

THE ELEPAIO

*Journal of the
Hawaii Audubon Society*



*For the Better Protection
of Wildlife in Hawaii*

VOLUME 26, NUMBER 1

JULY 1965

NATURAL HISTORY IN THE STATE OF HAWAII AS SEEN BY
AN INDIANA COLLEGE PROFESSOR AND HIS STUDENTS
By Robert H. Cooper*

As a professor in the natural sciences at Ball State University it is a privilege to recount some of the delightful experiences of my students enrolled in an eight quarter hour science course with Ball State University while spending four weeks in study on six islands of the State of Hawaii during two different summers.

The plant and animal life to be enjoyed while traveling in the soft, soothing atmosphere of Hawaii is most exciting. Fly with me and my class of nineteen Indiana school teachers to the Island of Kauai, and we will take a bus out to the Grand Canyon of your wonderful state. Let us stop at the overlook at Hanapepe. With our field glasses we get a good look at the beautiful, white-tailed tropic bird with its long, narrow white wings with large black wing patches soaring through the beautiful valley. As we travel on to the little village of Waimea and climb up the winding road to the Kokee Tracking Station area we are delighted with the gorgeous color of the Waimea Canyon and the beautiful blossoms of the passion flower and its purple-green fruit in the luxuriant foliage around the tracking station installations. On another day let's go together from Lihue and the Coco Palms area to the Kilauea Lighthouse. Here the red-footed booby is nesting in numbers and we can get close enough to take good Kodachromes of the eggs, of the nest with the newly hatched white downy youngsters, and of the gray immature bird with a few patches of white down still clinging to the feathers, as well as the parent bird with the white feathers, black in the wings, and reddish feet.

Just a few feet away, if we look carefully, is the wedge-tailed shearwater with its tail feathers sticking out of the hole it has made in the ground where the single egg is laid. If one were not careful he would think this just a dead bird lying on the ground. Upon pulling it out of the nest in order to take pictures of the adult, (after getting permission of the lighthouse keeper to take the bird out of the nest) we soon learn that it is a very lively individual with webbed feet and a somewhat hooked beak.

As we study in the beautiful Hanalei Valley area we see the frigate bird overhead and observe through our field glasses many on the rock-bound islands close by. As we return to the Coco Palms area it is a pleasure to watch the many ricebirds walking across the ground in their busy fashion.

As we fly from Kauai by sleepy Honolulu early in the morning, Diamond Head is quite beautiful in the golden sunlight and the pineapple fields of Molokai

*Professor and Head of Science Department, Ball State University, Muncie, Indiana.

look quite fresh as we land in the early dawn. As we drive along the road toward beautiful Halawa Valley it is a delight to see the California quail, many of the barred doves, and a number of skylarks. Halawa Valley is a dream spot for many of us who have been there more than once. The bright red Turk's cap and the equally red pentstemon give this secluded area a bit of color as we look up the quiet valley to the distant waterfalls and across the water to the few taro patches. As the tide goes out in the evening time at Kaunakakai the night herons are silhouetted against the ocean skyline.

From Molokai to Lanai is a very short flight, but it terminates in a delightful scene as the tall, Norfolk pines at the village of Lanai are outlined against the red soil of the pineapple fields. As the students go to study the petroglyphs, traveling over the little island is quite interesting because of the beautiful elepaio, the skylarks, Gambles quails, and mockingbirds which brighten up the landscape and fill the air with interesting songs.

On the island of Maui it is worth anyone's time to rise at 3:30 in Kahului and drive to the summit of Haleakala overlooking the crater from an elevation of a little over 10,000 feet. The blossoming silver sword and silver geranium, as well as the blossoming sandalwood, make the experience well worth while. We are delighted to get Kodachromes of these beautiful plants and also of the crater. My class and I held our Sunday morning worship service at sunrise on the rim of Haleakala. It was a delightful, sobering experience which we shall never forget and shall always treasure. The variety of trees and birds in Hosmer Grove as one leaves the Haleakala National Park is worth the time of anyone to stop and see. Here, not only the elepaio and apapane, but also the iiwi, with its recurved bill, are to be seen and heard. "Science City", around the summit, held much interest for us since we had planned study at a few locations in that area, especially at the solar observatory of the University of Hawaii.

