

THE ELEPAIO

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Hawaii Audubon Society



For the Better Protection
of Wildlife in Hawaii

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HAWAII REVISITED
By Grenville Hatch

Happiness is an 'Apapane in a flowering 'Ohi'a tree! That being the case, from April 21 to May 2, 1967, my cup was overflowing, for I spent that time at the Volcano. The area in itself is my idea of heaven. I had a room at the Volcano House with an 'Ohi'a in full bloom right outside the windows. At any time of day the tree was full of 'Apapane, with a sprinkling of 'Amakihi and Leiothrix. A paradise for a lazy birder!

I also was lucky in meeting a friendly young ranger, George T. Morrison, who is keenly interested in birds. He hospitably took me to his home, to meet his delightful wife and their two-weeks-old son, and also took me up the Mauna Loa strip road. There was very little Mamane in bloom, but in one spot, where a few trees were blooming, we saw several gorgeous 'I'iwi. A few days later, in a spot not far from this, Mr. Morrison saw between 50 and 75 'I'iwi!

On one trip up the Mauna Loa strip, with my friend Virginia McBride, a dead stub on a tree suddenly opened its eyes -- a Pueo! We stopped, the bird flew in unhurried fashion to the next bend of the road. We followed, but could not find it again.

On a walk to the Bird Park I saw an 'Io, in the dark phase, slowly circling over the rather barren area near the Park.

On April 29th Mr. Morrison told me they were hoping the 'Ua'u (Dark-rumped petrel, Pterodroma phaeopygia) would be flying that night -- a misty, rainy night. They had been heard the night before. I slept with one ear open, and to my delight heard the birds, but was surprised at the sound -- to my ear more of a nervous chattering than the wailing sound I have heard described.

I looked for 'Elepaio, but found none. My experience, which is, of course, very limited, has always been that the Hawaii species is more shy, more difficult to see than the Oahu species. Possibly there are fewer of them. Mr. Morrison says he has seen them only in certain sections of the Mauna Loa strip.

I was delighted to meet Mr. Banko, who is working on the endangered species. He very kindly spent time explaining his work. I was much impressed with the careful plans, and the thoroughness of his investigations. His conclusions will be most interesting, of great concern to all of us, and hopefully will lay the foundations for effective measures to save our birds.

My time on Oahu was brief, and limited. May I here beg forgiveness of the Oahu friends whom I did not see? I did try, wanted to see you all, but everything, including the telephone, seemed to be against it. I had one fine day on the Aiea

trail, with Althea and John Marrack, and rejoiced in the 'Elepaio, and one all-too-brief and all-too-wet hour with Unoyo on Mr. Munro's little trail on Diamond Head, where we heard a few invisible birds, and I saw one Gray Singing Finch.

Now I am back to watching the Arizona Hooded Oriole on my feeder, an occasional hummer, and innumerable House Finches. They gladden the eye, and my heart rejoices in the memory of the Hawaiian birds.

GOLDEN EAGLE SIGHTED ON KAUAI

By Ronald L. Walker*

An immature golden eagle (Aquila chrysaetos) was sighted soaring above Waimea Canyon, Kauai, on May 18 and 19, 1967, during the annual goat census conducted by the Division of Fish and Game. Witnesses included the writer, Gerald Swedberg (Kauai Wildlife Biologist), and Robert Hobdy (Forester with the State Division of Forestry). Although it was first noted by the author on May 18th from the bottom of Waiahulu gulch flying along Kumuela ridge, positive identification was not possible due to the distance involved and the poor lighting. From this vantage point, it appeared hawk-like in flight habit, exhibiting the "fingers" of feathers at the wing tips and a slight dihedral to the ends of the wings.

On the following day while the party was waiting for pilot Jack Harter of Garden Island Helicopters on the "Short Mohihi" prominence of Kohua ridge overlooking Poomau stream, the bird flew within a few hundred yards and a more complete description was made. From below it appeared uniformly brown and from above displayed the white markings at the base of the primaries and white rump markings characteristic of the immature plumage. The white markings were not as complete as that of a first-year birds, and we assumed that it was approaching adulthood - perhaps a three-year-old bird. The forehead and bill appeared whitish-yellow in the afternoon sun.

