

THE ELEPAIO

*Journal of the
Hawaii Audubon Society*



*For the Better Protection
of Wildlife in Hawaii*

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A BREAKTHROUGH FOR MAUI NENE By Jerome J. Pratt

An event almost as joyful as the rediscovery of the Maui Nuku-pu'u in the Kipahulu Valley in 1967, occurred on July 24, 1971, when Edward Grasa found an adult pair of Nene (Hawaiian geese) with three near-mature goslings. Grasa, the trails foreman at Haleakala National Park, sighted these birds while assessing feral goat activities on Kalapawili Ridge along the north rim of Haleakala crater.

This was the first known successful reproduction of Nene on Maui since the attempt to return them to the island began in 1962. The sighting was confirmed on July 29, when Grasa led Joe Medeiros and Edwin Andrade of the State Division of Fish and Game, to the site to view what may be the nucleus of Maui's new breeding colony of Nene.

By using color-coded leg bands, identification records on all the birds released in the crater have been maintained. In tracing the ancestry of the parent birds in this family it was found the female was reared at the Pohakuloa propagating center on the island of Hawaii and released in 1968. The gander is a 1969 released bird reared by the Wildfowl Trust in England.

It is my belief that at one time Nene were found on all the larger islands of the Hawaiian chain. The original population was made up of several conspecific variant forms, each adapted to its own specific and limited environment. The breeding cycle of each family group or strain was timed and triggered according to micro-climatic conditions. For several years I have said I believe the problem causing reproduction failure on Maui is correctable with a little artificial help. However, from this first generation breakthrough nature may be taking over to again evolve a Maui strain.

I have recommended removing all the eggs from some of the nests in the Haleakala crater each year for a period of about three or four years to force the birds into a second nesting. The eggs collected could be sent to Pohakuloa for artificial incubation. Presently the Maui birds are incubating in late fall and winter when the climate of the Paliku region of the crater where they make their home is most severe. If nesting occurred a few weeks later the weather would be more favorable for hatching and rearing young. From available information it appears this year's success could be the result of a late or second nesting, plus a more favorable habitat. These later hatched birds can be expected to become later nesters themselves and increase their reproductive potential.

Since the first 35 Nene were packed into Haleakala crater and given their freedom in the Paliku area in 1962, an additional 262 have joined them in subsequent releases. Considerable nesting activity has occurred and a few eggs have hatched,

however, no living offspring has ever been observed until Grasa's sighting. There have been a few newly hatched goslings found dead. A park visitor reported seeing goslings in 1969, but an extensive search of the area to confirm the report was in vain.

A number of abandoned nests have been discovered. Examination of the eggs usually revealed a dead embryo that was often mature and ready to hatch. It is not known if the adult birds abandon the nest while the embryo is alive, or if the embryo dies and incubation is given up after the required incubation period. I suspect the later, because of a combination of physiological traits and harsh climatic factors being responsible for the unborn goslings death.

The Nene has been dramatically portrayed by conservationists throughout the world as an example of how an endangered species can be saved with a little artificial help. It was the success of the Nene program that gave new strength to those trying to perpetuate the whooping crane by properly applying avicultural talent. With a little more help we may be able to accelerate the Nene's safety on Maui.

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This happy event was reported in the Honolulu Star-Bulletin, 7 August 1971, page B-4 by Robert McCabe titled: Three Young Maui Nene Survive Critical Period.

KALOKO POND DREDGING AND ALTERATIONS *

Summary of written testimony received by the Corps of Engineers in response to Public Notice No. PODCO 967-D dated 23 April 1971. Numbers in parentheses indicate source and match the listing on the following code sheet.