The flight from Kahului to Hilo is another interesting hop and during that travel Mauna Kea and Mauna Loa show in all of their beauty. The drive from Hilo to Akaka Falls is made delightful because of the many red-billed leiothrix in the park and also because of the beautiful torch ginger growing in the area. This last summer, the Fourth of July holiday at Hilo gave me and my students an opportunity to drive into the saddle above the city in the Mauna Kea area to see the propagation of the state bird, the Nene (the Hawaiian goose).

A drive from Hilo through the tropical jungle to the Kulani Honor Camp is a treat for the student of biology. The blossoming wild ginger, the blossoming and fruiting passion fruit, the exceedingly large, wild raspberries, the brilliant blossoms of the African Tulip tree, the ever fading blossoms of the Hau tree, the beautiful songs of the apapane and iiwi, as well as the graceful fronds of the tree ferns, make the journey a most exhilarating one.

The past activity of Kilauea as studied at the Lava Tree Park and at the rim of Halemaumau causes us to stop and meditate upon the formation of different areas of the world. Again, the white-tailed tropic bird, flying inside the large crater, impresses upon us its great skill in gliding flight. The beautiful blossoms of the wild fuschia near the Thurston Lava Tube is a joyful sight as the apapane and white-eyes fill the mellow air with their songs. At night, near the volcano house, we are delighted to have an excellent view of the Southern Cross. To Northerners this is a rare treat as we look out to the south over the crater of Kilauea. The black sand beach is interesting, but the angel trumpets along the Kona road and the blossoming, night-blooming cereus give us a special delight. As we go out into the waters of the bay where Captain Cook was killed, we are quite excited to see the tropic birds again along the high cliffs, the little black brittle stars in the waters below us, as well as the coral and live sea urchins.

Upon our return to Oahu we have a great thrill awaiting us, because some of our friends of Hawaii are ready to have us go on a Sunday Audubon hike into the Koko Head area. We were especially seeking the fairy tern. We were rewarded by seeing five. We were fortunate enough to get Kodachrome shots of two of the fairy terns sitting on a branch of a Kiawe tree, in the grove in one of the craters. During the hike together we were able to see a number of the Hawaiian stilts, a few wandering tattlers, the sooty terns, and a number of cattle egret. We hope, when we return to our beautiful State of Hawaii, that these areas will still be available.

We are exceedingly grateful to our Hawaiian friends, Mr. and Mrs. Katsumi Ayabe of Waimea, Kauai; Dr. and Mrs. Kenneth Fuji of Kapaa; Mr. and Mrs. Harry Chung of Kaunakakai; Mr. and Mrs. Wallace Au of Lanai; Jimmy Nishimura of Lanai; Mr. and Mrs. Susumu Matoi of Haiku, Maui; Mr. and Mrs. Joe Kamigaki of Honaunau; Mr. Richard Smart of Kamuela; and especially Miss Unoyo Kojima of Honolulu. To all of these we are most indebted for a very educational and delightful experience in our wonderful 50th state.

LETTER: From Fred T. Johnston, Superintendent, Hawaii Volcanoes National Park to Hans W. Hansen, May 6, 1965.

With regard to the article on the proposed Kauai National Park in the HONOLULU STAR-BULLETIN of March 20, 1965, reproduced in the ELEPAIO for May, 1965, pp 87-89/ I would like to comment upon several statements you have made. Someone has misinformed you about elk in Yellowstone National Park and about goats and blackberries in Hawaii Volcanoes National Park.

