

# THE ELEPAIO

Journal of the  
Hawaii Audubon Society



For the Better Protection  
of Wildlife in Hawaii

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## THAT IS THE WAY IT IS ON THE MOUNTAIN -- Ruby Catherine Munro

The native Wiliwili trees are blooming on Diamond Head. One large tree is laden with orange colored blossoms and other trees are beginning to bloom, many in the same shade of orange and others in a lighter shade verging on yellow. One tree high on the mountain has flowers that are a lovely pale green or chartreuse. This tree will be perfectly beautiful when in full bloom.

The mountain is dry and brown. There has been no rain since the month of March. The Wiliwili has lost its leaves, the little native fern, *Doryopteris decora*, on the bank of the trail is gray and apparently dead, as is the wild Ilima which grows in great profusion over the mountain. The grasses are brown and lifeless. All plants except the Algaroba (Kiaawe) have shed their leaves and lie dormant and many have disappeared altogether.

Amid all this dryness, the Wiliwili (*Erythrina sandwicensis*) is blooming and the birds are raising their young. This is the sanctuary and home of many birds including the Kentucky and Brazilian Cardinals, the Mockingbird, the Linnet, Ricebird and Sparrow, the Megiro, and of course, the Barred Dove and large Chinese Dove that enjoy bathing in the dust. Two birds, blue in color, were seen last year but later disappeared. Their identity was not determined.

Many plants lie dormant and rest through the dry season until the months of September or October when the rainy season starts. After the first rains the Wiliwili responds immediately and leafbuds are seen on its branches. Small Ilima (*Sida fallax*) plants start to grow and the older plants that survived the dry season burst into leaf and small yellow flowers. As one walks up the trail the Nohu appears, also with a yellow flower, the Hibiscus Brackenridgei comes into leaf, the shimmery grasses and the miniature snapdragon appear on the bank of the trail and the native fern puts out some green shoots. The Boerhaavia which has completely disappeared, comes out of the rocks and creeps along the bank. This creeper has a very tiny purple flower. One sees the Hawaiian grasses, the Pili Grass and the Emoloa, turn from brown dead-looking clumps to green. The Kakonakona Grass also starts to grow on the slopes of the mountain.

Above at Ke Kua'aina the night blooming (white) and the pink morning glory can be seen, and the dry stems of the Nehe are covered with tiny green leaves and later with pretty yellow flowers. The native White Hibiscus (*Arnottianis*), more plants of the Hibiscus Brackenridgei, the Cassia gaudichaudi, the Alaweo, the Nio, Cotton, Kokia Rockii, the Ma'o and the Breweria, a vine that will trail through the trees are found. Little plants of the Portulaca pop up everywhere and the yellow Kauna'oa, the flower of Lanai, grows sparsely under the Wiliwili trees. Many of these plants though few in number are established. Some plants, the Puakala (Hawaiian Poppy) and

the Sicyos Vine with a large white single flower not seen last year, may return another year.

As the winter months pass all trees and smaller plants including the Wiliwili come into full leaf, the flowering plants begin to bloom, the Jatropha and the wild oats planted along the trail provide seed so that the birds will find food. It is also at this time that the red Wiliwili blooms. This tree was planted on both sides of the trail by the Garden Club of Honolulu. -- And the wild Ilima covers the mountain in a profusion of tiny yellow flowers.

And there is something else. As one walks up the trail on the Makalei side, he comes upon a spot of asthetic beauty in a natural setting overlooking Waikiki and all of Honolulu from the mountains to the sea. It is located at the point where the trail starts to wind along the contour of the mountain and was planned and built by the Garden Club of Honolulu in cooperation with the Division of State Parks to honor a man who spent a lifetime studying the native birds and endemic plants of Hawaii and working on their protection.

Through the efforts of Mrs. Joyce Carswell, Mrs. Dora Pratt and others, two low stone walls were built, one at the base of a twelve foot natural cut in the gray layered rock of the mountain and another along the outside rim. Five very large and very beautiful chunks of coral rock were brought in from Nanakuli and were placed in this semi-enclosed area. The area was paved with colored sandstone tile, and landscaped. One of the pieces of coral rock was especially picked so that a plaque might be imbeded in it. The inscription on the plaque honors George Campbell Munro, pioneer in Hawaiian botany and ornithology, whose vision, enthusiasm and work led to the establishment by former Governor William Quinn of this interesting Arboretum, Na Laau Hawaii.