A. PROS

Completion of our plans will provide an additional 800 ft of beach. There will be public access to both the swimming cove and the pond. (1)

A park and beach area for this section of Kona is badly needed now. (2) (3) (4) (5)

The State is not in a position to acquire, restore, and maintain the Fish Pond as an historic site...Among fishponds alone, we can find others that command higher priority. (6)

The project would clean up the Pond and preserve the historical sites all at the expense of private development. (2) (6) (7)

Kaloko Pond is of very minor value to water birds. (8)

B. CONS

Development by the Kona Coast Company is not in the public interest. (10) (11) (12) (13) (14) (15) (16)

The few remaining accessible shoreline areas of natural beauty are too cherishable to be converted to man-made attractions. (17) (18)

Kaloko Pond should be saved as a fishpond and be integrated into the larger settlement area for preservation as a State Park. (19) (16)

Development by the Kona Coast Company would destroy the last vestiges of this pond as a historic Hawaiian site. (20) (21) (22) (23) (24)

Development by the Kona Coast Company would destroy the historical pond and its associated environment. (12) (25) (26) (27) (28) (29) (30) (31) (32) (33) (34)

The pond is at present an important habitat for the Hawaiian Stilt. (35) (12) (16) (33)

* From Public Announcement Summary Brochure prepared by Pacific Ocean Division
US Army Corps of Engineers, July 1971

To build an outer beach and swimming area would require a breakwater of sufficient strength to withstand waves on the open coast. This would be a massive structure aesthetically unacceptable to this area. (9)

The existing County General Plan (1960) calls for resort development of Kaloko. The draft of the proposed General Plan calls for resort expansion. (1)

Development by the Kona Coast Company would cause indigenous birds probably to leave. (36) (37) (12) (14) (21) (23) (26) (32)

Kona Coast Company should find an alternate site for the proposed beach. (38) (39)

Development of Kaloko Pond by the Kona Coast Company is contrary to the County General Plan. (32)

The whole ecology of the present pond will be changed by development. (40) (41) (21)

Development would destroy a beautiful historic area. (42) (18)

Users of the proposed artificial beach will eventually pollute the adjacent pond. (21)

CODE SHEET

1. Kona Coast Company, Dennis W. Haserot
2. Henry and Lottie O'Neal, Kailua-Kona
3. Mr. and Mrs. W. R. Payne, Kailua-Kona
4. Jennifer W. Scott, Hilo
5. George E. Kent, Hilo
6. State of Hawaii Board of Land and Natural Resources
7. West Hawaii Committee, Henry K. Boshard and Frank J. Zuzak
8. United States Department of the Interior, Pacific Southwest Region, for Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife
9. Douglas L. Inman, Consultant in Oceanography for Kona Coast Company
10. William and Olga Myers, Honolulu
11. John M. Stermer, Holualoa, Kona
12. Friends of the Earth, Robert Wenkan, Pacific Representative
13. Dorothy Draeger, Kailua-Kona
14. Walter S. Tachibana, Kealahou
15. Kaneohe Outdoor Circle, Mrs. Benjamin R. Fleming, President
16. Kona Conservation Group, Alan Slim Tyler
17. Conservation Council for Hawaii, Alfred Tong, Secretary
18. Miss Karen Kamigaki, Honaunau
19. Bernice P. Bishop Museum, Roland W. Force, Director
20. Honorable Patsy T. Mink, U.S. House of Representatives
21. East Hawaii Cultural Council, Alika Cooper, Chairman
22. Katherine Lee Tyler, Delray Beach, Florida
23. Conservation Council for Hawaii, G.M. Sheets, President State Board
24. Mrs. Richard H. Baldwin, Makawao, Maui
25. Hilde Cherry, Honolulu
26. P. Quentin Tomich, Ph.D.
27. Katherine T. Ford
28. Hawaiian Civic Club of Hoopuloa, Sarah Kahele, President
29. Prince David Kawanakoa Hawaiian Civic Club, George Naope, President
30. Margout S. Thorp, Kailua-Kona

