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'I'IWI, 'APAPANE, AND NUKU-PU'U

By Andrew J. Berger

A writer inevitably is faced with the problem of selecting a suitable title for his book, or paper, or essay. There are many times when the final title is not selected (or, at least, refined) until after the work has been completed. There are infrequent instances, however, when the title asserts itself even before the author has begun to put his ideas on paper. Such was the case this time. In writing about a land as colorful, as diversified, and as enchanting as Hawaii, it seemed to me that no ordinary title would be acceptable for the 'I'iwi, the 'Apapane, and the Nuku-pu'u, for they are as Hawaiian as Diamond Head and the hula. They are, in fact, much older than the hula. And yet, there undoubtedly are many kama'aina who wouldn't know whether one would be expected to ride, wear, or prepare a Nuku-pu'u for dinner.

A telling clue to identity might be the simple statement that the capes worn by Hawaiian royalty derived their beauty and regal colors from certain attributes of our subjects. And the jig would be up, indeed, as soon as we referred the reader to the matchless displays of Hawaiian feather capes in the Bishop Museum in Honolulu, because, once we have mentioned feathers, we must, of necessity, be writing about birds.

Of the eleven families of birds that are native, or endemic, to the Hawaiian Islands, none have intrigued zoologists as much as the Hawaiian Honeycreepers--the avian family Drepaniidae of ornithologists. To be sure, the Nene or Hawaiian Goose has thus far received more general publicity, and with good reason, because of its critical status only a few decades ago. But for nearly a century now the honeycreepers have provided zoologists with a classic example of the evolutionary process on oceanic islands--an example not even to be rivaled by the famous Galapagos Islands and their unique fauna.

So diverse in their bill structure are the members of the honeycreeper family that the first ornithologists who studied them placed them in several different families of birds. In fact, some of the forms are so bizarre in appearance that one can easily imagine that the European ornithologists who first gazed upon the bird skins collected by Captain Cook and his successors might have suspected that someone was playing a scientific practical joke by sewing together the parts of several wholly unrelated birds.

Only a few of the Hawaiian Honeycreepers have English names. Most are identified only by the Hawaiian names and by their Latin scientific names. What, then, of the 'I'iwi, the 'Apapane, and the Nuku-pu'u?

The 'I'iwi is a brilliant, vermilion-colored bird with black wings and tail, plus a distinctive long, curved, salmon-colored bill. The body plumage of the 'Apapane is crimson to strawberry-colored; the wings and tail are blackish; the lower belly is white. Both of these small jewels of the bird world are about $5\frac{1}{2}$ inches in total length, that is, from tip of bill to tip of tail. In flight the birds' wings produce a characteristic noise that immediately announces to the field ornithologist that a bird is approaching.

The Nuku-pu'u is, literally, a bird of a different color. The head, back, and breast of the male are described as being gamboge yellow. The female's breast is primrose yellow. The Nuku-pu'u, also, is about $5\frac{1}{2}$ inches long, but the strongly curved, slender, upper mandible accounts for more than one inch of the bird's total length. A very unusual feature among birds is that the lower part of the Nuku-pu'u's bill is only half the length of the upper part.

Although these three birds are among the more colorful of the Hawaiian Honeycreepers, they are far from being the most specialized forms. The 'Akialoa, for example, is a brown and olive-green bird about $6\frac{1}{2}$ inches in overall length, but its markedly decurved bill is only a little less than two inches of the total measurement. By contrast, the so-called Grosbeak (literally, great beak) Finch of Hawaii was another small sparrow-sized bird with an enormous beak evolved for cracking the shells of nuts. Still other members of the family have parrot-like bills.

These remarkable bill specializations were evolutionary adaptations for different diets. They enabled closely related birds to inhabit the same general areas without competing with each other for food. The general food habits of the honeycreepers are well known, and, in fact, can be predicted with reasonable accuracy by reference to the bill structure alone. Some species obviously were predominantly seed eaters; some were nectar sippers; others were fruit eaters. Beyond these generalizations, however, accurate data are wanting on probable seasonal differences in food habits and on the relative percentages of insects, nectar, and fruit in the diet.