This point provides one of the most beautiful views of the city on a clear day. Kapiolani Park reaches out to meet the surf at Waikiki. The ocean is a deep blue and the surfers ride the big ones seemingly to the shore where the pink Royal Hawaiian Hotel, a gem of architectural beauty, relieves the monotony of the high rise buildings that all but envelop her. The view extends mauka to Mount Tantalus and on down to the Waianae Range and Mount Kaala.

From seed broadcast by Mr. Munro many native Wiliwili trees are now from 10' to 12' high with trunks a diameter of 6" to 8". The Kokia Rockii is also a hardy tree and withstands the hot dry season without water. More of these will be planted. There are ten of the Hibiscus Brackenridgei at Ke Kua'aina. Three of these have had little or no water but to survive, the others need water once a week as do the White Hibiscus due to the fact that they were watered when young. A water tank and pipeline also built and installed by the Garden Club makes watering possible.

Work on the mountain is not without its disappointments. Many plants have been lost, they are attacked by parasites and beetles, and there is a certain amount of destruction by vandals. A piece of pipeline was wrapped about a tree. Two years ago four of the ten year old Wiliwili trees 6" in diameter and growing into fine tall trees were hacked down apparently with a blunt instrument. One of them bloomed the previous year - its flowers were pale green. Last year another was cut down. This time the matter was reported to Richard Yoshimura of the Parks Board who had it replanted immediately. Six months later this tree seems to have survived. It hardly seems possible, but with regular deep watering new leaves have come out over its many branches and it appears healthy. Has it produced a new root system? The stumps of the five trees that were cut were treated by Richard Yoshimura and they are all coming back slowly.

The various phases of growth are an interesting study. The mountain will be dry and brown and one will despair that there will ever be growth again - when the native Wiliwili will start to bloom - the birds will raise their young. And then the rains will come and the mountain will come to life and turn from brown to a verdant green.

This is not a cultivated aboretum as such but plants and trees growing in a wild state.

That is the way it is on the mountain.

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May this project started by my father continue to grow! It was interesting and gratifying to note by the papers that a young man is interested in the preservation of the native birds of Hawaii, a problem about which Father was very much concerned. So there is always someone who will carry on the work. And as long as we have people like the ladies of the Garden Club of Honolulu, and Richard Yoshimura who will straighten out the pipeline and pick up a tree felled by a destructive person and replant it so that it may continue to grow, and others who will help to water it, there is hope.

Two trees, the Pokalakala (Munroidendron), named after Father, are growing at Ke Kua'aina. This tree would possibly thrive better in a wetter climate than on this mountain which has such a long dry season, but it is hoped that these two will survive and grow into large trees. Justly so!

It was Father's wish and we know that it is the wish of many others, that this majestic mountain never be marred by the encroachment of houses on her slopes and instead be dedicated to the native plants and birds of Hawaii Nei and established as one of the very lovely parks of our Islands. Former Governor Quinn established Diamond Head as a State Monument so Father's wish was granted. May she be protected always.

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Editor's note: George C. Munro's dream became a reality when on March 6, 1958, Governor William Quinn in an executive order set aside 9.474 acres of land on the west side of Diamond Head for Na Laau Hawaii Arboretum. Na Laau Hawaii means plants belonging to Hawaii. This arboretum includes the small area at the northwest corner of the state park where Mr. Munro laid the foundation for a "living museum" of the xerophytic or dryland plants of these islands to save from extinction as many of our endemic dryland plants as possible, and in order to keep it as a separate project from the arboretum, he named the "living museum" Ke Kua'aina which means literally "the back land," as it is really the back land of the park.

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#### THE TORONTO AUDUBON SOCIETY'S "WORLD OF BIRDS" TOUR

By Walt Donaghho

June 4: A party of 19, with Mr. Fred Bodsworth, leader, and author of LAST OF THE CURLEWS, arrived by United Jet at 6:10 from the Mainland. I was going to be their local escort and bird guide, so I met them, and we piled into a MacKenzie Tours bus and headed for town.

First birds noted were the Lace-necked and Barred doves, as we left the airport. It wasn't long before mynahs were spotted.

