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MOA

By Jack L. Throp

The "Moa" can once again be heard in the lowlands of Waikiki. Mr. Herbert Shipman of Hilo has donated thirty Hawaiian Junglefowl to the Honolulu Zoo. Mr. Shipman, as you may well remember, was instrumental in the struggle to save the Nene Goose from extinction. It was from his carefully nurtured captive stock that the present restoration program was initiated. The Moa, as the Polynesians called the chicken, came across the ocean from Asia with the early settlers of the Pacific and finally reached Hawaii during the great period of island hopping. The ancestral origin of the Moa is the Red Junglefowl (Gallus gallus) as are all our varieties of domestic poultry. While other cultures of man were gradually selectively breeding toward specific objectives: cock fighting, egg laying, color, size, feather, etc., the Polynesians and pre-Polynesians apparently were not. The Moa is surprisingly little changed from its Asiatic ancestors.

Characteristics of the Red Junglefowl are: adult male, head and neck a bright orange-red changing to reddish gold or orange on the longest hackles, the under body and tail a shiny black with green reflections, the upper back and rump are red-orange feathers with black streaked centers, the feet are slate colored, comb and wattles red, bright red during breeding season, dull and receded in size during remainder of year. The male has a post nesting season hackle eclipse moult. Adult hen, reddish buff-colored breast, darker brown on the back with penciled markings of yellowish and black, comb very tiny or non-existent.

The Moa differs from these descriptions in having a more variable leg color, from slate to green, and yellow-green. The hackle moult is probably lost, this characteristic is soon lost in captive junglefowl stock, even from newly imported wild birds. The combs of both the cocks and hens are larger and there is probably little recession in size out of the nesting months. The hens are decidedly more buff in color with little penciling visible. Some hens are lighter in color than others with the breast almost cream colored.

Junglefowl mix readily with domestic types of chickens. Such mixed birds usually show yellow or white legs, highly arched tails, large and folded-over combs, and color and size variations. There is not much doubt that the Moa of the lowlands mixed readily with poultry introduced by European and American voyagers but died just as readily from the introduced poultry diseases and parasites. If hardy strains had developed, they were hunted out by man or preyed on by the mongoose, cats, dogs, or rats until elimination on all of the islands but Kauai was assured.

There has been some importation of pure wild Red Junglefowl to re-establish the birds on the main islands during the last century, but these experiments have not proven successful. The population on Kauai has been strengthened and the population

spread to once again inhabit suitable range.

The Moa is one of Hawaii's most interesting birds, not only because of its bright and colorful appearance but because it is a member of the "first family" of immigrant colonizers. The forests of Waikiki are once again echoing the call of the Moa.

February 15, 1967

*Editor's note: HONOLULU STAR-BULLETIN, March 18, 1967, page A-11, has an illustrated news article on Moa. ... "Great news!... We just hatched six mo' Moa."...

Field Notes from Gerald E. Swedberg, Lihue, Kauai, March 10, 1967: Collared Thrush

For the past few years I have been getting reports of a "strange" thrush over here. The reports have come primarily from the Wailua and Lihue areas.

On May 19, 1965 a boy brought me a badly mutilated skin of a bird (minus the head and neck) which was taken from the Wailua Homesteads area. At the time we tentatively identified it as Garrulax albogularis, also called the "Brown," "Collared," or "White-throated Laughing Thrush."

On March 8, 1967 I got a call from Mrs. Tom King of Wailua Homesteads that a "strange thrush" was visiting her yard. That afternoon I finally saw a flock of 6+ of them. I do not have any reference other than Munro on these birds, and while the description given there is rather poor, I am quite sure it is the Garrulax.

Description of the birds I saw is as follows: In general, this bird greatly resembles the Chinese thrush (Trochalopteron canorum), but appears to be half again as large or approximately 12" in length. General conformity of feet, bill, and overall body countour is the same. Coloration of this bird is identical to the Chinese thrush, and even includes the white eye-line. The outstanding differences are as follows: Below the eye and in the area of the cheek, there is an irregular (roughly triangular) patch of blue. The foreneck and top of the breast are white bordered by an even, narrow black line.

