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NESTING ACTIVITY OF HAWAIIAN STILTS AND COOTS AT KII POND, KAHUKU

By David L. Olsen

During the last week of April several visits were made to Kii Pond in Kahuku to check on birds present in the area. Although counts were made of other birds seen, the primary objective of these visits was to determine if any nesting by endangered species was taking place in the area. Census figures are shown in the accompanying table.

Silt laden waste water from the Kahuku sugar mill was flowing into Kii and a large delta had formed at the mauka end of the pond. Of interest was the fact that the mud and bagasse was actually floating. Most of the birds were feeding on this mud flat and some appeared to be nesting. Upon closer examination of the mud flats, it was evident that a few coots and stilts were apparently incubating eggs. Thirteen coot nests were identified and nine were in the open on the mudflat delta. The others were constructed in vegetation, one in California grass, Panicum, another in a small dead bush (Pluchea sp.) and the other two were found in living Pluchea.

Five coot nests were examined; two were under construction, one contained 3 eggs and another 5 eggs. Two freshly hatched chicks were discovered in one nest, along with 3 unhatched eggs. Although the unhatched eggs felt cold, when held up to the ear the chicks could be heard "peeping" inside. The hatched chicks were photographed and examined. The egg tooth was prominent on both. They had hatched earlier that day.

At least six slight mounds were noted which might have been stilt nest sites. Two had stilt on them, perhaps indicating active nests. A single active stilt nest containing 4 eggs was observed and photographed. From the agressive and protective behavior of the other stilts it was apparent that there were more nests in the area; however, none could be located.

Walker returned late in the evening of May 30 very briefly and saw several Auku'u and heard at least one gallinule "sounding off" in the high grass.

Population Estimates

Bird	April 29	May 1
Stilt	36	35+
Coot	71	60+
Gallinule	-	7
Golden Plover	4 ±	20+
Black-bellied Plover	1	-
Pintail	2	1
Shoveler	8	-
American Widgeon	-	1
Ruddy Turnstone	25±	200+
Black Turnstone	-	2
Cattle Egret	15-20	no count
Black-crowned Night Heron	-	33
Wandering Tattler	-	3
Sanderling	-	6

April 29
Walker & Olsen

May 1
Kaiglers

Field Notes from Charles G. Kaigler: Kahuku

Saturday, May 1, 1971, Kahuku, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Overcast, windy, cool.

Kii Pond was quite rewarding. Hilde and I counted 35 plus stilts, of which seven seemed to be nesting on the mud flats, 60 plus coots with at least six on nests, seven gallinules, one possibly on a nest, 33 black-crowned night herons fishing in the shallow water, three wandering tattlers, six sanderling feeding, some 20 plus golden plover and well over 200 ruddy turnstones, almost all in full breeding plumage as were the sanderlings and most of the plovers. Also observed two turnstones that I believe to be immature black turnstones. The plumage appeared darker and more uniform than the ruddy with buffy edgings on the back feathers. Both were quite grey-headed. The legs appeared dark rather than orange-red. I do not know whether this species has been reported previously on Oahu and will hope that someone else can observe them for possible confirmation or rebuttal as they could be ruddys that have retained the winter plumage. We found only two ducks, an American widgeon and a pintail, both males. Cattle egrets, ricebirds and mynahs were also quite in evidence and as we ate lunch overlooking the sea, two common noddies flew by us along the coast while a red-footed booby skimmed the waves much further out.

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WATERBIRD CENSUSES AT KAHUKU POND - June 10, 1971
By Eugene Kridler

Kii Pond

About one-half of Kii Pond was occupied by wet mud flat on the mauka and inlet parts. The makai side and the outlet appeared to have adequate amounts of water. Most birds were observed feeding or resting on the mud flats. Silt-laden cane wash water from the mill was slowly flowing into the pond.

Coots - 114 were counted. There were 12 observed on nests scattered on the mud flats. A total of 5 broods containing 3, 4, 5, 5, 5 young was recorded. These ranged from large downy to large fully feathered individuals.

Gallinule - 1 adult seen near the inlet. The small pond west of Kii was almost dry except for water in the ditches alongside the old railroad right-of-way and the west side. No birds were noted in this area.

