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A TRIP TO THE ALAKA'I PLATEAU

By J. Richard Gauthey, Ian Atkinson and Colin Huddleston

We spent three days in the Alaka'i Swamp on Kauai, arriving at the Koaie Stream cabin about 3PM on May 30 and leaving at 11AM on June 2, 1968. The majority of our observations were made along the ridge trail extending SSE from the cabin, paralleling the Koaie Stream. On both May 31 and June 1, from 7AM to 6PM, we proceeded along the ridge approximately $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles to the source of the Koaie Stream, making short side trips out spur ridges and descending into the canyon at the stream origin. Skies were clear, temperatures mild (a low of 40 at night and into the 70's in the day), and the wind was moderate on the 1st but almost absent on the 31st.

The number of the more common birds seen and heard in one traverse of the ridge was approximately: 'Apapane 100, 'Elepaio 30, White-eye 25, 'Anianiau 20, 'I'iwi 20, 'Amakihi 15, Chinese Thrush 10, Creeper 8, 'Oma'o 8, and 'Akepa 5. The 'Oma'o and Chinese Thrush counts were principally of singing birds whereas the 'Anianiau, Creeper and 'Akepa were primarily sight records due to our unfamiliarity with their call notes. The numbers of 'Apapane and 'I'iwi probably come closest to reflecting a true estimate of the individuals present along the ridge because of their activity, frequent calls and ease of identification at a distance. More than 25 per cent of all the Honeycreepers seen were immature birds. Also seen were 2 Spotted Doves, 2 N.A. Cardinals, and 1 Pueo. We did not see or hear Leiothrix, Jungle Fowl, or Ricebird in this area.

Of the rarer Honeycreepers, one 'O'u was seen on the 31st within 200 yards of the cabin, part way up the ridge. Another was seen about a mile along the ridge and two were seen at the stream source. On June 1, six 'O'u were seen together at the last location. Here 'O'u were actively flying back and forth along the ridge and at least 25 sightings were made. Just how many different birds were present was impossible to say, but we felt that, including one 'O'u heard on the return trip on the Kohua Ridge, a total of at least 10 individual birds were seen. Singing was common both by males and females or immature males? particularly just after the bird had alighted. The song reminded us of a canary's, both in phrasing and the clear whistled quality. Parts of the song were like the 'Apapane's but much less harsh. A trebled whistle at the end seemed typical. When singing, the 'O'u would often partially extend its wings into the quivering position of the 'Oma'o or 'Elepaio. The birds seen were in the higher portions of 'Ohi'a trees - often singing from a high exposed branch. Only one bird was seen with food; what appeared to be a large white grub taken from an 'Ohi'a.

On May 31, at this same spot near the head of Koaie Stream, we heard a two-syllabled descending slurred whistle. The following day this song was heard at two other locations and again at the stream source. Here we climbed down into the canyon and partially up the ridge on the other side. The song began again about forty feet

away and this time we spotted the elusive singer - a Puaiohi. In good light, at that distance, its flesh-colored legs and whitish eye ring were quite evident. The eye ring was heaviest above the eye. The grey of the breast was rather sharply separated from the lighter grey belly. Compared to the 'Oma'o it was noticeably smaller with a longer, slimmer bill and lighter face. The three places from which it sang were all exposed branches just beneath the canopy of 'Ohi'a about half way down into the canyon. While singing, its body was inclined at about 45 degrees. In contrast, the 'Oma'o we saw sang from the highest exposed branch in a much more vertical attitude. Several times we saw an 'Oma'o leave its perch and continue singing in flight. The 'Oma'o song is composed of mellow, liquid phrases much like those of the Wood Thrush or Hermit Thrush. We recorded the Puaiohi's song and on playing it back the bird flew to a branch just five feet above us. Our movements scared him away, but he returned three times to within 15 feet and would give a few call notes then several songs until, possibly, he felt he had driven the intruder away. The gray outer tail feathers were not seen, primarily because of the extremely rapid flight of the bird, a characteristic noted by Perkins. A juvenile Puaiohi was also seen. The amount of spotting on the underparts was considerably more than shown by Munro or Wilson and Evans.