31. Instituto Brasileiro De Desenvolvimento Florestal, Alceo Magnanini
32. Life of the Land, James Hughes
33. Christopher Yuen et al, Hilo
34. Bernice P. Bishop Museum, Marion Kelly
35. Hawaii Audubon Society, Mr. Charles G. Kaigler, President
36. Patti Patten, Kenaweana High and Intermediate School /Konawaena/
37. Mrs. E.R. Steele, Hilo
38. Mrs. Blurette Kirchhoff, Honolulu
39. Charles L. Bretschneider, Consultant in Oceanography
40. Robert Chase and Edwin F. Bartholmew, Hilo
41. Charlene Nakatsu et al, Honolulu
42. Mr. and Mrs. Frederick H. Goff, Honolulu

Hawaii Audubon Society's written testimonies by William P. Mull

To: Colonel Roy A. Sanders, Honolulu District Engineer, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers,
Fort Armstrong, July 19, 1971

Re: Application for Department of the Army permit for dredging and alteration of
Kaloko Pond, Island of Hawaii, Public Hearing, July 19, 1971, Honolulu

The Hawaii Audubon Society already is on record favoring preservation of Kaloko Pond as a wetland habitat area important to the endangered Hawaiian Stilt on the island of Hawaii. The proposed development by the Kona Coast Company would reduce the enclosed wetland area to about four acres and would greatly increase the amount of human activity around the Pond. As honestly acknowledged in the draft environmental impact statement by the prospective developers, this probably would eliminate the Pond as a habitat for the Stilt. As justification for this habitat elimination, the U.S. Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife is cited as stating that Kaloko Pond is of very minor value to water birds.

We agree that Kaloko Pond is of minor value, as compared to nearby Opaeha and Honokohau Ponds for Stilt habitat. We contend, however, that survival of the Stilt on the Big Island does not depend on piecemeal comparative values, but rather on whether there is enough total habitat available to support a viable population of the species. The fact is that Opaeha, Honokohau and Kaloko Ponds represent all the habitat the Stilt has there. Collectively, these three ponds comprise about 70 acres of marsh and water, only a fraction of which is usable to the Stilts as feeding, breeding and shelter habitat. Loss of Kaloko to those birds means a fifteen percent gross loss of life-sustaining habitat. When you consider that this borderline population of only about thirty individual birds is totally dependent on a fraction of 70 acres and that none of that habitat has any insured sanctuary status at all, Kaloko Pond takes on much greater importance as a supplementary feeding and shelter area than its diminutive twelve acres would indicate at first glance.

Low wetland is the most endangered habitat type in Hawaii. As a consequence, all four native Hawaiian water birds that depend on wetlands are officially labeled "Endangered Species." This situation is the direct result of piecemeal degradation and destruction of ponds and marshes throughout the State.

The story of Kaloko Pond and the Hawaiian Stilt is the story of the deterioration of our whole natural environment in Hawaii -- a chunk at a time. One by one natural wetlands are destroyed, and on each isolated occasion it is argued that commercial development of this pond or that marsh has no significant value for the survival of native species. No one on any level of government takes responsibility for the accumulative effect of the loss of living space for native wildlife -- or the consequences of that loss for the human quality of life. Not a single wetland habitat in Hawaii has permanent sanctuary status, and commercial plans are in the mill for many.

We urge the Corps of Engineers to evaluate as a whole the total ecological impact of all the proposed development plans for Hawaii's wetlands and to consider Kaloko Pond within that integral framework. Will we stop wetland destruction? Where? When?

To: Mr. Sunao Kido, Chairman of the Board of Land and Natural Resources, State of Hawaii, July 21, 1971

Re: Application for a special use permit by M.S.W., Inc. for commercial use and development of Alakoko (Menehune) Pond, Kauai. Meeting of the Board of Land and Natural Resources, Wailuku, Maui, July 23, 1971

The Hawaii Audubon Society reaffirms its position statement of January 22, 1971 in which we urged public acquisition and permanent refuge status for the vital wetland habitats of Hawaii's endangered water birds, including Menehune (Alakoko) Fish Pond on Kauai. Menehune Fish Pond is a major habitat for three endangered Hawaiian water birds on Kauai: Hawaiian Coot ('Alae Ke'oke'o), Hawaiian Gallinule ('Alae 'Ula) and Hawaiian Duck (Koloa).

