

# THE ELEPAIO

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Hawaii Audubon Society



For the Better Protection  
of Wildlife in Hawaii

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FEBRUARY 1971

## HONOLULU CHRISTMAS COUNT 27 December 1970

	AREAS									
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	TOTAL
Wedge-tailed Shearwater	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	2	2
Blue-faced Booby	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	2	2
Brown Booby	.	4	.	3	.	1	.	.	12	20
Red-footed Booby	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1438	1438
Great Frigatebird	.	.	.	.	.	3	.	.	330	333
Cattle Egret	.	.	.	.	.	.	11	139	8	158
Black-crowned Night Heron	.	.	.	.	.	.	7	2	.	9
Koloa	.	.	.	.	9	2	.	.	.	11
Pintail	.	1	.	.	.	.	22	81	7	111
Shoveler	.	1	.	.	.	.	1	5	.	7
Lesser Scaup	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	1	.	2
Common Gallinule	.	.	.	.	.	.	4	2	.	6
American Coot	.	64	.	.	.	.	13	15	.	92
American Golden Plover	.	264	16	49	9	156	11	7	87	599
Ruddy Turnstone	.	43	.	.	.	16	6	.	60	125
Wandering Tattler	.	6	.	1	.	7	4	2	3	23
Sanderling	.	2	.	.	.	21	.	.	12	35
Black-necked Stilt	.	73	.	.	.	17	2	.	36	128
Pomarine Jaeger	.	24	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	24
Glaucous Gull	.	2	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	2
Black Noddy (Hawaiian)	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	1
White Tern	.	.	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	1
Spotted Dove	.	20	14	96	161	184	9	43	7	534
Barred Dove	3	51	6	641	303	158	38	94	4	1298
Shell Parakeet	.	.	.	.	3	.	.	.	.	3
Red-vented Bulbul	.	5	.	.	.	.	2	.	.	7
Mockingbird	.	.	.	.	1	1	.	.	.	2
Shama Thrush	1	2	5	1	.	.	.	.	.	9
'Elepaio	2	.	.	2	.	.	.	.	.	4
Common Mynah	1	370	70	931	1109	285	15	186	14	2981
Japanese White-eye	16	41	49	78	5	53	2	36	7	287
'Amakihi	7	.	4	11	.	.	.	.	.	22
'Apapane	4	.	3	2	.	.	.	.	.	9
Ricebird	2	24	.	97	35	124	26	92	51	451
Orange Weaver (Bishop)	.	.	.	.	5	1	.	.	.	6
Yellow Weaver (Napoleon)	.	.	.	.	1	.	.	.	.	1
House Sparrow	.	62	52	508	167	363	4	58	8	1222
Java Sparrow	.	.	.	.	6	5	.	.	.	11
Cardinal	7	11	6	13	5	15	.	17	.	74
Brazilian Cardinal	2	32	.	93	32	20	6	16	1	202



	<u>AREAS</u>									
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	TOTAL
House Finch	1	43	3	18	16	26	.	.	.	107
Gray Singing Finch	.	.	.	.	4	5	.	.	.	9
Green Singing Finch	.	.	.	.	5	.	.	.	.	5
Saffron Finch	.	.	.	.	13	.	.	.	.	13
Orange-cheeked Waxbill	.	.	.	.	27	.	.	.	.	27
Red-eared Waxbill (Common)	.	.	.	.	13	.	.	.	.	13
Cordon Bleu	.	.	.	.	6	.	.	.	.	6
Blue-headed Cordon Bleu	.	.	.	.	8	.	.	.	.	8
African Firefinch	.	.	.	.	2	.	.	.	.	2
Lavender Finch	.	.	.	.	7	.	.	.	.	7
Pintailed Whydah	.	.	.	.	5	.	.	.	.	5
No. of Individual Birds:	46	1145	228	2545	1957	1463	184	796	2090	10,454
No. of Species:	11	22	11	17	26	21	19	17	20	51

Total hours on foot: 55

Total hours by car: 17

Total miles on foot: 47

Total miles by car: 113

Count taken in a circle, 15 miles in diameter, centered 2/5 mile ENE of Nuuanu Pali (21°22'N, 157°48'W) as in past years since 1954, to include Ulupau Head, Paiko Lagoon and Sand Island. Ocean, lagoons, ponds, swamp 20%; parks and residential areas 45%; valley forests 7%; ridge trails 28%.