Unlike the Golden Plover that spends its breeding season in Alaska and then flies more than 2000 miles across the ocean to winter on the lawns, golf courses, and fields of the Hawaiian Islands, the honeycreepers are non-migratory. They do not even migrate from one island to another in the chain. They spend their entire lives upon the same island. It is probable--although no one has yet gathered the facts--that many of them do not move more than a few miles from the nest in which they were hatched.

Inasmuch as the honeycreepers are now non-migratory birds, one might reasonably inquire about the origin of these birds. From whence did they come? The answer is simple: no one knows. Taxonomists have postulated that the ancestors of our modern honeycreepers were "blown in" from America, possibly Central America, but the "guesstimates" of contemporary taxonomists are based on little more evidence than was available nearly 75 years ago. In defense of the taxonomists, one must point out that it is exceedingly difficult to unearth suitable evidence to suggest the relationship among contemporary birds and their ancestors of 50,000 or more years ago.

Even stranger is the fact that we don't even know much about the present distribution of most of the honeycreepers. The 'I'iwi, 'Apapane, and 'Amakihi are widely distributed, being found from Kauai to Hawaii. In general, however, one must get up into the native mountain forests in order to get a glimpse of these birds. They are most readily seen in the vicinity of the Volcano House and the Thurston Lava Tube on the Big Island. Other choice areas are Hosmer's Grove near Haleakala and Koke'e State Park on Kauai.

With a few notable exceptions, one is hard put to be specific on directions for finding the other extant species. We are not even sure in many instances which birds are extant and which are extinct; such is the state of our ignorance on the distribution and status of Hawaii's unique bird family. This is true even now at a time when special ornithological tours are being organized in North America to travel

5000 miles and see a Hawaiian Honeycreeper in the flesh.

Richard E. Warner aptly referred to the Hawaiian Honeycreepers as a "living museum of evolutionary processes." How unfortunate it is, therefore, that Roger Tory Peterson, America's best known ornithologist and bird watcher, was forced to write that more native birds have become extinct in Hawaii than in any other area of the world of comparable size except the Mascarene Islands in the Indian Ocean. This irreversible fact of extinction becomes even more shocking when one recalls that Capt. Cook did not reach and name the "Sandwich Islands" until 1778. Moreover, most, if not all, of the extinct birds have become extinct in less than the past 100 years. How unfortunate, also, is it for biologists and taxonomists that virtually nothing is known of the internal anatomy or of the nesting habits and behavior of not only the extinct birds but also of the surviving forms that inhabit the dwindling native forests. The eggs and young of many of the species apparently have never even been described.

Several species long thought to be extinct were observed in the Alaka'i Swamp on Kauai by Frank Richardson and John Bowles in 1960. I had the opportunity to trek into the Alaka'i Swamp with W. Michael Ord, Ronald Walker, and Warren King when I was a visiting professor at the University in the spring of 1964. Mike was our guide; it was the first trip for the rest of us. Leaving Koke'e State Park, we followed a dirt road until it ended in the forest. There we packed our belongings on our backs and started our four-mile hike through the woods to a small cabin on the edge of the Koiae Stream.

This area is not far from Mt. Waialeale, where more than 600 inches of rain have been recorded in a single year. We were fortunate the first day-and-a-half, and intermittent rain showers were interspersed with periods of bright, blue skies. The footing, however, was wet, muddy, and slippery most of the way. Moreover, the term "swamp" is a gross misnomer. There are small plateaus here and there but, basically, the Alaka'i Swamp is a series of mountain ridges and valleys. The trail winds up and down steep slopes, sometimes precipitous, and both hands and both feet are needed in ascending and descending the trail. The vegetation, of course, is lush in this tropical rain forest. It is a true and magnificent wilderness area.

Each of us was fascinated as we worked our way deeper into this primeval forest--this ideal honeycreeper habitat. We saw more honeycreepers than we had any reason to suspect still survived, evidence of what we often fail to remember: that the world of nature goes on its inexorable way whether man is aware or unaware. The tragedy is that so many are unaware of nature. Many appear not even to be cognizant of the fact that they are part of nature; that man is the transient one; that man and his societies have existed for such an infinitesimal part of the world's history. What do these non-nature people think is the guarantee that man's contemporary societies will persist indefinitely? Are we so much more secure and wise than the ancient Greeks or Romans or Phoenicians?