Hawaii's native water birds top the list as the most endangered of native bird species because their living space -- ponds, marshes and low wetlands -- is the most threatened habitat type in Hawaii. Huge tracts of wetlands have already been lost. Remaining key wetlands must be set aside as wildlife refuges if endangered native water birds are to survive. The joint recommendations by the State Division of Fish and Game and the U.S. Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife contained in Hawaii's Endangered Water Birds, 1970, define key areas to be preserved as wildlife refuges. Menehune Fish Pond adjoining Huleia Marsh and Pasture are two of the key areas on Kauai.

Commercial development plans are on the board for many of these major wetlands throughout the State. Not a single wetland habitat for native endangered birds has permanent sanctuary status in Hawaii! Piecemeal degradation and destruction of ponds and marshes will be fatal to Hawaii's native water birds -- life forms that exist nowhere else in the world.

The Board of Land and Natural Resources, as guardian of conservation land, should take responsibility for the cumulative effect of the loss of living space for native wildlife. We urge the Board to evaluate the total ecological impact of all the proposed development plans for Hawaii's wetlands and to consider Menehune Pond within that integral framework.

Another essential consideration for the Board is the knowledge that the U.S. Department of the Interior is working toward public acquisition of Menehune Pond as a wildlife refuge for endangered Hawaiian water birds in 1973.

With these considerations -- in addition to the historic, scenic and open space values presented by others -- we urge the Board to deny the special use permit for commercial development of Menehune Pond, which can only result in serious damage to the Pond as a habitat for Hawaii's endangered water birds.

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These two appeals for the conservation of the State's wetland area as vital to the preservation of Hawaii's endangered water birds were reported in The Sunday Star-Bulletin & Advertiser, 25 July 1971, page A-18, titled: Two Bird Habitats Endangered Isle Group Says

Excerpts of minutes, Hawaii Audubon Society general meeting, 15 March 1971:

...Mr. Kaigler spoke of the 35-40 replies received in response to the Society's position paper that had been mailed to legislators, other officials and leaders of community organizations in late January. The statement on specific wildlife concerns was generally praised for its clarity and objectivity.

A draft of revised regulations for the use of the bird refuge islands off the windward coast of Oahu is being prepared by the State Division of Fish and Game in response to the letter by Mr. Robert Shallenberger to Mr. Sunao Kido and to the resolution of the Society calling for better protection of the seabird colonies.

Concerning the Alaska Pipeline Project, the Society has sent a statement to be included in the current hearings on the Alaska Pipeline by the Department of the Interior. The Society's position is that further study and careful evaluation is needed on the impact of the Pipeline on Alaska's wildlife resources. We noted that

several migratory bird species that breed in Alaska spend about nine months of the year in Hawaii. Favorable replies to the Society's statement have been received from all members of Hawaii's Congressional delegation.

A State hearing on the dredging of Paiko Lagoon will be held in early April, in anticipation of the Lagoon becoming a wildlife refuge for the Hawaiian Stilt. Although the Lagoon is not a major habitat or breeding grounds for the endangered Stilt, the Society supports the dredging and public acquisition of the remaining private land as a secondary refuge for the Stilt.

Hilde Kaigler has been appointed the H.A.S. representative to the Outdoor Circle.

Mr. Kaigler spoke of George Munro's tentative plan for a wildlife park in Kapiolani Park, also mentioning the possibility of a wildlife park in Diamond Head crater.

Mr. Kaigler reported the Society's position on the logging of 3,700 acres of 'ohi'a and koa trees in the Laupahoehoe Forest Reserve on the Big Island. Despite the protests of several environmental groups, including the Society, that other means of controlling the banana poka vine be considered rather than cutting down the native trees, a logging license to log 500 acres of the forest was approved by the State Board of Land and Natural Resources on March 12.