While watching 'O'u and Puaiohi, J.R. Gauthey saw two birds in flight which were suspected of being Nuku-pu'u. They were seen for 3 or 4 seconds and came within 50 feet in good light. They appeared larger than the other greenish Honeycreepers. They gave the appearance of having yellow heads and breasts, differentiated from greenish back and whitish bellies. The bill appeared long, black and decurved about like that of an 'I'wi's.

The numbers of birds we saw are not inconsistent with those recorded by Richardson in 1960 ("A Survey of the Birds of Kauai, Hawaii"). Creepers were significantly less common and no more than three were ever seen at once. This might possibly be due to the stage in the breeding cycle - Richardson's observations were in July and August. He was sure of seeing only one 'O'u but recorded at least 12 'O'o'a'a. For such rare birds these differences may not be significant. As well as being due to the time of year, local movements of the birds, amount of singing and general activity may have caused these differences. Unfortunately we found White-eyes more common than Richardson indicated. At about 3900' on the Koaie Stream we saw a flock of 30 White-eyes and flocks of 10 or so were seen on the ridge within a half-mile of the cabin.

Apart from the Puaiohi, we were able to tape-record the songs or calls of 'O'u, 'Oma'o, Chinese Thrush, 'Apapane, and 'Elepaio.

The feeding observations we made indicated that 'Anianiau, 'Akepa, 'Amakihi, and White-eyes were all taking food from foliage in the 'Ohi'a canopy. 'Anianiau, 'Amakihi, and 'Apapane were seen feeding among twigs in the 'Ohi'a canopy, and 'Akepa, 'I'iwi, and 'Apapane were seen feeding from 'Ohi'a flowers. There is thus an apparent overlap in feeding stations, even if not food, at this time of the year, which raises some interesting questions of competition between species.

Pig trails are common throughout the area, although without detailed study it is difficult to assess what the effects of pigs on forest regeneration may be. We were able to get to within a few yards of a herd of 9 goats on the stream-bank not far above the Koaie cabin.

From an ecological viewpoint this is a fascinating area. There can be few places in the world where so many rare birds are still surviving in one place.

The plover is back. On August 4 at the Iolani Palace grounds I saw my first plover still wearing the breeding plumage. Violet Hansen from Volcano, Hawaii, noted, "...my plover returned August 8 at 4:45 p.m. After standing motionless for 20 minutes he commenced feeding."

Kojima

BIRDS OF THE CROWDER "BIRDS OF HAWAII" TOUR, DEC. 23, 1967 - JAN. 5, 1968

By Ronald Orenstein

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This is an annotated list of the birds seen on the "Birds of Hawaii" tour, conducted by Crowder Nature Tours Inc. under the leadership of Orville Crowder of Harper's Ferry, West Virginia and Walter Donaghho of Honolulu. The tour, the first of its kind and duration, was held from December 23, 1967 to January 5, 1968. There were thirteen participants exclusive of the two leaders.

The tour was made up of a comprehensive circuit of each of the four largest islands in the Hawaiian group; Hawaii (Dec. 23-Dec. 28), Maui (Dec. 28-Dec. 30), Oahu (Dec. 31-Jan. 2) and Kauai (Jan. 2-Jan. 5). Particular attention was paid on Hawaii and Kauai to the interior, where considerable native forest still persists and the native land birds are still to be found. Several fairly remote areas were visited; one day was devoted to a Landrover trip up to about 5500' on the Kahuku-Ainapo trail, an area uninvestigated by ornithologists on Hawaii for almost fifty years; and a helicopter was used for the first time by a birding party to visit the remote Alaka'i Swamp on Kauai, where one of our party saw the very rare 'O'o'a'a (Moho braccatus). In general, we were very fortunate as regards the Hawaiian endemic bird fauna. We saw, for instance, seven species of the endemic bird family Drepaniidae, or Hawaiian Honeycreepers (see below). Although it was not the breeding season for seabirds, numbers of boobies, tropicbirds and frigatebirds, as well as an albatross, were seen in the vicinity of nesting areas on Oahu and Kauai. Migrant waterfowl and shorebirds were observed in numbers, along with the native races of stilt, gallinule and coot, particularly at the Kanaha Ponds on Maui and the Lihue settlement basin on Kauai; four species were seen usually listed as casual on Hawaii (it appears likely that these birds will be shown with further observation to be regular in the islands).

