

# THE ELEPAIO

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Hawaii Audubon Society*



*For the Better Protection  
of Wildlife in Hawaii*

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STATEMENT PRESENTED BY WILLIAM P. MULL AT THE PEARL HARBOR CONFERENCE  
ON POLLUTION CALLED BY THE U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY,  
21-22 September 1971

The Hawaii Audubon Society wishes to congratulate all the participants in this conference. We applaud every effort to improve our environment, and certainly the elimination of pollution is basic to that end. Naturally pure water probably is as important to man as is pure air, and the potential benefits of this conference for the people of Hawaii is obvious. We wish to call attention, also, to certain non-human residents of Hawaii that should benefit from these plans and proposals.

The ponds and tidal flats in the western portion of Pearl Harbor comprise one area of Oahu that is of major importance to the survival of endangered native water birds like the Hawaiian stilt (ae'o) and the Hawaiian coot ('alae ke'oke'o), as well as large numbers of migratory ducks and shore birds that spend three-fourths of their year on our islands. They are part of our living environment. Their survival and health is a visible measure of the healthiness of our environment -- like the canary in the coal mine.

Efforts by this conference to restore the Pearl Harbor area to one of natural environmental purity and beauty for the well-being of the people of Hawaii can and should be planned with a view to retaining and improving certain portions of the area as critical habitat for these endangered bird species and other wildlife forms that occur naturally in and around the water areas under consideration. We refer specifically to the mudflats and shallow-water areas at the upper end of West Loch, near the mouth of Waikale Stream; the temporary settling basins on Waipio Peninsula; the Walker Bay area; the old dry salt ponds on the western shores of West Loch; and the small ponds on Navy land on the Pearl City Peninsula.

The Navy is to be congratulated for their effective recognition of the larger, long-range values of important wildlife preserves within areas of Pearl Harbor under their jurisdiction. Already, they have set aside over 300 acres as wildlife refuge areas, and they are cooperating and consulting with the U.S. Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife and the State of Hawaii Department of Land and Natural Resources in the improvement of several of these specific areas, like the salt ponds on the western edge of West Loch and the pond area on the Pearl City Peninsula.

We hope that even more can be done. Recently, over 600 stilts have been observed to use these areas for feeding, breeding and shelter. This represents half the total population of our endangered Hawaiian stilt. Of particular importance are the Oahu Sugar Company settling basins on Waipio Peninsula, which support large numbers of stilts and which are instrumental in alleviating silt pollution in West Loch and Middle Loch. The basins are designed to settle out suspended silt and cane waste materials from mill wash water and irrigation water before it enters the waters of Pear Harbor. The mudflat areas created in the basins in this process provide attractive feeding and shelter areas for the stilts. Continued construction and operation of such basins can serve the purposes of both anti-pollution and wildlife.

Related to the operation of the Waipio settling basins is a plan to use Walker Bay as a supplementary silt-and-mill-waste settling area to improve further the quality of water discharged into West Loch from Oahu Sugar Company operations. If carried out on an incremental basis, with one section at a time being filled in with silts and mill debris, this procedure would upgrade the quality of cane-operation water discharged into West Loch and, at the same time, ensure the continuing creation of desirable mudflat areas for stilts and other water birds for years to come. We urge serious consideration of this plan.

Another area of importance to the stilt and other water birds is the remnant of Pouhala Pond, between the Waipahu Dump and the housing area, and the surrounding acres of marshland. This area, at one time, provided feeding and shelter habitat for over 300 stilts. In recent years it has been threatened by expansion of the dump. Dozens of stilts and other water birds still use the area, and it, too, should be considered as an area worth restoring and preserving as a Pearl Harbor wildlife habitat. Ecologically, this fresh-water marsh serves as a transition zone between dry land and the waters of the harbor. This is the kind of wetland habitat that has suffered so greatly here, and on the Mainland, to the detriment of ecosystems in adjacent tidal waters.

Native wildlife, consciously encouraged and protected in natural habitat preserves, will enhance the beauty and value of Pearl Harbor for the people for generations to come. Aside from the ecological implications and intricacies involved, of which our most astute scientists are only now becoming aware, the visible presence of this wildlife in Pearl Harbor will provide recreation and rejuvenation values for those thousands of citizens who need, occasionally, to escape the unnatural pressures of a civilization that seems determined to separate man from his natural environment.

