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NOTES ON THE AVIFAUNA OF EFATE, NEW HEBRIDES

By Gary J. Parker

Assistant Professor of Linguistics

University of Hawaii

During the summers of 1967 and 1968 I resided in Vila (Port-Vila), capital of the New Hebrides, for the purp se of investigating one of the many Melanesian languages of this southwest Pacific island group. My linguisitic research left ample time for pursuing my avocation of bird study, and I was able to cover considerable territory on the western side of the island. Unfortunately, I had no guide to take me into the mountainous, heavily wooded, and totally uninhabited interior. The only field guide available for this area is Ernst Mayr's BIRDS OF THE SOUTHWEST PACIFIC, A FIELD GUIDE TO THE BIRDS OF THE AREA BETWEEN SAMOA, NEW CALEDONIA, AND MICRONESIA (New York, 1945). Of considerably more value to the field student, however, is the Vila Cultural Centre's excellent and almost complete collection of stuffed birds prepared by the German ornithologist Heinrich Bregulla. Dr. Bregulla has also written a field manual on New Hebridean birds which is planned for publication in 1969.

In the following paragraphs I shall first list those birds which I positively identified on Efate, as well as these which Mayr reports for the island but which I did not observe. I shall then offer various observations on the appearance, behavior, and distribution of certain species, limiting myself to corrections of and additions to the information presented in Mayr's blok.

The following birds were identified. Crested Tern (Thalasseus bergii), Golden Plover (Pluvialis dominica), Whimbrel (Numenius phaeopus) a pair, July 16, 1968), Reef Heron (Demigretta sacra), Swamp Harrier (Circus approximans), Peregrine Falcon (Falco peregrinus), Banded Rail (Rallus philippensis), Purple Swamphen (Porphyrio porphyrio), Red-bellied Fruit Dove (Ptilinopus greyii), Tanna Fruit Dove (P. tannensis), Pacific Pigeon (Ducula pacifica), White-throated Pigeon (Columba vitensis), Rufous-brown Pheasant Dove (Macropygia macklinayi), Greenwinged Ground Pigeon (Chalcophaps indica), Coconut Lory (Trichoglossus haematodus), Barn Owl (Tyto alba), Vanikoro Swiftlet (Collocalia vanikorensis), Glossy Swiftlet (C. esculenta), White-collared Kingfisher (Halcyon chloris), Pacific Swallow (Hirundo pacifica), Polynesian Triller (Lalage maculosa)*, Long-tailed Triller (L. leucopyga), Island Thrush (Turdus poliocephalus), Spotted Fantail (Rhipidura spilodera), Collared Fantail (R. fuliginosa), Broad-billed Flycatcher (Myiagra caledonica), Buff-bellied Flycatcher (Neolalage banksiana), Southern Shrikebill (Clytorhynchus pachycephaloides), Golden Whistler (Pachycephala pectoralis), White-breasted Wood-Swallow (Artamus leucorhynchus), Indian Mynah (Acridotheres tristis), Silver-eared Honey-eater (Lichmera incana), Yellow White-eye (Zosterops flavifrons), Grey-backed White-eye (Z lateralis), Blue-faced Parrot-Finch

^{*}See the discussion on page 47, paragraph 5.

(Erythrura trichroa), Astrild (Astrilda astrild), House Sparrow (Passer domesticus).

The following eight species of land and fresh water birds eluded me: Australian Grey Duck (Anas superciliosa), Incubator Bird or Megapode (Megapodius freycinet), Green Palm Lorikeet (Vini palmarum), Fan-tailed Cuckoo (Cacomantis pyrrhophanus), White-rumped Swiftlet (Collocalia spodi pygia), Scarlet Robin (Petroica multicolor), Cardinal Honey-eater (Myzomela cardinalis), and Red-headed Parrot-Finch (Erythrura cyanovirens) Mayr does not state whether Shining Cuckoo (Chalcites lucidus) and Long-tailed New Zealand Cuckoo (Eudynamis taitensis) have been reported from Efate, though his wording suggests that they have not. The presence of Red-faced Parrot-Finch (E psittacea) in the Vila Cultural Centre may mean that this bird has been found in the New Hebrides, though Mayr does not report it.