Stilt - 74 observed. Almost all were on the mud flats. There appeared to be 7 active nests, but I was unable to check them for eggs because they were out too far on the soft mud. The birds were very agitated and flew about constantly calling. They would alight always near the same area, but I could not spot the eggs with the 25X scope. There were 12 known young recorded (brownish backs, dull colored legs and smaller size when compared to nearby adults). Six were in one group, 3 in another and 2 in still another. One partly feathered chick about half grown was noted by itself. I was unable to see any very small young - possibly because of the distance and protective coloration.

Black-crowned Night Heron - 18 observed. Most were found along the shores of the dikes on the wetter makai portions of the pond. A few were scattered throughout the vegetated interior part. Several birds in immature plumage were observed.

Cattle Egrets - 35 noted. A flock of 21 were first noted on the mud near the inlet. Others were seen near some cattle in the pasture mauka of the pond.

Ruddy Turnstones - 140 seen. One flock consisted of about 60 individuals. Others were scattered in small groups. All appeared to be in spring plumage. Most were busily engaged in foraging on the mud flats.

Sanderling - 2 in light plumage were mingled with the turnstones.

Punamano Pond

This pond was very full. Water extended almost to the dirt road and drain ditch on the mauka side. The eastern one-third of the pond was open water. The remainder was covered with the succulent prostrate Portulaca and the bushy Pluchea.

Coot - A lone pair was tallied in the mauka side of the open water area.

Stilt - 9 seen. Two near the coot and the remainder in the shallow Portulaca covered mauka part. Although no nests or young were seen, one pair flew about in an excited manner after they saw us.

Black-crowned Night Heron - 2 in immature plumage.

The following cover letter and statement were mailed to list of 70 names: Congressional, Federal, State and local officials, news media, and leaders of conservation organizations, 2 July 1971 by William P. Mull:

The enclosed position statement by the Hawaii Audubon Society is in response to the current public question on whether Moanalua Valley can best serve the interests of the people of Honolulu as a natural park or as the site for a segment of the proposed H-3 highway.

On this issue, the Society membership is especially concerned that responsible State and Federal officials give full attention to long-range recreation, open space and natural history values in considering the prospective environmental impact of H-3 on Moanalua Valley, on the whole island of Oahu andon the welfare of future generations of people who will live here. In this context, we suggest that Moanalua Valley be regarded as a non-renewable natural resource within the spirit and framework of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (Public Law 91-190).

Your active consideration of these factors will be appreciated by the Society's membership.

HAWAII AUDUBON SOCIETY POSITION ON MOANALUA VALLEY

The Hawaii Audubon Society believes that the Moanalua Valley Damon Estate property has more long-range environmental value to the people of Oahu as a natural park than as a cross-island highway. We believe also that the valley cannot serve both these purposes without sacrificing the major virtues it would have as a park in its entirety.

We view Moanalua Valley as a 3,000-acre piece of nature at the center of the Leeward Oahu urban strip that houses over half the population of the State. No open-space public recreation facility of comparable size, quality and accessibility now exists in the Honolulu area, and we know of none that is planned or likely to become available in the future.

Oahu's population is the fastest growing in the State. Its public recreation facilities are increasingly crowded. The growing pressure of non-recreational use on the limited land area of Oahu diminishes the prospect for new, large, high-quality open-space public recreation areas on this island in the future. Thus, the availability of Moanalua Valley for development and preservation as a natural park open to the general public represents to us a fortuitous opportunity to provide for a critical future need of the people of Oahu.

From a natural history standpoint, the Moanalue Valley property is ideal as a potential natural park. Since it embraces the floor, ridgelines and headland of a long, narrow valley, it is a natural and stable ecological unit -- not easily susceptible to disturbance from adjacent outside areas. The only significant disturbance to plant and animal life in the valley in recent years has been at the lower end of the valley floor; the ridges and upper portions of the valley are covered with natural vegetation that is rich in native species. Maintenance of its esthetic, educational, cultural and scientific values as a natural park will depend on preservation of the ecological integrity of the entire area. Any substantial change will destroy that integrity and degrade those values.