You state, "The National Park Service 'lacks a reverence for life.' It is well documented that in 1963 some 4,000 elk were slaughtered in Yellowstone National Park and some 2,300 were maimed and left to fend for themselves."

The facts are these: There has been no direct reduction in the elk herd of Yellowstone National Park the past two winters, and very little during the winter of 1962-63, when the park finally developed successful methods of live trapping elk. These live animals are shipped to states needing elk for restocking purposes. During the winter of 1961-62 (not 1963) 4,309 elk were removed from the park's northern herd by direct control (shooting) by rangers. The carcasses were prepared and sent to various Indian reservations for human consumption. With the use of a helicopter no wounded animal escaped. If one did get away, it was followed by helicopter and the observer would land and shoot the elk. One of the veterinarians who inspected a number of the animals sent to Indian reservations said, "I do not feel that I am qualified to pass judgment on the necessity of the elk reduction program. However, the 1,328 elk that I have seen processed are ample evidence that the program was carried out in an efficient and humane manner with a minimum of waste. Eighty-five percent of the elk inspected appeared to have been killed cleanly with one shot. Fifteen percent appeared to have been shot two and occasionally three times."

Having had to participate in elk reduction program in Yellowstone National Park I know that it is probably the most distasteful duty a ranger has to perform. For this reason I am compelled to challenge the statement, "The National Park Service lacks a reverence for life."

At the present time the bulk of the goats eliminated from Hawaii Volcanoes National Park are removed by live drive and sold to the highest bidder. One drive last October and one in January this year netted a total of approximately 2,400 animals.

You state, "The National Park Service is making no attempt to control the blackberry at Kilauea or Haleakala, nor will they at Kokee." The facts are we

have been at work vigorously for many years at Kilauea attempting to eradicate the blackberry. In this regard, I am enclosing a photo duplicated copy of two press releases from the HILO TRIBUNE-HERALD dated July 15 and July 23, 1963--one criticizing and one defending the eradication of blackberries in Hawaii Volcanoes National Park.

=====

HILO TRIBUNE-HERALD, July 15, 1963, Spraying by O.H. Server.

Things are not going too well on this fine Island of ours. Recently the powers that be, threw away sixty six thousand dollars of the taxpayers' money, and the other day I was driving through the National Park and saw a few young men with five gallon tanks strapped on their shoulders and spraying the vegetation.

I do not know all the vegetation they were killing but I do know they were killing the BLACKBERRIES, which in the summertime are the chief attraction to Island folks all the way from Kau to Honokaa, and even on picnics blackberry picking was the chief attraction.

I guess the Park boss knows what he is doing but the public certainly does not approve.

July 23, 1963, Blackberry Spraying by Fred T. Johnston, Superintendent, Hawaii Volcanoes National Park.

The item in the July 15 edition of the Hilo Tribune-Herald about blackberry spraying in Hawaii Volcanoes National Park has been called to my attention.

One has only to spend a day or two on the mountain roads of Kauai to observe how terribly devastating uncontrolled blackberry bushes can become. It would be almost impossible to completely eradicate the blackberries in Hawaii Volcanoes National Park, but we must control their spread if we are to protect valuable native flora they threaten.

The May-June, 1964, AUDUBON MAGAZINE contains two important articles, Midway Islands: Man and Birds in Conflict by Olin Sewall Pettingill, Jr. and Treasure Islands--of Wildlife by David B. Marshall. The articles are well illustrated with photographs of not only the birds but also the terrain and a map of the area covered by the Hawaiian National Wildlife Refuge. Dr. Pettingill's cover photograph of the two Laysan albatrosses in mating display is very realistic--the birds seem to be alive. Unfortunately this handsome bird's nesting area is in demand by man. The conflict is not new but has been sharpened in recent years by more intensive national defense activities at Midway Island.

