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REDISCOVERY OF THE NESTING GROUNDS OF NEWELL'S MANX SHEARWATER
(PUFFINUS PUFFINUS NEWELLI), WITH INITIAL OBSERVATIONS*

By John L. Sincock and Gerald E. Swedberg

Newell's Shearwater or 'A'o (*Puffinus puffinus newelli* Henshaw), sometimes considered a race of the Manx Shearwater, is one of the most poorly known of the seabirds of Hawaii. In recent years no nesting sites have been known. Henshaw (1902) stated, "This bird was first obtained by Mr. M. Newell on the island of Maui in the spring of 1894, several of them having been taken from their burrows by the natives and brought to Mr. Newell alive." Munro (1941) mentioned that Mr. Alanson Bryan found skins of the 'A'o in about 1900 in the Gay and Robinson collections from Kauai. Bryan (1908) reported hearing the call of what he thought was the 'A'o in the valleys of Molokai. Munro (1944) expressed the opinion that the mongoose had no doubt killed all of them that nested on Hawaii, Maui, and Molokai. He further stated, "It may still nest in remote valleys on the north side of Kauai or perhaps Niihau. By some it is thought to be extinct and if so there are only about seven specimens in existence." Kauai, as the only major island without the mongoose, has frequently been suggested as the primary nesting area of the 'A'o. King and Gould (1967) concluded that Kauai is now the primary and possibly the only breeding locality of Newell's Shearwater. They estimated its population on Kauai to be in the low thousands. Locally, the annual autumnal misfortune of the 'A'o "falling" out of the sky onto lighted highways, parks, football fields, and buildings was well known to residents on the eastern side of Kauai. Swedberg sent about 40 of these "downed" birds to the Smithsonian Institution in 1966.

Specific information leading to the discovery of the nesting grounds came from Mr. Eddie Goo. While searching for his dogs after a pig hunt in the Moloaa Forest Reserve on Kauai in early July 1967, he found the dogs atop a 457-m ridge with black and white feathers in their mouths.

On 25 July 1967 a helicopter dropped us on this ridge at 22°10' N and 159°21'50" W, overlooking Moloaa Bay which was 4 km away to the northeast. From this precipitous knife-like ridge of the Makaleha Mountains we could see the bridge on State Route 56 that crosses Moloaa Stream. There was a moderately dense tree canopy on portions of the ridge and almost everywhere there were dense, impenetrable stands of uluhe or false staghorn fern (*Dicranopteris linearis*). A landing was not possible in the dense

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uluhe, which in places was 3 m tall, so we jumped to the ground. We cut a trail southeasterly along the wet, earthen ridge toward Puu Ehu for approximately 0.5 km. As we proceeded along the ridge we noticed a shearwater skull, white feathers, hog feces containing feathers, and a rotten egg below a burrow. The egg was a light beige color and measured 36 mm by 61 mm. At 10:40 we heard a sudden chorus of shearwaters calling from their burrows about 90 m ahead of us.

At 11:00 we located an occupied burrow and dug out a nestling 'A'o. Based on later observations we estimated that it was about eight days old. The burrow was semicircular in shape, about 1.5 m long, and had two entrances. It was 12 m below the crest of the ridge on a 65-degree slope that made climbing difficult. The soil was a reddish-brown clay. Uluhe fern was the dominant ground cover and 'Ohi'a-ha (*Eugenia* sp.) and 'Ohi'a-lehua (*Metrosideros collina*) were the dominant tree canopy. A downy 'A'o found in a second burrow on the crest of the ridge was left undisturbed. With the first nestling found, we made our way back to meet the helicopter and cleared a place for landing.

We returned to the area by helicopter the following day and at 17:30 found a burrow containing an adult 'A'o and a nestling about four days old. We camped overnight and listened to the calling behavior of the 'A'o as they arrived at the nesting grounds in the evening and departed for the sea in the morning. The first arrivals from the sea were at 20:00, a few minutes after dark. This is in contrast to the findings of Lockley (1942) with the Manx Shearwater, which arrived two hours after sunset. The birds called almost continuously as they flew in circles over the area. The nasal calling was loud and sounded like a combination of jackass braying and crow calling. At a later date Sincok heard this calling at a distance of 1.6 km while he was in the fields below the ridge. Calling subsided noticeably at 22:30, but continued intermittently throughout the night, which was rainy. Calling increased at 03:40 and continued until 05:25 when it abruptly ceased just before dawn.