Of those birds I did not find, only two -- Megapode and Green Palm Lorikeet -- are reported as seen on Efate by my native informants, and these people are acquainted with all these birds from their home island of Ambrym. Since they have lived on Efate for over fifteen years, their testimony suggests that the birds in question either are not present or are restricted to the uninhabited interior. Dr. Bregulla was absent from Vila during my stay, so I could not consult him in this regard.

Of the birds I did see, the introduced finches <u>Passer</u> and <u>Astrilda</u> are not reported by Mayr for the New Hebrides, though both are conspicuous in or near Vila. <u>Passer</u> is well established in Vila, but I never found it outside the town. <u>Astrilda</u> is fairly common wherever there are large areas of grass or light bush, and is usually found in the company of <u>Erythrura</u>. Small flocks of <u>Columba livia</u> can be seen over Vila, but I saw no evidence of feral birds.

Mayr and Bregulla seem to be in conflict as to whether both species of Lalage actually occur on Efate. Bregulla's collection includes two Trillers which differ only in that one, labelled L. maculosa, has a white eye-stripe. This corresponds exactly with my observations. On the other hand, Mayr gives several field characteristics distinguishing an Efate race of maculosa, ultima, from leucopyga albiloris, and states that some individuals of the latter show an eye-stripe. My own impression was that I was observing a single species, leucopyga. To the student well-acquainted with the birds of the western hemisphere, these handsome and active birds look in every way like New World Flycatchers (Tyrannidae), especially the Ground Tyrants of South America. The Efate Triller with the eyestripe certainly does not closely resemble the rather warbler-like, grey-and-white mottled L. maculosa pumila of Viti Levu, Fiji. All the Trillers I saw on Efate were identical in every way except for the eye-stripe, and I observed several "mixed" couples. My final observation here is that Mayr is mistaken in stating that all the Cuckoo-Shrikes (Campephagidae) except Polynesian Triller are strictly arboreal. Long-tailed Triller (regardless of whether we include the bird with the eye-stripe) is as commonly found feeding on the ground as in the trees. Many individuals have the unusual habit of never hopping from one spot to another; rather they seem to always fly, even when this means just one or two wing beats to cover a distance of a few inches.

As regards both Island Thrush and Southern Shrikebill, I feel that Mayr is in error in stating that these birds are restricted to the dense interior of the true forest. As soon as one leaves the populated areas and proceeds northward up the west coast, the thrush is frequently seen flying across the road and into the light bush. My best observation of Southern Shrikebill was made at the edge of a rather small area of heavy bush on the inland edge of Vila, and the birds did not seem bothered by the noise of passing cars and trucks. While this largest of the New Hebridean flycatchers is a secretive bird that prefers to stay hidden within the dense undergrowth, it cannot resist investigating a whistled imitation of its call and will remain indefinitely in the near vicinity of the observer. Even when near, however, its constant movement makes it difficult to observe carefully.

states that Spotted Fantail is "common in all habitats" while Collared Fantail is restricted to second growth and true forest. Almost the opposite is true, and I would describe Spotted Fantail as very scarce. Collared Fantail is indeed found absolutely everywhere, but of the hundreds of Fantails I have seen only three were \underline{R} . spilodera.

I also disagree with Mayr's statement that Buff-bellied Flycatcher, <u>Neolalage</u>, is found near human habitations, since I never saw it near a dwelling nor even while walking on a road or in any open area. This very attractive and friendly little bird is quite common, but stays within the bush. As soon as the observer walks a short way into the bush or forest he is likely to be greeted by a small band of <u>Neolalage</u> that may approach very closely (in the manner of 'Elepaio) before they satisfy their curiosity and move on.

For any readers especially interested in bird calls and songs, I would be happy to make available the tape recordings I obtained for a number of New Hebridean species.

As a final note, Society members may be interested in knowing of Robin Mercer's A FIELD GUIDE TO FIJI BIRDS (Special Publication of the Fiji Museum, No. 1) Government Press, Suva (1967)

MOKU MANU By Leilani Pyle

Bob Pyle,
On Sunday, June 2, 1968, Bill Prange, my husband/ and I had the rare pleasure of visiting Moku Manu, the large steep-sided rock islet off Mokapu Point. The sky was clear for the first hour, with increasing middle clouds to shade the sun the second hour. It was col and there was very little wind. The sea was calm, the tide was low, and we were able to swim about 10 yards from Bill's boat and climb up on the apron of the west end of the main island without too much difficulty. We walked on the apron to the south side where the vegetation comes down to the shore, climbed up the slope to the top, then proceeded along the top, eastward to the southeast corner. Here we decended a steeper vegetated slope to the tiny "meadow" (Sesuvium portulacastrum) at the southeast beach where Brown and Blue-faced Boobies nest. We worked back along the shore to the apron at the southwest corner where we dove in and swam about 30 feet back to the boat.