The following list is divided into three parts. The main section is devoted to those species on the 'official' trip list; that is, following the usual tour policy, any species seen by more than one member of the party. For these details are given of the areas in which the birds were seen and of their abundance. The second section is devoted to two species noted but not put on the official list; the third lists several semiwild species seen at the Puuwaawaa Ranch on Hawaii Dec. 28. These are among a wide number introduced by the ranch owner; some may eventually become established, but it seems premature to include them on the main list. Certainly such wholesale thoughtless introduction of exotics is to be strongly discouraged, especially into an area that is one of the last strongholds of the endemic Hawaiian Crow (*Corvus tropicus*). I have also included a few observations I made at Koke'e, Kauai, on my return there Jan. 5 after the close of the tour.

The classification and order of families is that used in "A New Dictionary of Birds" (A. Landsborough Thomson ed., Nelson 1964); species names are largely from Peterson's "A Field Guide to Western Birds" (2nd ed.) or the booklet "Hawaii's Birds" published by the Hawaii Audubon Society; any deviations are based on my own opinions, but I trust these are kept to a minimum.

General note on the Drepaniidae

To me at least, the most interesting feature of the tour, as implied, was the chance to make field observations on seven species of four genera of the Hawaiian Honeycreepers. As is well known, these birds show probably the greatest degree of adaptive radiation in a small group of birds of common ancestry in the world, and since many of the species are rare or at least little known I took considerable care in observing all I could about them. Obviously on a tour there is no time for an in-depth study, but I did make some interesting observations on the behaviour of these birds. Some of this is summarized in the list under the separate species, but here I present a few general observations.

Naturally in such a widely divergent group of birds it is of interest to find a common behaviour pattern. In all four genera (since the Palila was only seen in flight this observation in Psittirostra was based on a captive Laysan Finch in the

Honolulu Zoo). The one I noted was the habit of almost constantly flicking the wings and tail when perched. This was most noticeable in the 'I'iwi.

A very interesting observation was that each species had a specific flight pattern. This probably is a genus characteristic since the flight of the four Loxops spp. seen was similar-rather like that of a Parulid warbler. Himatione flew like a finch of sorts, with wide, not too rapid wingbeats. Psittirostra has a rapid, direct flight with strong wingbeats; Vestiaria has a strange fluttery flight in which it appears that the tips of the wings carry most of the motion; the primaries are spread wide in flight, rather like those of a hawk.

Further tours visiting these remote areas could add considerably to scientific knowledge by making similar observations on these birds and other Hawaiian endemic species which have been little studied.

ANNOTATED LIST OF BIRDS

S- Seabird N- Native E- Endemic M- Migrant I- Introduced

DIOMEDEIDAE

1. Black-footed Albatross (*Diomedea nigripes*) S
One adult seen soaring near cliffs off Kilauea Point, Kauai, Jan. 4

PHAETHONTIDAE

2. White-tailed Tropicbird (*Phaethon lepturus*) S
A few dozen adults seen in valleys of Na Pali Coast, Kauai, from helicopter Jan. 3; one seen offshore at Kilauea Point Jan. 4.

SULIDAE

3. Blue-faced Booby (*Sula dactylatra*) S
One adult on Moku Manu Is. off Ulupau Head, Oahu, Jan. 1. This bird has lived on islet for a few years; the species is rare on the main islands.
4. Red-footed Booby (*Sula sula*) S
A large colony on Ulupau Head and Moku Manu, Oahu, Jan. 1; several birds were gathering nesting material. Two perched and several offshore birds were seen at Kilauea Point, Kauai, Jan. 4.
5. Brown Booby (*Sula leucogaster*) S
A few birds on Moku Manu, Oahu, Jan. 1; a few flying offshore at Kilauea Point, Kauai, Jan. 4.

FREGATIDAE

6. Great Frigatebird (*Fregata minor*) S
One at Kalapana, Hawaii, Dec. 24; one at Keanae, Maui, Dec. 29; several over Moku Manu, Oahu, Jan. 1; one at Kilauea Point, Kauai, Jan. 4.