Despite the present rich assortment of honeycreepers in the Alaka'i Swamp, it is a relatively small area, especially when compared to the extensive native forest of a hundred years ago. Richard E. Warner has described in graphic terms the rape of the Hawaiian land by man and beast alike in speaking of the "alteration, contamination, and gradual degradation of the Hawaiian environment."

Capt. Cook wrote of the brilliant-colored birds he found in the vegetation close to the seashore. Some of the honeycreepers were extirpated when lowland forests were felled to make way for sugar cane and pineapple. This, undoubtedly, was not a serious blow to the birds, for there were then ample stretches of virgin mountain forests. The relentless grazing of sheep, cattle, and goats, however, made (and still do) many mountain habitats unsuitable for the birds, and, in some instances, actually resulted in the virtual total destruction of the forests.

"There is something incredibly naive about the response of Europeans (and Americans) to the realization that they might be doing more harm than good in their

random, knockabout programs of exploration and colonization. They are often amazed, sometimes chagrined, that they could have such ill effects upon native populations. Nevertheless they--we--have persisted. Now, with Hawaii's natural history still another chapter in the annals of exploitation, it is in frustration, sometimes in despair, that we try to piece together the historical segment of the native biota's response to 'discovery.' With few exceptions, it is a story of disease and death, a chronicle of extinction" (Richard E. Warner, PACIFIC DISCOVERY, 1961).

The days of colonization, in the old sense, are over, but the philosophy (or lack of it) underlying Warner's observations still dominates politicians, bureaucrats, and businessmen, to mention only three groups. The age of science appears to have exerted little or no beneficial influence on the "body politic," on their constituents, or on the great news media which thrive by entertaining rather than by educating and striving to raise the minds as well as the eyes of their patrons.

Thus, in addition to our perpetual wars, we continue to poison the food we eat and to pollute the water and the very air we breathe. We censure our frontiersmen who wastefully slaughtered the bison and who exterminated the Passenger Pigeon. Yet today we continue to ravage any and all vegetation in the name of "progress." Many of our so-called great universities have become unadulterated "research factories," from which we grind out narrow-minded technicians (both in the sciences and in the humanities) rather than independent thinkers and educated men. Perhaps worst of all, we emasculate our youth by our obsession with material security. The man whose chief goal is security is already half dead. What kind of men are we training (I cannot say "educating") to meet the challenges of today and tomorrow? How naive, indeed, is man to feel he can with impunity ignore history and the danger signs already more than just apparent.

"Yet hope, the seed of our humanity, warms its tender roots beneath the turf on which the distorted figures of our nightmare disport themselves" (Murray Turnbull in the fall 1965 issue of MALAMALAMA). Perhaps, in our "sophisticated" world, it is but another expression of naivete to hope that the nightmare of destruction may be vanquished. Nevertheless, one may still hope that enough insight and determination exist in Hawaii to retain what is left of its unique biological heritage. After reading some of the writings of Capt. Cook, Capt. Vancouver, James Jarves, and Mark Twain, however, I conclude that I came to Hawaii 150 years too late. Perhaps, though, it is merely a matter of having been born 150 years too late.

MOKU MANU, April 8, 1966

By W. M. Ord

After several previous attempts to land on Moku Manu had all failed because of bad weather or high swell conditions breaking around the base of the island, we finally made a landing even though the swell was rather high.

The first birds to greet us as we pulled ourselves out of the ocean onto the rocks were the White-capped Noddies which were nesting in the cliff face above us on the south point of the island. This cliff face and the cave on the west side of the island seem to be the only nesting sites of this species on Moku Manu. The Common Noddies, as usual, were all over the island, though very few seemed to be nesting. Several nests with young were found on the boulder strewn shore line on the eastern side of the island, and a few nests on the summit of the island had eggs.

The Sooty Terns were in full swing with their breeding cycle. On the slopes of the island, all of the Sooties were incubating, while the birds on the flat top of the island nearly all had young, the oldest of which I estimated to be seven days old. The Sooty population this year on Moku Manu is far in excess of what it has been on previous years. I estimate the population at close to a quarter of a million birds.