We were able to estimate size, particularly the wingspread, by comparison with a Koa'e (Phaethon lepturus) which was flying close by, either out of curiosity or belligerency. The white-tailed tropic bird measures approximately three feet from wing tip to wing tip, and the bird in question appeared to have had two to three times this spread. According to Peterson (A Field Guide to Western Birds by Roger Tory Peterson, 1961) the golden eagle measures from 6 and 1/3 to 7 and 2/3 feet, tip to tip. Other sources point out that the female is slightly larger than the male, but of course, sexing of this individual was impossible. Swedberg, who had observed this species frequently while stationed in Alaska, identified it immediately as an immature golden eagle. Later we compared our field notes with textbooks and verified the identification to our complete satisfaction.

One can only guess as to how and why this bird came to the Hawaiian Islands. This species is circumpolar in distribution, being found in North America, the British Isles, Russia, Africa, Korea, and Japan among other areas. Thus, this particular bird may have arrived from the northwest or northeast, and may not necessarily be the North American sub-species, (A.c.canadensis). It is normally a non-migratory bird, except during severe winters in northern regions when it drifts south in search of food. However, it is known for its "wandering habits" and sometimes follows truly migratory birds when these are being hunted for food, and therefore is often found at great distance from its nesting area. (Life Histories of North American Birds of Prey by Arthur Cleveland Bent, Part One, 1937). Perhaps it was blown out to sea during a storm and drifted on thermals until it sighted land; perhaps it is a particularly "adventurous" bird -- we will never know for sure. It quite naturally chose to inhabit the deep gorges of the Waimea Canyon which afford it the mountainous aspects and cliff areas it favors throughout its native range. Apparently this specimen has

*Wildlife Biologist, State of Hawaii, Division of Fish and Game.

been resident on Kauai for quite some time. Hunters reported seeing a large unidentified bird during the latter part of the game bird hunting season (January 1967) and Jack Harter reported a large soaring bird over the canyon two months ago to Swedberg.

The fact that this bird has survived in the canyon area for several months would indicate that it has found a ready food supply. In North America the golden eagle is considered primarily a small mammal predator, and subsists in most areas on rabbits and rodents. However, such animals as the young of deer, antelope, goats and sheep as well as several species of waterfowl and game birds are listed as food sources for this species by Bent. (op.cit.) Although not considered a carrion eater, when live animals are in short supply, this species will feed on animal carcasses. It can be assumed that this particular bird has subsisted on dead adult goats which have been wounded during hunting seasons, and perhaps has killed young kids (goats) just after birth. It certainly is capable of killing Koloa which are found up and down the water courses in the Canyon, particularly during the post-nuptial molt when the ducks are flightless.

Whether Hawaii's first recorded Golden Eagle will remain here is open to question. As an immature bird, its breeding instinct may not be well developed, but with adulthood, perhaps it will seek its own kind in northern latitudes. In any event, one lone eagle is not going to become a serious problem as a predator in the Waimea Canyon area, and while it is here, Hawaiian ornithologists are afforded an opportunity to add a magnificent bird to their life lists.

NOTE: This species is completely protected by both State and Federal laws and severe penalties would be imposed on anyone harming it in any way.

FIELD TRIP to Aiea, June 8, 1967:

A group of five regular members and four guests, met at the Aiea Loop Trail at 9 a.m.

Under the able leadership of Miss Kojima a side trail was covered first and then a portion of the regular Aiea Loop Trail. Along the side trail Miss Kojima called in a young 'elepaio, everyone had an excellent view of the bird at very close range, she also identified many native plants for the benefit of the guests.

The species of birds noted were 6 house finch, 2 barred dove, 4 white-eye, 4 leiiothrix, 4 'amakihi, 1 N.A. cardinal, 22 ricebird, 2 'elepaio, 2 bush warbler. Sparrow and Chinese dove were also seen.