Weather conditions: Partly cloudy to overcast with occasional rain.

Temperature: 64-75°F.

Wind direction and velocity: NE-ESE, 15-35 m.p.h. with gusts to 50 m.p.h.

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The following areas were covered in this year's count:

- 1 Aiea Trail
- 2 Sand Island, Keehi Lagoon (offshore and bay through telescope), Salt Lake, Moanalua Gardens, Nuuanu Valley
- 3 Tantalus, Makiki Valley, Punchbowl (2 parties)
- 4 Downtown, University campus, Manoa Valley trail, St. Louis ridge (3 parties)
- 5 Kapiolani Park, Ewa slope of Diamond Head
- 6 Diamond Head Crater to Paiko Lagoon
- 7 Bellows Field, Saddle City, Kaelepulu Pond
- 8 Kawainui Swamp, Quarry Road and Kailua dump (2 parties)
- 9 Kaneohe Marine Air Station, including Moku Manu and Mokolea Rock through telescope

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Thirty-four observers in 13 parties:

Andrew J. Berger	Brian McKnight	Doris B. Smith
William Blanton	Mae Mull	Lloyd S. Smith
William Brown	William P. Mull	Helen Stooddy
Robert Eddinger	Frank Noel	David Taira
Barbara Edmonson	Jean Noel	Jack L. Throp
Phyllis Gummerson	David Olsen	Margaret Titcomb
Colin Huddleston	Gard Otis	Janet Turner
Donald Huddleston	Gary Parker	Charlotte Walker
Doris Huddleston	William Prange	Dann Walker
Unoyo Kojima	Martha Rosenquist	Ronald L. Walker
Eugene Kridler	Robert Shallenberger	David Woodside
		Henry Yuen