Some of the 'A'o reached the ground in an astounding manner. After calling and circling the area they crashed into the tree tops and tumbled pell-mell through the branches into the dense understory of Uluhe. Many tunnels were hollowed out of the base of the fern through which the birds had crawled to enter their burrows. After landing, most birds seemed to require 10 to 30 minutes to locate their burrows. Light from a two-cell flashlight confused most of the birds on the ground and light from an electronic flash generally caused them to remain immobile for 30 minutes to two hours.

Further observations and banding were conducted in the area during the periods 1-4 August and 28-29 August 1967. Six nestlings and 14 adults were banded. The evening calling of the first arrivals commenced at 19:45 during the latter period, corresponding to the first few minutes of darkness. Calling and flight activity continued almost without interruption on cloudy, rainy nights, but subsided on clear nights by about 22:30. Calling from the ground was occasionally heard a few minutes before the arrival of the birds from the sea, and intermittently thereafter. This calling was sporadic and infrequent and did not seem to be a form of communication with the flying birds.

The calling of the flying birds reached such a crescendo that it was not possible to estimate accurately the number of birds by sound, but there may have been more than 500. The dense vegetation and hazardous terrain made it difficult to search out the burrows to estimate numbers.

Only two of about 30 burrows observed had more than one entrance. All burrows were close to trees and none was found in open expanses of uluhe where there was no tree canopy. The burrows were dug horizontally into clay banks, generally with a turn 4.6 to 6.1 cm from the entrance. They averaged 1.1 m in depth near the crest of the hill, but those further down the steep slope averaged about 2.1 m in depth. Measurements of the burrow entrances were consistent; of six measured the range in width was 13.3 cm to 16.5 cm, and the range in height was 7.6 cm to 8.3 cm.

Adults caught shortly after returning from the sea frequently regurgitated their stomach contents. Squid was the most common content, but small silver-sided fish were noted on two occasions.

Based on a dozen observations of eggs and nestlings we presume most hatching occurred between mid-July and the first week in August. At Skokholm Island, Wales, Lockley (1942) found the peak of the hatching of the Manx Shearwater was in the latter part of June.

There had been some speculation about the manner in which the adults took flight once they were on the ground. Those that had crashed to ground in lighted areas of the island at lower elevations seemed unable to fly, particularly when there was little wind. At the nesting site on the ridge a strong east wind normally swept up the mountain slope about an hour before dawn, undoubtedly aiding the birds in taking flight. One moonlit night at 05:00 Sincock saw indistinctly the silhouette of an 'A'o as it took off through the dense uluhe fern; about three flaps of its wings cleared the 'A'o from the fern and it flew steeply up through the tree canopy.

Except for the presence of feathers in hog feces, one burrow that had been dug out by an unknown animal, and the dogs that made the discovery possible, there was no further evidence of predation. One bird was found hanging by its neck in the crotch of a tree, no doubt a victim of a crash landing.

In mid-October the 'A'o was once again landing on roads and lighted areas on the eastern side of Kauai. Mr. R. Doepping, security guard at the Kauai Surf Hotel in Lihue, picked up 125 'A'o on the hotel grounds between 22 October and 3 November 1967, and released them each following day. Between 4 November and 11 November he picked up 75 more which we banded and released. None of the 200 'A'o handled by Mr. Doepping wore bands, although Sincock had banded 20 on the nesting grounds.

There are other sites on Kauai that resemble the nesting area that we discovered, and further exploration and listening from vantage points may reveal more areas used by the 'A'o.

Swedberg found dead 'A'o near the Pali tunnel on Oahu on 4 August, 9 September, and 19, 25, and 27 November 1967. Possibly a nesting ground also exists in the mountains of Oahu.