I am attempting to get a specimen, but the proximity of neighbors precludes using normal methods. I have a "Jerry-built" trap set which may yield some results.

While these birds have apparently been with us for many years, I am a little apprehensive. The birds are reported to habitually travel in flocks, and in less than the ten minutes that I watched them, the six birds completely devoured three full-size bananas.

If you know anything about this garrulax, please share your information with other members by writing to Kojima, 725-A 8th Avenue, Honolulu, Hawaii 96816.

LETTERS: From Noah K. Pekelo, Jr., Kaunakakai, Molokai, August 17, 1965:

...If you will refer to THE ELEPAIO, Volume 24, No. 10, April 1964, you will note that I have included in the bird list for Molokai, the Brazilian Cardinal. Since my write-up in 1964 the Brazilian Cardinals have been sighted by me at Palaa and by Meriam Davis out towards Kamela, east of Kaunakakai.

I have spent some time on Lanai and a lot of time in the forests of Molokai. As yet I have not spent too much time on Maui; therefore, I will speak from experience when I say that although the 'Elepaio (Chasiempis sandwichensis) is not reported from either Lanai, Maui, or Molokai, we can't overlook the possibility that it doesn't exist there or here; however, from my observations on Lanai I doubt if the bird will be ever found there.

Until I explore every nook on Molokai, I will not believe that the 'I'iwi (Vestiaria coccinea (Forster)) is extinct here, or for that matter the Black Mamo (Perkins Mamo) (Drepanis funerea Newton), the Molokai 'O'o (Acrulocercus bishopi

Rothschild), the 'O'u (Psittacirostra psittacea (Gmelin)), and 'Akohekohe (crested honeyeater) (Palmeria dolei (Wilson)) will never be found here again. There are several reasons for that observation on my part:

1. I have found the Molokai Creeper (Paroreomyza maculata flammea (Wilson)) which some writers have declared to be "extinct."
2. I have found the Oloma'u (thrush) (Phaeornis obscura rutha W.A. Bryan).
3. I am certain that I have seen an 'O'u on the Pelekunu/Waikalo Plateau, but until I verify this, I will make no claims.
4. Several persons claimed to have seen and heard 'I'iwi calls.
5. Until I have the chance to put my spotting scope or binoculars on a black bird that I saw flying through some 'Ohi'a back of Kamela, I will not agree that the 'O'o, Mamo, or 'Akohekohe are gone.

I have just viewed a collection of Hawaiian native forest birds which consist of 24 specimens of the following species: Kaka-wahie (creeper), 'I'iwi, Oloma'u, 'O'u, 'Amakihi, and 'Akohekohe. These birds were collected during 1893-95. As far as I know there is no record of the collection, and I am presently compiling information on this collection.

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From William V. Ward, Nelson, New Zealand. (Margaret Titcomb's contribution, Mar. 1966)

In a letter received from William V. Ward who kidnapped his family and took them to New Zealand for a year or more--very sporting thing to do--it is reported that they, Bill and Jean, have started off recording bird song at once. The whole family is having interesting and happy experiences, in spite of the comparatively cold weather. The New Zealanders themselves are most cordial and friendly.

Notes on birds: sea birds, petrels, albatrosses and terns plentiful off Canton Island, on the way to New Zealand. But the ship did not close in sufficiently for careful identification.

Along the coast of the North Island of New Zealand, the Red-billed Gull, small most common species in Northern New Zealand, seen on the last day of the steamer passage before Auckland.

Auckland, huge flocks of English Sparrows, numerous Indian Mynahs, and Starlings. Auckland Museum, fascinating reconstruction of the extinct moa, flightless; no predators in ancient days, therefore not necessary to fly, hence flightless forms developed.

Bay of Islands--a delightful motel... Red-billed Gulls "all over," Gannets circled the sky and occasionally dived for a fish. Scaups floated and surface-dived, while in the forest were Tuis, Bellbirds, Gray Warblers, Brown Quail, California Quail and the Mynah. At night, the Morepork (owl) began his call. He got his name from British sailors anchored in the bays who heard its call as "More Pork"... It didn't sound like that to us, but it was a loud and penetrating call, so we unlimbered our parabola, microphone and recorder. A little maneuvering brought us within a few yards, and we shortly had some excellent tapes...(At night) we again heard the Morepork. With a flashlight we soon saw two of them sitting side by side on a lower branch of a pine tree...we watched them rolling their eyes and swiveling their necks at us. In the morning we recorded the Gulls, Tui, Bellbird, Gray Warbler.

