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THREE UNUSUAL SHOREBIRDS FROM MIDWAY ATOLL, PACIFIC OCEAN*

By Roger B. Clapp

Dr. Charles A. Ely, David I. Hoff and I made a brief visit to Midway Atoll on 26 and 27 August 1967 as members of the Pacific Ocean Biological Survey Program. On 26 August we observed and collected a Semipalmated Plover (Charadrius semipalmatus), a Lesser Yellowlegs (Totanus flavipes) and a Long-toed Stint (Erolia subminuta) at the largest of the overrun ponds near the end of the east-west airstrip on Sand Island.

The Semipalmated Plover was first seen on a muddy margin near the corner of the pond where it fed alone but near a small flock of Ruddy Turnstones (Arenaria interpres). Later in the day I again found it feeding in the same area and collected it at a small pond just beyond the west end of the largest pond. The specimen, an immature male (USNM 543061), was very fat and had worn plumage on the back and wing coverts. It was molting heavily in the body plumage and had replaced all but the outermost primary.

Walter Bulmer (pers. corr.) informs me that he saw what he believes was a Semipalmated Plover in the same area on 30 April 1967 but further remarked that he would not have been able to distinguish this bird from a Ringed Plover (Charadrius hiaticula).

Through October 1967, 16 sight records of Semipalmated Plovers were reported from the main Hawaiian Islands--13 records from Oahu (ELEPAIO, 1952, 13:46; 1957, 18:38; 1958, 19:36; 1961, 22:32-33; 1962, 22:54, 55, 58; 23:32; 1963, 23:45, 59; 24:23) two from Maui (ELEPAIO, 1964, 24:38; 1966, 26:89) and one from Hawaii (ELEPAIO, 1961, 22:7). However, these records probably involve no more than 15 individual birds.

No Semipalmated Plovers were reported previously from the Hawaiian Leeward Islands. The present specimen thus constitutes the first specimen record from the entire Hawaiian area.

The Lesser Yellowlegs was first seen in the morning as it fed solitarily near one end of the pond. In the afternoon Hoff collected it in the same area. The specimen, an immature female (USNM 543059), was moderately fat and was not molting.

This species was recorded only once previously from Midway Atoll. Donaghho (ELEPAIO, 1954, 14:59) reported that he saw a bird that he "took ... to be a lesser yellowlegs" on Sand Island, 17 August 1941. The only other records that have been

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reported from the Hawaiian Leewards are a specimen collected on Kure Atoll and a sight record of a single bird on Laysan (Clapp and Woodward, 1968, U.S. Nat. Mus., Proceedings No. 3640:18).

Through October 1967 Lesser Yellowlegs were recorded six times from the main Hawaiian Islands--five records from Oahu (ELEPAIO, 1953, 14:35; 1964, 25:36; 1967, 27:97, 106; 28:6) and one from Maui (ELEPAIO, 1962, 22:81-82). The main Hawaiian records probably involve no more than four individual birds, none of which were collected. The Midway specimen is thus the second collected in the Hawaiian area.

I saw and shot the Long-toed Stint as it flew alone over the overrun pond. The specimen, an immature female (USNM 543062), was not molting and was very fat. This species breeds in Siberia and on Bering Island and the Kurile Islands and has been recorded from the Pribilof Islands. It normally winters from southeastern China and the Philippine Islands to eastern India, the Celebes, and casually to northern Australia (Vaurie, 1965, The Birds of the Palearctic Fauna, Non-Passeriformes : 395). It has not been recorded previously from any of the islands of the central Pacific.

IN RESPONSE TO DR. FRANK RICHARDSON'S COMMENTS ON EXOTIC GAME BIRD AND MAMMAL INTRODUCTIONS TO HAWAII by Ronald L. Walker, January 11, 1968. (THE ELEPAIO, Volume 28, Number 6, December 1967, page 49)

My reason for submitting the paper "A Brief History of Exotic Game Bird and Mammals in Hawaii with a Look to the Future" to THE ELEPAIO was to provoke comment and discussion among those interested in the future of wildlife in Hawaii. I am please that its printing elicited a response from such an eminent scientist as Dr. Richardson. Unfortunately, the paper was only a summary of past and recent history and thus it was impossible to go into any detail on any one portion of the discussion. A clarification of some of the points brought up may be in order.