The nestling that we found on 25 July 1967 was kept in captivity to record plumage development until 28 August 1967, when it died from enteritis resulting from puncture of its gizzard by a squid beak. The captive bird ate about one-half pound of squid per day.

Description of the collected specimen on 25 July 1967, when it was estimated to be 8 days old, was as follows: The eye color was black. The bill color was slate gray. The downy plumage of the bird was a medium gray color on the rump, back and head. The chin, gular region and jugulum were a soft downy white. The breast was whitish to very pale gray. The abdomen and anal region were white. The inner surface of the leg was pink and the outer surface was gray. The webs of the feet were pink. The inside toe was pink; the middle toe was pink on the inner side and gray on the outer side; the outer toe was gray.

Primary feather development was first noted on the captive bird when it was estimated to be about 21 days old. At an estimated age of 28 days, the down on the dorsal surface of the wing was being dropped and the primaries were encased pin feathers about 12 mm long. On 20 August, when the nestling was estimated as 34 days old, the tips of the encased primaries were exposed. The following day they averaged 25.4 mm in length and were one-half exposed. A nestling that hatched on 2 August on the breeding ground had encased primaries about 6 mm long on 29 August.

The captive shearwater at death on 28 August was estimated as 42 days old; its primaries ranged from 25.4 mm to 50.8 mm in length and the primary and secondary wing converts had replaced most of the down. The black feathers of the humeral tract, the

interscapular region and the upper dorsal region were exposed and free of down. There was little evidence of feather development in the capital tract or the cervical apterium. Pin feathers were just beginning to show in the pelvic region and in the caudal tract.

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Excerpts from BIRDS OF THE HAWAIIAN ISLANDS by H.W. Henshaw, pages 117 and 118:

Puffinus newelli, Henshaw. Newell's Puffin.

"This bird was first obtained by Mr. M. Newell [s/b Newel] on the island of Maui in the spring of 1894, several of them having been taken from their burrows by the natives and brought to Mr. Newell alive. Two specimens were saved, one of which, the type, is in my possession, the other being in the museum of St. Louis College in Honolulu.

"At the time mentioned the species was numerous in the Waihee Valley and probably elsewhere on Maui, but it is to be feared that the species has since suffered from the mongoose, which is rapidly exterminating the native puffins elsewhere on the islands. At present no particulars of its habits are known.

"Mr. Bryan in his Key gives the island of Kauai also as the habitat of the species, where it was obtained by Mr. Francis Gay, and the bird may prove to be somewhat generally dispersed throughout the group. I saw numerous puffins in the channel between the islands of Molokai and Maui. They were rather close to the steamer, and their appearance seemed to exactly coincide with the present species.

"Description.--Adult. Above, including upper surface of wings and tail, clear and somewhat glossy black. Border of under wing-coverts black. Beneath, including under tail-coverts, pure white. Maxilla and edge and tip of mandible black; rest of maxilla light brown. Tarsus and feet light yellow, but black along the outer posterior side of tarsus, the outer toe and half the middle toe. Wing, 8.65; tail, 3.75; bill, 1.28; tarsus, 1.80."

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Brother Matthias Newel
 By E. H. Bryan, Jr.

Brother Matthias Newel was a real naturalist, born in Prussia. He was a member of the faculties of the Brothers of Mary schools: St. Anthony in Wailuku, Maui, and St. Mary's, in Hilo. He retired in 1927, and lived the remainder of his life at the University of Dayton, Ohio, mother house of the Marianist Brothers, where he died October 12, 1939. He was a keen observer of nature, interested in botany as well as zoology, and was a taxidermist of recognized ability.