ARDEIDAE

7. Black-crowned Night Heron (*Nycticorax nycticorax*) N
Several adults and immatures at Kanaha Ponds, Maui, Dec. 30; a few immatures near Spouting Horn, Kauai, Jan. 3.
8. Cattle Egret (*Ardeola ibis*) I
Flocks flying to roost seen at Pearl Harbour, Oahu, Jan. 1; one at Spouting Horn, Kauai, Jan. 3.

ANATIDAE

9. Nene (*Branta sandvicensis*) E
From twelve to seventeen colour-banded birds seen, mostly in pairs, at about 5000' on the Kahuku-Ainapo Trail, Hawaii, Dec. 27; they were exceedingly tame and fearless and allowed very close approach. Most if not all of these birds were probably hand-raised stock released on Mauna Loa a few years ago.
10. Northern Pintail (*Anas acuta*) M
Very abundant at Kanaha Ponds, Maui, Dec. 30; males mostly in eclipse.
11. Green-winged Teal (*Anas carolinensis*) M
A small flock (under ten birds) associating with Pintails and Shovelers at Kanaha Ponds, Maui, Dec. 30; this species is usually considered as of casual

occurrence in Hawaii.

12. Koloa (*Anas wyvilliana*) E
Two or three pairs at the Lihue Settlement Basin, Kauai, Jan. 4.
13. Common Shoveler (*Anas clypeata*) M
Second only to Pintail in abundance at Kanaha Ponds, Maui, Dec. 30; many males in full breeding plumage.

ACCIPTRIDAE

14. Hawaiian Hawk (*Buteo solitarius*) E
One light-phase bird on the Stainback Highway Dec. 25; one dark-phase bird on the Mauna Loa Strip Road and two dark and one light-phase birds seen over Mauna Loa slopes along the Kilauea-Kona Road Dec. 26; a dark-phase bird on a wire in the South Kona Forest reserve allowed close approach without showing apparent concern Dec. 27; a dark-phase bird was seen at a distance at Puu Laau Dec. 28. This rather slimly built Buteo is confined to the island of Hawaii, with a population of about 250-350 individuals.

PHASIANIDAE

15. California Quail (*Lophortyx californicus*) I
Seen at Kilauea Crater, Hawaii, Dec. 25.
16. Red Jungle Fowl (*Gallus gallus*) I
A flock on the lawn at Koke'e State Park, and a hen at the Kalalau Lookout, Kauai, Jan. 3.
17. Common Pheasant (*Phasianus colchicus*) I
Hawaii: one at the top of the Mauna Loa Strip Dec. 23; one on the Kahuku-Ainapo Trail Dec. 28; a few at Puuwaawaa Dec. 29. One at Kanaha Ponds, Maui, Dec. 30; a few at the Waimea Canyon, Kauai, Jan. 3 and at the Lihue Settlement Basin, Kauai, Jan. 4.
18. Green Pheasant (*Phasianus versicolor*) I
Three males at the Kulani Prison Farm, Hawaii, Dec. 25.

RALLIDAE

19. Common Gallinule (*Gallinula chloropus*) N
Two at Kahana Bay, Oahu, Jan. 1; common at Lihue Settlement Basin, Kauai, Jan. 4. An endemic race (*G. c. sandwichensis*).
20. American Coot (*Fulica americana*) N
Numerous at Kanaha Ponds, Maui, Dec. 29, 30; seen on the Pali Lagoon, Oahu, Dec. 31, Jan. 1; a few on lagoons near Koloa, Kauai, Jan. 2. An endemic race (*F. a. sandwichensis*).

CHARADRIIDAE

21. Lesser Golden Plover (*Pluvialis dominica*) M
Seen every day of the trip; found wherever there were open grasslands or lawns, or on mudflats. A few individuals with some black on the underparts were seen at the Lihue Settlement Basin, Kauai, Jan. 4.
22. Semipalmated Plover (*Charadrius semipalmatus*) M
One associating with Golden Plovers at the Lihue Settlement Basin, Kauai, Jan. 4; usually listed as casual in Hawaii.