E. Conant

To Na Laau and Koko Head, July 7, 1967:

Our first stop was at Na Laau State Park to see the escaped exotics that have been reported from that area for the past several years. The beginning portion of the trail was alive with White-eyes flying across the trail. The area was tinder dry with little or no seeds available for the birds. This resulted in our observing very few species. The Bishop Weaver was brilliant in his gaudy black and red plumage. This bird kept up a constant song and call the entire time that we were there. Several glimpses of Cordon Bleu were afforded the quick spotter, the others had to be satisfied with hearing an infrequent call or song. Other birds seen were one Mockingbird, several Cardinals, one Brazilian Cardinal and both the Barred and Spotted Doves. Back at the parking lot a juvenile Black-crowned Night Heron was seen flying high over head.

Once we had climbed to the summit of Koko Head the first Fairy Tern was observed as it flew above the tops of the Kiawe trees below us. As we descended to the cliffs, a total of five Fairy Terns were seen at one time. From all indications of the birds' behaviour there is little or no nesting activity taking place at this time. On several

occasions separate pairs of Fairy Terns were seen performing their pre-nuptial flight. Other birds seen along the cliffs were numerous Sooty Terns and Common Noddies skimming low over the ocean toward Rabbit Island. Other birds seen in the area were two White-tailed Tropicbirds and one Red-tailed Tropicbird.

The only other significant item of interest was that we had a turnout of 28 people thanks to visitors from California and Michigan.

W. M. Ord

FIELD NOTES from Al Labrecque, 14 April 1967: Shama thrush

If not already reported--on April 6 I saw a Shama Thrush at Keaiwa Heiau, Aiea.

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From Mrs. Mary Ellen Lindley, Kahului, Maui, June 25, 1967: Wild turkey

...I am very frequently on Hawaii now, when I am extending my bird list. Last addition, on June 4, was a wild turkey seen close to the road on the high open country between Kailua and Kamuela....

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From Ronald L. Walker: Indian hill mynah, cattle egret, red-vented bulbul.

While vacationing on the North coast of Oahu over the Kamehameha Day weekend, I made some observations which may be of interest to THE ELEPAIO readers. On Monday, June 12, 1967 the familiar call of the Indian hill mynah (Gracula religiosa) was heard near the Ironwood grove on the west end of Mokuleia County Park. It was located on a top branch of a tree, and after giving a few whistles and a chuckle, it flew off toward Kaena Point. Either another pet has been liberated from a cage, or this bird is a progeny of the Hill mynahs reported from the Tantalus area behind Honolulu recently. On the same day as the sun set, I noted a large flock of cattle egrets (Bubulcus ibis) winging their way to roosting areas, presumably in the Pearl Harbor area. They passed over our car as we approached Wahiawa on highway 99 and apparently had been feeding during the day in the fallow cane fields of the central plain. My wife was able to count 28 birds silhouetted against the sky, which represents the largest single flock this writer has seen.

On Saturday, June 3, 1967, Hawaii Audubon Society junior member David Taira and the writer saw a lone Red-vented Bulbul, Pycnonotus cafer, preening itself on the top of a Haole-koa bush alongside a paved road on the Bellows Field Air Force Station at Waimanalo, Oahu. David was the first to note that it was not one of the common neighborhood birds which we had been seeing earlier. Through the binoculars the black crest, white-tipped tail and reddish-orange coloration around the vent showed clearly. Traffic frightened it off and we were unable to follow it. This is not the first time that this species has been reported on Oahu. Mike Ord told me during a phone call that one was seen near Fort Shafter about a year ago and Walt Donaghho reported in THE ELEPAIO (Volume 27, Number 6, page 55, December 1966) that at least 6 Red-vented Bulbuls were noted at the Oahu Plantation manager's home in Waipahu during a field trip on October 10, 1966. And a Mr. John Perreria of Kailua phoned me on March 7, 1967 to report seeing the same species while visiting a friend in the Keolu Hills area. His description was quite accurate. If these widespread sightings are indicative of the distribution and abundance of this bird it would appear that it is becoming established on Oahu. From an agricultural-economics point of view such an establishment would be very unfortunate. As pointed out by Alden Hinckley in THE ELEPAIO in 1962 (Volume 23, Numbers 4 & 5, October and November. ECOLOGICAL NOTES ON COMMON BIRDS IN FIJI by Alden D. Hinckley, Koronivia Research Station, Nausori, Fiji) this species is considered a major pest on fruit trees and flowers and in vegetable gardens in Fiji. Our own State Department of Agriculture through its Division of Plant Industry lists Bulbuls under category IV, PROHIBITED ENTRY in its

LIST OF BIRDS APPROVED OR PROHIBITED ENTRY INTO HAWAII (Revised July 8, 1965). The importance of enforcing regulations which prohibit the introduction of birds harmful to agriculture or to the native flora and fauna cannot be emphasized enough.