June 5: Everyone was ready at 7:30 for the drive to Mokapu Point. We sped through town and up the Pali Highway to our first stop at the lower Nuuanu Reservoir. I got out and walked across the road and saw the red bill of a gallinule foraging among the lily pads. Everyone had a good look at it. Coots were at the far end; one was also on the near side.

White-eyes streamed in to a Silver Oak to sip nectar from the orange blossoms, giving most of the party good views. In the meantime, a pair of cardinals which were foraging on the road fifty yards down grade were joined by a Brazilian cardinal.

Loud notes piped up from within the Hau thicket. I whistled like an 'Elepaio, and a Shama thrush burst into song. I walked over to the edge of the thicket, imitating a Shama, and soon saw it coming towards us. Later, it flew across the road.

A brief stop was made at the Pali, and we went on, turning onto the road running



around the north side of the Kawainui Swamp. A gallinule was in the open marsh area on the northeast side.

We picked up our Marine escort at the gate, crossed the dyke over the pond, and stopped on the other side. I saw a small flock of stilt on the far side of the makai pond. One stilt flew up from the mudflats on the mauka side of the road, and three others were in plain sight. An immature night heron sat motionless at the edge of the portulaca flats by the water's edge. Hawaiian terns flew back and forth overhead.

Mike joined us here, and after everyone had their fill, we proceeded on to Ulupau Head. Boobies were flying about overhead. Hundreds of noddy terns nested in the cliffs below us, and on the steep face of the crater to our left. Moku Manu swarmed with noddies, sooties, boobies and frigate birds. Several members saw a lone white-tailed tropic bird that flew in.

We walked down the narrow road leading to the nesting boobies, and tour members approached one of the kiawe covered with nests. Several followed me down into the gully under the tree and up under boobies nesting in the crowns of the Haole koa, where we photographed sitting adults and one downy, half grown chick.

We didn't stop again but proceeded to Sealife Park, where the party took in the shows and had a good lunch. I set up the scope on the sooty colonies of Rabbit Island.

As we proceeded to Kapiolani Park, I kept my eye on the medial strip where I had been seeing the Saffron finch. I was beginning to think that there were too many people on the strip, when I spotted the finch on the lawn. It immediately flew up into a tree, but several saw it.

We drove to the airport where we caught the plane for Kauai. Landing, we got into two MacKenzie stretchouts and drove to the Ahukini Reservoir, where two Koloa were seen, one on the point of land on the right and another I flushed out from the grass and weeds on the other side. A lone golden plover in winter plumage flew across the reservoir and landed on the small beach by the point; one of those not caring (or unable) to return to Alaska. The party drove to Wailua and the lovely Coco Palms hotel for the night.

June 6: We were off by eight and headed east to Kilauea Point. The boobies were everywhere. We watched them on their nests just over the wall. Frigatebirds soared overhead, waiting to rob the fish-laden boobies. I set up the scope to allow a close look at the boobies and frigates sitting on Mokuiae Islet offshore. A company of four brown boobies flew by, and several of the party were able to see them. One white-tailed tropic bird flew in.

As we drove out, a meadowlark flew up from the side of the road and quickly disappeared over the sugar cane. We drove back to Lihue and on through Kalaheo to the brink of Hanapepe Valley, where we stopped to look at the lovely valley and the tropic birds cruising along the cliffs. Then to a sumptuous prime rib luncheon capped with lilikoi chiffon pie at the Green Gardens Restaurant, and we were off through Kekaha and up into the mountains to the Waimea Canyon lookout. I pointed out where Kauai's rarest birds were located, in the Alaka'i. One of the ladies spotted an owl cruising the canyons far below, but it disappeared before I or many of the others saw it. Another reported three deep red birds seen as she came up from the parking area. "Not the cardinal," she said, "but a deeper red." That fitted the 'Apapane, but it seemed too far down for them. The native birds had never seemed to come down this far in previous years. At least I never counted any, except the occasional 'Elepaio. However, three 'Apapane crossed the road on the other side of nearby Puu Ka Pele as we came down, and I knew she had seen 'Apapane. Two ladies had walked down the driveway from the parking area and came back to tell of a pair of 'Elepaio seen there.

We drove on along the canyon rim. Just before the Park entrance, I spotted four 'Apapane flying across the road and landing in a flowering 'Ohi'a, and we got out to look as they foraged in the 'Ohi'a and nearby Koa. A Shama thrush sang all the time we were there, although it kept hidden. A white-tailed tropic bird flew by closely overhead, giving tour members a beautiful view of it.