The following comments by Dr. Pettingill were especially interesting: Except for the short-tailed albatross, now exceedingly rare, the Laysan and black-footed albatrosses, which nest at Midway, are the only two albatrosses, among the 13 or 14 species in the world, that breed in the Northern Hemisphere. They have a remarkably restricted breeding range--confined to the Hawaiian chain.

The Laysan and black-footed albatrosses confine their roaming to the North Pacific. The black-footed is frequently seen following the ships in search of edible refuse and is recorded regularly off the North American coast from Alaska to Baja California, but the Laysan is less often observed, because it is indifferent to ocean traffic and seldom moves in over coastal waters. They return to Midway only for breeding purposes in late October and early November. The eggs, one per nest hatch after 65 days incubation. Both sexes take turns incubating and taking care of the chicks. Black-footed chicks require about 140 days and the Laysan 165 days of development before they are ready to go out to sea in mid-June and mid-July, respectively. Except for bill clappings, whinnys and low trumpetings, both birds are relatively quiet, and they are generally silent at night. Since they stay ashore for many days without feeding, they void little excrement; therefore, only

when the chicks are developing is there much whitewashing of the ground around the nests, so sanitationwise they are acceptable. The only objection to the birds came from the men who fly the Barrier aircraft. During the nesting season the aircraft strike albatrosses on the average of 100 a month. The total cost per year to the Navy is considerable, and there is the everpresent danger of a crash and losing human life. Air strikes occur during the nesting season when the birds come in from the sea. They fly only during the day and are in the air when there is a high wind. On a windy day the birds are especially active, and it is then that they collide with planes either landing or taking off. The Navy has leveled some of the irregularities caused by terrain and vegetation, but this has had little appreciable effect in reducing strikes.

"Since the majority of birds over the runways were those nesting adjacent to them the Navy widened the runways with asphalt so as to keep the albatrosses farther away from the planes. Before the asphalt was put down in January, 1964, nearly 18,000 incubating birds were picked up and put in canopied trucks where they were asphyxiated by re-directed motor exhausts. This procedure was recommended by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The question may be rightfully asked: Why did the Service not recommend widening the runways between July and October when the birds were absent? The answer is that the albatrosses, being strongly nesting-site tenacious, will return to the identical area and be a hazard on the runways even though they cannot succeed in nesting on the asphalt. In this "unemployed" status they would fly over the runway much more frequently than if they were occupied with nesting activities."

Biosonics control showed some promise of success in discouraging the birds from flying over the runways, but the plan worked out by the biologists of the Fish and Wildlife Service appeared to be the only immediate remedy. Fortunately the black-footed albatrosses were not seriously involved in the killing program, as most of them nest on the beaches and other open areas away from the runways. We hope that the elimination of nearly 18,000 birds, will be effective enough to require no further reduction.

How important is Midway to the survival of the Laysan albatross? Dale W. Rice and Karl W. Kenyon have conservatively estimated the world population to be 1,500,000 individuals. This figure includes "unemployed" birds which visit the breeding ground but do not nest, and "innubile" birds which remain at sea during the period of five to seven years between fledging and breeding maturity. Nesting pairs total only about 315,000. Thus, close to half of the breeding population depends on Midway. One other island supports about as many breeding Laysan albatrosses as Midway and that is Laysan, with 130,000 pairs. Lisianski Island has 30,000 pairs, Pearl and Hermes Reef 17,800 and Necker Island 2,500. Eight other island in the Hawaiian chain have the remaining 2,000 or so pairs.

"Laysan, Lisianski, Pearl and Hermes Reef, and Necker are part of the Hawaiian National Wildlife Refuge. While the protection of their breeding birds may thus seem assured, it is a fact that the Fish and Wildlife Service does not have the vessels, aircraft, and personnel to patrol these islands. At the same time the Service is under constant pressure to release the islands for various purposes.