Mr. Kaigler spoke of several areas in which the Society should and could do more work in achieving its goals. We need to develop an education program for members to present in schools on Hawaii's birds and other wildlife. We need to build up a collection of color nature slides to use in an education program. We need to follow more carefully developments in the habitats of endangered bird species. We need to present the Society's position at legislative hearings and hearings before other boards on proposals that will affect wildlife habitats. Members were asked to respond to this call for help and offer to assist in the local Audubon cause.

Brian McKnight raised the question on the status of the Honokahau proposed tourist development on the Big Island and the adjacent pond as a Stilt habitat....

Mr. Kaigler, Bill and Nae Mull have met with Campbell Estate officials to discuss future plans for the sugar mill land which will be closed at the end of 1971 and to discuss the future of the three Kahuku ponds which are major habitats of three endangered species - Hawaiian Stilt, Hawaiian Coot and Hawaiian Gallinule.

Mr. David Olsen, from the U.S. Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife, presented an enlightening talk and color slides on the Federal wetlands program in the mid-West for waterfowl. Funds from duck stamp sales are used to acquire small wetlands for the production of waterfowl that otherwise would be lost as habitat because of draining and filling operations.

Mr. Olsen explained how the Rare and Endangered Species Act of 1969 is being implemented in Hawaii for the World List of Endangered Species. Mammals, birds, fish, mollusks and amphibians on the World List cannot be imported into the United States in any form. Mr. Eugene Kridler and Mr. Olsen must check on all animals imports coming into or through Hawaii if there is any question that the animal skin or product is from an endangered species. Also, no species in any form may be exported if it appears on the endangered list....

19 April 1971:

...Mr. Kaigler raised the question as to whether the Society should support the Hawaiian Botanical Society in its recent resolution that calls for an effective program of feral goat eradication in the National Parks of Hawaii.

Mr. Kaigler reported on testimony given before the State House Committee on Lands supporting a House Resolution that called for a scientific investigation of the effects of logging a State 'ohi'a-koa forest at Laupahoehoe before a permit for such logging is issued by the State Board of Land and Natural Resources.

Mr. Kaigler reported on testimony given at a hearing of the State Board of Land and Natural Resources on plans for dredging Paiko Lagoon. Islands created in the lagoon by the dredging possibly may be used as nesting areas by the small number of endangered Hawaiian stilts that occasionally feed in the lagoon.

Several members of the Society attended a public meeting on April 6 that

was part of a joint Federal-State Conference on Rare and Endangered Wildlife in Hawaii. Emphasis was given to permanent habitat protection for Hawaii's endangered water birds.

William Mull reported on the Society's participation in The Great Hawaiian Jubilee in Kapiolani Park, April 3 and 4, sponsored by the City and County Department of Parks and Recreation. Many members staffed the under-shower-tree exhibit on Hawaii's birds, talking to hundreds of visitors (local people and tourists) about endangered native birds, distributing leaflets, and selling books and decorated balloons. Workers found this a rewarding opportunity to spread the message on the need for protecting threatened Hawaiian birds. Displayed at the meeting were posters and bird-wing mobiles with rhymes about native and migratory species that were hung from tree branches at the Jubilee.

Mr. Kaigler introduced Mr. Tom K. Tagawa, State Forester, who presented slides and gave a talk on the Department of Forestry program in Hawaii. Mr. Tagawa outlined the philosophy of the Department and discussed competing interests for forest use. Hawaii's forestry program is based on: (1) Watershed resources, (2) Timber management, (3) Recreational use, (4) Wildlife habitat for game hunting and fishing, (5) Forest products production, (6) Forest fire prevention and control, (7) Cooperative forestry management with Federal and private owners, and (8) Forest protection from injurious agents in order to preserve natural areas amounting to about 125,000 acres.