The most exciting birds seen were two odd-plumaged boobies, probably hybrids of Blue-faced and Brown Boobies seen and photographed on a nest with a medium-sized downy chick (see Blue-faced Booby account below).

Birds

Wedge-tailed Shearwater

One was seen under a rock overhang high on the south slope as we climbed to the top. No burrow or nest site was found.

Bulwer's Petrel

One adult with an egg was found in a deep rock crevice in the same area where the Wedge-tailed Shearwater was seen. The crevice was a full arm's length, and my husband could barely reach it. The bird was taken out and photographed, then replaced in the crevice.

Christmas Island Shearwater

Thirteen nests were counted along the base of the "dyke" or step extending north-south across the top near the east end. Each nest contained one adult, usually with a medium-sized chick. One bird "moaned" several times. Nests were in sandy-bottomed crevices in the rocks, with no evidence of any digging.

Great Frigatebird

Well over 100 were roosting, mostly on slopes on the north and west sides. A few

were on top at the west end and some were in the air over the island. No nest or evidence of nesting was found, and no inflated gular sacs were seen. Adults of both sexes and subadults were present.

Sooty Tern

Many tens of thousands were present, including many large chicks fully feathered with stubby tails. No small chicks were seen. On top, perhaps 150 to 200 deserted eggs were seen, especially in barren areas where they were gathered at small level spots indicating some washing. Even more eggs were on the slopes. Most of the sooties were in the air or standing on the ground; none was sitting on eggs. The densest nesting area appeared to have been on top, especially the barren area near the west end. Others were nesting on the south slope, especially nearer the west end.

Gray-backed Tern

Many were flying with sooties over the south slope. Here, they were of almost equal number in the air as sooties. Many were seen to perch on small exposed rock outcrops among the bushes. One came several times during a five minute period to a flat rock which contained a small egg, but did not approach closer than 12 inches to the egg. In flight, at certain sun angles, the entire upper surface of this species seemed unirormly gray. In other lights the wing tip pattern could be plainly seen. In flight many were giving a "mewing" call, which was softer and higher pitched than the scoty's call. No other nests or chicks were seen but we did not explore the south slopes.

Brown Noddy (Common Noddy)

Many were in the air and on the ground. Some of them were seen to leave eggs. No chicks were seen.

Black Noddy (Hawaiian White-capped Noddy)
None was noticed.

Red-footed Booby

Many adults were on nests. The majority contained a medium or large downy chick but some eggs and a few large feathered immatures were seen. Most of the nests were on top and on the south slope. No banded birds were seen.

Brown Booby

Nests were on top, on the west end, and in the southeast slope and the "meadow" area near the southeast beach. One nest on the southeast slope had two medium sized downy chicks. Numerous darker chicks were coming in to immature plumage, showing weird patterns of dark and white. At least 75 nests were seen.

Blue-faced Booby

One typical adult with a bright yellow bill was on a nest in the small "meadow" near the southeast corner, just in from the ricky shore. Ten feet away was a nest with one medium downy chick guarded very closely by an odd-plumaged bird. This bird had a cocoa brown head and neck, noticeably lighter than an adult Brown Booby, but cut off sharply at the breast. The forehead and forecrown were whitish, merging gradually to brown on the sides and back of the crown, suggesting the pattern of the common noddy. The underparts were white and the upperparts were mainly white, with the wings black-tipped as in the Blue-faced Booby and with large spots and mottling on the wings and lower back. The tail was black. The bill of this individual was grayish like an adult Brown Booby, and the feet were lead gray like a Blue-faced Booby. A second bird in this plumage was perched on a rock 20 feet away, but made frequent flights out over the ocean and back. This bird made these flights frequently even while we were on top, too far away to be causing any disturbance. This bird was similar to the other, but its feet were brighter gray-green, identical to the feet color of a Brown Booby, standing nearby. My husband approached the bird on the nest to within three feet for photographs When approached closely, this bird showed typical bowing behaviour, and even picked up a twig now and then. It stood tightly against the chick, obviously guarding it as a parent. The other bird would not allow close approach.