"Obviously, the entire world population of the Laysan albatross is endangered. Even more so is the black-footed of which there are only 55,000 breeding pairs, the bulk of them being on Midway (10,000) and Laysan (34,000). All of us must be vigilant in promoting protection for these species whenever we can and by every means possible."

+++++

In the article, Treasure Islands of Wildlife, Biologist Marshall points out that the remoteness of the Hawaiian National Wildlife Refuge (Leeward Islands) permitted a minimum of tampering with their wildlife and fragile ecology.

The first stop was at Nihoa. "Conspicuous were Christmas Island shearwaters. Their burrows extended under rocks along talus slopes thick with waist-high vegetation--mainly a *CHENOPODIUM* similar to the familiar lamb's quarters. Wedge-tailed shearwaters and Bonin petrels were also visible....The air and ground were full of sooty terns, noncolonial nesting gray-backed terns, brown noddies and blue-gray noddies--the latter in holes carved out by weather along rocky prominences. Several races of this exquisite pearl-gray tern are found throughout the Pacific; this race is sometimes called the Necker Island tern.

"Nihoa's endemic fan palms (*Pritchardia remota*) provided nesting platforms for a colony of squawking red-footed boobies. Overhead were...frigatebirds. On occasion they would dive with tremendous speed, sounding like a jet plane, to take food brought from the sea by incoming terns or boobies. In the rocky cliffs of a canyon were thousands of white or fairy terns.

"Two passerines are found exclusively on Nihoa: The Nihoa race of the Laysan finch was visible at every rocky outcrop and there was an extra thrill in discovering a Nihamillerbird's nest on Miller's Peak. We had seen perhaps 20 of these birds dart from bush to bush, during the course of the walk up and down the valley, but the nest was a rare find. Two birds took turns incubating a single, brown-spotted, pale blue egg.

"The Nihoa millerbird was found in 1923 by the Tanager Expedition, which made the first ornithological trip to this island....

"At the 'copter landing site, where small groups of military personnel regularly camp, we found a patch of sandbur and *paspalum* grass. These no doubt sprouted from seeds dropped from a serviceman's equipment. If these plants spread, control measures may be necessary should they pose a menace to native plants on which such species as the millerbird are dependent.

The second stop was at Necker Island. "Although supporting thousands of seabirds and resembling Nihoa, this island has no land birds. We wondered if the millerbird might survive there if introduced; Necker could serve as a sort of safety valve should some catastrophe come to Nihoa.

The third stop was at Laysan. "It was difficult to know what to look at first--the plant life or the teeming flocks of birds. The vegetation was especially exquisite. Prominent was the fleshy-leaved bush *scaevola*, a bunch grass (*Eragrostis variabilis*), and beach morning glory.

"Our helicopter came down adjacent to a sooty tern colony. The screaming birds would hover six feet over our heads....Mile-long colonies of these terns stretched the full length of the island. Their noise was almost too loud for comfort.

"We camped near one of these colonies for five nights. After dark the moaning of tens of thousands of wedge-tailed shearwaters added to the clamor of the terns and the belching grunts and snorts of almost fearless Hawaiian monk seals, moving into the *scaevola* from the beach.

"Laysan has long been of major ornithological interest. Prior to occupancy by guano diggers early in the century, it had supported five birds found nowhere else. Three of these, the Laysan rail, a miniature flightless species; the Laysan honey-eater, a form of the apapane; and the Laysan millerbird, similar to the one at Nihoa, are gone forever. They failed to survive the well-meaning introduction of rabbits by the guano workers....Surviving endemic birds are the Laysan duck, also called Laysan teal, and the Laysan finch.

"At the time of Alfred M. Bailey's visit in 1912-13, when the rabbits were going strong, only 12 Laysan ducks could be found. Today, there are 400 to 600. The vegetation again resembles its former appearance although without some endemic species. Some foreign plants, including tobacco, also appear.

"The seabirds are back to their one-time number and the Laysan finches cover every grass-covered area....