It was not the intention of the writer to condone introductions per se; rather it was to record some of the mistakes of the past, and suggest that all future introductions, if they be made, be done only by taking cognizance of the ecological ramifications of such introductions. It is certainly true that no one can predict all of the interrelationships inherent in exposing a native fauna to a newcomer. The Division of Fish and Game will not introduce a new game bird species without consideration of the possible effects on the delicate ecosystems in which native birds are now found. In regard to the introduction of a game bird into the rain forest zone, it is unlikely that any species under consideration would ever penetrate the dense native forest, nor would the Division contemplate a bird which would be impossible to hunt due to the density of the vegetation. The actual niche which the Division is seeking to fill is the more open areas which have been partially cleared for agriculture, or which are a blending of native and exotic trees and plants. (Vegetative Zone C1, Ripperton and Hosaka). (This zone is characterized by guava and other exotic plants which are mixed with native trees.)

The Division still considers the release of the Blacktail deer on the island of Kauai experimental, and a constant check on the distribution and food habits of this species is being carried out. Recent studies have shown that of the twenty-three species of plants known to be utilized by the Blacktail deer on Kauai, only three are native. It has shown a decided preference for the open forest consisting of Eucalyptus, silk oak and introduced plantings, and is spreading into this type of vegetation. The hunting of this animal in this terrain would be decidedly easier than pursuing goats along the precipitous cliffs, gulches, and pali where they are found. It is true that to reduce any population of Blacktail deer appreciably in its native habitat of the Northwest U.S. would be very difficult, but on Kauai where its range is bounded on one side by the ocean and on the other sides by impenetrable forest, sugarcane lands, and human habitation, it is believed that such a reduction, if necessary, would be relatively easy. One objective of the game mammal introduction program is to replace feral animals foolishly introduced many years ago, with a wild

animal about which much is known concerning its feeding habits and habitat requirements.

The Division of Fish and Game has been charged with promoting recreational hunting in the State of Hawaii. It is also responsible for the protection and perpetuation of its native species. To these ends, the game introduction program must not threaten the existence of native wildlife populations. The Division is one of the few State game agencies in the country which has a non-game bird program under the direction of a biologist specifically hired for this purpose. The Division is actively participating in the Endangered Species program of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as well as screening all candidate songbirds suggested by private interests for introduction as they may, among other things, be harmful to native species. Prohibited birds which have escaped are being monitored and destroyed wherever possible. Thus, no introduction will be contemplated which will be at cross-purposes with the non-game bird program.

I personally share Dr. Richardson's concern for the native songbirds and plants still surviving in Hawaii and would not willingly condone any program destined to harm them in any way. Rather than perpetuate the mistakes of the past, I would prefer to see the government profit by them and apply strict discipline to any future wildlife manipulations.

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THREAT TO WILDLIFE

The two recent articles, by Frank Richardson and Mr. Banko on importations have said all I could say, and better, yet I still am impelled to raise my voice, too. I fear, and have feared for a long time, that we already are seeing sad results of importations. We all have observed our native birds becoming scarcer on the trails, while the White-eyes and Leiothrix increase, and have watched the North American Cardinal intrude higher and higher into the mountains. Our native birds are less aggressive, and as the competition for food and nesting sites becomes keener, what will the result be?

The balance between our native birds and the environment has always been very delicate. Unfortunately we cannot entirely preserve the environment, but surely the welfare of our birds should always be of the utmost concern to us, and we should take no chances. Once an introduction has been made, nothing can be done--Pandora's box has been opened. Can we really weigh the pleasure of a few hunters against the possible extinction of our unique birds?

Grenville Hatch

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The following letter to the editor from Dr. Otto Degener (Hon. Star-Bulletin, February 8, 1968, p. A-18) concerns all of us:

An act of supreme concern regarding the future welfare of the endemic plants and animals of Hawaii Volcanoes National Park has arisen.