John Kjargaard, 2080 Mauna Place, Makiki Heights, Oahu, reported on 9 July 1967 that a Red-eared Bulbul, Pycnonotus jocosus, has been seen frequently around his home for the last few months.

Since bulbuls are one of the new escapees, the following information may be of interest:

FINCHES AND SOFT-BILLED BIRDS by Henry Bates and Robert Busenbark, pages 255-256:

Red-eared bulbul or red-whiskered bulbul (Pycnonotus jocosus)

The overall six and a half inches of the red-eared bulbul, with its tail of two and a half inches, is a handsomely proportioned and crested bird....

The major colors are dark and dull brown on the upperparts and white on the underparts. The beak is black. A very upstanding perpendicular crest, usually giving the impression of startled jauntiness, is three-fourths of an inch long. The numerous crest feathers and the rest of the brown on the head are darker brown, almost black.... A bright tuft of bristly red feathers radiating backwards from the lower side of the eye and covering the ears enhances the basic white cheek area. A fine and well-defined line of blackish-brown starts at the corners of the lower mandible and connects to the nape of the neck encircling and separating the white cheeks. The rest of the underparts are basically white starting with the throat and becoming slightly dulled by a tinge of brown on the sides, lower chest, and abdomen. A bright accent on the red undertail coverts completely dominates the dull grayish underside of the tail with its broad white tips. The upperparts are nearly all brown except for the broad white tips on the tail feathers....Sexes are often difficult to distinguish.

Red-vented bulbul (Pycnonotus cafer)

...The dusky red-vented bulbul is far less colorful than the red-eared bulbul; but it has an infinitely more handsome, crisp, and well-tailored masculine silhouette. The well proportioned and fine feathered crest and wide flaring tail with its white tips enhance the general robust appearance.

The basic coloring of blackish-brown shading is darker on the head and shows paler margins on each feather of the back, wings, and breast. The beak is black. The lower abdomen fades to whitish to add contrast to a frivolous accent. A large rosette of slender and curly red feathers surrounding the vent gives a chrysanthemum-like texture. Sexes are very similar. The red-vented bulbul from India is a dull colored bird except for a chrysanthemum-like rosette of red feathers surrounding the vent. The main charm is a handsome shape with a trim crest and a long squared tail slightly spread near the white tips.

ENCYCLOPAEDIA BRITANNICA, page 355:

Bulbul, the Persian nightingale; the name is also used to denote birds of the passerine family Pycnonotidae occurring in Africa and southern Asia. The common bulbul of India (Molpastes fuscus) is a familiar bird in that country, feeding on fruits and seeds and often nesting on verandas. The pugnacious males, which are crested, are kept by the natives for fighting. The bird has a fine song. The South African Pycnonotus tricolor frequently feeds on fermenting fruit to such an extent as to become intoxicated.

BIRDS OF THE WORLD by Oliver L. Austin, Jr., pages 243-244:

Bulbuls are among the better known and more familiar of the local songbirds throughout the family's extensive range in southern Asia and Africa. Many have adapted themselves to cultivated lands and have become common residents around

villages, in suburban gardens and orchards, and even in city parks. Of moderate size and rather plainly garbed, most make themselves conspicuous by their actions. They are gregarious, industrious and inquisitive, and fairly bold and noisy. Their most winning attributes are their cheerful friendliness and their constant musical chattering. Many have pleasant songs.

The bulbul family is large, with 119 species, and fairly well defined. An outstanding characteristic, though sometimes partly concealed, is a patch of hairlike, vaneless feathers on the nape. Bulbuls range in length from 6 to 11 inches. Their necks and wings are short, their tails medium to long and sometimes slightly forked. Bills are somewhat slender, slightly down-curved, and hooked and notched in some species. Most bulbuls are somberly clad in grays, brown, dull greens, or black, often relieved by patches of yellow or red and white about the head and undertail coverts. A number of species are crested. The sexes are similarly colored, but males are sometimes slightly larger.