SCOLOPACIDAE

23. Lesser Yellowlegs (*Tringa flavipes*) M
One at Kanaha Ponds, Maui, Dec. 30; usually listed as casual in Hawaii.
24. Wandering Tattler (*Heteroscelus incanus*) M
Hawaii: one on Puna coast Dec. 24; two or three at City of Refuge Dec. 26.
Maui: one at Keanae Dec. 29; several at Kanaha Ponds Dec. 30.
Kauai: one at Spouting Horn Jan. 2; a few at Pali lookout and the Lihue Settlement Basin, Jan. 4.
25. Pectoral Sandpiper (*Calidris melanotos*) M
Two at Kanaha Ponds, Maui, Dec. 30; usually listed as casual in Hawaii.
26. Sanderling (*Crocethia alba*) M
Several at Kanaha Ponds, Maui, Dec. 30.

27. Ruddy Turnstone (*Arenaria interpres*) M
Two or three at City of Refuge, Hawaii, Dec. 26; at Kanaha Ponds, Maui, Dec. 30; a small flock at Pearl Harbour, Oahu, Jan. 1; near Spouting Horn, Kauai, Jan. 2; about 30 at the Lihue Settlement Basin, Kauai, Jan. 4.

RECURVIROSTRIDAE

28. Stilt (*Himantopus himantopus*) N
About 50 at Kanaha Ponds, Maui, Dec. 30; one at Kaneohe Military Base, Oahu, Jan. 1; about 30 at the Lihue Settlement Basin, Kauai, Jan. 4. An endemic race (*H. h. knudseni*).

LARIDAE

29. White-capped Noddy (*Anous minutus*) S
Three pairs off Puna coast cliffs, Hawaii, Dec. 24.

COLUMBIDAE

30. Rock Dove (*Columba livia*) I
At South Cape, Hawaii, Dec. 27; Kamuela, Hawaii, Dec. 28; Honolulu Dec 31, Jan. 1.
31. Spotted Dove (*Streptopelia chinensis*) I
Very common in all settled areas; seen every day of the trip.
32. Barred Dove (*Geopelia striata*) I
Abundant in all settled areas; seen every day of the trip.

STRIGIDAE

33. Short-eared Owl (*Asio flammeus*) N
Hawaii: one flying over lava flow on Kahuku-Ainapo Trail at about 3000' Dec. 27; one near Kamuela on Mauna Kea Saddle Road Dec. 28. Two or three along Waimea Canyon, Kauai, Jan. 3.

ALAUDIDAE

34. Skylark (*Alauda arvensis*) I
Fairly common and singing in open grasslands, Hawaii (lower levels of Kahuku-Ainapo Trail and South Cape, Dec. 27; along Mauna Kea Saddle Road Dec. 28). Some also on lower slopes of Haleakala, Maui, Dec. 30.

MIMIDAE

35. Mockingbird (*Mimus polyglottus*) I
One near Kamuela on the Mauna Kea Saddle Road, Hawaii, Dec. 28; one near Pearl Harbour, Oahu, Jan. 1; one near Spouting Horn, Kauai, Jan. 2, 3. Peterson and the Hawaii Audubon Society do not report this species presence on Kauai.

MUSCICAPIDAE

36. Shama (*Copsychus malabaricus*) I
One female at Wailua Falls, Kauai, Jan. 5 (seen by four members).
37. 'Oma'o (*Phaeornis obscura*) E
Hawaii Race (*P. o. obscura*): At least five or six heard and three seen on the Stainback Highway, and another at Thurston Tube Dec. 25; a pair seen in 'Ohi'a forest on the Kahuku-Ainapo Trail Dec. 27.
Kauai Race (*P. o. myadestina*): One heard (a very different song from that of the Hawaii bird, much slower in delivery) in the Alaka'i Swamp, Jan. 3.
38. Hwa-mei (*Garrulax canorus*) I
A pair near Keanae, Maui, Dec. 29 (where the species is very scarce); several heard and seen near Na Pali Lookout, Kauai, Jan. 4; I heard several in the Koke'e area Jan. 5. Also called Chinese Thrush.
39. 'Elepaio (*Chasiempis sandwichensis*) E
All three races were seen:
Hawaii Race (*C. s. sandwichensis*): Several on Stainback Highway and at Kilauea Iki Dec. 25; a pair in 'Ohi'a forest on Kahuku-Ainapo Trail Dec. 27; several at Puu Laau in Mamane-Naio woods Dec. 28.
Oahu Race (*C. s. gayi*): One on Aiea Trail Dec. 31.
Kauai Race (*C. s. sclateri*): Several including one immature at Koke'e Jan. 3;

very tame and inquisitive.