We wanted to see the very northernmost tip of New Zealand, Cape Reinga, where the souls of departed Maori are said to take off for their old Hawaiki homeland. Again we saw the gulls, and over the vivid green sheep-pastures dotted with ewes and lambs, were the skylarks from which our Hawaiian ones were imported.

Returning toward Auckland, we went through two remaining kauri forests...now protected like California redwoods... Sprinkled among them are tree ferns, some bigger than ours, as well as other New Zealand bush trees... The forests were home to most of the birds we had seen at Bay of Islands, plus Parrots and the huge New Zealand Pigeon. Along the streams and edge of the ocean was the Kingfisher, more like the Asiatic than the American species...

After stopping in Auckland for business and to check some unidentified birds

(unidentified on the Ward list), we headed south to the Waitomo Caves with beautiful white limestone formations... These had the famous glow-worms hanging by threads from the ceiling. Their little lights attract insects which tangle in the webs and are eaten...

Next was Lake Taupo where we saw our first Black Swans, imported from Australia, and the New Zealand Gray Duck. At a less frequented spot, Okataina, we found huge fish cruising by in the lake and a "bush" full of birds. So we added the Fantail, Pied Tit (a first time recording) and the Long-tailed Cuckoo..on leaving we saw the Swamp Hen, and the Pied Stilt, not unlike our Hawaiian Stilt.

The famous colony of Gannets at Cape Kidnappers, required a five-plus mile hike to reach them. They reminded us of our Booby colony, although the Gannets nest directly on the ground. We filmed these, but did not record, as we couldn't carry both types of equipment on the 11 mile walk.

Many Audubon members will recall Dr. Robert Falla, Director of the Dominion Museum in Wellington. It was wonderful to meet him again, and his charming wife (who is an excellent bird painter). Bob said to make the Museum our headquarters. Mr. Kinsky, their ornithologist, gave a Rotary talk on bird banding, to which Dr. Falla took me.

The Nelson area (north part of the South Island) has two national parks--one a mountain park, the other a seacoast. In the nearby bush are many birds, and its sandy beaches and Boulder Bank bar provide nesting grounds for sea birds. Instead of the Red-billed Gull, there are the large Black-backed Gull, which we recorded and filmed on its nesting ground across the lagoon from our house. A visit to Nelson Lakes National Park provided us with Tuas and Bellbirds singing a different dialect from those of the Northland. Then we added the famous Kea, a mountain parrot, to our record collection.

MISTREATMENT OF BIRDS

By Jane Solamillo

The Honolulu Zoo is an extremely wonderful place to visit. We all have a right to be very proud of the management and its staff of dedicated people. The birds there are indeed handsome and a delight to study.

However, I am very much concerned with the mistreatment of the uncaged birds such as the pigeons, peacocks etc. by some of the visitors. On many occasions, I have noticed pigeons being grabbed by the neck, squeezed, held captive, held suspended in the air by a leg or a wing for some length of time by the visitors for their own amusement. I wonder if they are set free when that person or persons leave the Zoo?

It is sad that there is no way to educate this type of people. How can our Society help prevent this torture of these defenseless birds by these so called "kick seekers?" Perhaps the posting of signs and imposing a fine would curtail their pleasure.

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COMMENTS from Jack L. Throp, Director of Zoo, February 24, 1967:

This is a difficult article to react to because it questions the behavior of man. The pigeons would seem a necessary part of the Zoo program. People have a great desire to nurture the lesser animals, to provide care and shelter. A very real problem in most large zoos is the gross overfeeding of the animals by the public. Not only is there a tremendous likelihood of a bacteria exchange but the imbalance created in the animal diets is a serious factor. A few zoos forbid public feeding which they feel is a form of maltreatment. This ruling does ignore completely the therapeutic value benefited by man in denying him the right to "care for" an animal. Other zoos have a program of allowing some animals to be fed, those that have strong digestive systems and resistance to infections, and to forbid feeding of the delicate or limited diet animals. This is a compromise, an effort to keep in balance the

needs of man with the good health of the animals.