The bulbuls are a rather primitive group of Old World oscines, believed most closely allied to the babblers, from which they differ mainly in having shorter legs and feet and well-developed rectal bristles. Their dull colors and their soft, fluffy plumage, especially their thick patch of long rump feathers, suggest possible affinities to the cuckoo-shrikes. Like both the babblers and cuckoo-shrikes, the bulbuls are essentially forest inhabitants, though a number live in scrub country have adapted well to man-made changes in their natural environment. Their altitudinal range extends from sea level up to 10,000 feet in the Himalayas.

The bulbul family is best developed in Africa and Madagascar, where all but one of its 14 genera occur. Nine of the African genera are either monotypic or have only two or three species. Four of the larger genera have representatives ranging widely from Africa across southern Asia to Japan, the Philippines, and the Moluccas. The largest and most familiar *Pycnonotus*, of which the Red-whiskered bulbul is typical....

While bulbuls eat some insects and other animal food, their mainstay is berries and fruit. They are gross and intemperate feeders, and occasionally get tipsy on overripe fermenting fruit, a frailty they share with a number of other fruit-eating birds.

Most bulbuls are gregarious and when not nesting go about in small flocks searching for food and taking an alert interest in everything that goes on. They are not strongly territorial and do not establish property rights, but they are keen to potential danger and spread the alarm when they spot a prowling cat or snake. If an owl appears, all bulbuls in the vicinity gather to mob and harass it until it moves on. They will also attack nest-robbing crows and magpies.

So far as known all bulbuls build open cup nests woven of grasses and fibers in the branches of a shrub or trees.

How the odd-sounding name bulbul became attached to these birds is uncertain. Bulbul is an ancient Arabic name for a small bird, and was probably imitative in origin.

Red-whiskered bulbul (*Pycnonotus jocosus*)

The red-whiskered bulbul, common Asiatic species, is found from India to China and south through Malaysia. Always lively and on the go, this bird prefers human settlements to the heavy jungles. Its short, bright call notes vie with the chatterings of sparrows and starlings around rural oriental villages. A cheerful and conspicuous resident of orchids and gardens, it scurries through the trees looking for ripening fruit or over the grass in search of insects, its tail cocked at a jaunty angle, and bathes in puddles left by a passing shower. It tames easily and is a popular oriental cage bird. Introduced to New South Wales some years ago, the red-whiskered bulbul has become well established in suburban Sydney and Melbourne. It is something of a nuisance to fruit growers, often damaging crops enough to become a problem.

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It is very important to have all the data on new escapees, so if you have any information on bulbul, please share your experiences with other members by writing to Kojima, 725-A 8th Avenue, Honolulu, Hawaii 96816.

LETTERS: From Hubert & Mable Frings, Norman, Oklahoma, June 12, 1967:

...Our kindest greetings from this land-locked region. We transferred our birding activities, right after our arrival here, to the Cleveland County Bird Club, and I (HF) was elected President in May. It is an active group, winner of plaques from National Wildlife Federation and other conservation organizations for fights in the interest of conservation, the most recent being the saving of Oliver's Woods near here, a natural wild area that was picked as the right of way for a new superhighway. Otherwise, just the same old teaching and trying to get these books done.

We certainly enjoy receiving THE ELEPAIO and keeping up with Hawaiian activities. Our best wishes to our friends in the Hawaii Audubon Society....

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From H. R. McKenzie, Auckland, New Zealand, July 3, 1967:

...I like the general tone of your journal. You have a happy mixture of the popular and the scientific. This is what is needed in such societies as yours and ours. I was greatly interested in the finches on Diamond Head. Largely cage escapees which in your climate can survive in the wild. Here they can live in the summer but not through the winter. The European ones, of course, can and do survive....

BOOK REVIEW by E. H. Bryan, Jr.:

SEABIRDS OF THE TROPICAL PACIFIC OCEAN

The Smithsonian Institution has just produced a "Preliminary identification manual", prepared by Warren B. King, with this title. A book of 126 pages, with numerous maps and illustrations of birds, it is designed to put on record the identity and distribution of seabirds found in the oceanic Pacific between 30° North and 30° South latitude and to describe the environment in which they live.