In the field of ornithology he was noted mainly for the collection of birds which he made and presented to St. Louis College, Honolulu, and for his careful observations concerning them. He came to Hawaii about 1884 from San Antonio, Texas, where he had already gained the local title of "Rattlesnake catcher," owing to his zeal in the various branches of natural history. After about a year at St. Louis College, Honolulu, he was transferred to Wailuku, Maui, where for 14 years he served the Catholic mission in Iao Valley. It was here that he collected and mounted most

of the specimens of Hawaiian birds which he presented to St. Louis College. These specimens were studied and identified, about 1900-1901, by William Alanson Bryan, ornithologist with Bishop Museum, a list being published in *The Auk*, XVIII: 382-387, 1901. These specimens were turned over to Bishop Museum during World War II for safe keeping, when the school buildings were used as a hospital, and later were presented to Bishop Museum.

About 1899 or 1900, Brother Matthias (as he was generally called) moved from Wailuku to Hilo, where he taught in St. Mary's School. Here he also assisted the Hawaii Board of Commissioners of Agriculture and Forestry, Division of Entomology, as their Plant Quarantine Inspector at the Port of Hilo. It is not certain just when he began these duties, but the Report for 1908 states that "Brother M. Newell was promoted commensurate with the scope of his work." He continued this somewhat arduous and exacting work, together with charge of the Hilo Forest Nursery, until August 31, 1923, when he resigned. The Hawaiian Entomogocial Society, when it was organized in 1905, made him an honorary member in recognition of his keen observations on insects, both those wild in the forests and those seeking entry into Hawaii on plant importations. The minutes of their meeting of January 6, 1938, state: "Mr. O.H. Swezey read a letter from Bro. Matthias Newell in which he wrote that he had observed what was most probably Erebus odora [the giant "Black Witch" moth] many years ago at Hilo, Hawaii. This considerably antedates the recording of this moth here in 1928. President Schmidt suggested that Mr. Swezey reply to this interesting letter of Bro. Newell, who is an honorary member of the Society and a keen and accurate observer, and send him the regards of the Society. He further suggested that Bro. Newell be persuaded to write memoirs of his early observations in Hawaii."

His ornithological observations were highly regarded by Henry W. Henshaw, who lived many years in Hilo, Hawaii, and who named the subspecies of the Manx Shearwater, Puffinus puffinus newelli for him in 1900.

24 March 1969

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Brother Vincent Steele, Principal of Saint Louis High School, Honolulu, Hawaii, has generously contributed the following information including the reminiscences by Brother Matthias Newell:

MAHALO NUI LOA

Vital Statistics on Brother Matthias Newell

Names: Father - Matthias Mother - Magdalena Rommel

Born: April 23, 1854 at Zerf, Trier, Prussia

Entered: October 26, 1868 at Dayton, Ohio

Admitted into Novitiate: August 11, 1869

Admitted to First Prof.: August 12, 1870

Admitted to Perp. Prof.: August 9, 1876

Died in the S.M.: October 12, 1939 at the University of Dayton, Ohio

Scene of Bro. Matthias Newell's labors

San Antonio, Tex., 1870-1873

Wailuku, Hawaii, 1887-1896

Baltimore, Md., 1873-1878

Hilo, Hawaii, 1896-1924

New Orleans, La., 1878-1881

Santa Cruz, Calif., 1924-1927

San Antonio, Tex., 1881-1885

Dayton, Ohio, Mount St. John, 1927-1928

Stockton, Calif., 1885-1886

Dayton, Ohio, University of Dayton, 1928-1939

Honolulu, Hawaii, 1886-1887

Excerpts from Circular No. 2, Division of Entomology, Board of Commissioners of Agriculture and Forestry, Territory of Hawaii, December 1, 1905, on the Japanese beetle fungus by Jacob Kotinsky:

"...Perhaps no one upon these Islands has had more extensive experience with the propagation and distribution of this useful fungus than Bro. Matthias Newell [s/b Newell] of Hilo. With the assistance of the pupils attending his classes he has been able to inoculate and distribute tens of thousands of diseased beetles through Hilo and vicinity, besides a good many that went to other localities and other Islands. He

asserts with authority that the fungus has been distributed to all portions of the group. His efforts in and about Hilo have been rewarded with success which...is due, first, to Bro. Newell's perseverance; and secondly, to the very favorable climatic conditions, namely, the abundance of rain in Hilo...."

On pages 3 and 4 of the same circular Bro. Matthias had written an article on "How to Inoculate Japanese Beetles."