Development of the property as a natural park under the plan proposed by the Moanalua Gardens Foundation would utilize only the already-disturbed lower end of the valley for necessary public parking, administrative and maintenance facilities. Clearing of trails and archeological sites to facilitate public access throughout the remainder of the park area would have minimum impact on the plant and animal life that now thrives there. Such a park, with its native species protected and its ecology undisturbed, would provide ready opportunity for millions of present and future Honolulu urbanites to escape the city and enrich their lives through first-hand contact with native Hawaiian species in a beautiful, harmonious, natural environment -- an opportunity that is fast diminishing on Oahu.

By contrast, the environmental impact of the proposed H-3 highway on the narrow valley would be massive and permanent -- as we see it -- no matter how much engineering skill and care might be exercised in its construction. A three-mile-long, six-lane-wide strip of concrete down the valley -- with tunnels penetrating the ridges at

either end and with the attendant cuts, fills, stream re-routing and general construction activity in the vicinity of the highway -- will remove and destroy a large swath of plant and animal life and landscape the length of the valley. The natural distribution and flow of surface and sub-surface water will be disrupted throughout the valley floor. Substituting concrete for vegetation over a large surface of the valley will change the very climate of the valley. Those disturbances and changes will permanently disrupt the natural ecology of the entire valley. The tendency will be for native species to be reduced in variety and number and for introduced foreign species to be favored. As the inevitable result, native Hawaiian life in the valley will be reduced and degraded -- and the valley will lose its most distinctive and valuable long-range potential as a natural park.

In the presence of alternative places and transportation methods to serve the functions of the H-3 highway, and in the absence of potential areas comparable to the proposed Moanalua Valley natural park, the Hawaii Audubon Society endorses the park plan and rejects the highway plan.

(The above position was approved without a dissenting vote at a general meeting of the Hawaii Audubon Society on June 21, 1971.)

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Following position letter was delivered to the Chairman and Commissioners of the Land Use Commission; information copies to Maui County officials, State Division of Fish and Game, U.S. Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife, and environmental writers for Advertiser and Star-Bulletin, and also to Representative Patsy T. Mink, 13 July 1971 by William P. Mull:

This statement concerns the Maui Electric Company application for a special permit to allow construction of a generating plant at Kealia Pond, Maui (Item SP71-104, Agenda July 16, 1971, Kahului, Maui).

The Hawaii Audubon Society has gone on public record for the preservation of Kealia Pond as one of the only two wetland areas on Maui that are habitats for the endangered Hawaiian stilt and Hawaiian coot. Federal, State and university biologists familiar with fast-disappearing wetland habitat areas for water birds throughout Hawaii have sought and still seek to have Kealia set aside and managed as a critically needed water bird sanctuary.

Establishment and operation of an electric generating facility at Kealia could seriously disturb the ecology of plant and animal life in and around the Pond and thereby degrade or destroy its capacity to support viable populations of stilts and coots. Kealia Pond's sanctuary potential would thus be lost, and the entire population of stilts and coots on Maui would be totally dependent on the single remaining wetland habitat, Kanaha Pond, for their shelter, food and breeding requirements.

Under such circumstances, any natural or unnatural phenomenon that denied these birds the use of Kanaha even temporarily -- as in the case of a prolonged storm or short-term pollution -- would leave them with no alternative retreat for temporary shelter and food, which could decimate or eliminate these species on Maui in the space of a few days. Kanaha Pond simply is not large enough to insure, in itself, long-term survival of these species on Maui. Another factor is that even Kanaha Pond does not have assured long-term sanctuary status.

Two basic questions come to mind about the proposed generating plant. Is there any firm assurance that the plant would in no way have a detrimental effect on the land, water or biota of the Pond? Is there any substantial long-term reason why such a plant could not fulfill its planned function at some other site on leeward Maui?

The record of harmful environmental effects from operation of electric generating plants, particularly with respect to hot water effluents, suggests that the answer to the first question will likely be "No." The existence of considerable undeveloped land on leeward Maui suggests a "No" answer to the second question also.

Our Society urges the Land Use Commissioners to consider the possibility that a favorable decision on the special permit could lead to the elimination of two more

native Hawaiian bird species on Maui a few years hence. The Pond is vital to those native birds. Is it vital to the electric generating plant?