We are as responsible for the future welfare of our natural environment as we are for the welfare of our fellow men. Water without fish, land without plants or air without birds generally indicates a sick or sterile environment. Man senses this and is poorer for it whenever life is missing where he expects to see it naturally. In our concern for the welfare of the oysters in the water, let us not neglect the welfare of the mangroves along the shore or the stilt flying over the loch. They are all important to the welfare of each of us.

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Following statement RE: Item 12 (Division of Land Management). U.S. Marine Corps request for extension of lease to conduct maneuvers in the Molokai Forest Reserve, Agenda for Public Meeting of the Board, Honolulu, 24 September 1971 was presented to Mr. Sunao Kido, Chairman, and members of the Board of Land and Natural Resources. Charles G. Kaigler and Mae E. Mull represented the Society.

Because of our concern for the natural environment of Hawaii, including native wildlife and ecosystems on all the islands, the Hawaii Audubon Society wishes to raise several questions on this lease application. When the original five-year lease expired in 1970, it was extended upon request for one year to November 1971, and now the Marine Corps is applying for an additional one-year extension. With the heavy demands for land use on the limited area of these islands, the amount of land involved in the lease, 10,250 acres, is of substantial interest. These 10,250 acres are slightly more than half of the State land in the Molokai Forest Reserve. Because this large tract is <sup>partly</sup> State-owned and in the Conservation District, we would ask:

- (1) What are the effects on the forest ground cover of six years of military use of four-wheel-drive vehicles? For soil erosion? For loss of watershed? For inhibited regeneration of native plants and ecosystems?
- (2) Has the lease operated to restrict game bird and game mammal hunting? Are populations of feral goats, feral pigs and introduced axis deer inadequately controlled? Several rat species and the mongoose may check an overpopulation of introduced game birds, but the feral mammals and axis deer have no natural predators other than man, and insufficient hunting pressure can cause inferior and diseased game stock. Pig and goat hunting was suspended in the lease area because of Marine Corps maneuvers

14-21 August 1971 (Honolulu Star-Bulletin 10 August 1971) and for two weeks earlier in February and March. We know only of these two occasions when the hunting season was suspended, but there must have been others. What is the total number of hunting days lost? Has the hunting season been extended in any of the six years, or bag limits increased, to make up for the loss of hunting pressure?

(3) Through personal observations and scientific reports on Kauai, Maui and the Big Island, we know that excessive populations of pigs, goats and other hoofed mammals also result in damage to ground cover with consequent depletion of native plants, spread of noxious exotic vegetation, erosion, decline of native birds and loss of watershed. Has there been any investigation to determine any such effects in the lease area because of reduced hunting seasons, and what were the findings?

(4) Has the lease operated to restrict non-consumptive use of the forest reserve for hiking, camping, and other recreational and aesthetic benefits for people?

(5) Military landholdings, both in ownership and lease, are undergoing reappraisal at the Federal level, with some Hawaii lands returned by the Navy to civilian public use. Consistent with this would be a re-evaluation of State leases to military agencies at the time of renewal or extension. Has the State made a current evaluation of this particular lease?

(6) Military control of some land provides greater protection to endangered Hawaiian wildlife than does civilian control in some cases. Important wetland habitats in Kaneohe Marine Corps Air Base and in Pearl Harbor for endangered water birds currently have better protection than other key wetlands in the State. Is the Molokai lease to a military agency more protective of forestry and native wildlife than alternative leases or public uses would be?

(7) If the one-year extension is approved by the Board, does the Marine Corps intend to terminate the lease in November 1972? If so, what are the State's long-range plans for this part of the Molokai Forest Reserve? In the Federal forestry budget passed this summer by the Congress is \$414,000 for reforestation and research in Hawaii. Some of this is slated for replanting commercial slash pine on Molokai. If some of the research funds for native trees were applied to the portion of the forest reserve relinquished by the Navy, a significant advance could be made toward rehabilitation of native forest ecosystems on Molokai.

Our questions should not be taken as implicit disapproval or approval of the application under consideration. They arose naturally during our consideration of the issue in terms of information available -- or unavailable -- to us. Since we can make no judgment without answers to these questions, we suggest that the Board also would need this information in order to judge objectively and completely the merits of the application in terms of its overall effects on a significant segment of State Conservation land.