We stopped at the museum to see the exhibits. The curator told of 'I'iwi and

other drepanids visiting the banana liliko'i blossoms in the woods just outside. However, the woods were silent, save for white-eyes, during the time we were there.

Kalalau Lookout was the next stop. It was soaked in with fog, so we did not get to see the valley. We walked along the Kilohana Road, which branched off to the right. An 'Anianiau flew across the road. I saw bird movement in a tree near the road, and trained my binoculars on it to pick out a bright yellow face, black lores, and a light blue, finchlike bill. "'O'u Holo-wai!" I called, "an 'Akepa!" But not everyone saw it plainly. The party was initiated into the trials and tribulations of Hawaiian birding, especially in the fog. They spotted movement, trained their binoculars on it, and it flitted off to another branch, and they had to look for it again. Finally, it disappeared altogether.

A Shama thrush piped up nearby. But was it a Shama? Those notes didn't sound quite like the Shama. Suspecting, I imitated a Chinese thrush. It soon answered, and moments later, was singing its head off. The tour members marveled at such a lovely concert. Truly, this is one of our best singers!

Two pairs of 'Elepaio were hunting insects in the woods between the Lookout and parking area, and they came down to inspect the members of our party, in true, 'Elepaio fashion!

June 7: We were up early and at the airport, boarding the 8:10 flight to Honolulu, where we transferred to the Hilo Jet. In Hilo, we ate at the airport restaurant, piled into two MacKenzie stretchouts, and were off to Puna. We stopped for a brief look at the lava tree molds, then drove down to inspect the 1960 cone at Kapoho. We drove along the beautiful coastal road to Kalapana, where the busses stopped at the Black Sand beach, and tour members walked across it to rejoin the busses on the otherside. A picnic lunch at Harry Brown Park, and we were off to the Volcano. Here, we stopped at Makaopuhi and Aloi craters to inspect the last eruptions. At Kokoolau, tour members watched 'Apapane foraging in the 'Ohi'a below. Bodsworth requested that we proceed direct to the Volcano House from here, so, with a stop at Thurston Tube, we ended our day's sightseeing at 4 p.m. One of the ladies was lucky to see an 'Oma'o at the Kilauea-iki stop.

June 8: I was forced to make a decision: Should we go up the Mauna Loa strip or to the Wright Road primitive area? We had yet to see an 'I'iwi, and many tour members were anxious to see one. I knew that they WERE on the Mauna Loa strip two weeks ago. The morning dawned foggy, and this forced the decision: the Mauna Loa strip, where I knew we would have good weather. The Wright Road was likely to be wet and foggy.

Few observations were made as we climbed through the grassy and Pukiawe-covered open spaces scattered with Koa groves. However, as we came around the bend adjacent to the Three-Trees Kipuka, I spotted an 'I'iwi flying through the scattered Mamane and quickly called a halt. Soon all were lined up along the road, watching two of them, and being thrilled by their brilliant vermilion beauty. Several green birds were foraging in a blossom-laden 'Ohi'a, and I spotted the black lores of a creeper at a blossom and directed everyone's attention to it. I noticed its great similarity to the 'O'u Holo-wai of Kauai.

We drove to the end of the Wright Road as the cloud bank north of the Volcano had broken up and dissolved away, and walked along the foot trail a couple of hundred yards where we spread a lunch. 'Apapane and leiothrix were the only birds noted. No 'Oma'o, despite my counting over a dozen two weeks ago!

Next, we drove down to Hilo, where tour members were able to shop for awhile in the new Hilo Shopping Center, and then we proceeded up the Saddle Road.

The clouds cleared as we approached Puu Hulu-hulu and we could see Mauna Loa with its patchwork of lava flows on the left, and Mauna Kea peeking from its wreath of clouds to the right. The geese, Koloa, and Laysan teal were studied at the Pohakuloa game farm, and we drove up over the shoulder of Mauna Kea and down through the Parker Ranch lands. Skylarks and linnets were scared up from the roadside as we sped along. A stop was made for a short walk out over the pastures to hear skylarks singing. Everyone heard them except me. Like Mr. Munro, my hearing is

failing, and the sweet melody of the skylark, pouring down from above is, alas, an enjoyment of the past! An owl was spotted sitting on a fencepost at the side of the road, and we stopped quickly. Everyone had a good look at it before it launched itself into the air and wheeled out over the pastures. Another was hunting the grassy fields near the Kamuela Airport.