ZOSTEROPIDAE

40. Japanese White-eye (*Zosterops palpebrosus*) I
Common in all lowland forests and wooded gardens; less so in highland forest.
Found even in Honolulu. Seen every day of the trip except the first (Dec. 23).

EMBERIZIDAE

41. Cardinal (*Pyrhuloxia cardinalis*) I
Hawaii: one at Kalapana Dec. 24; at least one at Kailua Dec. 27, 28. Seen at Iao Hotel, Maui, Dec. 28, 29, 30 (and also near Wailuku). One near Pearl Harbour, Oahu, Jan. 1; One on Waimea Canyon rim, Kauai, Jan. 3 and at the Prince Kuhio, Kauai, Jan. 4.
42. Red-crested Cardinal (*Paroaria cucullata*) I
Several seen in Honolulu, especially at the Zoo, Oahu, Jan. 1, 2; one or two also at the Kaneohe Military Base, Oahu, Jan. 1.

DREPANIDIDAE

43. 'Amakihi (*Loxops virens*) E
Hawaii Race (*L. v. virens*): a pair at the Thurston Lava Tube Dec. 25; a few at the top of the Mauna Loa Strip Road Dec. 26; one seen in 'Ohi'a forest on the Kahuku-Ainapo Trail Dec. 27; common in Mamane-Naio woods at Puu Laau Dec. 28.
Maui Race (*L. v. wilsoni*): one male at Hosmer Grove, Dec. 30.
44. 'Anianiau (*Loxops parva*) E
A dozen or so seen at the Koke'e State Park and Kalalau Lookout, Kauai Jan. 3. They were seen singly or in pairs, as were other Loxops.
45. Creeper (*Loxops maculata*) E
Hawaii Race (*L. m. mana*): about four seen at the top of the Mauna Loa Strip Road Dec. 26; one seen in 'Ohi'a forest on the Kahuku-Ainapo Trail Dec. 27 (this bird was the only one I saw show definite creeping behaviour, very reminiscent of a Black-and-white Warbler); one seen in Mamane-Naio woods at Puu Laau Dec. 28. This species proved easier to distinguish from the 'Amakihi than expected; not only is the difference in the bills quite obvious, but the Creeper appears to be a much plumper and more robust bird (although no larger).
46. 'Akepa (*Loxops coccinea*) E
Kauai Race (*L. c. caeruleirostris*): one or perhaps two, birds seen in the Alaka'i Swamp by C. Kinch and myself. The forked tail and stubby bill of this rare species are distinctive even in flight.
47. Palila (*Psittirostra bailleui*) E
One flock of three or four, and one solitary individual, seen in Mamane-Naio woods at Puu Laau. The yellow flash in the wings, and the light undersurface of the distal half of the tail, are distinctive field marks in flight for this large, robust species not, to my knowledge, previously mentioned in the literature. Usually listed (perhaps over-pessimistically) as one of the rarest birds in the world. (Dec. 28)
48. 'Apapane (*Himatione sanguinea*) E
Hawaii: By far the most abundant bird at Kilauea, on the Stainback Highway, the Mauna Loa Strip Road and the Kahuku-Ainapo Trail wherever 'Ohi'a was growing Dec. 23-27, where their varied calls provided the great majority of the bird-song heard. A few were also seen in the South Kona Forest Reserve Dec. 27, and in 'Ohi'a forest near Hilo Dec. 28.
Kauai: Several seen in the Koke'e area; numbers present at the Kalalau Lookout; and a few seen in the Alaka'i Swamp Jan. 3.
This species was always seen (except in the Alaka'i) in loose flocks of five or more birds.
49. 'I'iwi (*Vestiaria coccinea*) E
Hawaii: several seen on the Stainback Highway Dec. 25; at least four on the Mauna Loa Strip Road Dec. 26; three or four on the Kahuku-Ainapo Trail Dec. 27.

Maui: one at Hosmer Grove Dec. 30.

Kauai: one in the Alaka'i Swamp Jan. 3; I saw two at Koke'e Jan. 5.

This belligerent species was usually seen singly; its peculiar fluttery flight was most distinctive.