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Notes on the meeting of the Board of Land and Natural Resources, 24 September 1971 by Mae E. Mull

The Society received a copy of the agenda of the meeting on Wednesday afternoon, 22 September. Although there were several items of interest on the agenda, we had time only to get more information on the lease extension application of the U.S. Navy (for the U.S. Marine Corps) for special use of 10,251.60 acres of the Molokai Forest Reserve. We did not know in advance of the meeting that conditions of the original lease in 1965 did not permit the use of tracked vehicles or live ammunition. Jeeps are permitted. In the 1969-70 Report of the Department of Land and Natural Resources (p. 67) the lease is listed as S-3953 U.S.A. (Navy), Term of Lease: 11/4/65-11/3/70, Land: Por. Molokai Forest Reserve, Acres: 10,251.60, Use: Fed., Annual Rent: Gratis. After President Charles Kaigler presented the Society statement, a member of the planning staff said that 5,000+ acres is State-owned; the other 5,000+ acres is owned by a ranch company. I surmise that the ranch company has surrendered the control and management of that Forest Reserve land to the State, because the State negotiates the lease for the total acreage of this tract. Mr. Kido commented that Mr. Kaigler had made some good points and recommended that the Board

ask the Division of Forestry and the Division of Fish and Game for reports on the effects of the military use for six years. The Board concurred and action on the application was deferred. Copies of the Society statement were given to Board members, planning staff members and interested persons attending the meeting. (See Honolulu Star-Bulletin 9/27/71, B-5, "Land Board Delays Lease")

Conservation groups and citizens have a problem when items on the Board agenda for meetings or public hearings are insufficiently described. The Board took action on this agenda item: "H. Administration, 1. Conservation District Use Application for office building use by the Division of Land Management, at the request of Feedwell, Inc., Kahului, Maui." In presenting this item, the staff planner noted that this site is on Kanaha Pond refuge land, that Kanaha Pond has recently been added to the National Register of Historic Places, that the application is for a "non-conforming use," and, therefore, only a temporary variance can be granted not to exceed one year. There was no discussion; the application was approved by the Board. Since the application was for commercial use, a public hearing had been held a month or two ago, but neither Mr. Kaigler nor I who have seen public hearing agenda (two agenda have not been sent to the Society in recent months) would have any reason for knowing that Kanaha Pond was involved in any application where the site is listed as "Kahului, Maui."

In this connection, Representative Patsy Mink sent to the Society in late July information on the National Register of Historic Places, a program of the National Park Service. Hawaii has 22 sites on the Register and federal matching funds are available for preservation of these sites. The State has not applied for any of these funds.

The petition to the Board by Tony Hodges, Jennifer Parijs and Joan Entmacher for amendment of Regulation 4, concerning the use of Conservation District land, was denied "on grounds of insufficient justification." The 1970 State Legislature appropriated \$60,000 for study and review of Regulation 4. At the meeting Mr. Kido said that the specifications of the review have been drawn up and that a contract with a consultant, Overview Corporation (Stewart Udall), has been drawn up, and should be signed soon. Mr. Gordon Soh, Planning Coordinator, said the petition of Tony Hodges, et al., would be forwarded to the consultant firm. Mr. Kido gave assurance of opportunities for public participation in the Regulation 4 review process.

Of concern to the Society is that public hearings are required by law (1969) only for commercial use of Conservation District land. There are no public hearings on other uses, as by governmental agencies at any level, including military use. Meetings of the Board where decisions are made are open to the public, but there is no provision in the law, or regulations, for public participation in the decision-making process for non-commercial use of Conservation District land. The fact that the Society could present a statement on the U.S. Marine Corps lease of the Molokai Forest Reserve, and that Mr. Kaigler was recognized to present the Society's position, was entirely at the discretion of the Chairman, Mr. Kido. The tremendous power of the Board to make decisions on the use of Conservation land, without any input from citizens or conservation groups, must be recognized.

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The following two statements and the SCOPE leaflet by A.A. Linsey, "Managing Our Environmental Systems," Student Council on Pollution and the Environment, Ohio Basin Region (1971). Permission to use material freely granted by Roger C. Westman, were presented to Senator Kenneth F. Brown, Chairman, and members of the Senate Interim Committee on Ecology, Environment and Recreation, 4 October 1971, Senate Conference Room 6, 2:00 p.m. The subject of the hearing was Environmental Education. Senator Brown announced (Honolulu Star-Bulletin, 9/24/71): "At this hearing the committee will be looking for a workable, grass-roots approach to the problem of increasing our citizens' environmental concern and awareness. Copies were mailed to Senate Committee on Ecology, Senate Committee on Education, State House Committee on Education and appropriate Federal, State and local officials."