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Inspection Field Trip to Proposed Kualoa Park, Oahu, by Charles G. Kaigler:

Four members of the Hawaii Audubon Society were invited on May 6, 1971 by the Department of Parks and Recreation to participate in an inspection field trip of department personnel to the proposed Kualoa Park on the Oahu windward coast opposite Mokolii Island (Chinaman's Hat).

The park area consists of approximately 150 acres between the highway and shore area and includes Mokolii Island. Within the area are a permanent spring and a shallow lagoon. Most probable usage of the park will be for camping, and the park should be good for that.

Our particular concern is with the protection to be afforded the wedgetailed shearwaters that nest on the island and the white-tailed tropicbirds. This is the only nesting area we know near Oahu of this tropicbird. Complete protection seems an impossibility as one can actually wade to the island without any real problem. It is a beautiful small island and will be used by campers for sightseeing and relaxation, so the only protection available seems to be to designate the island a nature study area, erect instructive educational signs concerning the shearwaters and tropicbirds, prohibit overnight camping on the island itself, and trust to the campers, to luck and to a resident caretaker for preservation.

On shore, although we are somewhat dubious of a sanctuary within a camping area, it might be possible to improve and enlarge the spring area as a habitat for gallinule and coot, although we are certain that some type of fencing will be necessary. Hopefully a hedge but perhaps wire to let campers see in but to keep them out physically. Low wire will probably be necessary anyway to keep out mongooses, feral cats and pet dogs.

We are somewhat more dubious about the possibilities of the lagoon, but under improvement and some type of protection it might become a feeding area for stilt and a resting area for migratory waterfow.

Perhaps, George Munro's plan for a wildlife park for birds in Kapiolani can be adapted for this park. It is worth considering. And despite our reservations, it is encouraging to know that wildlife sanctuaries are even being considered as a part of recreation areas by the Department of Parks and Recreation. Hopefully some area or areas can be set aside and developed for primary rather than secondary usage as sanctuaries. Observation of wildlife in a natural habitat is recreation too to many, or could be.

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Book Review by E.H. Bryan, Jr.

EXOTIC GAME BIRDS OF THE PUU WAAWAA RANCH, HAWAII *

Dr. Victor Lewin, of the University of Alberta, Edmonton, Canada, has published an informative paper with this title in the Journal of Wildlife Management (January 1971). He lists 33 species of upland game birds and describes their importation and release in this area of northwestern Hawaii. He notes that "five game birds are still undergoing rapid range extension, 12 are maintaining their present population levels, and 18 are apparently unsuited to this area." There are also notes on the mallard, a close relative of the Hawaiian koloa.

The location and environment of the Puu Waawaa Ranch are described, with map and pictures, and the development there of bird sanctuaries. The mongoose and feral dogs and cats were removed.

The species of birds discussed include: Mountain quail, Scaled quail, California quail, Gambel quail, Elegant quail, Bobwhite, Harlequin quail, Seesee partridge, Chukar partridge, Barbary partridge, Black francolin, Chinese francolin, Grey francolin, Close-barred francolin, Heuglin francolin, Erckel francolin, Bare-throated francolin, Button quail, Japanese quail, Kalij pheasant, Grey jungle fowl, Ring-necked pheasant, its black-necked variety and melanistic mutant type, the Blue

* A copy at the Hawaii Audubon Society's library.

pheasant, Reeve pheasant, Pea fowl, Turkey, Mourning dove, White-winged dove, Spotted dove, Barred dove, Australian crested dove, and Indian sandgrouse. Extensive notes are given concerning may of these.

The paper concludes that "the introduction of game birds has...increased the faunal diversity of the recent barren conditions of lowland areas of leeward Hawaii Island," although they have not restored their original state, a subject which is expanded. The study of the parasites found associated with these birds is being continued. There is a bibliography.