ICTERIDAE

50. Western Meadowlark (*Sturnella neglecta*) I

Heard and seen in fields near Koloa, Kauai, Jan. 3 and 4; also at the head of the Pali trail Jan. 4. At least a dozen birds noted.

FRINGILLIDAE

51. House Finch (*Carpodacus mexicanus*) I

Hawaii: a few at Kalapana Dec. 24; one at Kamuela Dec. 28.

Maui: at Keanae Dec. 29 and at Kanaha Ponds Dec. 30.

One at Ulupau Head, Oahu, Jan. 1.

Several at the Lihue Settlement Basin, Kauai, Jan. 4 (these were the reddest-plumaged birds seen on the trip).

ESTRILDIDAE

52. Ricebird (*Lonchura punctulata*) I

Small flocks common in most open lowland areas with some bushes.

Hawaii: Volcano House Dec. 24; on Kona coast Dec. 26, 27, 28.

Near Wailuku, Maui, Dec. 29.

Seen in various suitable areas on Oahu Jan. 1 and Kauai Jan. 4.

Also called Spice Finch, Nutmeg Mannikin, and Spotted Munia.

53. Black-headed Mannikin (*Lonchura malacca*) I

Common in cane fields at Pearl Harbour, Oahu, Jan. 1, in pairs or flocks.

54. Strawberry Finch (*Estrilda amandava*) I

In cane fields at Pearl Harbour, Oahu, Jan. 1; far less numerous than the previous species, with which it associates; the Mannikin appears to largely have replaced this species in the few years it has been present.

PLOCEIDAE

55. House Sparrow (*Passer domesticus*) I

Common in all settled areas; seen every day of the trip except Dec. 25, which was spent in highland country on Hawaii.

STURNIDAE

56. Indian Mynah (*Acridotheres tristis*) I

Abundant in all settled areas; seen every day of the trip.

ADDITIONAL SPECIES

MUSCICAPIDAE

37A. Red-billed Leiothrix (*Leiothrix lutea*) I

Heard, but not seen; one on the Aiea Trail, Oahu, Dec. 31.

MELIPHAGIDAE

39A. 'O'o'a'a (*Moho braccatus*) E

One seen by C. Kinch only in the Alaka'i Swamp, Kauai; the first sighting of this extremely rare bird in three years.

PUUWAAWAA EXOTICS

PHASIANIDAE

15A. Grey Francolin (*Francolinus* (?) *pintadeanus*)

I believe that the bird seen was this species, also called Chinese Francolin.

15B. Erckel's Francolin (*Francolinus erckelii*)

18A. Peafowl (*Pavo cristatus*)

MELEAGRIDAE

18B. Turkey (*Meleagris gallopavo*)

COLUMBIDAE

- 30A. Crested Pigeon (*Ocyphaps lophotes*)
- 31A. Ringed Turtle Dove (*Streptopelia risoria*)
- 32A. White-winged Dove (*Zenaida asiatica*)
- 32B. Mourning Dove (*Zenaidura macroura*)

EMBERIZIDAE

- 39A. Saffron Finch (*Sicalis flaveola*)
- 41A. Pope Cardinal (*Paroaria dominicana*)

FRINGILLIDAE

- 49A. Yellow-fronted Canary (*Serinus mozanbicus*)
Also called Yellow-eyed Canary or Green Singing Finch.

COMMENTS on Axis Deer from Otto Degener, Volcano, Hawaii, August 7, 1968:

In THE ELEPAIO for August (Vol. 29, No. 2), I noted you desired comments regarding whether the axis deer should be introduced to the Island of Hawaii.

1. Regarding Dr. Lamoureux' excellent article I wish to note a misprint on page 12. For "perhaps 2,000 species of (native higher plants," it should read 20,000 native species.

2. He fails to note that the Society of Mammalogists published their horror regarding the distribution of axis deer to the Islands and that the Hawaii Cattle-men's Council is violently opposed. Deer can be vectors for cattle diseases. National Park groups and associations are much opposed.

3. Incidentally, if Mrs. Degener & I, professional botanists, find deer trespassing on our property on the Island of Hawaii, we shall go to Court for satisfaction.