Items concerning Bro. Matthias Newel, S.M. taken from the annals of the Marianist community, St. Mary's School, Hilo, Hawaii:

July 1911

The fruit fly, so far as known, exists only on Oahu, and every precaution is taken to prevent it from reaching the other islands. Fruit grown on Oahu is not allowed to be shipped to other islands, but fruit from California, not yet unpacked, may be shipped. Neither may plants be shipped except from the department nurseries, where only sterilized soil is used. All out-going vessels are guarded by officers to prevent passengers from carrying fruit, besides all the officers of the Inter-island boats have volunteered to see that no fruit is carried.

No power on earth, however, can prevent unscrupulous persons from sending and carrying fruit in a way that defies detection, and thus sooner or later spread the pest to other Islands.

Bro. M. Newel

July 1923

Brother Matthias Newel resigned as head of the Hilo nursery in July 1923. Resignation accepted and went into effect August 2, 1923. Reasons for resigning were:-unreasonable demands and opposition from headquarters in Honolulu, particularly from Mr. Charles S. Judd, Superintendent of Forestry, and Mr. Edward M. Ehrhorn, chief plant inspector.

Sept. 1, 1923

Bro. Matthias Newel's services as inspector of fruits and plants on incoming steamers terminated. This was ordered by the aforesaid Mr. Charles S. Judd. No reason given. As head of the Hilo nursery Bro. Matthias received \$50.00 monthly, as inspector at the wharf \$80.00 per month.

My Reminiscences of the Hawaiian Islands
Which Date Back over 50 Years
By Brother Matthias Newel

I arrived in Honolulu sometime in June 1885. The Spreckels Co. operated three steamers, the Mariposa, Alameda and the Australia. The Mariposa would leave San Francisco and take one week to reach Honolulu; remain one week, and then depart again for San Francisco. When the Mariposa left Honolulu, the Alameda would leave San Francisco for Honolulu, and this continued for sometime, do not remember how long. The Australia on which I sailed for Honolulu, stopped there for a short time and then sailed to Australia. Her schedule I do not remember, but well remember that she was frightful roller and made me miss my first supper on her. Rev. Father Jalim from the U. of Notre Dame was also a passenger on this steamer.

The first Brothers, eight in number arrived in Honolulu in 1883. Here in the East Dayton, Ohio little was known of the Hawaiian Islands. Alder Geographies called them the Sandwich Islands. When exchange of letters started between here and the Islands, P.O. officials here in Dayton did not know where Honolulu was and letters were sent to New York. Finally they got mailed.

Kalakaua was then King of the Islands. He had a weakness for gin and hula girls, but was very friendly towards the Brothers who took over St. Louis College and made it what it is now.

I was stationed one year at St. Louis College and then was transferred to Wailuku, where I remained 9 years. In 1896 I was sent to Hilo where I remained

28 years and then came back to the U.S. in 1924.

The now rich and powerful Matson Co. had a very humble beginning. When I was stationed in Hilo, Captain Matson owned a sailing vessel called the Lurline, which plied between Hilo and San Francisco. Later on the steamer Enterprise took its place. It was this steamer on which I returned to the U.S. twenty-eight years later.

Hilo was then a small village and there were no roads yet and all travelling had to be done on horseback. Building a road to the volcano Kilauea had been started and finished for about 14 miles and could be used, the rest of the travel had to be done over rough trails. The Volcano House was then a small affair but comfortable. Constructed by Mr. Peter Lee, a genial host and always a great friend of the Brothers.

Supplies for the Volcano House and tourists in general were loaded at a place about seven miles below and left side of crater where some kind of a road had been built. Forgot the name.

The Wilder Steamship Co. operated two steamers between the Islands, the Kinau and the Likelike. The Kinau was a champion roller, and when leaving Honolulu for Hilo stopped at many places to the discomfort of the passengers. The Likelike I believe was wrecked off the Kohala coast. Likelike was the name of a princess, sister of Liliuokalani. Her death was a tragic one owing to Hawaiian superstition when Mauna Loa erupted in 1886 or 7, I believe. Saw her lying in state and a large crowd of wailing women.