The Hawaiian Islands biologically are far more interesting than the Galapagos, long advertised by Darwin's outstanding researches. Our archipelago, though comparatively little known scientifically, is more isolated and harbors a far greater number and percentage of endemics. In fact, except for some pantropic beach plants distributed by ocean currents, and a few montane species such as a rare sundew and some sedges, about 100 per cent of the native flowering plants are found no other place on earth. This endemism, still remarkable though to a lesser extent, applies to the ferns and mosses also.

A similar high proportion of endemism applies as well to our invertebrate animals such as insects, snails and lesser groups; and to our few vertebrates such as a seal, a few bats, a few lizards, and numerous well-publicized kinds of birds of which some have already become extinct due to the destruction of their chief food plants and the introduction of avian malaria.

All these organisms have adjusted to one another over the millions of years that they have existed in the Hawaiian Archipelago, and have come to a certain equilibrium. One of the most charming and self-evident to the visitor is the modification of the beaks of many of the endemic birds to the curve of the flower of the endemic lobelias from which they gain nectar and perchance secreted insects. This is just one glaring instance of the interdependence of many yet obscure to man until he has had the time and wisdom to unfathom them. The visitor, whether lay or scientist, who will venture into the few remaining areas of unspoiled countryside will be amazed by what God hath wrought in this Paradise of the Pacific.

Unfortunately, due to the coming of man, the idyllic state of conditions in the Hawaiian Islands is rapidly deteriorating. Most of this is justifiable due to human population pressure, but certainly not all. The greatest change is in the cities and towns; the least, in our National Parks. These last, safe-guarded by the Federal Government, are a haven for the visitor who wishes to study and to commune with Nature, and for the scientist who is eager to learn her laws for practical and for purely theoretical reasons.

The Hawaiian Islands, isolated in the Pacific, never harbored herbivorous mammals--they could not fly and it was too far for them to swim--and hence the native vegetation has never built up a partial immunity to the depredations of such animals as cattle, deer, goats, horses and sheep. Where these animals are permitted to roam, the native plant cover--whole forests even--disappears.

The State of Hawaii Department of Land and Natural Resources in 1964 announced a plan to introduce the axis deer, native to India, to the Island of Hawaii to encourage hunting. W.H. Greenwell, a rancher, brought suit to stop the plan, and March 6 of the same year former Circuit Judge John F. Dyer issued a temporary restraining order against their release. Sept. 22 Circuit Judge Allen R. Hawkins issued, after a four-day hearing, a permanent injunction.

The State of Hawaii next appealed Judge Hawkin's ruling to the Supreme Court. The supreme threat to the biota of Hawaii Volcanoes National Park is the unanimous ruling of the State Supreme Court Jan. 10, that "It is not an abuse of the State's police powers to release the deer since studies indicate that it will promote the State's interests in hunting, recreation and economic development of the Big Island."

The writer believes with the five-man court that the ruling will promote hunting in State-controlled land of deer, certainly in preference to wild goat. He fears the ruling, as it now stands, will do irreversible damage by browsing and trampling to the native plants and animals of Hawaii Volcanoes National Park, thus reducing the Park's attraction for Mainland visitors, a considerable source of revenue to both State and federal branches of the government.

To avoid this danger, he hopes and prays the court will amend its ruling to allow the liberation of deer or other herbivores only after the State has built a deer-proof fence to prevent such animals from trespassing onto National Park lands.

He is releasing copies of this brief letter to Mainland groups interested in conservation and in the national parks in the hope that they will help finance the building and maintain^{ing} of a foolproof fence. As resident and one of the tax payers of the State, he feels outside aid is justified.

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Is it possible to build a deer-proof fence?!? The native fauna and flora ecosystem is too delicate to take chances with introduced exotics in the hopes of correcting any mistakes. One mistake may be the fatal blow to claim the end of another of our rare species. Can we afford to take such chances in the name of recreation and progress? What can we do to stop the disruption of the native ecology by these introduced exotics? What is your opinion on this subject? Please send in your experiences and ideas to Kojima, 725-A 8th Ave., Honolulu, Hawaii 96816.