"The manual is divided into four parts. The first deals with the seabirds and their environment, and techniques of at-sea observation and preservation of specimens for future study. The second part contains plates which depict in flight all the seabirds which occur regularly in the Tropical Pacific. The main body of the manual presents characteristics, food and habitat preferences, and ranges, both breeding and non-breeding, of the 107 species thus far recorded in the Tropical Pacific. Supplementary distribution maps show the ranges of the most abundant species. The appendix lists the species recorded on or near each of the 28 island groups of the Tropical Pacific, indicates their status there, and their breeding or migratory schedules when the information is available."

The section on "Hawaiian Islands including Johnston Atoll" lists 22 "Breeding" species and 51 "Nonbreeding" species, most of the latter being noted as "Vagrant".

A mimeographed slip received with a review copy, sent with the compliments of the Pacific Ocean Biological Survey Program, Department of Vertebrate Zoology, Smithsonian Institution, states: "This preliminary manual was assembled to stimulate interest in seabird distribution in the Tropical Pacific Ocean. We welcome suggestions for improving the presentation of information, or for making the manual more useful. We hope you will feel free to challenge statements or question accuracy, and to draw our attention to discrepancies, errors, or oversights. Please direct your comments to the author at the above address...."

Have you seen RAPTOR RESEARCH NEWS, a quarterly publication of the Raptor Research Foundation, Inc.? The Raptor Research Foundation is a non-profit corporation whose purpose is to stimulate, coordinate, direct and conduct research in the biology and management of birds of prey, and to promote a better public understanding and appreciation of the value of these birds. Associate membership is open to anyone who makes a financial contribution, and a subscription to the newsletter is also available for \$1.00. Contributions or subscriptions should be sent to The Raptor Research Foundation, Inc., Centerville, South Dakota 57014.

FOR JUNIOR MEMBERS:

Not a word from the junior members for the entire summer, but there is an interesting news item from Kauai in the HONOLULU STAR-BULLETIN, July 18, 1967, page A-4: KOKEE DEVELOPING PLANT ATTRACTION by Harold Ching.

The article showed Kapaa children planting 'Ilima, Sida fallax Walp, along Iliau Nature Loop, a native plant preserve on the rim of Waimea Canyon. It said, "The Iliau Nature Loop, a small native plant preserve, is being developed as another attraction in Kokee State Park....The Iliau Nature Loop is at the 3,000-foot elevation, on the rim of Waimea Canyon. It is in an area with an upland scrub type of native vegetation....The delicately balanced native plant communities have not been able to stand up against many of the aggressive new plants...,so the Division of Forestry of the State Department of Land and Natural Resources began the Iliau Nature Loop in 1965 to curtail the march of introduced species in an area containing unique plant life. The iliau (Wilkesia gymnoxiphium) featured in this native plant preserve, is a close relative to the famed silver sword on Maui. This ancient member of the sunflower family, now in bloom, is found growing naturally only on Kauai.

"District Forester Ralph E. Daehler said progress has reached the point where those interested in native Hawaiian plants can spend an enjoyable ten-minute walk."

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The following article is an example of sharing your observations with others:

BACKYARD OBSERVATIONS

By Irma Botsford

Just outside my kitchen door I have a feeding tray in which I sprinkle sunflower seeds for the cardinals. As the tray is in full view from the breakfast nook I am constantly amused and intrigued by the human characteristics the birds portray. The American cardinals consider the tray their private domain and are very nasty to the Brazilian birds who are very well mannered and never make any fuss when they are chased away. I once allowed a big dove, who took all the available space, to eat there thinking it might teach the aggressive little red birds a lesson if they were chased away themselves, but once the dove was gone, the birds returned more selfish, if possible, than before.

There has recently been a birth explosion among my neighborhood cardinals who have no conception of the rising cost of living and clean up all the bird seeds several times a day. Recently, as I was eating my lunch, a baby male flew all by himself into the tray and attacked the seeds. He wasn't very efficient and a couple of times I thought he was going to choke, but he was managing. Then his mother, who apparently had missed him, flew down. Immediately, this enterprising young bird was transformed into a shaking quivering baby and his gullible mother dutifully shoved food into his wide open beak.