HONOLULU CHRISTMAS COUNTS  
1961 - 1970

	1961	1962	1963	1964	1965	1966	1967	1968	1969	1970
Black-footed Albatross	1	.	1	5	7	7	4	.	.	.
Wedge-tailed Shearwater	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	2
Red-tailed Tropicbird	.	.	.	.	.	.	2	.	.	.
White-tailed Tropicbird	.	.	.	.	.	3	.	.	.	.
Blue-faced Booby	.	.	.	.	5	1	.	2	13	2
Brown Booby	150	51	60	51	68	46	51	132	60	20
Red-footed Booby	500	600	739	580	240	430	1750	1700	2380	1438
Great Frigatebird	452	250	219	408	117	164	952	270	377	333
Cattle Egret	.	.	.	.	15	.	34	87	151	158
Black-crowned Night Heron	14	21	15	51	31	19	18	23	49	9
Canada Goose	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	.
Mallard	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Koloa	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	5	15	11
Pintail	51	.	25	.	38	29	77	.	54	111
Green-winged Teal	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
American Widgeon	.	7	.	.	.	.	4	.	.	.
Shoveler	.	12	195	62	3	30	13	15	18	7
Ring-necked Duck	.	.	.	.	.	1	.	.	.	.
Lesser Scaup	1	4	.	.	.	1	.	.	3	2
Scaup (sp?)	.	.	.	2	2	.	1	7	2	.
Bufflehead	.	.	.	.	.	1	.	.	.	.
Duck (sp?)	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	10	.
Ring-necked Pheasant	2	.	.	.	1	.	.	.	.	.
Common Gallinule	3	3	6	14	8	5	1	7	2	6
American Coot	47	178	101	61	33	47	19	31	151	92
Semipalmated Plover	2	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	.
American Golden Plover	433	239	314	225	591	590	1093	574	637	599
Ruddy Turnstone	160	92	65	97	226	93	347	215	160	125
Common Snipe (Wilson's)	.	.	.	.	.	1	.	.	1	.
Wandering Tattler	43	22	15	18	39	11	26	18	23	23
Greater Yellowlegs	4	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Long-billed Dowitcher	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Bar-tailed Godwit	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	.	.	.
Sanderling	117	25	62	150	85	132	35	43	39	35
Black-necked Stilt	187	174	201	123	115	189	90	25	101	128
Pomarine Jaeger	16	11	23	12	6	31	37	5	.	24
Glaucous Gull	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	2
Glaucous-winged Gull	2	1	.	.	.	.	2	2	.	.
Herring Gull	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	.	.
Ring-billed Gull	.	3	1	.	.	2	.	.	.	.
Laughing Gull	.	.	.	.	.	1	.	.	.	.
Unidentified Gull	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	.	.
Sooty Tern	.	.	5000	1600	4500+	.	6000	.	2	.
Brown Noddy (Common)	.	.	1	1	2	.	.	6	26	.
Black Noddy (Hawaiian)	.	2	.	2	.	.	27	5	.	1
White Tern (Fairy)	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1
Spotted Dove	130	71	40	259	245	477	506	636	678	534
Barred Dove	261	208	157	1371	1028	1802	2184	1207	1694	1298
Short-eared Owl	1	1	.	1	2	2	3	.	.	.
Shell Parakeet	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	3
Skylark	.	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Varied Tit	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Red-whiskered Bulbul	.	.	.	.	.	.	2	7	.	.
Red-vented Bulbul	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	9	7	7
Mockingbird	8	4	5	11	22	7	9	12	4	2



	1961	1962	1963	1964	1965	1966	1967	1968	1969	1970
Chinese Thrush	.	2	1	.	2	.	1	.	3	.
Red-billed Leiothrix	114	106	81	91	98	98	130	18	.	.
Shama Thrush	8	5	11	7	5	12	22	18	7	9
'Elepaio	54	32	42	27	24	39	36	20	22	4
Common Mynah	381	462	177	2871	2449	5825	6447	4265	4267	2981
Indian Hill Mynah	.	.	.	.	.	2	7	2	1	.
Japanese White-eye	231	85	107	298	222	235	260	300	227	287
'Amakihi	42	34	41	35	43	29	46	40	44	22
Hawaiian Creeper (Oahu)	4	.	.	.	.	.	.	2	.	.
'Apapane	57	13	26	57	32	42	26	19	17	9
'I'iwi	.	2	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Ricebird	156	65	49	289	333	551	647	196	238	451
Orange Weaver (Bishop)	.	.	.	.	.	3	2	.	9	6
Yellow Weaver (Napoleon)	.	.	.	.	.	1	.	.	2	1
Weaver (Orange or Yellow?)	.	.	.	.	1	.	.	2	.	.
House Sparrow	125	119	71	1089	670	1111	1128	592	1294	1222
Java Sparrow	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	4	11
Cardinal	103	36	53	59	100	96	79	128	94	74
Brazilian Cardinal	44	10	12	85	210	246	274	122	158	202
House Finch	47	16	46	127	107	89	152	140	110	107
Strawberry Finch	.	.	.	.	.	4	.	.	.	.
Diamond Firetail Finch	.	.	.	.	.	1	.	.	.	.
Gray Singing Finch	.	.	.	.	5	22	37	18	6	9
Green Singing Finch	.	.	.	.	17	6	2	2	1	5
Saffron Finch	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	1	3	13
Orange-cheeked Waxbill	.	.	.	.	30	6	23	32	24	27
Red-eared Waxbill (Common)	.	.	.	.	6	2	7	29	12	13
Cordon Bleu	.	.	.	.	3	7	4	2	4	6
Blue-headed Cordon Bleu	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	12	8
African Firefinch	.	.	.	.	30	6	5	8	4	2
Lavender Finch	.	.	.	.	4	2	17	23	6	7
Pintailed Whydah	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	7	5
Senegal Combassou	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	.
No. of Individual Birds:	3954	2969	7963	10,139	11,820+	12,557	22,641	11,024	13,236	10,454
No. of Species:	39	39	35	34	46	51	51	49*	53#	51

\*Unidentified gull excluded.