...If eyes were made for seeing, then
Beauty is its own excuse for being.... Have you seen the African tulip blazing in red
 and the jacaranda regally radiating in blue? MAHALO

STARLING STOWAWAYS
By Paul and Helen Scheffer

We have received a note from Mr. Alexander Sprunt, Jr., noted Ornithologist and formerly with the staff of the National Audubon Society, in which he stated that he had recently observed several starlings on shipboard between Honolulu and San Francisco.

Mr. and Mrs. Sprunt made a stop in Honolulu on October 31, 1967 enroute from the Orient to San Francisco. They were aboard one of the American President Lines ships. Mr. Sprunt describes his observations as follows:

"The birds we saw between Oahu and San Francisco were starlings (*Sturnus vulgaris*). We did not see them in Honolulu. We left there at 5:00 PM, October 31st. The birds--4 to 6--were first seen at sea on November 2nd, and from that date on. They would circle the ship several times a day and then return to the deck, seeking out any hole or cavity that they could find. My two best views were: on the sundeck at a distance of 6 to 8 feet and in the crews galley at a distance of 1 or 2 feet."

Mr. Sprunt also stated that the appearance of a bird in the ships galley at sea was unusual enough that one of the crewmen called him at midnight to report it. They tried to capture the bird but it escaped through an open porthole. This would indicate that the starlings were not tamed pets of the crew.

The European starling is clearly one of the most noxious birds that has ever been introduced on the mainland. Less than 100 of these birds were released in New York City's Central Park in 1890. From this one introduction, unnumbered millions of starlings have since spread throughout the mainland States and into parts of Mexico, Canada and Alaska.

The European starling is more of a nuisance in its nesting habits than the closely-related Indian mynah that is in Hawaii. Millions of these birds pour into the cities each night to roost in the parks and on the ledges of downtown buildings. Their depredations on farm crops are a serious economic problem. And in some cattle feedlots, flocks of starlings are reported to eat almost as much as the steers.

The starling is also a very aggressive bird. It commonly drives out song birds and other valuable birds by forcing them from their nests and destroying their eggs or young.

Where did the starlings on Mr. Sprunt's ship come from? Certainly they did not make a 2000 mile flight over open sea from California to meet the ship. If they came aboard at some Oriental port, it is odd that they were not seen in the long passage between that point and Honolulu. Or were the birds making a round trip pleasure cruise from San Francisco?

Let us hope that stowaway starlings do not jump ship in Honolulu! Perhaps they are already there!

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Editor's Note: About an year ago (21 January 1967) reports of starlings feeding among the cattle at Kahuku were talked about, but no one dared to make it official without further verifications. It is very important to know the status of this species, because we cannot afford to allow even an occasional tourist status, for after a few visits they may decide to become permanent residents, so if you have seen any starling in Hawaii, please write to Kojima, 725-A 8th Ave., Hon.Haw. 96816.

LETTERS: From Dr. Frederick W. Landers, Upper Montclair, New Jersey, Jan. 28, 1968:

...What fun we had when Walt Donaghho and I went out Kahuku way to investigate the reported invasion of starlings in that vicinity, even though no signs of that breed were found. As we are troubled on the Mainland in this section by an over abundance of this bird, I would have readily recognized them had they been there...

...My experiences with some of the Hawaii Audubon members will no doubt never be available to me again, and it is with a feeling of sadness that I realize this even though the memory of such times is unforgettable. For example, there were the

two expeditions with Dr. Rick Warner....These two expeditions, one in 1958 to Laysan and other small islands on the way to count and study birds, to band and release albatross chicks that were just about to learn to fly and leave for the sea. This project was undertaken in an attempt to discover if the albatross returned only to the island of its birth was an unequalled highlight. Other thrilling experiences of the Laysan Island Expedition included capturing a monk seal to be shipped to the British Museum for study, and tagging others; capturing, banding and releasing Laysan ducks and returning others to the Honolulu Zoo to be later distributed to England and to zoos on the Mainland, so that conservation of the rare species would be furthered. This 1958 expedition to Laysan also resulted in the capture of several Laysan finch which were returned to Honolulu for study by Dr. Warner. It is the same species of finch which later expeditions brought to Honolulu, and which the Honolulu Zoo Director, Jack Throp, has been able to raise in captivity. Other projects which we so much enjoyed on that trip may be found listed in a paper, "Wildlife of Laysan Island." (THE ELEPAIO, Vol. 19, No. 2, pp 8-10, and No. 4, pp 20-23)