The art of wailing has practically disappeared. It was practised in joy and sorrow, sounded alike, but the words used fitted the occasion. It could give the creeps when it was heard during the night. It was practised when somebody died, or when a visitor was greeted.

Liliuokalani had for husband a white man by the name of Cleghorn [s/b Dominis] and had daughter, princess Kaiulani, a charming young lady and general favorite. King Kalakaua having no children, she was heir to the throne, but died when she was eighteen years old, I believe.

Kalakaua actually brought the Islands on the map when he made a trip to the U.S. and Europe. I was in Baltimore at the time when he passed through there, but did not see him. He died later on in California, having gone there for his health and was brought back to Honolulu on a U.S. Man of War, if I mistake not. There being no cable nor wireless at the time, his death was not known in Honolulu and people were surprised when they saw the Man of War appearing on the offing, flag half mast. Of course, there was a big funeral which I did not see, being stationed in Wailuku, Maui. Having kept no diary I cannot give year and date of these events. All this however, is matter of history which can be learned by anyone in Honolulu who wants to find out.

Princess Liliuokalani then became Queen. There was revolution. She was finally dethroned and the Islands were annexed by the U.S. But there was much fuss about the whole affair, and it would [take] a book to relate all here. But such books do exist.

The annexation of the Islands was a flagrant wrong. The Islands were an independent Kingdom, guaranteed by the principal nations of world all having representatives there. In spite of the wrong done the Islands were the gainers by it.

Besides Hawaii having Legislative Government, each Island also had its own Governors. At my time Oahu had as Governor Mr. Dominis, husband of Liliuokalani, I believe.

In 1886 when I came to Wailuku, we had a Mr. Everet as Governor, an elderly and kind man. He had special care of the Wailuku Hospital in care of Franciscan Sisters which the Government had employed. They came from Syracuse, N.Y.

The year I was stationed in Honolulu, besides teaching, I was very much interested in doing a little gardening raising a few flowers and coconuts. From the Government nursery small plants could always be obtained free of charge. I do not remember the name now of the caretaker.

PARKS WITH AN ADDED DIMENSION*

By Margaret Titcomb

A word that has come into prominence in the last few years is planning. A great deal of planning has gone on since time began. But now we are feeling the pinch of more people and no more land. Land planning is of increasing importance.

The subject is a big one. Tackling a small part of it, let us think of parks for Hawaii. We shall need them more and more, especially if we allow the predictions of some people to come true. Is Oahu going to be a mass of concrete? Some say yes. We hope the answer is no. What must be done, and as quickly as possible, is to plan for parks. What places would be best for them? Some parks should be within the most crowded areas, breathing places for those who live in the heart of the city. Some parks should be in the, as yet, open spaces, so that use of a park is a recreation of the spirit as well as a game area. Perhaps not enough space in parks has been devoted to the needs of children and old people. If they prefer to sit, let them sit in comfort, and if they wish to have something interesting to see, let it be there.

Some parks should "show off" the land. Let natural areas remain natural, except for weeds! Most of our weeds are introduced, anyway. Let us not call weeds a part of the natural environment.

What should we pick among natural areas? To our mind, some part of nature that shows vividly its life, its communal use by plants and animals, and let us choose some areas where water remains or flows. Sacred Falls is a lovely spot. We appreciate it. In Hawaii we do not have many animals that are part of old Hawaii. But priceless treasures are our birds. Strangely, there are many of us who do not know the birds that belong to Hawaii. If we are fishermen, we know the sea birds! They live on the offshore islets. When hungry, they go to sea for their food. They often fly in flocks, and when the fishermen see a flock of birds at sea they try to reach it for the same reason as the birds. They want to get fish for their haul, as the birds want to get fish for their next meal. The Fish and Game Division of our government takes care that sea birds are not disturbed. They are part of our economy. They work for their living, and support themselves.