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Field Notes from Stan and Dory Smith:

On 3 to 11 May we had a trip to the Big Island, and to Maui, spending the first four days at the Kilauea Military Camp. The weather at 4000 feet was incredibly refreshing, ranging from 51 to 64 degrees, with frequent rain showers. Fascinating new (to us) or relatively unfamiliar plants were everywhere, from Pele's own 'ohi'a lehua flaming against the drab lava, to the brilliant little 'ohelo scrub (whose berries are another of Pele's favorites!). Alas, a constant sky watch failed to reveal any Hawaiian Hawks. Our first hike was from the KMC across the caldera to Halemaumau Crater--the effect was something like travelling with Napoleon's Army, as about 100 people went on the hike. But we, nevertheless, saw three soaring white-tailed Tropicbirds over the crater, seemingly oblivious to the sulphurous fumes and vapor rising from its floor. During our stay we saw the old familiar house finches, house sparrows and mynahs around the camp. But at Volcanoes Golf Course nearby, Skylarks abounded, constantly putting on aerial fluttering and singing displays, and once we flushed a pair of pheasants from the rough.

Our last morning, we retraced part of the trail down into the caldera through the dripping rain forest, and virtually alone (at last) saw our fill of 'Apapane, 'I'iwi, 'Elepaio and 'Amakihi. Just before starting back, we were standing a few yards below Volcano House when we made our most puzzling and interesting observation. For several minutes, at 10-15 feet range, we observed a greeny beige colored bird, larger than house sparrow or house finch, with a light colored finch-type bill, resembling a grosbeak's in size. It was feeding at (or on) a lehua blossom. Although we could not see a hook in the upper mandible, after much later cogitation we could only conclude that we <u>might</u> have seen a female 'O'u. "Dense rain forest" (cf. Peterson) there is indeed at or near that spot, and size, color and feeding habits agree. But, inexperienced with Hawaii's birds, we leave the question open.

At Kaanapali, Maui, birds are few around the hotels--we did see a night heron on the golf course, which is well supplied with attractive (to herons) waterhazards! A trip to Haleakala found the summit socked in with 150 yard visibility. But on the way up at about 6000 feet, where the terrain is all grassland, a Pueo zigzagged across in front of us--very pale in color, with its flopping moth-like flight, and disappeared into the fog above. Returning, we stopped at the Kanaha Pond bird refuge near Kahului, where we counted at least 20 stilt, 5 night herons, 3 turnstones, 6 shovellers, about 40 coot and 3 sanderlings. Part of the pond was out of sight, and,of course, there were additional birds over there!

No more birds seen, but on our last morning, from our lanai we had a marvelous view of (possibly) the final whale of the 1971 northward migration, blowing, "porpoising," and finally, with a flip of his tail, sounding. A perfect finale to an interesting trip.

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Field Notes from Mrs. Clyde K. Stroburg, 2 June 1971:

...On the golf course near the Volcanoes National Park we saw both American and black-bellied plovers in breeding plumage...and in Kipuka Puaulu spied an 'Io, creeper, white-eyes, 'elepaio and cardinals. Later in the afternoon we saw at least 30 'apapane that flew up from the forest below Volcano House.

We twice visited Kanaha Pond in Kahului, Maui, and saw black-necked stilts, coots, shovelers, sanderlings, black-bellied and golden plovers and black-crowned night herons. On the road to Haleakala Crater we saw 7 or 8 ring-necked pheasants, one female with 3 chicks, chukar partridge and cardinals. At Hosmer Grove we counted 'apapane, cardinals, white-eyes and an 'i'iwi, but the weather was cold and

rainy and we didn't stay too long, as it showed no sign of clearing up.

At Kilauea lighthouse on Kauai we were disappointed to find the colony of red-footed boobies had moved to a cliff opposite the lighthouse. A few years ago the birds had nested right up to the edge of the paved area. We hiked about a mile and a half along the Alaka'i Swamp trail until it became too marshy to continue without boots. We saw 'i'iwi, white-eyes, cardinals, and at least one 'akepa, but couldn't identify many others, as they were quite elusive. We watched a shama thrush for several minutes at Kukui-o-lono Park and saw several white-tailed tropicbirds at Waimea Canyon and Opaekaa Falls.

There were the usual mynahs, sparrows, barred and spotted doves on Oahu, and we also saw both kinds of cardinals, 'apapane and one dyal, the latter two at Paradise Park. On the windward side of the island we saw 24 cattle egrets, all at once, in a field with several cows, the only place we found them on any of the islands.

Our bird-watching in Hawaii was fascinating, even exciting, and will be among our nicest memories of those enchanting islands.