Because there was only one tree, an ironwood, on Laysan Island, one of the important things to do was to plant more. During the 1958 Laysan Expedition Warner and I spent a day or perhaps only a half in dragging sacks of coconuts around and distributing them for future growth, and our work was not in vain. Upon returning to Honolulu in late 1965 and visiting Ron Walker he thrilled me to no end with pictures he had taken of our trees bearing coconuts. I wanted very much to return to the island and get a few of these nuts to bring back and work into coconut craft... perhaps I might be able to prevail on someone going to Laysan to get me two or three of the nuts for that purpose....

The second expedition with Dr. Warner took place in August 1967. It was of a month's duration on Maui with some of the Hawaii Audubon members taking part... Unfortunately my impending sailing for home around the first of September prohibited me from engaging in the entire expedition, but my part in this worthwhile and exciting work of the Kipahulu Valley Expedition will be fond memory....

A project which I would like to suggest for members who may have the time for a careful watch would be to finish one I was on in Honolulu. I discovered a WHITE (albino) barred dove which lived around the grounds of the Mormon Church. I got Ron Walker to go over there with me one day, but pressure at the office did not permit him to remain long enough. However, I did see it again that day, but without telescopic lenses, I was unable to get good pictures. Just one day it was possible and I was not ready. I told a few of this bird, and some have tried to get pictures of it. If the Society took up the quest, I am sure some members would succeed.

A second project which I might suggest is in connection with travel. If anyone gets to New York or Philadelphia they might find it interesting to check with the zoos and see the Laysan ducks which are still alive after the 1958 Laysan Expedition. I had the pleasure of seeing the ducks at the Philadelphia Zoo a couple of years back and have been invited by Dr. Ditmars to visit the New York Zoo to see the ones there, and to show my Laysan slides, which were so well received when I showed them at the Bureau of Interior at Washington, D.C. I am sorry that I have been unable to show them to the Hawaii Audubon group. If you are looking for the Laysan ducks in London, be sure to go to the Severn Bird Sanctuary and not the zoo....

The following news article from THE MONTCLAIR TIMES on HAWK COUNT COMPLETED BY MONTCLAIR BIRD CLUB was enclosed with his letter:

The Montclair Bird Club has completed its annual hawk count at the Hawk Lookout Sanctuary in Upper Montclair. Members of the club, assisted by other bird watchers from northern Jersey, counted 2,509 hawks...Although it was an average flight, the 1967 total was sixth highest in the 11 years that the Club has sponsored the count. The highest total was in 1963 when 12,401 hawks were counted.

Broad-winged hawks were the most numerous. Their migration is spectacular because they tend to flock, sometimes in great numbers...

One of the highlights of the 1967 count was the appearance of four bald eagles. These majestic birds, the national emblem of the United States, are fast disappearing from our Eastern fauna. Conservationists are alarmed at the steady decline of the

bald eagle population. They have pinpointed the two major causes contributing to its plight as pesticidal residues that find their way into its food causing sterility or death, and illegal shooting (bald eagles are protected by federal law). No bald eagles were sighted during the 1966 count.

Another rare and vanishing species, the peregrine falcon or duck hawk, returned to the count after a year's absence. Three were sighted. This beautiful falcon has retreated into the wilderness. Once it nested on ledges of tall buildings in New York City and Montreal and on the palisades along the Hudson River in New Jersey, but the pressures of civilization have driven the duck hawk completely out of the Northeast. It now nests in the wilds of Canada and Labrador. Only during migration can bird watchers see this magnificent bird in New Jersey.

Among other highlights were several V's of geese that appeared late in September and an osprey with a fish in its talons that circled the lookout several times. Three turkey vultures were tallied and daily flights of hundreds of migrating blue jays were observed during the latter part of September. One of the outstanding finds for 1967 was a whimbrel. It called plaintively as it crossed the lookout in the rain on September 16....

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From Thelma Hensley, Kaneohe, Oahu, January 2, 1968:

...I am so pleased with the new handbook...and am delighted with the splendid photography. The only thing I sadly noted was that Kauai wasn't given credit for its mockingbirds. And, they were having a population explosion when I left...