To Senator Kenneth F. Brown, Chairman, and members of the Committee on Environment, Ecology and Recreation, Hawaii State Legislature, 4 October 1971 by Charles G. Kaigler

The Hawaii Audubon Society has in the past made public its specific concerns over our vanishing wildlife and the necessity for preservation of suitable habitat. We presented a copy of our position paper to each legislator at the opening of the Sixth State Legislature this year. One of our points attempted to deal with the problem of bringing about a general public awareness of the unique natural heritage of every resident of Hawaii and the need of all of us to know it, appreciate it, and, most important, to conserve it. Our position paper was, of course, directed specifically toward preservation of our native flora and fauna, but from a wider view, concern with conservation of wildlife in a natural habitat is a necessary part of an overall concern with man and the preservation of a natural environment in which man himself can exist in health and harmony.

We have no overall or comprehensive plan to suddenly bring about a broad-based public concern with environmental quality, but we do wish to repeat suggestions that we have made before. Education is of paramount importance if we of Hawaii are to know the facts and future prospects of our priceless heritage. One can hardly value that which he does not know; neither can one arbitrarily value that which he has been taught is worthless. We do certainly believe in a specific natural history program in the public schools that teaches not only the natural history of Hawaii, but the interrelatedness of all life within nature. However, what of those of us who are already presumed to be "educated"? It is quite possible that we need some review or perhaps some rethinking of that which we already "know".

There would seem to be a definite necessity for an Information and Education Office somewhere within the State Government, perhaps more appropriately within the Department of Land and Natural Resources with a definite program and a State supported departmental publication designed to reach as wide an audience as possible. Other media, both commercial and non-commercial, would possibly also be receptive to devoting some time or space to such a program in the public interest. In fact, at the present time, most of the information that the public receives is through these media. We do believe that survival is within the public interest. The publication of "Aloha Aina" (Love of Land) by the Department of Land and Natural Resources was a good attempt at an educational vehicle, but it obviously had no specific financing and the few issues that were published had no effective circulation. But what a wonderful title. It implies everything that we are trying to say here.

We are quite aware that every program needs money and that there is at all times a struggle between government departments for a larger slice of the money available -- which never seems to be enough. But we believe too that without some designed program of education, adult as well as public school, the actual creation of an increased awareness and concern with environmental quality will be too late for the wildlife of these islands and too late for us.

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To Senator Kenneth F. Brown, Chairman, and members of the Senate Interim Committee on Ecology, Environment and Recreation at the Public Hearing, 4 October 1971 by Mae E. Mull

The Hawaii Audubon Society is glad to offer some suggestions for a public education approach to man's place in the natural environment. A regional office of SCOPE, the Student Council on Pollution and the Environment, has conceived a graphic way of looking at our whole environment as a spectrum of three basic environmental systems, with gradations between, and all three essential to man.

At one extreme is the MAN-MADE SYSTEM -- the industrial, commercial, urban and agricultural environment. This is a highly productive system, unstable and vulnerable, in which change is often drastic.

At the opposite end of the spectrum is the NATURAL SYSTEM -- wilderness areas, the sea, wildlife sanctuaries and National Parks. This is a stable, protective and

healing environment, in which change is usually orderly and gradual.

In between these two are the COMPROMISE SYSTEMS -- multiple-use forests, State parks, wetlands, hunting grounds and ranges. Nature can renew and protect these if use and management is light enough.

A model such as this could help students understand Hawaii's environment. Before the Polynesians came to these islands, the land and sea were a stable natural system, self-maintained, and internally in balance. Today the natural system is greatly reduced and the man-made system dominates.

If Hawaii's young people are to make decisions for an overall healthy environment, they need to know how these three systems work and what the effects are for human life, depending on the way the systems are managed. We need to understand that Hawaii's man-made system is highly unstable and vulnerable. Because of intensive use and development by an increasing population, the finite drain on material resources, and the continuing expansion of the system, symptoms of crisis become apparent to many observers. We see the need to apply conservation techniques to protect the system. Pollution control, waste recycling, open space and beautification projects, stabilizing population growth, balancing consumption of material resources, and public education in these named areas are conservation techniques that need strong public support. Hawaii's people should be told what the consequences will be if we don't protect our man-made environment. Because of their visibility and direct impact on people, urban and agricultural problems are getting major attention and funds now.

