As a personal aside, the Editor regrets cross-word puzzle definitions that ask for a five-letter word meaning "Hawaiian geese." Alas, plurals of Hawaiian names formed by adding an "s" Hawaiian geese are still Nene.)

GENERAL MEETING - December 9, 1963

At the last general meeting of the Hawaii Audubon Society it was announced that the Christmas bird count would be held on December twenty-ninth. Counting areas were described and volunteers requested to serve as field trip leaders.

A nominating committee was announced by Mr. Ord. It consists of Mr. Holt, Miss Kojima, and Dr. Frings.

Donations made to the Society in memory of George Munro are to be sent to the Society in care of the Bishop Museum.

Our speaker for the evening was Dr. G. Clifford Carl from Vancouver, British Columbia. He is a National Audubon film lecturer and has come to Hawaii to speak in the University of Hawaii Symposium series.

His talk, "Vanished Treasures," dealt with animals now extinct or threatened with extinction and suggested reasons for this sad situation.

Seventy per cent of the one hundred seven mammals made extinct since the birth of Christ have been lost during the last century. Almost six hundred other species are close to extinction.

He reminded us of the Passenger Pigeon and Carolina Parakeet both extinct in 1914. The Labrador Duck and Great Auk were also mentioned. Those close to extinction include the Whooping Crane. The Trumpeter Swan seems to be staging a "comeback" in the United States and Canada. Our own national bird, the Bald Eagle, though rare in the United States, is often seen in the Canadian Northwest.

As a reason for extinction Dr. Carl mentioned the "Four F's": "Food, Fur, Feathers, and Fun."

Overspecialization was discussed in some detail. Animals or plants which through evolution become specialized as to temperature, diet, geographical distribution or which are oversized are likely candidates for extinction.

One means by which we can deter this loss of animals is by setting up zoos wherein species may be perpetuated in a controlled habitat. We must think of ourselves as custodians of these natural "treasures" and attempt at least to slow down the extinction process. (Some species are doomed biologically by overspecialization.) We must also attempt to interest the general public in nature and in the value of preserving living creatures.

Laura Horigan, Secretary

WELCOME to our new member:

Mrs. Maxwell J. Wilcomb, 2473 Ala Wai Blvd, Honolulu, Hawaii, 96815

FEBRUARY ACTIVITIES:

- February 9 - Field trip to see shore birds at Kahuku.
Meet at the Library of Hawaii at 8:00 a.m.
Leader: Mike Ord, 587-328.
- February 10 - Board meeting at the Auditorium of the Honolulu Aquarium at 7:30 p.m.
Members are always welcome.
- February 17 - General meeting at the Auditorium of the Honolulu Aquarium at 7:30 p.m.
Program for the night: Ronald Walker of the State of Hawaii, Division of Fish and Game, will talk on the Birds of the Leeward Islands and also show a movie to supplement his talk.

HAWAII AUDUBON SOCIETY EXECUTIVE BOARD:

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