The Gray-backed Tern population remains small, probably no more than a dozen

pairs. They all seem restricted to the lower slopes of the eastern side of the island. Inasmuch as they were nesting along side the Sooties it was impossible to tell whether or not they were incubating as the eggs of both species are almost identical.

Wedge-tailed Shearwaters were seen in several instances either in burrows or between large rocks. Likewise Christmas Island Shearwaters were seen between rocks and under the vegetation. Several nests of the latter species were found. All had eggs. No Bulwer's Petrels were found.

The Frigatebird population remains down as was recorded in the last Christmas count. Several young birds were seen and a fair number of male birds but very few females. The low numbers of this species are also being recorded by many interested people living on the windward side of Oahu. The writer has received numerous calls on the telephone asking for the reason for this decline in numbers. It hardly seems to be a lack of food supply because there are as many boobies as there were before to harass.

The Red-footed Boobies, Brown Boobies and Masked Boobies were all nesting. Many nests had eggs, though several Red-footed Boobies and Masked Boobies had small young up to a week old at the most. Here and there an older young one was seen, indicating that some pairs had begun to nest extremely early compared to the majority. The Brown Booby population is considerably higher than I have seen on previous years. Approximately one hundred pairs were seen. One Brown Booby's nest had three eggs, which is fairly unusual; another Brown Booby was seen incubating her own egg as well as a Sooty Tern's egg. This gives you some idea of the shortage of suitable nesting area.

The only other species of birds seen were a lone Wandering Tattler and one Ruddy Turnstone.

Due to the critical stage of the incubation of most species very little time was spent observing in any detail. Later trips to the island when the young birds can fend for themselves will enable the writer to get better population estimates.

INDIAN HILL MYNAH IN HAWAII

By Walt Donaghho

In 1960, a boy in a Keeaumoku pet shop opened the door to a cage containing three Indian Hill Mynahs, which escaped. Soon afterwards they showed up in the Lyon Arboretum in upper Manoa Valley.

Don Anderson, in charge there, told me that five more joined them in 1961, and in 1963, there were twelve all together. Dr. Andrew Berger and his class of Ornithology students counted this many in November, 1965.

I counted eight there on a visit in November 9, 1965. They frequent the tall Albizzias on the ridge above the main buildings.

Mike Ord reported to me that Hill Mynahs had been seen on Tantalus. During this research, Thane Pratt wrote me from Kamuela, Hawaii, that, exactly a year ago (December 16, 1964) he saw six birds flying high above his home near the Waterhouse residence on Tantalus. He was notified by Mr. Griffing that the mynahs come to his residence, and Pratt went over, and writes: "About 7:30 a.m. I heard their whistles, and with a loud whirr of wings, they alighted on the fruiting Alexandria palms."

I counted six here on January 28, 1966, frequenting the grove of Alexandria and other palms growing on the hillside Ewa of the residence. They also like to perch in the large Ahuehuete or Mexican Cypress tree growing here, and also up in one of the tall Norfolk pines growing on the other side of the driveway.

Miss Margaret Titcomb reported a pair of mynahs near her home in the Eucalyptus forest below the Hogsback, and I received a report also from Mrs. White, living near

her. They flew off in the direction of Pacific Heights.

Al MacDonald reported seven mynahs on January 24, and three on February 3 at the State Forestry Nursery in Makiki Valley. He said they appeared there about 8:30 and moved out of the Nursery area over to Brassaias growing on the Ewa side of the valley about an hour later. They fed on the berries; moved slowly up the ridge towards Tantalus and/or the Eucalyptus forest on the summit of the ridge.

On February 9, I saw three mynahs in a Jhalna tree at the Nursery at 9:00 a.m. At 9:25, they flew out, circled higher and higher, and flew up the east ridge towards Tantalus. I rode up Tantalus, checking the upper valley at Sugarloaf and the area about the Waterhouse and Brash residences, without success. At the Griffing residence, I saw six mynahs in the palm groves.

On February 10, six were at the Griffing residence, and one in the Nursery. On February 12, there were five at the Arboretum. Six, five, and one make twelve????