Mr. Paul Breese, Chief, Wildlife Branch, State Division of Fish and Game, gave an informal presentation of proposed new regulations for the use of the bird refuge islands off the windward coast of Oahu. These state-owned islands would be divided into four categories depending upon the amount of public use permitted: (1) Sanctuary status -- no entry permitted except upon approval for scientific study purposes, (2) Public entry permitted, but no camping allowed, (3) Public entry permitted, camping allowed, but no trespassing in the nesting colony areas, and (4) Entry and camping permitted, but birds protected from molestation by posted signs. Mr. Breese said that copies of the proposed regulations will be given to the Society's Executive Board before a public hearing is held, giving the Society an opportunity to respond to the proposed changes before a formal public presentation is announced. Mr. Breese also said that copies of the existing regulations, along with amendments, would be given in advance to the Society's Executive Board....

17 May 1971:

...Informal reports were given that fairy tern nesting again in Fort DeRussy, macaws observed in Manoa Valley -- probable escapes from Paradise Park, and black-headed comures observed in Moanalua Gardens.

Mr. Kaigler gave a report on meetings he attended in Hilo: the Hawaii Chapter of The Wildlife Society meeting on May 12 and the State Conference on Forestry, May 13 and 14. Many of the topics discussed by the speakers are of major interest to the Society: the drastic decline in the Hawaiian Crow population on the Big Island, forest lands recommended for inclusion in the State Natural Areas Reserve System, the federal Hawaiian Islands National Wildlife Refuge, census of Keehi Lagoon bird populations, effects of feral pigs on forests, management of exotic mammals in national parks, the banana poka problem in koa-'ohi'a forests, the causes for some dying 'ohi'a and koa forests, the threat to the mamane forest on Mauna Kea from overpopulation of feral sheep, the position of the Big Island Fish and Game Association favoring a sustained yield of feral sheep for hunting recreation, and the problem of feral goats in Volcanoes National Park and Haleakala National Park.

...Dr. Arnell presented the fine professional-quality color film he made on "Antarctica - Tourist Style," with Mrs. Arnell as the narrator. Excellent wildlife sequences were in the film, including those on three species of penguins, sheath-bills, cormorants, skuas and other seabirds, and two species of seals....

21 June 1971:

In the absence of President Charles Kaigler, Vice President William Mull conducted the June 21, 1971 General Meeting....

Hilde Kaigler reported on a meeting of representatives of environmental groups held at Station KGMIB, conducted by Lynn Nakkim of KGMIB and the League of Conservation Voters, to discuss alternatives to the H-3 Freeway through Moanalua Valley.

Mr. Mull read a letter from Mrs. Richard Baldwin of the Moanalua Gardens Foundation asking for the Society's support in efforts to stop H-3 construction in Moanalua Valley and to support the Foundation's plans for a 3,000 acre natural park in the Valley to be open to the public. The Executive Board of the Society favors such a park and opposes H-3 passage through the valley. A position statement to this effect was read. Mr. Ernest Holt moved that the Society adopt the statement as a resolution. Miss Kojima seconded the motion. After brief discussion, the motion was carried without a dissenting vote.

The 1971 reprint edition of HAWAII'S BIRDS, with corrections, was announced for sale....

In response to a question, Mr. Paul Breese said he did not know of any relationship between the decline of the red-billed leiothrix on Oahu and the reported findings that the leiothrix is a carrier of bird malaria. In this connection, Mr. Breese said that the International Biological Program on the island of Hawaii may possibly include a study of bird disease.

Hilde Kaigler reported that an additional fairy tern apparently is brooding an egg in a tree adjoining the monkeypod tree in Fort DeRussy where a fairy tern has been incubating an egg for several weeks. A fairy tern chick was successfully fledged from the same location on the same branch of that monkeypod tree in November-December 1970.