In the Honolulu Zoo, the pigeons act as a buffer between the public's desire to nurture something and the animals in the collection that don't need it.

Feeding the pigeons is an act that appeals to all age groups. It is rather exciting to see so much activity at your feet. Unfortunately, this activity also appeals to another of man's desires, that is to control, suppress, and master the lesser creatures.

Thousands of zoo visitors carry a camera, hopefully to "catch" an animal in some interesting activity. The "captured" image, provided that it is satisfactory, is then "kept" to be exhibited to admiring friends and family. This is a harmless and constructive method of subduing nature. Less appreciable methods of "stopping" nature or "catching" it, are to shoot it, chop it down, poison, defoliate, cage it, etc. When the action is controlled, the effort usually is for the benefit of man and his environment, when the action is uncontrolled, it may be cruel, useless, and to the detriment of society. Such a useless action is one of holding a pigeon so that it can't fly. The act is generally expressed in a harmless curiosity to see what a pigeon would do if you caught one. The bird is held, looked at, then released. In some cases, however, the bird may be subjected to rough handling and inhumane treatment by uneducated or immature people.

There are no easy solutions to such universal problems of human nature, but organizations such as the Audubon Society, Conservation Council, Outdoor Circle, World Wildlife Fund, Humane Society, and countless more, are striving to educate for a better relationship and understanding of the world we live in, a world we are swiftly re-creating to suit our own image. The Honolulu Zoo is just as earnest in this endeavor to find approaches that will be aimed toward a closer reunion of the animals and man culturally. It may be that the numbers of pigeons may encourage maltreatment. A person might be induced by a large flock of pigeons to try capturing one when a small group would appeal more to his sense of protection. Signs are one method of communication, their use in public parks is not very effectively used or understood at present. There is much experimenting to be done, particularly in the zoo to find acceptable means of imparting information through signs.

In conclusion, the Zoo recognizes the problem and is seeking methods of soliciting complete cooperation of each visitor, despite his desire to render everything "caught."

READERS' NOTES: Birds and Men

THE AUCKLAND STAR, December 19, 1966: YOUNG CHILDREN GASHED BY DIVING MYNAH
(Jessie G. Munro's contribution)

HAMILTON, Today (PA)--A mynah bird attacked and gashed several young children at Steele Park, Hamilton East, yesterday afternoon--probably because they were fair-haired. *

One of the children, three-year-old Graham Wall was treated for shock after the attack....Graham and his two brothers, Ross (2) and Gary (5) were watching their father playing cricket when the mynah struck.

"It swooped down out of a tree at Ross and we all thought it was quite a joke--until it came back again," said Mrs. Wall. "Ross was screaming and then the bird swung round and attacked Graham three times." Several minutes later the bird again returned and dived on another little boy with red hair....Gary has dark hair and was not bothered. "...I have heard of mynahs attacking cats and small dogs before, but not children," said Mrs. Wall.

*If this conclusion is correct, what triggered the attack? This is an unusual behavior, so if you know of similar experiences or if you have information on this subject, please share with other members by writing to Kojima, 725-A 8th Avenue, Honolulu, Hawaii 96816.

REUTERS: FOUR CHILDREN INJURED BY DIVING MAGPIES (Ethel Matheson's contribution)

HUGGLESCOTE, England, May 21, 1966--A colony of magpies has injured at least four children here in terrifying attacks like those shown in Alfred Hitchcock's movie "The Birds."

Children in this central England village are being armed with sticks to defend themselves after their four playmates were left with bleeding heads and hands from the swooping birds' beaks.

A teacher...said: "It was quite incredible, I saw the birds dive down at speed just like bombers and attack the children."

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HECO LOAD BUILDER, Volume XXIX, Number 2, 1966: IT'S FOR THE BIRDS (Ruth R. Rockafellow's contribution)

...Here in Hawaii sparrows cause most of the headaches, and the problem becomes particularly acute just after Christmas when our feathered foe find a surplus of metallic twine available...and when combined with twigs, grasses and paper, becomes a real hazard.