To complicate matters, Ray Kramer received a report of six seen near Ethridge's home in Kahana Valley! Checking with her recently, she told me that these were last seen there about February 12. (The report was dated January 13.) A pair have been hanging around since, and she last saw them last Saturday, March 12.

Are there two separate flocks, twelve and six? And is there any connection between the birds of the Arboretum, Griffings, and the Nursery? Anderson thought that the birds at the Arboretum never left the area, but recently, he hasn't been too sure. I believe that the birds at the Nursery travel up through the Eucalyptus forest on their way to Griffings and/or to the Arboretum. Stephenson reported two Makai of the Nursery, in the haole koa habitat on the ridge just below the residences of Makiki Heights, and I believe they came from the Nursery also.

Ray Kramer reported hearing one near the Waikiki Theatre on March 11. This could be a recent escapee, and will soon make for the hills as have all the others.

In keeping with their name, they do seem to prefer the hills and valleys, and like a good forest cover. They also like a good grove of Albizzias and can be found frequently in the grove in the Arboretum. They travel in flocks from roosting area to feeding area, or from feeding area to feeding area, and feed on various fruits. I have observed them at the fruit of Brassia and the Alexandria palm, but caged birds eat many other types of fruit, such as bananas, papayas, guavas, etc., which is in keeping with the habits of mynahs. No doubt they also eat insects, as do the other mynahs. I do not doubt they also eat the fruit of the banyan, as do the mynahs of Guadalcanal, who are similar in appearance. I don't believe there is much in the way of food from the Koa or 'Ohi'a, so there should be little competition with our native Drepanids. They would compete more with the other mynah, the cardinals, and the doves, especially if they are after the fruit of the banyans.

They will tolerate human habitation within their forest haunts, but do not prefer it, as do the other mynahs.

FIELD TRIP to Na Laau Hawaii Trail, March 13, 1966.

It was a bright, sunny morning as a good group of bird enthusiasts left the Library under my leadership, headed for Diamond Head and a walk along Na Laau Hawaii Trail, through Munro's botanical garden, to the area where all the Waxbills have been seen.

In Kapiolani Park, we stopped near the traffic circle fountain near the Outrigger Canoe Club to see the Saffron Finches. I saw one feeding on the grassy lawn as we drove by, headed Waikiki, and again as we drove around the circle and parked. But it flew up, and the party didn't see it.

A Mockingbird sang as we climbed up the trail to the fountain and overlook, where Paul Scheffer and some visitors were awaiting us. As I came into the gully at the rear of Erdman's, where the Waxbills had been seen, and climbed out again, I saw a

Weaver Finch in its somber, non-breeding plumage.

The party spread out on the slope and waited developments. At first there was nothing, and I began to wonder if I would be widely cursed for this "wild waxbill chase." But soon, a Gray Singing Finch was spotted, then a female Cordon Bleu, and it wasn't long before we were seeing Waxbills and Gray Singing Finches galore!

There were only a few male Cordon Bleus seen, mostly females, and I am strongly inclined to believe, young birds. I saw one bird carrying nesting material; and we spotted small, oval, dome-shaped nests in the Kiawe and other shrubbery, built most likely by Cordon Bleus and/or other Waxbills. A pair of Common Waxbills was also spotted, the only Waxbills not showing up being the Fire Finches, Orange-cheeked Waxbill and the Lavender Waxbill.

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I returned on March 15 with Ray Kramer. He wanted to see these birds as a part of his duties as non-game bird biologist. We entered Erdman's home, where we saw Cordon Bleus, Fire Finches, Orange-cheeked Waxbills and Gray Singing Finches at her feeders, and then we went up behind her home to the gully.

On the field trip we saw almost nothing in comparison! As we approached the gully, a large flock of Gray and Green Singing Finches flew up from the ground where they had been feeding. The latter were beautiful with bright yellow breasts. In addition were a large flock of Fire Finches, with many young birds in transition from the brown of the immature to the red of the adult male. The red splotches looked similar to those of the young 'Apapane in their transition.