Vegetation

Medium sized shrubs of Chenopodium cahuense were the dominant vegetation on the entire island. It was dense on the sandy slopes and on the top. The Booby nests were made of stems from this plant. Red-f oted Boobies have been seen flying from Moku Manu to Ulupau Head carrying stems which may have been this plant. As it does not seem to occur on Ulupau Head. Scattered throughout the Chenopodium were plants of Popolo (Solanum nigrum). The southeast "meadow" was a dense mat of Sesuvium portulacastrum creeping over rocks and sand. A few plants of Australian saltbush (Atriplex semibaccata), Lycium sp? and Portulaca cleracea were also noticed. This is not a complete inventory of the plants, but only those seen and identified during our brief visit.

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A RECENT TRIP TO MOKU MANU By Ron Walker

On the morning of October 3, 1968, Erling Hedemann, Deputy Game Warden, Nelson Rice, Game Management Assistant and the writer travelled by boat from Kailua Beach to Moku Manu Wildlife Refuge, to erect a "No Landing" sign. The weather was unusually good and the seas glossy flat, as we proceeded past Mokolea islet. Only common noddies appeared to be using this white-washed rock and several of them followed the boat as we approached the cliffs of Mokapu peninsula. From this vantage point we saw approximately 75 great frigate birds wheeling above the Marine Corps Air Station as well as an estimated 150 common noddies, and 20 brown boobies on ledges along the cliff face. Red-footed boobies both adults and immatures sailed out from the colony on the top of the peninsula as we passed Kii Point and proceeded into the channel. The swells were picking up and we were anxious to get the cumbersome sign on shore before landing became impossible. In circling the larger island we were able to peer into the large sea cave on the north side and watch the common noddies fly out in alarm at the sound of the outboard motor. The boat was anchored 25 yards out from the boulder beach on the south side, and the posts, metal plate, sign and tools laboriously brought in one by one by swimming to shore. The sign was mounted about 10 feet above the water level on the west side of the island facing Mokapu peninsula above the sand beach. By this time (10:30 A.M.) waves were beginning to crash heavily against the landing site, so we only had a few minutes to survey the island for bird life. Goosefoot (Chenopodium oahuense) and saltbush (Atriplex sp.) were the predominant plants and there was no time to make a more complete floral survey. Notes on the breeding cycle of the resident birds are as follows:

Great frigate bird - Adults were common on the island, particularly along the north crest where the brush was high enough for them to get a foothold and where they could launch their flight into the wind. Literally hundreds of this species spiralled high over the island.

Common noddy - Adults and flying immatures. Six downy young about half feathered were seen during the short walk. This was the predominant species on the island.

<u>Wedge-tailed shearwater</u> - Burrows laced the south face and its probable that many of them contained adults. However, only three pairs were actually noted in burrows or shallow caves. A few completely downy young were seen.

Brown booby - Adults and flying immatures, particularly on the top of the island and over the north face. One adult was hand caught and was in excellent condition, with no obvious ectoparasites or lesions.

 $\underline{\text{Red-footed booby}}$ - A few downy young about half-grown were seen as well as several adults.

Shorebirds - Two ruddy turnstones and a golden plover were seen on the open summit of the island.

We left the island just before noon with the waves crashing behind us, convinced that any further landings legal or otherwise, would be curtailed for the rest of the winter season.

Field Trip to Hickam Harbor and Kahuku, 10 November 1968:

The second shorebird expedition on 10 November proved in many respects even more rewarding than the first for the 26 members and guests (one from New Zealand) who made the trip. There were a number of oldtimers along and it was a pleasure for the more recent members to hear of some of the experiences of birding in earlier days.

Sand Island was again skipped because of the high tide but it has been learned that this same high tide often pushes the shorebirds around Hickam Harbor directly into shore, particularly in the very quiet area behind Fort Kamehameha, so the first stop was made there. Four great frigate birds and an osprey (this might be the same osprey previously reported from Waipio) were present and, quite appropriately for an air base, put on a spectacular show of aerial manuevers as one of the frigate birds dived on the osprey. The osprey then obligingly perched on a pole in the water within 150 yards of our group and remained in full view for some 15 minutes. A walk along the shore in back of Fort Kamehameha was quite productive and afforded the closest possible view of stilt, ruddy turnstones turning limu, golden plover, sanderling and the wandering tattler. One large piece of driftwood offshore held, at one time, 39 sanderling, 2 plover, 4 turnstone, 2 stilt and one tattler. Ricebirds, cardinals, both North American and Brazilian, both doves, house sparrows, house finches, white-eyes, and mynahs were also abundant in the area and a flock of 15 ducks flew over during our stay.