A photograph and descriptive caption on stilt nests appeared in the Honolulu Star-Bulletin front page, June 18, 1971 and was displayed at the meeting....David L. Olsen, assistant wildlife administrator, U.S. Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife, credited Kaneohe Marines for conservation work that enabled the rare species to nest in the area. He said that Rod and Gun Club Marines had trapped over 200 mongooses and several feral cats around the Nuupia Ponds....

Paul Breese announced that the City Department of Parks and Recreation has installed four permanent signs along the Makapuu shore area, with text prepared by the State Division of Fish and Game, with information on the sanctuary status of offshore Manana Island where landing is prohibited except by permit because of the seabird colonies nesting on the island.

Eugene Kridler reported that on May 24-25 survey trip to the island of Hawaii he and other biologists counted fourteen Hawaiian crows ('Alala) from the road in the Kona Coast area, which may indicate a larger extant Hawaiian crow population than had previously been estimated....

The golden eagle, a rare accidental from the mainland, that has been resident in the Alaka'i Swamp and Kalalau Valley for several years has been sighted again recently.

Paul Breese said that the State Division of Fish and Game would submit again to the State Legislature...an appropriation request for a research study on the feeding habits of the endangered Hawaiian stilt. The Fish and Game Division and the University of Hawaii Zoology Department may receive a \$30,000 grant from the World Wildlife Fund for intensive study of endemic Hawaiian forest birds.

Bill Mull said he had received a report of red-vented bulbuls nesting in a backyard tree on Ferdinand Avenue in Manoa Valley.

Mr. Gene Renard, parks planner with the State Division of Parks, presented the program of the evening, "The Preservation Program of the State Parks System." His talk was illustrated with attractive color slides of many areas in the State Parks system. The status of native wildlife in many natural areas on the major islands was discussed with a variety of questions raised by members in the audience. A survey is underway at the State level to make an evaluated, comprehensive inventory of potential park areas....

Field Note from Mae Mull, June 1, 1971: Kii Pond, Kahuku

On June 1, 1971 my husband and I spent several hours at mid-day along the banks of the settling basin, formerly a part of Kii Pond at Kahuku observing birds on the mudflats and in the water with 10x binoculars and two 20x telescopes. Hawaiian stilts and Hawaiian coots sitting on nests on the open flats immediately attracted our attention. After observing for some time to determine which nests were in current use, we counted seven active stilt nests and at least thirty active coot nests. In several cases coot chicks left a nest under parent escort, followed the adult birds as they scratched and fed, and later returned to the nest with parent direction. Two coot families with five chicks were counted, one family with four chicks and one family with two chicks, for a total of sixteen young. In all cases two adult birds accompanied the chicks closely, and appeared to uncover feeding material on the flats for the chicks to eat. In these four families the adult coots appeared to be mending or adding to the outer nest material, and, in general, seemed to be more solicitous of their young compared with the behavior of adult stilts with their young.

Four separate groups of young stilts were observed. Four immatures, who appeared almost fledged by their size, plumage and wing movement, stayed close together at the edge of the grass near the bank of the basin, sometimes sitting or moving a short distance along the grass edge. One adult bird remained four or five feet in front of these immatures the whole time, moving only slightly, as in adjustment to the movement of the four young. In an open location, four younger stilts were watched as they moved only within a nest, sometimes standing or sitting, but they did not seem to be guarded, and no adult stilt went to the nest during the period. Elsewhere, two immature stilts walked or sat on the flat among feeding adult birds and did not seem to be associated with a nest or particular parent birds. In the final instance, an adult stilt moved off a nest, leaving uncovered a single chick with a gray, white and pale-brown speckled downy plumage. An adult stilt returned in about half an hour and settled down on the nest, making us wonder if it also contained some unhatched eggs.

During the whole period from four to six adult stilts constantly flew around and above us, screaming and squawking, sometimes so close as to dive-bomb us. Some appeared near exhaustion toward the end of the period as they flopped momentarily to rest on the mudflats.