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Field Notes from Peggy Hickok Hodge, 19 October 1970:

'Iwa

From my bed through the window from our hillside house at Lanikai, I counted 138 'iwa (great frigatebird) coming from Moku Manu and gliding, flock in magnificent silhouette against the sunrise flying toward Manana Island. We never seem to see such a large group return, so my husband jokingly says they must go all around the island every day!

As each sunrise is a different shade and complex of clouds, the 'iwa look as though they have been transposed from one oriental painting to another.

I have to smile when I read the advertisement of a local trust company with the 'iwa as its symbol--as 'iwa means "robber" in Hawaiian!

Alaska Birds

We were so thrilled this summer to see our first golden eagles nesting in Mt. McKinley National Park-- right on a cliff over the only road through this magnificent wilderness area. Our camp guide knew of the nest, which a recent group of ornithologists had waited around and had seen nothing for days--but just as we rounded the bend, there was the regal mother eagle poised like a painting in silhouette against the cliff right above us. Near her was the nest with two eaglets--huge birds to be babies. One of them flew in large circles with the mother as the other stayed in the nest, his long neck and head peeking out at us. The birds gave us a perfect show for excellent pictures.

We also saw Alaska's state bird, the ptarmigan, dressed in summer plumage and not too unlike a speckled hen pheasant. It blended so perfectly with the foliage that one almost stepped on it as one went near to photograph it. Later in the San Juan Island off Victoria, B.C., we also saw our first golden eagle swooping down after a rabbit and carrying it high, before dropping it again and again.

California Birds

In the redwood forest near Ft. Bragg, California, we saw a thrilling sight but could not identify the exact type of duck--mergansers. In fact, our bird watcher cousins had never before seen this particular kind of merganser duck either; and they watch all the time.

In Big Bear River in the late afternoon Lee Hickok discovered what looked like two mergansers--a beautiful teal blue-gray with bright orange crested heads. They floated along unafraid as we went nearby to watch them.

'Io

On the way home from the Mainland I saw my first 'Io, or hawk, on the way to Pohakuloa camp.

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Field Trip to Palehua, 9 May 1971 by William P. Mull

The Hawaii Audubon Society monthly field trip on 9 May 1971 was to the Palehua area in the southern part of the Waianae Range. Sixteen members and guests of the Society met at 8:00 A.M. on the Punchbowl Street side of the Honolulu main library

for the 24-mile drive to our destination at Mauna Kapu, on the crest of the Waianae Range at the end of the Palehua Road, where the northern section of the Palehua-Palikea Trail begins. The last 7.5 miles of the drive was over Palehua Road, which ascends from an elevation of about 500 feet to about the 2,800-foot level at Mauna Kapu. The Palehua Road begins in cane fields at the bottom and traverses about 4 miles of grassy slopes with scattered trees and bushes until it reaches the 1,800-foot level, where it enters the Honouliuli Forest, following which the road winds through wooded areas the rest of the way to the top.

Driving up the lower, open slopes we observed mynahs, Brazilian cardinals, house finches, ricebirds and, most interesting, mockingbirds to be the common species of that habitat. We counted nine mockingbirds within a few minutes along the way--an unusual experience in Hawaii, where mockers occur singly and widely spaced for the most part. Despite their relative abundance there, however, they were typically silent, a characteristic of Hawaiian mockers that contrasts sharply with their vociferous Mainland counterparts.

We stopped to sample the forest birds about 2.8 miles from the top, in mixed woods of predominantly exotic species such as eucalyptus, silk oak, ironwood (Casuarina equisetifolia) and others, where we saw and heard two endemic bird species in good numbers: the 'amakihi and the 'elepaio. Also present in numbers there were the Japanese white-eye and the house finch, along with a few Brazilian cardinals.