The next stop was at the Waipahu dump pools, but a motorcycle meet in progress must have affected the birds. The ponds held 38 stilt but that was all. A combination of the high tide, drained settlement basin pools and a newly oiled road caused us to cancel a visit to the Waipio peninsula, and we proceeded to Kahuku.

The large pond there held only 2 pintail, 5 shoveler and 4 coot, but we did learn from a local rancher that a very large flock of ducks had just flown before our arrival.

The ponds near the airstrip were to provide the excitement of the day however. A black brant calmly paddled about feeding on grass tips during our entire stay, and on two occasions, waddled out of the water onto grass clumps so that he could be conveniently observed in full stature. A search of the area between the airstrip and the beach finally turned up one bristle-thighed curlew, possibly the only one remaining of those observed earlier in the fall. There were few stilt in view but several coot and heron were seen as well as great numbers of plover and turnstone. At one time more than 40 turnstone were congregated in an extremely small area, all busily engaged in bathing. It almost seemed as if they preferred "togetherness." There was plenty of room if they had wished to disperse. Doves were common in the brush and several cardinals were seen. Several large flocks of ducks flew over from time to time; one flock numbered well over fifty. The plantation pond nearer the mill sheltered almost 70 coots - one half-grown coot was observed - over 30 pintails as well as stilt, sanderling, plover and turnstone in some numbers. Ricebirds were quite common in the surrounding fields as were the cattle egrets, although the number of these latter did not equal previous counts. More than 200 in one count have been reported in the past. A final stop was made near the new wet area described last month, but this area is now dry and while it still held the four common shorebirds, they were not present in the large numbers previously reported.

Charles G, Kaigler

Field Notes from Charles G. Kaigler

22 Oct 1968. Three bristle-thighed curlew were still in Kahuku area - observed feeding between airstrip and beach. Afternoon.

25 Oct 1968 Three pectoral sandpipers feeding among plovers turnstones and sanderlings and one tattler in small settlement basin east of main settlement basin, Waipio One lone male mallard preening at edge of mud flats west of Waipio airstrip. No other ducks in area alth ugh plenty of plovers and turnstones and a few sanderlings and coots. Low tide, afternoon.

1 Nov 1968. Only four shoveler and six stilt in main settlement basin, Warpio.

Smaller basin to east held 48 sanderling, 52 ruddy turnstone, 24 golden plover and 10 stilt. Unable to find pectoral sandpiper. High tide, afternoon. Waipahu dump: One wandering tattler, 144 stilt (95 in one group) 76 golden plover, 73 ruddy turnstone and one long bill and "sewing machine" feeding action was distinctive. The action of the large group of stilt was most interesting. At least half were in a resting position. At the first "yip" from a stilt flying overhead, all came immediately to a standing position although none took to the air. Also observed 21 cattle egret collected about a bulldozer as the operator dozed a field smooth, presumably to collect insects disturbed by the grading action.

2 Nov 1968. Morning, low tide. Pools about Waipahu dump almost deserted. Four pintail, two plover. Main settlement basin, Waipio, held about 20 stilt several sanderling, turnstone, and plover and one tattler. Small basin held more birds but not in numbers of previous day. Mud flats off Waipio airstrip held 6 heron, 7 coot, about a dozen each stilt and plover, 2 tattler and 102 shoveler. The male mallard was still there but kept to himself. Rechecked the Waipahu dump at noon and observed 21 stilt, about half that many plover and turnstone, one wandering tattler and one female greater(?) scaup (green sheen to head in strong light, white ring at base of bill, barred brown on flank).

5 Nov 1968. Na Laau Arboretum, mid-morning. One bishop weaver, one fire finch, one mockingbird as well as numerous doves, white-eyes and house finches.

6 Nov 1968. Morning, tide falling. Mallard still in residence near Waipio airstrip. Still a loner.

15 Nov 1968. 1330 - 1500 hours, Waipahu pool, high tide. About 40 stilt, 20 golden plover, one heron, one black-bellied plover, one downtcher. The black-bellied plover was observed standing next to a golden plover. Difference in color and size immediately apparent. The black-bellied is larger and is gray rather than brown. The downtcher kept to himself and spent a good part of the time preening himself-periodically dipping his bill in the water and then preening each part of his body as if the water helped in some way.