The forest birds are shy. They have had reign over the forests for centuries, except where men have gone up into the forests and captured them. By changing certain areas of the forests, and by bringing in birds from foreign countries, our birds may have contracted some foreign ailment. Many have disappeared entirely, become extinct, a shocking number. How we could have saved them I personally do not know. It is a puzzle. But we hope that those which survive can survive always. We should manage somehow to keep many areas of the forest untouched now, so that the birds, the trees, the plants, all the environment, will remain suitable for the birds. We are learning now, more surely than ever, the dependence of plants upon their environment, upon each other and the conditions where they thrive. This is true for animals too.

Neither of these groups of birds, sea and forest, can help to make more lovely our parks. They live outside such territory. But a third group of birds can do it. These are the shore birds: the stilt, the duck, the coot, the gallinule, the heron, the migrating plover, wandering tattler, turnstone and sanderling. These we can enjoy the sight of if we give them a chance to live. For many of us they will be new acquaintances. They can live in our parks. Let us choose areas for some of our parks that are already places where these birds exist. Added to such areas we can add land for other park purposes. Remarkably, birds are not disturbed by the presence of man if he does them no harm. One cannot capture wild birds and pet them as we do cats or dogs. One cannot put them in a place that is not suitable for them and say, "Please stay there where I can look at you when I choose; be content." You can do that only with caged birds. Wild birds are not at their best even in a zoo, where the best conditions are attempted for them. Zoos are valuable for teaching us about animals that are far from our living space.

No, we must respect wild birds and give ourselves the pleasure of getting acquainted with them by watching them on the side line. At Mokapu Peninsula there

*Presented at the special meeting of the Conservation Council for Hawaii, 23 April 1969.

are boobies, wonderful, large birds. Few people know they are there. They are protected by having the area devoted to the use of the Marine Corps. But, amazingly, the birds stay in their ancient habitat, at the point of the peninsula, in spite of the fact that right next to them is a practice firing range, terribly noisy for six days a week, all day long. The birds have learned that they can still live, have nests, rear their young, come and go out to sea for food next to that disturbance. It is likely that their instinct tells them that, in spite of the noise, they are safe. There are two little ponds on that peninsula also, and some shore birds live in them. It is hoped that a proposed new road in the area can avoid the ponds, and allow the birds living space as now.

To leave Hawaii for a moment, let's go to London. It is a remarkable city in that there are so many little parks, as well as a couple of large ones, strewn about the city, that one cannot go far in any direction without seeing one. They are a delight. Several of them have little ponds or lakes, and on these there are always water birds: ducks and geese and swans, right in the midst of walks and, on weekends, innumerable people. This is true in our own zoo, too. The entrance is enchanting, isn't it- with the lovely flamingoes there to see. They seem happy, going about their own business, seemingly oblivious of the human beings staring at them and enjoying the sight. Birds soon learn where safety lies. If we had parks with water-birds there to see, we could enjoy them without disturbing them, and the birds would soon know that they were safe. We could even expect them to increase in number. That would be a joy.

So, we hope that this idea will spread, and spread quickly- parks with birds, Parks with an Added Dimension. Let us call them pu'uhonua no ka manu, safe places for birds. I hope all of you can be enthusiastic about this idea. You can help by thinking about it, help more by talking about it, and still more by writing to us your thoughts and suggestions as to bettering the plan. As soon as we can get the idea expressed fully, we can search the minds and hearts of our legislators, and then we can achieve something. Don't forget- it must be done before the concrete piles up too high, before a look at the land is to see a sea of roofs.

Lastly, if one wishes to think of our tourists, they too will enjoy beautiful Hawaii, WITH ITS BEAUTIFUL PARKS.

On 24 April 1969, Honolulu Star-Bulletin on page C-6 had the following news article by Martyn Chase titled: Birds Play Second Fiddle at Conservation Meet:

The question of what kind of bird sanctuaries Hawaii should provide may well be an interesting topic. But instead of talking about problems facing the migrating plover, the wandering tattler or the sanderling, panel members at last night's Conservation Council for Hawaii meeting on bird sanctuaries spent most of their time discussing less esoteric topics such as agricultural land use, the housing shortage and a myriad of other problems relating more to man than to birds.