#Unidentified scaup and duck excluded.

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## HIGHLIGHTS OF THE 1970 CHRISTMAS COUNT

As in past years, the Hawaii Audubon Society (HAS) participated in the annual Christmas bird count conducted throughout the country by the National Audubon Society. The H.A.S. held its count on December 27, amid wind and rain that almost duplicated last year's conditions.

Thirty-four members and guests, in thirteen teams, covered selected census areas within a fifteen-mile-diameter circle centered near Nuuanu Pali and bounded by Aiea, Salt Lake, Sand Island, Diamond Head, Paiko Lagoon, Waimanalo, Mokapu Peninsula and Kahaluu. Kailua

The teams identified fifty-one species and counted 10,454 individual birds, which is about par for results over the past five years. The most numerous bird recorded was the ubiquitous mynah, followed in order by the re-footed booby, barred dove and house sparrow--among which only the booby can claim original-native status here. Ecologically significant also is the fact that 27 of the 51 species found are immigrants brought here by man.

This year, three new species were added to the thirty-year record of Christmas counts here; they are the wedge-tailed shearwater, white (or "fairy") tern and shell



parakeet. Aside from this being their first appearance on a Christmas count census, none of these "finds" seems especially significant: the shearwater and the tern are indigenous species that breed here in the summer and fall, while the parakeets (indigenous to Australia) are popular cage birds that sometimes escape--which no doubt accounts for the three "budgies" who showed up on this year's count day.

#### NOTES ON UNUSUAL SPECIES

Wedge-tailed Shearwater: Although not previously recorded on a Christmas count here, individuals are present in the area as late as early January--probably juveniles remaining from the fall breeding season on nearby islands. The sighting was by Ronald Walker, of Hawaii State Division of Fish and Game, who knows the species well.

Glaucous Gull: An occasional visitor to Hawaii; it was last reported on a Christmas count here in 1962. Observed for 15 minutes in flat light through 20x-60x scopes at Sand Island by two members of the count party. Plumage was that of first-winter juveniles. They appeared to be the same two birds observed in the same area two weeks before.

White Tern: No previous record on a Christmas count here. The bird was observed in Waikiki at close range from beneath a monkeypod tree in which it was perched--and in which a pair of White Terns had successfully reared a chick (presumably the bird observed) during the preceding three months. The parents had been last observed there together with the chick on December 25. These birds had been under close observation by a number of experienced observers since incubation began in September.

Shell Parakeet: No previous record on a Christmas count here. Doubtless these three individuals are escapees, along with the Green-cheeked Amazons and the Quaker Parakeets (sighted during the count period but not on count day...). The foregoing three species were sighted by Honolulu Zoo Director Jack L. Throp (an expert on exotic birds), who covered the Diamond Head area where the exotic finches and other "escapees" tend to congregate. These escaped cage birds deserve close attention to their distribution and numbers, since they could provide the nucleus for permanent establishment of significant new species in Hawaii.

Red-billed Leiothrix: For the second consecutive year this species was not recorded in the Christmas count--and there were only a few reported sightings through out Oahu during 1970. This introduced species had been reported consistently in fair numbers on Christmas counts around Honolulu for twenty-five years through 1968, indicating it was well established here. Its sudden virtual disappearance from Oahu since 1968 remains unexplained, although breeding populations of the species remain in evidence on the other islands in Hawaii where it had become established.