We drove rapidly through Waimea and down through the increasingly dry country to Kawaihae where we turned off on the road to Rockefeller's resplendent Mauna Kea Beach Hotel. Here, we were assigned rooms fit for kings or queens. The meal was equally sumptuous.

June 9: The MKBH has a beautiful location above the wide Puako Bay, with Hualalai forming the backdrop. Mauna Kea, its namesake, lords over the scenery mauka. Between the two mountains is Mauna Loa.

The tour party left at 9:30 for the plane to Honolulu from the Kamuela Airport. We took a short tour of Civic Center, and out through Moanalua Gardens, over Red Hill and back to the Airport via Pearl Harbor, and the local tour ended at the Japan Airlines terminal in time for the members to board the plane to Tokyo to continue their world bird tour.

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#### Field Notes from W.M. Ord: PUU LAU, HAWAII

On the morning of October 4, 1966, I drove up to the cabin at Puu Laau, which is found on the west side of Mauna Kea at about the 7,500' mark. As soon as you turn off from the Saddle Road you immediately begin to get deeper into the Mamane forest which extends to approximately 8,500'. The dirt road at this time was fortunately dry, so getting to the cabin was relatively uneventful, though for future expeditions by "birders" I don't recommend the use of a Datsun automobile.

The weather was perfect with clear blue skies - some clouds were visible down below 5,000', particularly over the Kohala mountains. The temperature was in the high 70's though during the night it dropped to the low 40's.

Parking the car in front of the cabin I noticed four birds chasing each other into a Mamane tree by the cabin. A closer inspection enabled me to count six Palila feeding on the Mamane flowers and pods. Thus began what will probably be three of the most fruitful hours that I shall ever spend in Hawaii observing our endemic honeycreepers.

Taking the jeep trail from the cabin along the Saddle Road side of Mauna Kea for approximately one mile I estimated by count and by song that there was a minimum of one hundred Palila. Thinking that I had possibly counted some birds twice, I recounted the Palila back along the same portion of the jeep trail and came up with almost the same count. For the most part, the birds just stayed in the same tree - either feeding or preening or singing. On many occasions, I was able to get within 10 feet (that is, the Palila was directly over my head in the Mamane tree) and take a varied selection of pictures, but to get a decent profile shot I had to back off and out from the tree and wait until the bird fed on the flowers of the outer limbs.

While there were as many as twelve Palila in one tree, it was interesting to note that for the most part the birds kept pretty much together in pairs within the group. The males were easily identified even at a great distance by their brilliant yellow heads and throats. The females, while basically the same coloration, have more of a yellowish-green wash to the head and throat. Two nests were found which I assume were those of the Palila. Both were built of fairly large twigs and placed in the highest branches of Mamane trees - needless to say they were inaccessible. The feeding behavior was particularly fascinating to watch. The Palila would take a pod in its bill and hop through the branches until it came to a sturdy, level branch whereupon it would place the pod on the branch, at the same time placing both feet over the pod and the branch in a perching position; with the pod firmly held down it immediately proceeded to rip the pod to shreds until it got to the seed inside. The same pattern was followed in feeding on the Mamane blooms except that the bird held the flower down with one foot, at the same time "biting" into the base



of the flower and allowing the petals to fall to the ground. During my three day stay at Puu Laau the Palila were seen feeding on both Mamane flowers and pods on an equal ratio. Naio was also in flower, but I did not observe a Palila so much as alight in these trees.

The 'Amakihi were literally everywhere. The Mamane tree by the cabin had a constant flow of 'Amakihi coming in to feed on the nectar. It was possible to lie on the bunk in the cabin and observe these birds at a distance of no more than ten feet. The males were brilliant in their bright yellowish-green head and throat fusing into olive-green plumage throughout the rest of its body. The black lores in the male birds were easily noticeable, though in the females they were almost non-existent. The female 'Amakihi were readily identified as such as they were rather a dull grayish-green. A conservative estimate of 'Amakihi in the Puu Laau area during my stay would be a minimum of 250 birds.