Panel members were Lt. Gov. Thomas P. Gill; State Rep. Stuart Ho; Arlie Carson, deputy director of the Parks and Recreation Dept.; Dr. Roger Green of the University of Hawaii and Bishop Museum; and Margaret Titcomb, president of the Audubon Society and Chairman of the Conservation Council's Fauna Committee.

Miss Titcomb began the discussion with a plea for bird sanctuaries to provide an "added dimension" to the park system by establishing parks at known bird sanctuary areas rather than working to build bird sanctuaries....

Gill then broadened the discussion to include all areas of conservation. "We all have our special interest." Gill said. "It may be birds, fish, wildlife or sea shells. But the time has come for all of us interested in preserving natural life to link arms to be effective." Gill made specific suggestions about where new parks might be built, suggesting Makiki Valley, Upper Halawa Valley, Peacock Flats on the Waianae slope and the Upper Punaluu Valley near the planned State park at Kahana Bay.

Ho questioned the rationality of Hawaii's land policy and said the man on the street may be just as much to blame as the developers for rapid and sometimes tasteless development. "Essentially our problem is one of land scarcity," Ho said, "I'm

not sure the man on the street would put open spaces over putting a roof over his head. There are a lot of people who want housing." He suggested that some of the land now zoned for agricultural use be used for home building.

This approach was later criticized in the question-and-answer session. It was pointed out that there is a limited amount of prime agricultural land and that this land should remain in agricultural use.

Carson said new parks are being planned so that existing land features, such as ponds and marshes will be kept in tact to help preserve bird and wildlife.

Field Trip to Poamoho Trail, May 11, 1969.

The Poamoho trail hike to look for the birds of the forest on Sunday, May 11, 1969 was well attended by some twenty-five members and guests. The weather was fine, the rain held off except for a few sprinkles, and the scenery was beautiful. However, the total number of birds observed was not too rewarding. 'Amakihi and leiothrix were completely absent, which is puzzling, and while a good number of 'elepaio were heard, only two were seen. White-eyes were plentiful as were ricebirds and enough 'apapane were found to satisfy most. Two owls were observed sailing over the valley and a total of three bush warblers were heard at different places along the trail. Cardinals and house finches, of course, as well as numerous doves completed the days count.

Charles G. Kaigler

ALOHA to new members:

Life - J. de N. Macomb, Jr., 588 Arbor Vitae Road, Winnetka, Ill. 60093.

Regular - Shirley Anne Hunt, Am Red Cross, Box 247, Tripler Gen Hosp, APO SF 96438.

Dr. and Mrs. Robert L. Pyle left for Washington, D.C. on 27 May 1969 after a short two-years stay in Hawaii. They were always willingly taking on responsibilities. They even saw to it that their work will be continued by Mrs. Virginia Cone as secretary and Miss Harriet Linn as manager of book order committee.

MAHALO NUI LOA for your interest and generous KOKUA.

Aloha,

The annual index will be mailed to the members only upon request, so if you are interested in receiving a copy, please send in your reservation before July to Kojima, 725-A 8th Avenue, Honolulu, Hawaii 96816.

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

JUNE ACTIVITIES:

- June 2 - PLEASE NOTE DATE. General meeting at Bishop Museum Conference Room (Please use the Kalihi Street entrance) at 7:30 p.m.
Speaker: Dr. Glenn McBryde, Geneticist at the University of Queensland.
Topic: Study of Feral Chickens of the Coast of Australia.
- June 8 - Field trip to Koko Head to see the fairy terns. Bring lunch, water, and if possible your car. Transportation cost (50¢) to be paid to the drivers. Meet at the Library of Hawaii at 8:00 a.m.
Leader: Charles G. Kaigler, telephone 988-3195.
- June 9 - Board meeting at the Zoo entrance bldg at 7:30 p.m. Members welcome.

HAWAII AUDUBON SOCIETY EXECUTIVE BOARD:

President-Miss Margaret Titcomb, Vice Presidents-Charles G. Kaigler & Jack L. Throp
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