'Elepaio: The 'Elepaio count was down to 4--from last year's 22. The only other endemic forest birds reported this year, the 'Apapane and the 'Amakihi, were down to about half their numbers reported last year. The counts for all three are the lowest this year they have been over the past fifteen years of Christmas counts, during which the count areas and method/degree of coverage have been fairly stable. Although weather was partly responsible, these unusually low counts call for closer attention to the status of these unique Hawaiian species in the particular areas covered by the count. Again this year neither the 'I'iwi nor the Creeper (Loxops m. maculata), the two remaining other endemic forest birds on Oahu, was reported on the count--although each has been recorded only once during the last nine Christmas counts.

William P. Mull

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#### Aiea Trail:

Only two 'ELEPAIO! Is it the weather or the change in ecology?

Despite the gale, the sun was out, and the first bird I heard was the mynah.



Mynah is gregarious, so I waited to see or hear more, but no luck. Instead, to my delight, two Brazilian cardinals were calling at each other--last reported in 1966.

Two cats were enjoying the sun. Usually the grassy area next to the Heiau is full of birds, but not today. The cats may be responsible.

The sun was not out too long for by 1050 the intermittent showers became more frequent and heavier. The trail condition was ideal for hiking, not for bird counting. Even the temperature dropped from 72 to 66.

Of course, the weather has lots to do with birdlife, but is it all weather?

When I counted 18 house finches in 1968 I was happy, assuming that the negative report of 1967 was caused by construction work at the park, but now with none for last year and only one for this year, I am beginning to question the cause.

Leiostrix--1966 (55), 1967 (10), 1968 (4), 1969 and 1970 (NONE). Why? Is this decrease peculiar only to Aiea or the entire island? What is the status on Hawaii, Kauai and Maui?

Everything seems to have a cycle, but unfortunately once a species is gone there is no cycle to bring it back.

I pray that Aiea will be spared the tragic consequences of expanding too fast without first educating the public on ecology.

Kojima

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#### Moanalua Gardens, Salt Lake, Keehi Lagoon, Sand Island, Nuuanu Valley:

Same procedure as last year, except that each area was visited only once during the day, beginning with Moanalua Park and ending at Nuuanu. Wind and rain inhibited observation at all areas--as it did last year.

1. The Bulbuls were much in evidence this year near the entrance to Moanalua Park--singing and calling from treetops and flying from tree to tree.

2. Many more house finches at Salt Lake this year. We missed the two male lesser (?) scaups we've seen there before and after count day, but the single pintail and shoveler made up for the scaup.

3. Keehi Lagoon Park and the mudflats in the lagoon were not as productive as we had hoped--weather was heavy at the time.

4. Sand Island had its rewards with the 24 pomarine jaegers off shore at the sewer outfall and then the two immature glaucous gulls on the mudflat offshore opposite the reviewing stand; we had seen the same pair two weeks before at nearby Keehi Lagoon.

5. We missed both the gallinules and the 'elepaio at Nuuanu, which was under attack by heavy wind the whole time we were there.

William P. Mull

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#### Downtown, Waikiki, Ala Moana:

We felt we would have counted more individuals had the wind been less gusty, so that the birds came out of the trees more, and the trees not waving their foliage so much!

The one fairy tern we felt was the chick (seen about 11:00 a.m.) and the old birds were probably out fishing. The chick with head under wing was on the limb of the monkeypod tree near Fort DeRussy Sentry. Miss Stooddy had seen all three in the same tree on Christmas Day. The two old birds were bringing fish to the chick.

Doris B. Smith

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#### Kapiolani Park, Ewa slope of Diamond Head:

Birds seen the day before and the day after the count in Kapiolani Park but not on the count day are five Green-cheeked Amazons (Amazona viridigenalis) and two Quaker Parakeets (Myropsitta monachus). It is not known where the Amazons came from. I have checked with Paradise Park; they are not their birds. The Quakers are from the Zoo.

The area and timing used in covering this section of the count is the same as



in the previous five years. Needless to say, the day was very windy but probably unlike most other areas, there was no rain during the actual counting hours.