"Prior to the guano workers, feather hunters had ravaged Laysan. It was their wanton destruction that prompted President Theodore Roosevelt to establish this refuge in 1909.

"The largest colonies of Laysan albatrosses anywhere--over 260,000 adults--occupy all barren areas on Laysan. There are smaller populations of black-footed albatrosses. The other species nest in or near vegetation, except the petrels and shearwaters. They use most underground portions, the summer-nesting wedge-tailed shearwaters taking turns with the winter-nesting Bonin petrels.

"Nesting of the albatrosses requires most of the year, so both the surface and underground portions of the island are occupied with nesting birds throughout most seasons....

"It is easy to approach within three or four feet of such species as the brown noddy, blue-faced or masked booby, brown booby, and the great frigatebird for pictures. More wary are the gray-backed terns and white-capped noddies, or Hawaiian terns. The red-tailed tropicbird with vivid red tail streamers could be picked up and thrown into the air for flight pictures.

"Probably the most beautiful species on these islands is the dainty fairy tern which frequents the Laysan shorelines. Nudged from its resting spots in the scaevola, it curiously flutters overhead, making a soft 'oink' sound.

"Bristle-thighed curlews, which nest in Alaska, American golden plovers, and other shorebirds rest or winter at Laysan and other sandy islands of the chain."

The fourth stop was at Tern Island of French Frigate Shoals. "It resembles a giant aircraft carrier and no longer serves the birds, having been turned into a military base during World War II. Only a handful of albatrosses and other birds remains from what was once a vast colony.

"This is a sad reminder of what could happen to other islands of the Hawaiian Islands Refuge if they are not carefully guarded.

"The irreparable damage brought about by man's unwise activities, including the near loss of the Laysan duck, should serve as a valuable lesson. Introduced mammals such as rabbits, dogs and rats play havoc with such fearless birds or destroy delicate ecological balances.

"Insects pose problems, too. Introduction of foreign varieties without their natural predators threaten native plants....Every attempt is now being made to prevent new threats to surviving species through a program of education and cooperation between the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife and the Department of Defense. Special permits are required for entry to the refuge."

VIGILANCE STILL NEEDED TO PREVENT REFUGE GIVEAWAY

"A proposal advanced by the director of the U.S. Bureau of the Budget to give away the Hawaiian Islands National Wildlife Refuge has been headed off--at least for the present....

"The issue is almost certain to arise again....Conservationists must keep an attentive eye on this 1,000-mile string of Pacific islands. David B. Marshall's article will help you understand why."

HONOLULU STAR-BULLETIN, April 8, 1965, page A-9: Progress Made in War Against Midway Gooneys.

According to Stanley A. Cain, Assistant Secretary of Interior for Fish and Wildlife, intensive study on the problem of the Laysan albatross on Midway for many years since about 1956 has finally resulted in a successful technique to preserve both birds and aircraft--widening the air strips to prevent nesting and bird flying around the areas. The ground also has been flattened to eliminate updrafts which the birds like to soar on.

"He added that there is no point in killing off the birds--a common suggestion--because others would just come in and take their place."

SUNDAY STAR-BULLETIN & ADVERTISER, May 23, 1965, page A20: Gooneys Win Atoll Battle.

Robert C. Miller, the author, illustrates this article with a picture of a Laysan albatross with a chick, and he says that the jet age has solved the problem in favor of the albatrosses. Planes that flew to and from it have been replaced by

planes which fly over it.

Wonderful news--Midway is returned to the rightful owners, the albatrosses. Thank you! Let us keep it that way!

FOR JUNIOR MEMBERS:

This month's bird, the Swallow-tailed Kite, is a medium sized (24 inches) hawk and is noted for its striking markings--snowy white head, neck, and under parts, glossy black upper parts, and a deeply forked tail--and its power of flight.

Look at your calendar. What bird does it remind you? Of course, the frigate!