Leaving our cars at the end of the road at Mauna Kapu, we walked north for about half a mile along the trail, which threads its way along the sharp ridge-line with mixed endemic-exotic vegetation covering the steep slopes on either side of the trail. During our 1½-hour stay on the trail, we were rewarded several times with the sight of a bright-crimson 'apapane energetically feeding among the blossoms of several 'ohi'a lehua (Metrosideros) trees blooming on the slope below the trail. On at least two occasions, the single adult bird was seen accompanied by a dull-brownish immature bird that followed the adult closely, fluttering its wings in characteristic begging-to-be-fed behavior. We could not tell whether more than one adult bird was represented in our several separate sightings, which were all in the same area. The 'amakihi, white-eye and house finch were within sight or sound the whole time we were on the ridge and are obviously common there. The 'elepaio was heard frequently, calling from the trees on the slopes below, and one American cardinal was proclaiming his territory to the world from a clump of trees and bamboo on the highest point of the ridge there.

Weather was fair throughout the morning, with temperature in the 70s, sporadic light breezes and occasional scattered clouds. The group felt a special aloha for Pete Holt, who favored us with his company and his vast lore of the variety of fascinating flora seen there -- which made a good trip even better. Herbert Kikukawa, State Forestry Division, who made the whole trip possible by granting us permission to enter this restricted-access area, providing the key to the locked gates and being most helpful with briefing and map materials on the area. Thanks Herb!

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Field Trip to St. Louis Heights, 13 June 1971 by William P. Mull:

Twenty-one members and guests participated in the Society's 13 June 1971 field trip. From 9 A.M. to 2 P.M. our party enjoyed the two-mile hike along the St. Louis Heights ridge trail in balmy, dry weather with light breezes.

Our search for native forest birds was well rewarded. 'Amakihi were heard and seen all along the trail, from the introduced Norfolk pine grove in Waahila Ridge State Recreation Area at the beginning of the trail to the native 'ohi'a trees along the ridge at the end of the trail. 'Elepaio were heard calling from the valleys on either side of the trail, and one or two 'apapane were heard or seen among the blooming 'ohi'a trees at the end of the trail.

Among introduced birds we observed were Japanese white-eyes and house finches in abundance all along the trail. Also noted were a scattering of ricebirds, American and Brazilian cardinals, spotted and barred doves, and Shama thrushes. Noteworthy were a red-billed leiothrix heard singing near the start of the trail

by Hilde Kaigler and several Japanese bush warblers calling and singing near the end of the trail.

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Field Trip to Aiea Loop Trail, 11 July 1971 by William P. Mull:

Ten members and guests participated in the Society's July 11 field trip. Because of rainy weather in the Poamoho Trail area, we abandoned plans to go there and tried the Aiea Loop Trail instead. We found the weather dry but windy on the Aiea Trail. Our three hours on the trail, from 9 A.M. to 12 noon, produced meager results in native forest birds. We saw or heard about a dozen 'amakihi, but we neither saw nor heard any 'elepaio -- which is unusual for that area. Also, we noted no 'apapane, although the 'ohi'a trees were in good blossom. By contrast, we heard Japanese bush warblers calling and singing the whole time we were on the trail -- indicating greater numbers of this introduced species than has been usual there in the past. The Japanese white-eye was abundant, as usual, and we observed a scattering of Brazilian and American cardinals and a few ricebirds -- also normal. One introduced bird that is usual for the area, the Shama thrush, was not heard or observed on this trip.

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READERS NOTES:

THE CONDOR, Summer 1971, Volume 73, No. 2, page 255: News and Notes: Painton Award

...Harry R. Painton award has been given to Richard F. Warner for his paper "The role of introduced diseases in the extinction of the endemic Hawaiian avifauna" (CONDOR 70:101-120, 1968)/Reprinted THE ELEPAIO, July 1969, Volume 30, No. 1, pages 1-9/. This award of $500 is made biennially for the paper judged to be of the greatest merit and significance published in THE CONDOR in the preceding four years.

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HONOLULU STAR-BULLETIN, 18 June 1971, page A-1: Stilt Nests

Have you seen the picture of a stilt with the three eggs? The article said that the first five Hawaiian stilt nests found in the Nuupia Ponds area since 1964 were discovered recently by David L. Olsen, assistant wildlife administrator, U.S. Bureau of Sports Fisheries and Wildlife. Olsen credited Kaneohe Marines for conservation work that enabled the rare species to nest in the area. How wonderful! MAHALO to the Kaneohe Marines.