READERS' NOTES:

HONOLULU STAR-BULLETIN, October 18, 1968, page A-5: "Atoll" Now Official Term for Some Landmarks

The term atoll now has been sanctioned by the State government...for Kure Island is now Kure Atoll. Pearl and Hermes reefs have been renamed Pearl and Hermes Atolls.

A chain of small islands. .extending from Kure Atoll to Nihoa have been named the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands. In the past, they were known as the Leeward Islands or the Outlying Hawaiian Islands.

The French Frigate Shoals and Midway Islands have become official State titles for these areas, although the latter are not part of Hawaii.

Nihoa will be called merely Nihoa. The word Island is not attached to its official name. Other official designations are Lisianski Island, Laysan Island, Maro Reef, Gardner Pinnacles and Necker Island.

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AUDUBON, July-August 1968, pages 6 through 22: The Lure of the Islands; Bird Finding...with Olin Sewall Pettingill, Jr.

This article updates his first column on Hawaii that appeared in the November-December 1962 issue f AUDUBON.

The 1968 rticle is well written and attractively illustrated. The picture of the famous silversword (<u>Argyroxiphium sandwicense</u>)introduces the article. It is then followed by the upside-down falls of Nuuanu and a picture of Haleakala, the home of the silverswords.

The next two pages are wonderful surprises. Sixteen native birds are artistically arranged as a unit and yet each bird stands out as an individual. These lifelike pictures will delight any birder's enthusiam.

ALOHA to our new members:

Junior - Gerald Pimental, 427-D Manono St., Kailua, Oahu 96734. Regular - Fremont O. Ballou, Rt 3, Box 474, Carmel, Calif. 93921. Dr. Norman H. Mellor, 2724 Garretson, Corona, Calif. 91720. Mrs. S. F. Thomas, Rt 3, Box 440, Chico, Calif. 95926. ****

The attention of all students of birds is invited to forthcoming awards from the Josselyn Van Tyne Memorial Fund of the American Ornith logists' Union in support of research projects. See THE AUK, January 1969, on how to apply, or write to Dr. Paul H. Baldwin, Zoology Department, Colorado State University, Fort Collins, Colo. 80521.

A LIFETIME WITH THE BIRDS, an ornithological legbook, by Earle R. Greene. Approximately 404 pages, 114 photographs, cloth bound. Send in your orders to: Edwards Brothers, Inc., 2500 South State Street, Ann Arbor, Michigan 48104.

1968 Christmas Bird Count

The Honolulu Christmas bird count is scheduled for Sunday, December 29, 1968. The count is conducted within a circle 15 miles in diameter, centered close to Nuuanu Pali. This same area has been covered each year since 1954. General coordinator will be Robert L. Pyle, with groups assigned to territories as follows:

Group A: Kaelepulu Pond, Kawainui Swamp, Kailua residential area, and Kaneche Marine Corps Air Station. --

Group B: Aiea Trail. -- Unoyo Kojima, 734-0985

Group C: Keehi Lagoon, Salt Lake and Nuuanu Valley. -Group D: Punchbowl and Tantalus -- Ronald L. Walker, 235-1681.

Group E: Manoa Valley, Manoa Falls Trail, and downtown Honolulu. --

Group F: Kapiolani Park, Zoo, and Ewa side of Diamond Head. -- Jack Throp, 923-7723.

Group G: Diamond Head Crater (inside) to Paiko Lagoon and Kuapa Pond, including the residential area. --

All members and guests are welcome to participate in the count. Please contact the leader of the area of your choice, or Robert Pyle, 262-5379, to arrange meeting place and time. The traditional fee paid by each participant has been increased this year to \$1.00 (formerly 50¢). This money is forwarded to National Audubon Society to help defray the cost of publishing the Christmas Count issue of Audubon Field Notes. Last year's Count issue came to 408 pages and included 839 counts from all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and ten Provinces and Territories in Canada. The Honolulu count is traditionally listed number one.

Full dotails and discussion of count plans will be given at the annual meeting on December 16.

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

DECEMBER ACTIVITIES:

December 16 - Annual meeting at the Waikiki Aquarium Auditorium at 7:30 p.m. Program for the night: (1) Elect officers (2) Work out details of the Christmas bird count.

December 29 - Christmas bird count.

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