Of course, the mynahs are ever present. One day I was aware of ten or fifteen mynahs flying about and making more commotion than usual. Sensing something was wrong I went out to investigate. After awhile I found a baby under one of the shrubs, apparently having fallen from a nest. He hopped about and flapped his wings but he really couldn't fly. I was afraid if I left him a roving cat would find him a delectable tidbit, so I telephoned to our birdman, patron saint, doctor and nurse of our Manoa birds, Mr. Brentin, 1216-A Makiki, and in a few minutes he arrived with an empty cage and corralled the little fellow. In the meantime, the mynahs in the trees were nearly going crazy and swooping down lower and lower. Mr. Brentin said they would have killed the defenseless little bird as the individual is always sacrificed if necessary for the welfare of the flock.

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Isn't this delightful? Please share your experiences with other members by writing to Kojima, 725-A 8th Avenue, Honolulu, Hawaii 96816.

Is your plover back? The first plover reported back is from Hawaii.

LETTER from Violet Hansen, Volcano, Hawaii, August 9, 1967:

A lone plover landed in yard on August 7 at 3:45 p.m. and was back in yard August 8 and 9. We have had a lot of rain; the worms are plentiful and he is having a feast.

Second plover landed at 8:30 a.m., August 9. First plover trying to get the second one to move on, so right now they are chasing each other all over the yard.

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Priscilla Harpham saw two plover feeding at Laie (Mahakea) on August 15 and thereafter. She had been watching closely for two weeks prior to this but observed none. The two observed were in good flesh, so probably had had a few days' rest and food after arrival. (Charlotta Hoskins' contribution)

Excerpts from the minutes of the Hawaii Audubon Society General Meeting, June 19, 1967:

...Unoyo Kojima reported on the field trip of June 11 to Aiea. Unoyo was disturbed about motorcycles on the upper Aiea Loop Trail and urged members to write to their newspaper about it. Helen Delaney suggested calling Mr. Lewis at the State's Dept. of Land and Natural Resources, who felt would repair or set up new barriers to motorcycles at the beginning of the trail. Unoyo also reported that members Pete Holt and Alex MacGregor saw the Shama Thrush on another trip to Aiea Loop Trail on June 18.

Robert Pyle reported on a trip that he and his family and two other members took on June 11, to Koko Head, where they saw a maximum number of six Fairy Terns. Two Red-tailed Tropic Birds were also observed.

Edwin H. Bryan reported that he is revising his 1958 Checklist of Hawaiian Birds prompted by a request from the AOU checklist committee. He would welcome receiving information on birds now on the list and any additional birds.

Robert Pyle spoke of the North American nest record program conducted by Cornell University Ornithological Lab. and asked for nest record cards to be turned in by any members who are observing nests and have some data to contribute.

President Ord said the Society's soon-to-be published bird book entitled "Hawaii's Birds" should be out in late October or early November. It has 74 colored illustrations. A down payment has been made to the publishers, and in six months the final payment is due.

The program for the evening was given by Paul Shaeffer. His movie with tape is called "Dollars or Drepanids". It was given to the National Audubon Society's Convention last Fall.

After the meeting Edwin Bryan showed slides of sea gulls taken by Charles Pratt, Jr. of New Hope, Pa., near Kihei, Maui, in early March 1967. Mr. Pratt felt this bird to be Larus delawarensis (Ring-billed gull) and members who looked at the slides agreed that it was this species.

SEPTEMBER ACTIVITIES:

September 10 - Field trip to study shore birds. 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: Lt Comdr J. Richard Gauthey, telephone: 430-27218.

September 11 - No board meeting.

September 18 - General meeting at the Waikiki Aquarium Auditorium at 7:30 p.m.
Speaker: Ernest G. Holt
Topic: Watching Bird-watchers Watching Birds (Colored slides)

HAWAII AUDUBON SOCIETY EXECUTIVE BOARD:

President-W. Michael Ord, Vice Presidents-Dr. Andrew J. Berger & Jack L. Throp
Secretary-Mrs. Robert L. Pyle, Treasurer-Carl F. Frings

Board Members: Eugene Kridler & Dr. Robert L. Pyle

THE ELEPAIO: EDITORS: Miss Charlotta Hoskins & Miss Unoyo Kojima

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