It's all a matter of sloppy housekeeping. Things may be as tidy as grandmother's parlor on the inside of the nest, but too often bits of twine, metallic thread and even wire, dangle helter-skelter outside. If any of these come into contact with the bus (electrical conductors used to connect various loads), chances are you've got an "outage" on your hands....

We try many methods to discourage their taking up housekeeping on our property. A product called Bird Ex. Another, Bird-Be-Gone (a vaseline-like substance that birds hate to walk on), and another imported from England called Scare Crow....

At this point, it's a never-ending battle of men against the birds. So, if your power should happen to go out sometime, think twice before you blame the boys at HECO . . . it just may be that sloppy sparrow family at the substation!

FOR JUNIOR MEMBERS:

Letter from Thelma A. McNett from Webster, New York, dated February 27, 1967:

...We live in a wooded area across from Lake Ontario and feed the birds regularly. During the winter months it is quite rewarding to know that we have helped. Often we have as many as twenty-four cardinals in our winter flock. As spring draws near they chase and start to pair off. Now, even though we had a real blizzard yesterday the cardinals were in song. We had many of them feeding all day yesterday. Other species in our yard were titmice, nuthatches, chickadees, tree sparrows, blue jays, mourning doves, woodpeckers, and red-wing blackbird....

And, this is what I found: A BACKYARD DRAMA
By Thelma A. McNett

At 10:30 a.m. I looked out of our back window and witnessed an interesting drama. An immature Sharp-shin Hawk was feeding on the ground near our big Honeysuckle bush about forty feet from our window. He had captured an English Sparrow. I let him feed undisturbed and recorded the reactions of the birds in the yard.

While he fed, there were about six Chickadees flitting about very noisily tee-deeing and feeding. They came as close as a foot away from him. The Chickadees remained in the yard for about half an hour then busily departed.

The Cardinals that were in the yard at first remained sheltered in near-by evergreens but kept sounding their alarm notes and flicking their bodies excitedly. Then one braver male flew near the Hawk in the Honeysuckle bush. He remained above and behind the predator. Downys and Hairys fed in the trees near-by paying no attention, and the inimitable Nuthatches completely disregarded the fact that a predator was in the yard.

The birds obviously knew that he had his dinner and would not bother them

while eating. He appeared completely oblivious of them. Finally, when his meal was over half completed, he sat and looked around. At this point the yard became silent except for the creak of a Grackle high in the Locusts and a Red-wing's distant O-k-alee. The birds were watching and waiting. He again started to eat what was left of his meal and a male Cardinal flew very close to him. About a dozen Cardinals were in the bushes and woods. Some of them even continued their chasing and antics of intimidating while he ate. A pair of Cardinals finally stayed in the Honeysuckle very close to the predator and continued to flit around and watch him. At the completion of his meal he moved from the ground where he had been feeding to a low branch of the Honeysuckle bush and cleaned off his feet, then rested. The pair of Cardinals remained above him flitting around and watching. At no time did the Cardinals go to the feeders to feed as the Chickadees did earlier.

There were tense moments as he just sat and watched. He remained low to the ground, very still except for eyes and head. It appeared that he might be watching for a passing meadow vole or field mouse. As the Hawk remained quiet in the bush, the Cardinals became more watchful and less active. A Cardinal flew into the yard from across the road. This bird immediately "froze." After an hour and a half I opened a window. This did not phase him. Finally I stepped out into the yard and he flew a distance away, but not quite far enough for the birds, for they continued their vigilance for another half hour.

It is understandable that our yard becomes quiet for two hours or more on days that a predator is around.

When the birds started to feed, other species that I had not seen at all were out busily feeding. Our wintering Towhee must have been on the alert for he soon came out from shelter and was active. Cardinals, Red-wings, Mourning Doves and others were now enjoying our back-yard sanctuary once more. The drama was over.

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Have you seen the article, WILDLIFE MAKES PROGRESS, in the HONOLULU STAR-BULLETIN, January 3, 1967, page A-6?