Two points of significance which could be mentioned are (1) that the bill of the Hawaii Island 'Amakihi is noticeably very much shorter than the Kauai 'Amakihi (a comparison of skins should prove interesting); (2) that the calls and songs of the Hawaii Island 'Amakihi are very much more varied than those of the races of 'Amakihi on Oahu, Maui and Kauai. This was my first extensive field trip to Hawaii, and I could not help but be impressed, because on two occasions I found myself identifying 'Amakihi calls as 'I'iwi and Housefinch until I realized that there were no 'I'iwi and Housefinches in the vicinity. The Housefinch has a flight call which most birders are familiar with - the Hawaii 'Amakihi has a flight call that is identical. Whether this is natural or whether it has learned to mimic the Housefinch I do not know. I do know that I have never seen and heard the 'Amakihi give this call on any of the other islands with which I am more familiar.

For the most part the behavior of the 'Amakihi indicated to me that it was the prelude to the nesting season. There was a great deal of singing going on everywhere. On several instances I watched fascinated as two male 'Amakihi, perched on the same branch no more than six inches from each other, tried to drown each other's song in their own. There were many more instances when a male 'Amakihi would chase another male out of a tree and defend it zealously against all other males but would let the females in - often leaving in pursuit of the female.

The highlight of the entire trip was one sighting of an 'Akiapola'au. My attention was drawn to the bird as it flew from one Mamane tree to another. This bird is noticeably larger than the 'Amakihi with a tremendous bill which eliminates its being misidentified as the 'Amakihi even though its coloration is almost identical down to the black lores. The 'Akiapola'au that I saw was a male bird in full color - the head is more yellow than the male 'Amakihi. I was lucky in that I watched it for fully five minutes at 30' with 15 power binoculars. Most of this time the bird spent working over the trunk of the tree in creeper-fashion, stopping at times to pound the bark with its straight lower mandible and then probe with the upper one. Periodically it gave a call and I thought to myself how easy it would be to hear this call another day and not seeing the bird dismiss it as a soft call of the 'Amakihi.

Other birds seen in the area were Red-billed Leiothrixes, White-eyes, 'Elepaio, two 'I'iwi, Housefinches, Skylarks, Golden Plovers, Mynahs, Ring-necked Pheasants, Turkeys, large numbers of California Quail and one unidentified species of Francolin.

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Field Notes from Walt Donaghho, December 3, 1966: Buffleheads

Three female and/or young Buffleheads were seen at Mokapu on the pond just makai of the road across the ponds. They were out in the lake, diving for food.

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December 8, 1966: Snipe

While motorcycling down the dirt roads makai of the Waipio Settlement basin that angles off southwest to the shore of West Loch, I noted a snipe fly up from in front of me. Several plover were also flying up, and I noticed the "plain"

brown of their wings, compared to the dark brown wings of the snipe, with the heavy yellow lines that cross them, and especially on the back.

Mike Ord had reported four snipe from this area last month.

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FOR JUNIOR MEMBERS:

#### KALAUAO VALLEY

By Jonathan Hegele\*

The Hawaiian Trail and Mountain Club took a new hike a second time in Kalauao Valley on the afternoon of November 12. Their activities schedule stated it to be a swimming hole hike in the Aiea Heights region. We started the hike above a plant heiau which exhibited all sorts of medicinal plants the Hawaiians used. Leaving the parking lot we followed the regular Aiea Loop trail past the Norfolk pines and the wooden water container. We passed a tiny sub-valley and after a few minutes of easy walking through the swamp mahogany (*Eucalyptus robusta*), we came to a fork in the trail. On our left was Kalauao and to the right Aiea hills. Consequently, we took the left in the path, and in a short time a wide swath of grass was reached. From there we thought we could discern Tantalus in the distance. We did see Tripler ridge with the three familiar trees.

Moving on we encountered a dip in the trail and followed it to the floor of the valley. It was slightly muddy and I remember seeing the white tube flowers of the night cestrum or Chinese inkberry (*Cestrum nocturnum*). I also observed quite a few naupaka with their peculiar flowers. Along the side of the trail grew many kinds of ferns; the foremost of these being the sword fern (*Nephrolepis exaltata*). I also noticed the pai'i'iha or oak fern (*Dryopteris dentata*). Fortunately, there was no staghorn, but there were a lot of weeds, the swollen finger grass (*Chloris inflata*) and the manienie or Bermuda grass (*Cynodon dactylon*).