All three sub-systems are integral parts of Hawaii's environment, but the natural system is the least explored in environmental education. With all the competing pressures for land use, allowing the natural system to exist undisturbed was considered until recently to be wasteful. Natural lands are slowly being recognized through scientific investigation as a requirement of man -- even while such lands are reduced to compromise systems. The value of mature ecosystems, or "old Nature," lies in their processes of metabolizing pollutants, of recycling vital gases, water, and materials for use in man-made systems, and of replenishing oxygen.

In addition to the quantitative values, are the intangible resources of natural lands. These resources are potentially infinite for man, because they are not used up -- resources for scientific study, nature education and art; natural beauty; scenic enjoyment; spiritual renewal; and recreation through perception.

Hawaii's endangered natural environment requires protection now through conservation techniques in land use and in education. By conservation of undeveloped seashores, offshore islands and native forests, we mean preserving that environment for non-consumptive use by people.

There is a compelling need for an integrated curriculum in the natural history of Hawaii from the primary level through high school. Why? Because the natural ecosystems of Hawaii occur nowhere else in the world and because they are threatened with extinction. The plant and animal communities developed largely in isolation from the influences of continental land masses. The Hawaiians used their wildlife resources, but they didn't use them up. Later peoples who migrated to Hawaii had little regard for these unique life forms. All kinds of competitive and aggressive plants, animals, insects and birds were introduced, with devastating consequences for native species. Scientific investigation of Hawaiian biological systems lagged far behind, and even today there is insufficient research to fill the gaps in our knowledge.

Students learn Mainland biology with little relevance to Hawaii, unless the teacher is exceptional. Teachers often lack knowledge of Hawaii's specialized natural history because it isn't easily available, and educational materials are less than adequate.

If the remaining natural systems are to be preserved, they must be valued and prized by more than a handful. All of us who live here need to know about the special life forms that evolved in Hawaii -- the endemic family of birds called Hawaiian Honeycreepers, the trees and plants of the forest where native birds live, the specialized land shells and insects that developed with native plant communities,

the interdependent life forms of the reef, and the adaptations made by endemic water birds, the Nene and the Koloa, to volcanic lava habitats.

With a year-round outdoor life, young people want to relate to their natural surroundings. An integrated natural history curriculum can help satisfy the human need to belong to a place, to be a part of this land, and to understand what you see and enjoy in nature. When we feel an identity with some aspect of nature, we care and want to protect it. If all of us -- parents, teachers, community leaders and legislators -- provide a model in our appreciation and concern for the natural environment, we could expect young people also to value and treat with respect Hawaii's unique contribution to the diversity and beauty of life on this earth.

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Note added to mailed copies 6 October 1971:

In connection with the federal Environmental Education Act mentioned at the hearing, grants seem to be given to those institutions whose proposals have high student/community involvement, are innovative and creative, and indicate special need.

A plan based on conservation of Hawaii's unique and endangered natural environment could have appeal unmatched by Mainland states. Substantive educational resources have yet to be developed, the opportunity for student/community involvement is rich in possibilities, the subject is fresh with dramatic potential, and Hawaii's urgent need can be presented convincingly.

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Field Notes from Hildegard Kaigler, 12 October 1971: Fairy Tern at Fort DeRussy

Since our return from six-weeks of bird watching in Oregon on 13 August we have observed the tern again in the same tree, the same spot as last year and this spring and early summer -- obviously sitting on an egg and obviously another failure.

As many as 7 other terns have been observed in this and the next monkeypod tree.

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Editor's note: September 1971 (Vol. 140, No. 3) NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC on pages 414 through 419 has wonderful pictures of the fairy tern by Thomas R. Howell illustrating the article What a Place to Lay an Egg!

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Field Notes from Charles G. Kaigler, 12 October 1971

18 September 1971, Kahuku, 10:30 a.m., overcast, wind 5-10 mph NNE

One lone, lame bristle-thighed curlew feeding in the grassland between the airstrip and the sea. Despite the lameness in the left leg, the curlew had no difficulty in flight. We could only find the one.