It says, "The report issued by the department of interior says there now are 43 Whooping Cranes in the United States. Six adult cranes vanished during the year between the Aransas national wildlife refuge in Texas and the nesting grounds in Canada. But in 1966 five new-hatched cranes appeared at Aransas, thus replacing five of the six adults that disappeared." (See THE ELEPAIO, Vol. 26, pp 42-44, 84 and Vol. 27, p. 78 for more information on Whooping Cranes)

It continues, "A new endangered species preservation act authorizes funds to acquire land needed to safeguard rare and endangered species....Stewart L. Udall, Secretary of the Interior, said biologists are making studies of four major islands in Hawaii in an effort to preserve the Koloa Duck, Hawaiian Gallinule, Hawaiian Coot and the Hawaiian Stilt.

"The National Park Service is cooperating in research on sea turtles and the Nene Goose and others." The Hawaiian Coot is used to illustrate the article.

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Have you seen any of these birds? They are still with us, but they are becoming scarcer and scarcer each year, especially on Oahu. We need everyone's vigilance to save these birds. If you are fortunate enough to know their feeding or breeding areas, please let us know, so that we can keep the area as a sanctuary. The time is getting short, but the birds are still with us, so with concerted action by all it is still possible to pass on this unique fauna and flora to the coming generations to enjoy and marvel.

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Is anyone watching the plover at the Palace grounds and at the Library of Hawaii? On March 3, I spotted the first sign of black on one of the plover I watch at Hickam Air Force Base. On March 13, there was one with nearly complete breeding plumage, and I was counting the white instead of the black spots. Very soon these handsome birds will be gone. Watch and share your observations with others by writing to Kojima.

Have you seen anything beautiful? I have--the Jacaranda (*Jacaranda acutifolia* Humb. and Bonpl.) is beginning to bloom and the African Tulip (*Spathodea campanulata* Beauvois) is at its height. What a contrast! The delicate blue of the Jacaranda blossoms veiled by its lacy leaves and the intense red of the African Tulip blossoms. I want to share this wonderful feeling of well-being with you.

Tell me about the trees on your school grounds. Are they blooming? Do they have nests? Or are you fortunate to have trees around your home? Is there any bird nesting in them? I am quite sure that there are many interesting observations that aroused your curiosity. This is your publication, so you must contribute to make it worthwhile. Please share your experiences with the other members by writing to Kojima, 725-A 8th Avenue, Honolulu, Hawaii 96816.

FIELD TRIP to Kahuku, February 12, 1967.

A small party started out from the Library of Hawaii at 8:20, bound for Kahuku to check that area for shore birds and waterfowl.

The sky was gray over the mountains as we proceeded through Honolulu. A heavy shower obliterated Nuuanu Valley. However, it wasn't raining in Upper Kalihi Valley, and windward Oahu was also clear. We missed all of the rain that day. It rained from Kahuku south, while we were at the ponds, but not on us.

The scenery at Kaaawa and Punaluu was particularly beautiful, with a waterfall in every fluted gully, even in the dry ones mauka of Kaaawa. There were two cascades in the large valley near the Crouching Lion, the regular fall a fine, wide, white ribbon.

All of the regular shore birds, the golden plover, turnstone, and sanderling, stilt, and several coots and pintail were on and around the edges of a large pond of rainwater that filled the old lake bed near Kahuku. Mike Ord reported a pectoral sandpiper, but those in our car did not see it.

The regular pond was devoid of life, probably because of the string of pickup trucks and other cars we saw stopped there while we were out near the beach.

At least 60 pintails were feeding in the old settling basin, and flocks flew up and away, and over to another part of the basin, farther away from us.

We walked to the ponds by the old airfield. Plover, turnstones, and sanderlings fed around the small ponds of rainwater that we passed on the way. There was a large flock of over 100 golden plover sitting on the runway, which I believe, were new arrivals from the South Seas, on their way home. These, or other flocks were seen last Sunday (February 5) when I came out here with Fred Landers.

Flocks of pintail and shoveller were on the ponds by the landing strip, where we also saw tattlers.

Walt Donaghho

FIELD NOTES from Walt Donaghho, December 15, 1966: Peregrine Falcon (*Falco peregrinus*)

I saw a male peregrine falcon riding the air currents near the summit of Palikea in the Waianae Mountains. It had a small bird in its talons which it was tearing to bits as it fed upon it. Tufts of feathers now and then wafted from it as it tore the bird apart. Was it some poor 'apapane, caught as it flew unsuspectingly by, not used to feeling danger from that shadow in the sky?