A list of birds resulted in 20+ Gray Singing Finches (could easily have been more than 30), 16+ Green Singing Finches, 30+ pairs and immature Fire Finches, 2 male and 4 female and/or young Cordon Bleus, 8 Orange-cheeked Waxbills, and a pair of Common Waxbills. The Lavender Waxbill again was not observed.

The best time for seeing these birds is from 4 to 6 p.m., when they are gathering in the gully to come in to the feeders in Erdman's home.

Walt Donaghho

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FIELD TRIP to Ulupau Head, April 10, 1966.

A fair-sized group left the Library Easter morning for Ulupau Head to see the Red-footed Booby colony.

I left with Paul Scheffer, and we drove over the Pali and around the North sides of Kawainui Swamp, where we saw two male and one female Shovellers in the open water near Kailua.

After Mike Ord, the leader, met us at the Marine Airbase gate we drove out to the crater. The ponds at Mokapu seemed lacking in birdlife.

As we drove up to the top of the seacliff to park the cars, I looked up to see a male Peregrine Falcon circling overhead. It drifted out to sea, where it circled some more before flying out of sight. This made the second record in Hawaii this season. A female was reported last fall. (See THE ELEPAIO, Vol. 26, No. 7, Jan. 1966, pp. 61 and 63)

The Booby colony was a bit in the scanty side, with about 400 birds. Most were sitting on eggs, although there was some more nest-building; I noticed birds with nesting material. I led a small group down through the Haole Koa, right under several nests, whose occupants sat peering down at us, as we stood looking up only three feet below. We approached two of the Kiawe decorated with nesting Boobies, all of which sat tight.

Moku Manu was alive with seabirds; hundreds of thousands of Sooty Tern, many Frigate Birds, including white-headed immatures, Red-footed Boobies thickly dotting the green sides, along with Brown Boobies, and several Blue-faced Boobies, Hawaiian and Common Noddy Terns, and Gray-backed Terns that flew in and out from their nests in the brush just above the rocky shore.

A surprise were four or more Red-billed Leiothrix in the Haole Koa scrub on the Makai rim of the crater. What were they doing way out here? These birds appear to do quite a bit of wandering at times. They seem to require any good cover, whether

it be Haole Koa or native forest, but the habitat between the crater and the nearest ridge by Kailua would seem to be such that would not be attractive to the normal desires of these birds, for the habitat being mostly grass lawns about houses and buildings or short grass pasture and seaside meadow.

Two carloads of bird observers drove on around the island after the Ulupau Head trip. We visited the three settlement basins at Kahuku just west of the town, where at least ten Stilt flew about between the ponds. There were also five Coot, three 'Auku'u, and Golden Plover, Turnstone, Sanderling, and Wandering Tattler, just a sad remnant of the birdlife in this once rich area.

The pond by the airfield disclosed eight more Stilt, six of which were on the asphalt of the runway, an odd place for Stilt to be. One was sitting down.

We also visited the lotus beds near Waialua to look for Gallinule, and we saw one.

FIELD NOTES: Poamoho Trail, April 17, 1966.

Hiked along the Poamoho Trail to the edge of the rain forest, or to the point where the trail crosses the ridge from the south side to the north as it makes the last grades to the summit.

The condition of Drepanids was very poor. No list was taken, but no more than twenty 'Apapane were seen, no 'I'iwi, no Creeper, and no definite 'Amakihi observations were made. I may have heard one call, and one of the party whistled what resembled its song as he described what he was hearing. Judging from the Aiea Trail a month ago, where I heard four sing very distinctly, I would say that we encountered none. Unlike the other Drepanids, I have gotten a greater list of 'Amakihi as I came nearer Honolulu. Thirteen were counted on the East Manoa Ridge last year. The Leiothrix seemed to be "all over the place" and was heard all along the trail, coming and going.

It was a sad show for our richest trail in the Koolau, and only tends to confirm my opinion that Oahu's Drepanids are in sad shape. Only two birds can be guaranteed today on this trail: The 'Apapane and the 'Elepaio.