My timing was a little off for a good count of the Mynahs. The best way to get them is at the roosting areas in the late evening. Just before they go to roost for the night, they gather on adjacent lawn areas. A good count is practical only for a short period of time. I unfortunately missed the peak period and some of the birds were already in the trees.

Jack L. Throp

#### Diamond Head Crater to Paiko Lagoon:

Extremely windy during entire count, and rain picked up in the afternoon.

After Kaimuki and Fort Ruger, Diamond Head Crater was checked on foot and by car. The pond contained a pair of Koloa, but total water area had been much reduced by pumping to avoid flooding during heavy rains. Local guard reported that he regularly saw 6 Koloa in the waterhole. Several birds, mostly doves, visited the waterhole to drink. A group of unidentified finches were seen at this site--ricebird size, tan colored back and head, throat and upper chest buffy red, belly whitish, heavy finch bill (steel gray in color), no other obvious coloration.

After Diamond Head, we made a worthless count at Hawaii Kai and Koko Head lookout (for seabirds) and then at Paiko Lagoon during low tide. Rain and wind and lots of kids hampered the count there.

After the lagoon we checked all the school and park areas of Kahala and the valleys, Aina Haina, Niu and Kuliouou. We walked most of the way up the Aina Haina trail (bulldozed road), but heard or saw nothing more interesting than a pair of white-eyes and a Brazilian cardinal. High winds probably hampered our hearing somewhat.

Robert Shallenberger

#### Kaelepulu Pond, Kawainui Swamp, Quarry Road, Kailua Dump, Kaneohe Marine Air Station:

High winds influenced censuses throughout day. People-disturbance probably accounts for low numbers of mynahs seen at the dump, and thus low total. Very few birds were in the air over Moku Manu, and accurate census of those on ground was difficult due to bad light and hidden areas of island as seen through scope. Lowered counts can be primarily attributed to high winds which caused birds to stay close to ground and in vegetation.

Male and female scaups were seen in good light by several observers, constitute accurate sighting.

Highest sighting of the day was 1,120+ Red-footed boobies at Ulupau Head at 5:15 p.m. At 1:15 p.m. only 216 were noted at the same location. Apparently birds at sea were returning at dusk to seek protection from wind....

Ronald L. Walker

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#### KAUAI CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

Weather: Intermittent rains, gales winds in gusts, NE.

Counting was divided into three days because of weather and other commitments.

27 December, from 11 to 3, Kapaa to Kilauea including some passable back roads

28 December, from 7:30 to 4, Omao, Koloa, Poipu and beach area

29 December, from 7:30 to 5, main belt road from Wailua to Kokee, including both Kalalau lookouts, Makaha Ridge Road, Mana and Wailua rice and taro beds between Houselots and Homesteads Road

The 29 December trip roughly parallels Dr. Mathews' count in 1968 and 1969  
Kapaa, Kalaheo and Koke'e counts combined

Three areas are separated by natural barriers, and it was assumed different birds were counted.

Seen in count area, but not on day of count: Shama thrush, pueo, Newell shearwater, creeper, re-tailed tropicbird. Total for three days: 36 species, 1811 individuals.



## Kauai Christmas Bird Count - Continued

	27 December	28 December	29 December	Total
Red-footed Booby	22	.	.	22
Great Frigatebird	1	2	1	4
Black-crowned Night Heron	.	.	1	1
White-tailed Tropicbird	2	1	10	13
Hawaiian Duck	.	.	14	14
Red Jungle Fowl	.	.	5	5
Ring-necked Pheasant	.	.	1	1
Common Gallinule	1	2	4	7
American Coot	.	21	28	49
American Golden Plover	38	19	30	87
Ruddy Turnstone	13	10	35	58
Wandering Tattler	2	.	.	2
Sanderling	.	.	7	7
Black-necked Stilt	.	.	44	44
Rock Dove	5	.	11	16
Pintail	.	.	100	100
Shoveler	.	.	5	5
Spotted Dove	54	4	28	86
Barred Dove	111	67	113	291
Barn Owl	2	.	.	2
Mockingbird	.	3	1	4
House Sparrow	12	48	31	91
Kentucky Cardinal	1	6	10	17
Brazilian Cardinal	.	2	2	4
House Finch	4	33	14	51
Chinese Thrush	2	4	1	7
White-eye	9	53	51	113
Mynah	112	49	136	297
Ricebird	113	46	114	273
'Elepaio	.	.	1	1
'Apapane	.	.	97	97
'I'iwi	.	.	5	5
'Anianiau	.	.	2	2
'Akepa	.	.	2	2
Western Meadowlark	13	10	8	31
Finch (Red head and bill)	2	.	.	2
No. of Individual Birds:	519	380	912	1811