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From Meriam N. Davis, Kaunakakai, Molokai, January 5, 1968:

...The Brazilian cardinal seems to be moving eastward on Molokai. Two years ago I saw one at Kawela and Noah said they had never before been reported east of Kaunakakai. Two weeks ago I saw two at Kamalo--which is still farther east... Recently there's been a flock of more than 50 Red-billed leiothrix in the dense woods the other side of my little pond. No singing--just chattering so insistently that I spent much time watching them...

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From Netty Hansen, Kalaheo, Kauai, December 17, 1967:

I received a letter dated November 28th from my sister who lives in Florida. She and her daughter went to Sanibel Island to spend a few days collecting shells and seeing the bird-life. I am quoting below from her letter which I think you will find of interest.

"We took a new highway west from Ft. Lauderdale - a new 70 mile stretch called "Alligator Alley"! We left Miami before sun-up and reached this new stretch of road about 6:45. We were all alone on this deserted new highway and (water on both sides) if we saw one hundred herons, cranes, egrets, ibis, kingfishers, eagles, hawks, etc. we saw thousands upon thousands right next to us - on both sides of the road. Lauren (her daughter) almost went off the road, countless times, the cranes, egrets, practically flying into the car in flocks of hundreds. In the first five minutes from east to west we saw more Everglades birds than we have seen in the 15 years we have been here. There was a low ground fog over the entire area. It was most eerie, fantastic and the most delightful 70 miles I have ever known. We were completely alone - no car back of us and no car coming from the west to east!"

Later on she wrote after arriving at Sanibel: "We found no shells - the tide was low - deserted long stretch of beach, but hundreds of gulls, terns, sandpipers. I could have stayed there forever."

I was fascinated by her description of the fabulous birds in Florida. We were there in 1959 - at the Everglades, and we saw very few birds. I can't help but wonder what is going to happen to all those birds when the traffic becomes heavy.

We continue to see many birds at Kalaheo. One morning there were five Meadow-larks on the lawn, along with one Plover. We also have a Pueo which flies over the

valley. We have been here sixteen months but no bird ever comes to the feeder. We have Cardinals, Shama and Mynahs. We do not feed the doves or pheasant as we are afraid they will put their trust in us and when the hunters hunt on the ridge above us the birds will not be afraid of them.

Mr. Hansen has seen Japanese Quail in the pasture. They are too beautiful to hunt.

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From Jane E. Solamillo, Seattle, Washington, December 20, 1967:

...The train traveled through Jasper National Park--saw several Red-tailed Hawks... Vancouver is an enjoyable city. At Stanley Park saw Canada Geese with their young, Mute Swans with their cygnets, Song Sparrows, many more species of ducks--Peking, Mallard. What my son and I found charming were the Barn Swallows. They are quite common nesting on porches on some of the homes there...They are acrobats and they fly with their mouths open collecting insects. They are pretty color too. We saw also Goldfinches.

We've settled in Seattle...I joined the Audubon here and have gone out on several field trips. Have seen Chickadees, Red-shafted Flickers (my favorite) Red-breasted Nuthatcher, Fox Sparrows, Goldfinches, American Widgeons, Ducks, Mallards, Pekings, Glaucus Gulls, Herring Gulls...I'm amazed here that the Robins, Flickers, Stellar Jays spend the winters here also. Today, it's snowing and there's a big fat Robin on the electric wire....

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From Robert H. Cooper, Muncie, Indiana, January 5, 1968:

...We did not get over to the Aransas Reserve to help with the Christmas count this year...Instead of going there we went to Phoenix, Arizona area for the week of Christmas...We saw a herd or two of antelope...We still have sixteen Meadowlarks with us at our home on the farm. They fly into a little elm tree north of our house in late evening and finally drift down, two and three at a time, into the tall grass to spend the night. They probably will disappear some day and return very early in the month of March or the last of February....