The hawk would soar far downslope on an air current, only to be lifted up by an updraft, which carried it high over the summit. Then it floated awhile, while tearing out another chunk, only to be carried down again by the next downdraft. When finished with its meal, it soared down and away, disappearing far downslope towards Ewa.

I counted Hawaiian birds on this hike, and got a total of 6 'apapane, 4 'elepaio, and 3 'amakihi, not a good one, and in keeping with previous bird counts here on Oahu since 1965, which continue to tell me that Oahu's native perching birds, except for the 'elepaio which has remained fairly constant, have become scarce.

'Apapane and 'amakihi ARE present, but in nowhere near the numbers of the 1930's and 1940's.

I have yet to see a creeper since 1947.

'I'iwi have been seen by me only on the Poamoho and Opaepa trails, two, in each case; never on the Kipapa trail where I could formerly count on it.

Disease and military meddling in our forest areas have been, I strongly feel, the major factors in their decline. Competition with the red-billed leiothrix and other introduced exotics is also doubtless an important factor.

And the 'Akialoa, last seen by me in 1941, or the Akepa, last seen in 1947?---???

February 12, 1967: Finches, Waxbills, and Weavers.

Jonathan Hegele, Unoyo Kojima, and I visited Na Laau to check on the finches. Firefinches flew across the trail, as we came up to the gully back of the Erdman home. When we crossed the gully, we saw firefinches, green singing finches, lavender finches, orange-cheeked waxbills, and a female bishop bird in the pencil bushes and kiawe just ahead of us. Up on the slope were flocks of green and gray singing finches feeding on the ground. We also noticed cordon bleus, orange-cheeked waxbills, and lavender finches flitting about the shrubbery.

Excerpts from the minutes of the general meeting of the Hawaii Audubon Society, January 16, 1967: ...President Ord gave a summary of the 1966 Christmas count. Twenty-two observers participated, and it was a record year in the number of different species, 51, and in the total count 12,557.

President Ord noted an article in the Conservation Guide Notes which reported that the U.S. Census included for the first time a count of birdwatchers, 11,200,000 (8,196,000 bird watchers and 3,113,000 bird or wildlife photographers) which compares fairly well to the not much greater number of hunters, 13,500,000.

He then called on Jack Throp to give a report on the January 8th field trip on the Poamoho Trail. Without a question, it was a very wet trip! Species seen by different observers were 'Apapane, 'I'iwi, 'Amakihi, Leiothrix and the White-eye. One couple, Mr. and Mrs. Newman, described a bird which appeared to be a Creeper, a rather rare bird on Oahu.

President Ord then gave a report of the annual statewide waterfowl count by the Division of Fish and Game, on all main islands except Niihau, last Saturday, January 14. It includes not only waterfowl but also migratory shore birds. The count of 242 stilt was discouragingly low. He personally covered the Kahuku area and at the ponds counted 100 ducks of 4 species--Pintail, Shoveler, Baldpate and Green-winged Teal. He also discovered 2 poachers....At the old airstrip he found...2 Black-bellied Plovers, 1 Lesser Yellowlegs, 1 Red-backed Sandpiper (Dunlin) and 2 Dowitchers....

He then introduced...Robert Pyle, who gave a talk with slides on the Galapagos Islands. Dr. Pyle was in the Galapagos Islands on the Galapagos International Scientific Project organized by the University of California in early 1964....

APRIL ACTIVITIES:

- April 9 - Field trip to Ulupau Head to study the boobies. Bring lunch, water, and if possible, your car. Transportation cost (75¢) to be paid to the drivers. Meet at the Library of Hawaii at 8:00 a.m.
Leader: Mike Ord, telephone 968-771.
- April 10 - Board meeting at the Honolulu Aquarium Auditorium at 7:30 p.m.
Members are always welcome.
- April 17 - General meeting at the Honolulu Aquarium Auditorium at 7:30 p.m.
Program for the night: Speaker: Dr. Charles H. Lamoureux
Topic: New Zealand -- A Botanist's Impressions

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