Winona Sears

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In answer to PLEASE IDENTIFY: THE ELEPAIO, Vol. 31, No. 6, Dec. 1970, page 59.

From Mary Roberts--Your "tuxedo birds" must be bulbuls. Some bulbuls show bright red spots near the white spots by their cheeks and a bright red spot under their tail./red-whiskered/ The less colorful variety /red-vented/ visited my garden on Makiki Street but less frequently than the more colorful ones, which now seem permanent visitors. Two males fought rather viciously for a female a few days ago, emitting very loud, ringing cries.

Their favorite spot in my garden is the night-blooming jasmine as in yours, but I have never seen them come in large numbers. No doubt the ones that visit my garden are ready for nest building and hence have claimed this territory for their own.

12/4/70

From G. Causey Whittow--Recently I have noticed from my apartment in Makiki two birds which at first sight resembled Brazilian Cardinals painted the wrong color! On closer examination they had a reddish flash at the base of the tail



feathers. They were quite unlike anything else that I have seen on Oahu. There also seemed to be a small red wattle or feathers near the eye. They appear to be the birds that you describe in THE ELEPAIO.... 11/30/70

From J.d'Arcy Northwood--The unknown bird described on p. 59 of the December 1970 issue of THE ELEPAIO might be a bulbul, possibly the Red-eared /or red-whiskered/ Bulbul, Pycnonotus jocosus. 1/14/71

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#### RECOVERIES

Banded under G.C. Munro's Permit No. 5738

Band No. 397-22380

Species: Great Frigatebird (Adult)

Banded Date: 4 August 1939 at Jarvis Island by James E.A. Kinney

Recaptured: 15 June 1968 at Jarvis Island by C. Douglas Hackman, Smithsonian Institute

Band No. 397-22388

Species: Sooty Tern (Juvenile)

Banded Date: 19 August 1941 by Walter Donaghho at Midway, Sand Island

Recaptured: 19 July 1965 by Pacific Project, U.S. Museum at Midway, Eastern Island  
22 July 1966 by Pacific Project, U.S. Museum at Midway, Eastern Island  
mated to No. 413-08619

Band No. 407-21857

Species: Laysan Albatross (Juvenile)

Banded Date: June 1945 by Gail Morgan at Midway, Sand Island

Recaptured: 27 November 1968 at Midway, Sand Island by H.I. Fisher

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Field Notes from Helen M. Stoodly: Fairy Tern

Since learning of the fairy tern chick in Fort DeRussy the 11th of October, it has been my intention to pass by every three or four days, usually about 4 p.m. The chick was always on the same branch, sometimes with a parent present, sometimes alone. It would move up and down the branch but somewhat carefully. Othertimes it would preen, stretch its wings or sleep. On October 19, the parent bird flew in with two small fish, transferred with nary a slip. At this time it became apparent that the fledgling was moving about in the tree as it was on higher and thinner branches, although I did not observe the changes in position. Day by day, the fledgling loses some of its downiness.