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From Steve West, Las Cruces, New Mexico, January 8, 1968:

...I haven't had too much time for birding...Probably the most unusual for me so far was an Olive Warbler (lifer) that I saw in the middle of October. The Inca Dove (which left in early December) is fairly common here on campus (New Mexico University) and their cooing call could be heard all day before they left. Saturday, 6 January, I was extremely surprised to find 6 or 7 White-winged Doves here on the campus. I expected them this spring, but I'm sure they aren't supposed to be here in the middle of the winter. Saturday was very warm (59 degrees) but Sunday dropped to 31 degrees. I haven't seen the White-winged Doves again. Boat-tailed Grackles are very common here on campus;...so far I've come across two different groups of Cedar Waxwings. Apparently the cold weather this year has pushed them down in larger numbers than we usually find them....

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From Hubert & Mabel Frings, Norman, Oklahoma, January 9, 1968:

...Our new house is large and near the campus. We have plenty of space now for all our plants (over 100 pots in our more than 100 windows--including hibiscus, pineapple, ti, crotons, and other reminders of Hawaii), and animals (fish, salamanders, crayfish, and birds--a toucanet, dwarf parrot, cockatiel, masked and peach-faced love-birds, pintail nonpareil finches, star finches, and parakeets). So it is a lively place. In the dreadfully cold weather of the past few weeks, we've been busy keeping water and food available for our outdoors birds--sparrows and starlings of course, but also many cardinals, blue birds, mockingbirds, blue jays, chickadees, tufted titmice, even flickers and woodpeckers off and on. And three beautiful fox squirrels. We are buying scratch feed, wild bird feed, dog biscuit,

and sun flower seeds by 50 lb. lots! But eating breakfast in our breakfast room looking out on the yard with all this activity is thrilling....

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From Euphie Shields, Walnut Creek, California, January 9, 1968:

...About the only birds I see right here are blue jays, sparrows and Oregon junkos. They live in the park on the other side of the stream and fly up and down the stream bed looking for juicy morsels...

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From Mrs. Joseph E. McNett, Webster, New York, January 27, 1968: She enclosed the following two news articles from THE TIME-UNION: WINTERING ROBINS, GOLDFINCHES MORE PLENTIFUL, COUNT REVEALS by J.W. Brown, January 4, 1968, p. 10D:

...The annual Christmas Bird Count, conducted by members of the Genesee Ornithological Society on the last day of 1967, turned up no species that had not been seen on some previous count, but the numbers of several species surpassed all other years. This seemed to reflect a delayed migration by many semi-hardy birds influenced by a mild fall....

Devaluation of the pound and other British fiscal difficulties may have saved, at least temporarily, some unique birds and other wildlife on little Aldabra Island in the Indian Ocean. The island, noted for its unusual fauna existing in an undisturbed environment, has been earmarked for massive alteration for an ambitious military project...Now, according to Wildlife Management Institute, the project has been indefinitely postponed.

FEATHERED FRIENDS AT YOUR WINDOW by John W. Brown was illustrated in colors with Mrs. McNett and one of her first graders (6 years old) at the bird feeder at her backyard while her brother (8 years old) looks for birds with binoculars. January 27, 1968, p. 1C: The article said, "Some feeders prove more popular than others and often the reasons are obscure. There's reason to believe, for example, that they should not be painted bright colors--like red...The methods of offering and dispensing feed are countless, and sometimes the simplest, most primitive feeding shelves are more successful than the fanciest commercially-constructed feeder models. Mrs. McNett has drawn on her years of experience in feeding birds to write a booklet, 'Bird Attracting Through the Years.'"...

HAWAII'S BIRDS, new field guide now available for \$2.00. Send in your orders to: Book Order Committee, Hawaii Audubon Society, P.O. Box 5032, Honolulu, Hawaii 96814.

MARCH ACTIVITIES:

- March 10 - Field trip to study shorebirds. 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: LCDR J. Richard Gauthey, telephone: 432-7218.
- March 11 - Board meeting at the Waikiki Aquarium Auditorium at 7:30 p.m. Members are always welcome.
- March 18 - General meeting at the Waikiki Aquarium Auditorium at 7:30 p.m. Speaker: Ian Atkinson, graduate student in Soil Science, Univ. of Haw. Topic: Conservation of New Zealand Forest Birds. (Color slides)

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