The bird's mastery of the air is described in A PICTURE BOOK OF NATURE by Proctor, Grossman, and Freedgood on page 23 and in BIRDS OF THE WORLD by Austin on page 77 as follows:

"Soaring through the air with an easy floating motion, the kite is a picture of grace and beauty. Every movement is perfect, whether it is rising, diving, or skimming low above the surface. It appears to spend all its time in the air, feeding, drinking, and, it is said, even sleeping, while in motion. Perhaps this is due to its very short, scarcely visible legs, which make walking very difficult." --Proctor

"In flight the Swallow-tailed Kite is graceful and buoyant. It courses over open land in search of food like a glorified swallow, swooping in circles high overhead, then scaling down close to the ground."--Austin

It feeds mainly on snakes, lizards, locusts, and grasshoppers. It kills prey by striking or clutching, holds it in its sharply clawed feet (talons) and tears it with its powerful hooked bill or swallows it whole.

It nests in the upper branches of tall trees and lays two to three eggs heavily marked with brown. Both parents incubate and care for the young.

Austin says, "At one time it bred rather widely through most of the United States, but it is now restricted to the extreme southern states around the Gulf of Mexico from Florida to Texas. The species migrates southward in winter as far as northern South America...Just why it has disappeared is difficult to understand... Owing to its rarity and the difficulty of finding and reaching nests, its breeding habits have not been well studied. It is obvious, however, that its rate of reproduction is not high enough to balance the mortality in the adult population."

Vigilance is required from all of you to protect this bird from selfish thoughtless men.

Field Notes:

Gone! All of them? I heard the last plover on May 6. It was flying toward the ocean from Hickam AFB. For the next few months the plover will be busy rearing a family in Alaska, then in August and September the birds begin to return. What are you going to do, while the plover is busy housekeeping? Let us watch the birds with a fledgling. Please write to me about your family of birds.

According to the HONOLULU STAR-BULLETIN, May 13, 1965, page C-1, Jack Throp, Honolulu Zoo Director, has arranged to import robin from Calgary Zoo in Canada, because he says, "The robin is used very widely to illustrate elementary school books, but many school children in Hawaii have never seen one. Soon they'll have one handy."

For educational display at the Zoo, he will import common mainland birds and animals. He already has a skunk on exhibit, and others to arrive in the very near future are the magpies, raccoons, porcupines, and American waterfowl.

He also plans to regroup the animals already here, so that the children can become more intimately acquainted with them. He said, "Pygmy donkeys will be where kids can pet them, and domestic ducks will be where they can feed them by hand."

Let's watch for the Zoo news and participate in some of their activities.

August's bird is the Attwater's Prairie Chicken. Please study about this bird and share your information with the other members.

Unoyo Kojima
725-A 8th Ave, Honolulu, 96816

Report of the Hawaii Audubon Society Meeting of April 19, 1965

...The President called upon Mr. Ron Walker to give an account of his recent trip to the Leeward Islands. Mr. Walker said, in part:

At Nihoa the party landed, hoping to find some of the rare miller birds, band some and transport them to another island, to start a colony there again. But many other birds were breeding, and for that reason or some other, only one miller bird was found and caught. Observations were made on many sea birds; finches were abundant.

At Necker Island, landing was difficult. An estimate of birds present came to about 140,000, including thousands of sooty terns. Seals and turtles were there also.

At Gardner Pinnacles, the seas were too high to allow landing, also at Laysan and Lisiansky. A try was made at landing on the leeward side, but that too was impossible.

At Pearl and Hermes Reef--a series of low atolls--the sea was very calm. Turtles and birds were counted and banded.

Stops were made at Kure and Midway. At the former, a plant, Verbesina, is taking over, to the detriment of the space wanted by birds; another difficulty is that the rats are numerous, probably desperate for food themselves, and they climb on the backs of the albatross while nesting, and kill them by eating the flesh at the neck, the birds being unaware of what is happening, until too late.