On November 16, the parent bird brought in one fish, fully one third the length of the young bird. It took several gulps to get it down. On November 25, just after my arrival, the parent arrived with one fair sized fish, which was transferred successfully. Shortly thereafter the fledgling took off for a short flight around the military police booth and back to a wire near the nesting monkeypod tree, then into the tree. The landing and take-off from the wire was somewhat wobbly. However, on November 14, Mrs. William Mull and her daughter Barbara had observed the young bird in a much longer flight around the same area, three times around.

On December 1 the fledgling was observed flying to other branches in the same tree while the adult was present in another part. The young bird now presents a smooth white head, the only downiness apparent now is on the wings and showing a grayish buff color. The tail is growing appreciably. In fact, but for the buffiness on the wings, it would be difficult for me to distinguish the two birds.

In reference to the nesting fairy tern in Kapiolani Park, the bird and egg were last observed by me on October 25. On October 27, both were gone. No trace of the egg was found under the tree. Prior to this, the tern had been seen to use its bill in thrusting into and along the nesting branch. Frustration? It seemed, too, that the tern had been absent from the egg for longer and longer periods of time.



## Black Brant Record on Oahu

On January 12, 1971, I observed a black brant (Branta nigricans) on Kaneohe Marine Corps Air Station. The bird was resting with a group of 10 stilts in a shallow water area on the Makai side of Nuupia Pond. I approached within 35 feet of the bird and made positive identification with the aid of 7x50 binoculars. The short black bill, head and neck were obvious and the white collar was continuous around the front of the neck. Although the stilts finally flushed, the brant remained on the pond. The bird appeared to be in good condition. The appearance of the bird was identical to the specimen in the station collection.

David L. Olsen, U.S. Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife, 337 Uluniu Street, Kailua, Hawaii 96734. January 13, 1971

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RAPTOR RESEARCH NEWS, Vol. 4, No. 3, March-April 1970, page 39: Falcons Protect Aircraft

The Royal Naval Air Station at Lossiemouth, Morayshire, Scotland, has solved its bird-strike problem by importing peregrine falcons from the Middle East. Collisions between jet planes and black-headed gulls had been occurring about monthly, with \$100 thousand repair bills on the average. Various attempts to scare away or kill the birds met with little success.

In May, 1965, peregrines were introduced and were an immediate success. There have been no bird-strikes since then and the taxpayers have been saved over a million dollars a year. The birds have been trained to scare, rather than to kill as in traditional falconry, and as yet there seems to be no indication that the gulls are adapting by becoming accustomed to the falcons.  
(from THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY NEWS No. 126, p. 9, Feb. 1970)

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ALOHA to new members:

Junior: Paul Yent, 682 Old Mokapu Road, Kailua, Oahu 96734

Regular: Jane G. Eliason, Apt 2B, 20 Garber Sq, Ridgewood, New Jersey 07450  
 Brian McKnight, 358 Kikoo Place, Honolulu, Hawaii 96821  
 Linda May Mull, Occidental College, Box 707, Los Angeles, Calif. 90016  
 Gard Otis, 5715 Ellis Road, Ypsilanti, Michigan 48197  
 Kenneth R. Salisbury, Sr., 92-368 Akaula St, Ewa Beach, Oahu 96706  
 Kathleen See, 653 Wyllie St, Honolulu, Hawaii 96817  
 Linda Welthausen, 5230-B Iroquois Avenue, Ewa Beach, Oahu 96706  
 Laboratoire Des Mammiferes, et Des Oiseaux, 55 rue de Buffen,  
 75 Paris 5e/France

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## FEBRUARY ACTIVITIES:

- 8 February - Board meeting at 3363 Anoa Place at 7:30 p.m.
- 14 February - Field trip to Moanalua Valley to study forest birds. Bring lunch, water, and if possible your car. Transportation cost (\$1.00) to be paid to the drivers. Meet at the State Library on Punchbowl Street at 8:00 a.m. Leader Alex L. MacGregor, telephone: 923-7122.
- 15 February - General meeting at the Waikiki Aquarium Auditorium at 7:30 p.m. Program for the night: Great Barrier Reef (sound movies)

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