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HONOLULU STAR-BULLETIN, 3 June 1971, page A-15: Extinct 'O'o Discovered in Kauai Swamp:

The 'O'o, a native Hawaiian bird believed extinct, still exists deep in the remote Alaka'i Swamp of central Kauai....The discovery was made by John Sincock, research biologist for the endangered species project of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Department....

It is mostly black, about eight inches long, with a white patch on the wings, brown underparts and yellow thighs. The black bill is long, slender and curved. It has a loud, clear whistle.

HONOLULU STAR-BULLETIN, 4 June 1971, page D-5: 'O'o's Finder to Try Again for Pictures:

With the first excitement about his rare find gradually easing, John Sincock is planning to return next week to a remote area of central Kauai's Alaka'i Swamp to try for a good photographic record of the rare 'O'o....

It's a fairly recent convenience of man, the helicopter, that enables Sincock to get so easily to the remote retreat of the 'O'o....

After first spotting the 'O'o last week, Sincock returned this week to the scene with his wife Renata and his cameras.

"We just walked in to where I first saw the birds, and there they were," Sincock said. "Then we saw two more and we spotted the nest, too, in a cavity inside a tree."

Conditions were poor for photographic work, he said, as they were in a pouring rain....The photos did show the birds, but the quality was not good enough for good reproduction, he said....

The rare native bird is a little smaller than the common mynah, Sincock said. "But it's more attractive, and also more active. It spends most of its time up in

the trees. Those we saw were feeding on 'ohi'a lehua and other blossoms and also on worms and grubs in the moss."

Sincock said he found the birds in a remote spot in the Alaka'i Swamp, where man seldom has reason to venture. He was reluctant to designate the precise location....

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CELEBRATION OF LIFE
Thomas Square Park
14-15 August 1971

The Hawaii Audubon Society will participate in the two-day ecology event entitled "Celebration of Life" in Thomas Square Park on August 14-15 from 12:00 noon to 12:00 midnight on both days, sponsored by the Department of Parks and Recreation of the City and County of Honolulu.

Once again we'll hang the bird-wing mobiles from tree branches and set up an exhibit on the theme "Enjoy and Protect Hawaii's Native Birds."

We need volunteers to help staff the exhibit for three-hour periods (or more) Saturday and Sunday -- to talk to visitors, hand out leaflets, sell the Society's book, HAWAII'S BIRDS, blow up balloons, and have a rewarding time spreading the message on the need to conserve habitats for Hawaii's endangered birds.

Please offer your help by telephoning Bill Mull (988-6798).

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Aloha to new members:

Mr. & Mrs. John W. Gilje, 250 Halemaumau St., Honolulu, Hawaii 96821
Jane Sanders Nevin, 3121 Pualei Circle, #22, Honolulu, Hawaii 96815
Thane K. Pratt, 2979 Kalakaua Ave., Honolulu, Hawaii 96815
Roy R. Stone, 1550 Wilder Ave., Apt A-1305, Honolulu, Hawaii 96822
Charles W. Whittle, 3140 Alani Drive, Honolulu, Hawaii 96822
Mrs. Phyllis A. Wilerson, 1279-112 Ala Kapuna St, Honolulu, Hawaii 96819
Glenn T. Yamashita, 1777 East-West Road, EWC Box 1315, Honolulu, Hawaii 96822
Kailua Library, 239 Kuulei Road, Kailua, Oahu 96734

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

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AUGUST ACTIVITIES:

8 August - Boat trip to Manana to study seabirds. Trip will be limited to Society members. Boat fare is estimated at $3.00. Bring lunch, water, and if possible your car.
Meet at 8:00 a.m. at the parking area at the foot of the Oceanic Institute pier on the Waimanalu side of Makapuu and Sealife Park.
Leaders: Robert Shallenberger and William W. Prange, Jr.
Reservations required. Telephone 988-6798, Mr. or Mrs. William P. Mull

9 August - Board meeting at McCully-Moiliiili Library, 6:45 p.m. Members welcome.

16 August - General meeting at the Waikiki Aquarium Auditorium at 7:30 p.m.
Speaker: Dr. Erwin E. Lane, Honolulu Park Department
Topic: City and County Parks and Open Space.

HAWAII AUDUBON SOCIETY EXECUTIVE BOARD:
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