The ponds near the airstrip were lower than usual and held few birds -- eleven stilt, three wandering tattlers and a pair of black-crowned night herons. There were, of course, great numbers of ruddy turnstones and golden plovers throughout the area and in the mudflats of Kii Pond. The pond area was quite lively. Seven pectoral sandpipers, one lesser yellowlegs, one semi-palmated plover, a dozen or so sanderlings, at least twelve shovelers, possibly 200 pintails, several gallinules and even more herons, and the largest collection of coots, over 200, that we have seen there.

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5 October 1971: Observed a second curlew in the Kahuku area. This one showed no evidence of lameness.

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Exotic escapees: For those interested in exotic escapees, the Diamond Head area of Kapiolani Park near the tennis courts and restroom is an excellent place to observe the saffron finch, green singing finch, and pintailed whydah in full breeding plumage. This small bird with tail feathers almost three times his body length is quite fascinating.

CORRECTION from Charles G. Kaigler:

Have talked to Jerry Swedberg and have seen the photograph of the laughing thrush he observed and captured on Kauai and reported in THE ELEPAIO (Vol. 27, No. 10, April 1967, page 90) as the Collared Laughing Thrush (Garrulax albogularis). This is the same species that I saw and so reported and that I have since concluded is actually the Necklaced Laughing Thrush, either G. pectoralis or G. monileger. Jerry agrees that his original identification was incorrect and has asked me to make this correction for him.

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If you have any information on this thrush, please write to Kojima, 725-A 8th Avenue, Honolulu, Hawaii 96816.

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Field Trip to Kahuku and Waipio, 12 September and 10 October 1971 by William P. Mull

On 12 September 1971 fourteen members and guests participated in our monthly field trip. It was our first trip of the season to view fall-migrant shorebirds and waterbirds, along with our own resident waterbirds. Highlights of the trip were a lesser yellowlegs and a semipalmated plover at the settling basins on Waipio Peninsula (Pearl Harbor) and four dowitchers and two pectoral sandpipers at Kii Pond (Kahuku). Migrant ducks were returning from their breeding grounds to the north, as evidenced by a dozen pintails at Waipio and 125 at Kahuku -- with an oddball muscovy duck among the latter, most probably of local domestic origin.

Following is the tally for the trip:

	<u>Waipio</u>	<u>Kahuku</u>
Cattle egret .....	364	40+
Black-crowned night heron .....	--	13
Pintail .....	12	125+
Muscovy .....	--	1
Hawaiian gallinule .....	--	4
Hawaiian coot .....	--	170
Golden plover .....	58	106
Semipalmated plover .....	1	--
Ruddy turnstone .....	280	200+
Hawaiian stilt .....	125+	73
Sanderling .....	55	14
Pectoral sandpiper .....	4	2
Dowitcher (sp.?) .....	--	4
Lesser yellowlegs .....	1	--

(common local landbirds not recorded; no unusual sightings)

At Kahuku, three coot nests still appeared to be occupied (their breeding season began there last April), and one group of red-headed downy chicks was observed in close company with an adult coot.

Weather was fair, with broken clouds, light tradewinds and temperature in the low eighties.

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On 10 October 1971 nine members and spouses participated in our monthly field trip -- the second of the fall-migrant-shorebird season. We visited the Waipio Peninsula settling basins and the marsh area next to the Waipahu Dump (both in the Pearl Harbor area) and Kii Pond at Kahuku.

Highlights of the trip were six pectoral sandpipers at Waipio and four at Kahuku; a western sandpiper and a probable semipalmated sandpiper at Waipio; a teal (green-winged or common), five black-bellied plovers and a dowitcher (sp.?) at the dump; and a lesser yellowlegs and an immature ring-billed gull at Kahuku.

Lowligh of the trip was the total absence of sharptailed sandpipers at either Waipio or Kahuku, where they have been seen regularly in recent years during October and November.

Biggest question of the trip was the identity of a bird on the mudflat at Kahuku

that had the markings and coloration of a fall dunlin but was the size of a western sandpiper. The bird was observed at length feeding in company with pectoral sandpipers, sanderlings and turnstones -- providing us with good comparison criteria for size, markings and coloration -- but it will have to remain a mystery.