Dr. Charles Ely gave an account of a trip to Alakai Swamp which he made with Michael Ord; one day and two half days. The opportunity evidently gave him great delight. Eighteen birds were netted. Two of them--apapane and anianiau--had been banded during September, 1964.

On Kauai, Michael Ord had his first glimpse of the Western Meadowlark.

The talk of the evening was given by Earl Murchison, who prepared a fine historical statement on Eniwetok and Kwajalein. His work in marine biology is going on at the Eniwetok Marine Biological Laboratory, which he described--both work carried on and the laboratory itself. His pictures of the lagoon, the shore stretch, some of the atolls, the crabs and other shore and undersea animals including the sharks, were vivid, and gave a clear picture of the area. One island is set apart for the work, and is tabu to all except the laboratory needs, and constitutes a conservation area. Mr. Murchison's collection of corals which he brought were varied and beautiful....

Margaret Titcomb, Secretary

Last call for indexes: The annual and five-year indexes will be mailed to the members only upon request. If you are interested in receiving either one of the indexes, please send in your request by 31 July 1965 to Unoyo Kojima, 725-A 8th Ave, Honolulu, Hawaii 96816.

Have you started on your article on the mynah? The mynah was introduced from India by Dr. William Hillebrand in 1865. In order to celebrate the centennial by devoting the entire September issue of THE ELEPAIO to the mynah, we need your help, so please send in any suggestions or articles to Kojima, 725-A 8th Ave, Hon., Haw. 96816.

HONOLULU STAR-BULLETIN, April 15, 1965, page D-3: At Bogota, Texas, there's a 18-year hoot owl that behaves like a chicken, because her only companions were chickens. She even set on eggs and are now rearing five chicks.

MISS ETHEL DAMON

Our society regrets deeply the passing of one of our life members: Miss Ethel Damon. She lived on Kauai during her later years, and we saw little of her. But it is an honor to have had such a sterling person as a life member. A woman of great learning, very modest, the author of some of the most sound historical and biographical works, such as "Koamalu: a Story of Pioneers on Kauai" and "Sanford Ballard Dole and His Hawaii," as well as valuable shorter works; Miss Damon stood for all the best in Hawaii.

ALOHA to our new members:

Mrs. J. D. Babcock, 3228 Oahu Ave, Honolulu, Hawaii 96822
PFC Edward C. Bennett, US 51480781, HHC 1/35th Inf., APO San Francisco 96225
Dr. Robert H. Cooper, Ball State University, Muncie, Indiana 47306

JULY ACTIVITIES:

- July 11 - Field trip. Weather permitting, we will make an attempt to visit Rabbit Island to study sea birds in the breeding colonies.
Trip will be limited to Society members.
Boat fare is estimated at \$3.00.
Meet at the Library of Hawaii at 8:00 a.m.
Leader: Mike Ord, telephone 587-328 for reservations.
- July 12 - Board meeting at the Honolulu Aquarium Auditorium at 7:30 p.m.
Members are always welcome.
- July 19 - General meeting at the Honolulu Aquarium Auditorium at 7:30 p.m.
Program for the night: Dr. Andrew Berger will talk on "Birds of India."

HAWAII AUDUBON SOCIETY EXECUTIVE BOARD:

President:	W. Michael Ord
Vice Presidents:	Dr. Hubert Frings
	Eugene Kridler
Secretary:	Miss Margaret Titcomb
Treasurer:	Mrs. Paul M. Scheffer
Board Members:	Paul M. Scheffer
	Ronald L. Walker

THE ELEPAIO: Editors: Miss Charlotta Hoskins
Miss Uncoyo Kojima

MAILING ADDRESS: P.O. Box 5032, Honolulu, Hawaii 96814

DUES: Regular - \$3.00 per annum
Regular out of State - \$2.00 per annum
Junior (18 years and under) - \$1.00 per annum
Life - \$50.00