In the basin we counted Hawaiian coots 150+, Hawaiian stilts 65 - one stilt was obviously incapacitated with a broken wing that drooped into the mud, Hawaiian gallinules 2, black-crowned night herons 15, ruddy turnstones 70+, sanderlings 2. Also present in the area were cattle egrets, house sparrows, mynahs and ricebirds. The ruddy turnstones were usually late migrants, or, more likely, none-breeding birds that summered in Hawaii. None of these turnstones had the vivid ruddy orange color and sharply distinct patterning seen on the returning migrants in August.

With the closing of the Kahuku Sugar Company plantation by the end of 1971, the Kii Pond-settling basin may be lost as feeding and breeding habitat for the endangered water birds. The pumps that provide run-off into the basin are scheduled to be turned off in August. Without that continuous drainage, the basin will soon be choked with grass or dry with sterile caked clay, and native water birds, migrant ducks and migrant shore birds will have lost essential living space.

READERS NOTES:

HONOLULU STAR-BULLETIN, 1 July 1971, page A-23: Don't Tread on Them! by Helen Altonn

Four large green signs with a friendly warning have been posted by the State along the Makapuu and Waimanalo shores of Oahu. They inform surfers, fishermen and boaters that the "island in the background" is Manana (Rabbit) Island -- a bird sanctuary where landing is unlawful without State permission.

The 65-acre island is a breeding area for thousands of seabirds, including the wedge-tailed shearwater ('ua'u kani), Bulwer petrel ('ou), sooty terns ('ewa'ewa), noddy terns (noio koha) and Hawaiian terns (noio). It has been a bird refuge since

1945, protected under regulations of the State Division of Fish and Game. The division increased surveillance of the Island this year after the Hawaii Audubon Society said trespassing in the breeding areas and abuse of the sanctuaries "is occurring commonly by illegal entrants...."

Ronald L. Walker, district wildlife biologist, said wardens regularly patrol the area and are assisted with an informal policing system by the Oceanic Foundation. He said the foundation alerts a warden when trespassers are spotted on the offshore sanctuaries and provides a boat for the warden if necessary.

Surfers or fishermen frequently land on Rabbit Island without realizing --until they get there--that it is unlawful, Walker said. Signs are posted on the island saying it is off limits but by the time someone sees them it's too late. The new signs along Oahu's coast facing Rabbit Island are "preventive medicine," Walker said.

He noted that the City-County made the signs, so they are consistent with other signs on City-County property.

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

Band No. 40 721 857

Species: Laysan Albatross (Juvenile)

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

Recaptured: 27 November 1968 and 2 December 1970 at Sand Island, Midway by
Dr. H.I. Fisher, South Illinois University

Aloha to new members

Junior: Althea Toma, 1517-H Alexander St., Honolulu, Hawaii 96822

Ned & Daniel Margulies, 118 Hawaii Loa St., Honolulu, Hawaii 96821

Regular: Bill Kloos, 2351 Walu Way, Honolulu, Hawaii 96822

Mrs. Francine K. Margulies, 118 Hawaii Loa St., Honolulu, Hawaii 96821

John Trenhaile, 94-1038 Lumiauau St., Waipahu, Oahu 96797

Mrs. Dorothy F. Babineau, 143 Pauahilani Place, Kailua, Oahu 96734

Mrs. Rosalind Herron, 3045 Pualei Circle, #112, Honolulu, Hawaii 96815

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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SEPTEMBER ACTIVITIES:

12 September - Field trip to study shore 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: William P. Mull, telephone: 988-6798.

13 September - Board meeting at McCully-Moiliili Library, 6:45 p.m.
Members welcome.

20 September - General meeting at the Waikiki Aquarium Auditorium at 7:30 p.m.
Speaker: Wayne Gagne, Entomologist, Bishop Museum
Topic: Endangered Hawaiian Flora and Associated Fauna (slides)

HAWAII AUDUBON SOCIETY EXECUTIVE BOARD:

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