Walt Donaghho

FIELD NOTES:

Bush warbler is in town. It was heard on March 27 at the Aiea Loop trail. Paul Scheffer reported that on April 23, he heard at least six different individuals singing, and he was able to record some of the song. On May 1, I heard them in the valleys behind Alewa Heights. Is the bush warbler occupying every valley in the Koolau? Has any one heard it in Nuuanu or Manoa? If you do, please send in your observations to Kojima, 725-A 8th Avenue, Honolulu, Hawaii 96816.

National Audubon Society's 62nd Annual Convention at Sacramento, California, from November 11 to 16, 1966, will highlight the effects of population growth and economic expansion on wildlife and its habitat, on watershed and forest ecology, on mountain and seashore scenic beauty, and on established and proposed parks and recreation area.

Convention speakers will include state, national and international authorities on architecture, ecology, and land-use planning and legislation. They will define crucial conservation problems...and suggest solutions.

Featured, too, will be reports on the Society's research programs and on many international wildlife conservation issues.

One of the four post-convention tours led by the Sacramento Audubon Society is to Hawaii from November 16 to 23.

Those interested in attending the convention see AUDUBON, March-April, 1966, pp. 121 and 122, for information on field trips and post-convention tours and registration form. For more information write to: Convention: National Audubon Convention, 613 Riversville Road, Greenwich, Conn. 06830. Post-Convention Tours: Sacramento Audubon Society, 7248 Fair Oaks Blvd, Carmichael, California.

FOR JUNIOR MEMBERS:

FIELD NOTES FROM BILL CARNEY*

While vacationing on the Big Island last week (April 1-8) I came across several species which might interest your readers.

Most exhilarating to my own mind was the discovery of two Nene on the slopes of Mauna Loa. An early start from Kilauea Military Camp put us at the end of the Mauna Loa strip road at 7:00 a.m. From this point it was a two mile hike to the 7,500 foot elevation mark where the first bird flushed from about fifty feet off the trail. With a characteristic piping sound, the big goose winged over the lava flows and disappeared behind a distant clump of 'Ohi'a shrubs.

A half an hour of scouring over the flows turned up a second bird; this one unwilling to fly and thus allowing some unusual camera opportunities. At one point I approached to within ten feet of the goose as it rested in a thicket. Later I was told by a park ranger that Nene could often be observed quite closely without ever leaving the strip road.

Another high ranked species on my Most-Wanted-Birds list was the Hawaiian 'Io. A drive along the South Kona coast about a hundred highway miles from Hilo resulted in two sightings. This is an area of many recent lava flows with lush stands of forest interspersed. Apparently the birds like the variety, for both light and dark phases were seen soaring along the same ten mile stretch of highway.

Other interesting birds which proved fairly common in the Volcanoes National Park region were Chukar, California Quail, Green Pheasant, Pueo, and 'I'iwi.

*Bill is a busy senior at Punahou, and yet, he found time to send in this field note.
MAHALO NUI LOA

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The last of the plover I have been watching at Hickam AFB left on May 2, so on May 9 when I heard a plover call I was pleasantly surprised, but I should have known--it wasn't a plover; it was an expert mocker starting its repertoire with a plover's call. When did your plover leave? Please share your observations by writing to Kojima, 725-A 8th Avenue, Honolulu, Hawaii 96816.

ALOHA to our new members:

Delwyn G. Berrett, Biology Dept, Church College of Hawaii, Laie, Oahu 96762.
Peabody Museum, Ornithology Dept, 41 Sachem St, New Haven, Conn. 06510.

JUNE ACTIVITIES:

- June 12 - Field trip to look for FAIRY TERNS at Koko Head. Bring lunch, water, and if possible, your car. Meet at the Library of Hawaii at 8:00 a.m. Leader: Mike Ord, telephone: 968-771.
- June 13 - Board meeting at the Honolulu Aquarium Auditorium at 7:30 p.m. Members are always welcome.
- June 20 - General meeting at the Honolulu Aquarium Auditorium at 7:30 p.m. Program for the night: Mr. Russ Kinne, freelance photographer-writer specializing in wildlife and natural history subjects and the editor of POPULAR PHOTOGRAPHY magazine, will talk on "Nature Photography and the Equipment Involved--Both Ready-made and Custom."

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Miss Unoyo Kojima

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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

Organization - \$2.00 per annum
Life - \$50.00