In several places water trickled over the rocks, and in one, a waterfall plunged downwards, but only on the valley floor was there a substantial stream. Following the brook we crisscrossed it several times before we ended up on the brink of two large waterfalls which fell a space of twenty feet into a fairly large pool. We wended our way down a slope and crossed the stream to the resting point or destination. Almost all of us, a group of about 10 to 20 people, went for a swim including myself, and as you might guess it was slightly crowded! It made invigorating swimming however, in that it was difficult to swim against the current.

We enjoyed ourselves immensely, but all too soon it was time to finish up the hike, so we continued along the path which still persisted in switching back and forth across the stream. On the way we passed under large stands of mountain apple (*Eugenia malaccensis*) with no fruit. I must also say, especially since this is an ornithological edition, that at all times one could hear a medley of bird voices and calls ringing across the silent valley which was flooded with the rays of the afternoon sun. I think most of the chatter going on could be attributed to the leiiothrix, but I'm sure I did not hear nor see any white-eyes which is strange, because they seem to be everywhere! As to the native birds, I really could not be sure, because I am not on stable ground when it comes to that subject. However, later on I did see several 'elepaio feeding on the fruit of the ironwood (*Casuarina equisetifolia*) after we had climbed Kalauao ridge again. From then on we followed the Aiea Junior trail through groves of strawberry guava loaded with fruit, until we had circled around to complete the loop hike. Satisfied with the esthetic values of a wilderness trip, I was just coming through the Norfolk pines when the setting sun cast yellow bars between the trunks, pausing long enough to glint orange and gold through the Samanea saman trees.

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\*Jonathan is a junior at Honolulu Junior Academy. It is wonderful to receive articles from the junior members. THE ELEPAIO is your publication, so all of you, please share your experiences with other members by writing to Kojima, 725-A 8th Ave, Honolulu 96816.



Editor's Notes: Since 'elepaio is considered insectivorous, the observation that they were feeding on the fruits of the ironwood is very interesting. Were they actually feeding on the fruits or the insects on the fruits? If any of you know anything about their feeding habits, please share your experiences with other members by writing to Kojima, 725-A 8th Avenue, Honolulu, Hawaii 96816.

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Old Business: Last July the Star-Bulletin had the pictures of twenty-one rare and endangered native birds, and in the August issue of THE ELEPAIO, page 20, I told you that "if reprints are available, we'll send you one." Although I have written to the managing editor several times, I have not heard from him, so I am assuming that there's no reprint. UNFORTUNATE!

New Business: Last year's calendar was on nesting birds, and we talked about nests. This year it is the backyard birds. If you are interested in these birds, find out about them and share your findings with other members by writing to Kojima. Look around you and let me know about your backyard birds. Let's make this a wonderfully profitable year by finding out about the plants and animals around us!

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#### IN MEMORIAM

Margaret Lau was very much interested in the outdoors and enjoyed it to the fullest. She died at the end of November. We'll miss her company, and we extend our deepest sympathy to her family.

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ALOHA to a new member:

Mrs. Jane Solamillo, 2442 Kuhio Avenue, Apt 702, Honolulu, Hawaii 96815

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#### JANUARY ACTIVITIES:

- January 8 - Field trip to Poamoho to study native forest birds, if the weather permits. Bring lunch, water, and if possible, your car. Transportation cost (\$1.00) to be paid to the drivers. Meet at the Library of Hawaii at 8:00 a.m. Leader Mike Ord, telephone: 968-771.
- January 9 - Board meeting at the Honolulu Aquarium Auditorium at 7:30 p.m. Members are always welcome.
- January 16 - General meeting at the Honolulu Aquarium Auditorium at 7:30 p.m. Program for the night to be announced at later date. Please watch the newspapers.

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#### HAWAII AUDUBON SOCIETY EXECUTIVE BOARD:

President: W. Michael Ord  
 Vice Presidents: Dr. Andrew J. Berger  
 Jack Throp  
 Secretary: Mrs. Robert L. Pyle  
 Treasurer: Carl Frings  
 Board Members: Eugene Kridler  
 Dr. Robert L. Pyle

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 Miss Charlotta Hoskins  
 Miss Unoyo 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

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

DUES FOR 1967 ARE NOW PAYABLE