We castigate some individuals for introducing Lantana, mongoose, African snail, tibouchina, two kinds of pamakani, blackberries, etc. Why repeat such foolishness by scattering deer throughout the Archipelago? Who knows, if the cattle industry should slump, as pineapple is doing now, our children may be obliged to introduce the Bengal tiger and anthrax or hoof & mouth disease as a method to control biologically such four-legged vermin as goats, sheep, deer, mouflon, buffalo, pigs and other harmful importations of their reckless forefathers. Such a project may appear just as foolish to us now as our present importations may appear to them in their time.

LETTER from Mike Ord, Agana, Guam, 29 July 1968:

There were several things in the August ELEPAIO (Vol. 29, No. 2) which I felt should be commented upon to correct possible future misidentification...The Napoleon Weaver (*Euplectes afra afra*) to the best of my knowledge is never referred to as the Yellow-crowned Weaver. In all of my books on aviculture on African birds - Napoleon Weaver seems to be the standard English name.

The June field trip to Na La'au intimated that the two brownish birds seen were possibly a male in winter plumage or female with a young one. The description given fits that of either the male Napoleon Weaver or Red Bishop Weaver in the winter plumage. Since the importation of these birds requires that they be in breeding plumage before entry is permitted - the likelihood of females and young seems highly unlikely inasmuch as the Department of Animal Quarantine etc. really gives incoming birds a good going over before putting their stamp of approval on them.

With respect to the White-cheeked Bulbuls that were seen - the description fits perfectly that of the Red-eared or Red-whiskered Bulbul. The red feathering in the white cheek patch is extremely difficult to see even when the bird is at very close range. In a cage, of course, the coloring shows up well because the bird can't get away. The White-cheeked Bulbul has never been reported in Hawaii to the best of my information and I do not recall any of the pet shops ever bringing them in for sale, nor will they now, since Bulbuls in general are on the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service taboo list. The White-cheeked Bulbul incidentally has a

distinct black chin and throat which at two feet would have been unmistakeable.

...Incidentally, those white herons that we have seen periodically at West Loch are definitely not the white phase of the Reef Heron. Each morning as I drive to work along Agana Bay I pass within ten yards of the ocean tide line and get extremely good views of both color phases of Reef Heron. He doesn't like field glasses being pointed at him, and I'm sure he isn't going to take kindly to a camera. I often get the endemic Guam Rail feeding in my back garden. The Cardinal Honeycreepers are also frequent visitors to the flowers. They remind me of the 'I'iwi or 'Apapane in many respects....

Field Trip to Peacock Flats, July 14, 1968:

An exhilarating Sunday walk July 14 to Peacock Flats in the Waianae range was enjoyed by 45 folks led by Alex MacGregor. This area with a sweeping view of the sea from Kaena Point to Kahuku on the trail may someday become a State park. The trail winds through Mokuleia Forest Reserve and contains some of the largest trunked 'ohi'a trees on Oahu.

Kukui trees seem to have larger leaves there and the birds can be heard if not seen. Many saw the 'elepaio, 'amakihi, white-eye, North American cardinal, spotted and barred doves, and a few saw an 'apapane and heard the bush warbler. After reaching the end of the trail in the plateau area we climbed to a ridge overlooking Makua Valley and saw a soaring white-tailed tropicbird silhouetted against the maroons and oranges of the cliffs beyond.

Evidence was present also of pueo, Hawaii's native owl, along the trail. Although there are supposed to be wild peacocks in this region, none of the group saw any this trip.

Peggy Hodge

Field Notes from Peggy Hodge, 17 July 1968: Barn Owl

Two large winged owls, presumably barn owls, were seen flying over the Lanikai ridge in early July on several occasions. They were silhouetted against the sky at dusk and settled on the lava boulders in the vicinity.

ALOHA to our new member:

Walter K. Nakanishi, 2004-1 Lohilani Street, Honolulu, Hawaii 96819

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.

SEPTEMBER ACTIVITIES:

September 8 - 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: Charles G. Kaigler, telephone 988-3195.

September 9 - Board meeting at 3653 Tantalus Drive at 7:30 p.m. Members welcome.

September 16 - General meeting at the Waikiki Aquarium Auditorium at 7:30 p.m.
Program for the night: Speaker-Gerald E. Swedberg, Non-game Biologist, Hawaii Division of Fish and Game
Topic-CONSERVATION - LET'S TRY A NEW APPROACH

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