Following is the tally for the trip:

	<u>Waipio</u>	<u>Dump</u>	<u>Kahuku</u>
Cattle egret	100+	16	62
Black-crowned night heron	.	1	4
Pintail	11	.	58
Shoveler	.	.	3
Green-winged (common?) teal	.	1	.
Hawaiian gallinule	.	.	3
Hawaiian coot	.	.	75+
Ring-billed gull	.	.	1
Golden plover	34	90	150+
Black-bellied plover	.	5	.
Ruddy turnstone	57	18	200+
Wandering tattler	.	2	1
Hawaiian stilt	99	65	29
Sanderling	77	3	48
Pectoral sandpiper	6	.	4
Western sandpiper	1	.	(?)
Semipalmated sandpiper	1 (probable)	.	.
Dowitcher (sp.?)	.	1	.
Lesser yellowlegs	.	.	1
Dunlin	.	.	(?)

(common local landbirds not recorded; no unusual sightings)

The group had a rare opportunity to see a western sandpiper and a probable semipalmated sandpiper together at the Waipio basins. Conditions for observation were excellent (bright, flat light and close range), and the close proximity of turnstones, sanderlings and pectoral sandpipers made for easy and certain comparison of size, color and other field marks. The western was a fine specimen, with a bill clearly longer than its head and distinctly drooped at its tip; even its "rusty" scapulars were clearly seen. The "probable" semipalmated had a clearly shorter, straight bill and dark legs (it could not have been a least sandpiper).

If the teal was a male, it was in eclipse plumage, and we had only its size, vivid green speculum and dark legs to go on, so we couldn't tell whether it might be a green-winged or common.

The ring-billed gull was observed both standing on the mudflat and in flight -- the field marks were diagnostic for an immature bird of that species. It was an uncommon treat to see one here.

Weather was fair, with occasional high cloud cover, light tradewinds and temperature in the low eighties.

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Excerpts from the minutes of the Hawaii Audubon Society general meeting, 19 July 1971: (Notes on the meeting were taken by Christine Jones and edited by the Secretary)

...Mr. Mull announced that the Society's position statement on H-3-Moanalua Valley had been sent to seventy government officials and conservation group leaders. Several encouraging replies have been received including one from Representative Patsy T. Mink who also sent some helpful items....

Mr. Mull reported on the Society statement sent to the Land Use Commission for the hearing on Maui of the application by the Maui Electric Company to build a generating plant at Kealia Pond, a major habitat for Hawaii's endangered water birds. The Commission approved construction of a generation plant on five acres with the provision that no effluents are to be discharged into the Pond.

The Army Corps of Engineers is holding a hearing tonight on the application for commercial development of Kaloko Pond on the Big Island and the Secretary will present the Society's statement. The Pond is used as a feeding area by the small number of

endangered stilts along the Kona coast.

The Amchitka nuclear blast test scheduled for the fall was discussed in terms of its effects on wildlife. William Cromley moved that the Society send a public opinion telegram to President Nixon in opposition to the blast. The motion was seconded and discussion followed. The motion was passed, but the question was raised as to whether there was a quorum of members present -- 12 members were in attendance. (As the Society Constitution requires a quorum of 15 members at a General Meeting for approval of action measures, the telegram was not sent to President Nixon.)

...Mr. Mull reported on the July 11 field trip to Aiea Trail, replacing the scheduled trip to Poamoho because of heavy rain and mud on that trail....

William Mull is working on a Society paper on the control of feral goats in Volcanoes National Park and Haleakala National Park because the excessive goat populations are damaging native ecosystems, with particular loss to endemic flora.

On July 15 at Waipio Peninsula basins Bill Mull and Edward Seeber, a visiting biologist from Buffalo, New York, observed a flock of 100 ruddy turnstones and a Hawaiian stilt family -- two adult birds with a juvenile. Successful stilt nesting is unusual in that area because of the mongoose numbers. Several golden plovers in non-breeding plumage and a flock of seven ruddy turnstones were observed July 17 by Mr. and Mrs. Seeber and Mae Mull near the Kaneohe Marine Corps Air Base ponds. They also watched four white-capped (black) noddies skimming over the ponds as they fed. Mr. Seeber identified a few gray-backed terns flying in the channel between Ulupau Head and Moku Manu....

Mr. Mull introduced Mr. Pete Holt, Society member and accomplished photographer, who presented a color slide program of exceptional beauty, "On and Off the Beaten Track on Oahu." ...

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ALOHA to new members:

Mrs. Patricia C. Peacock, Box 671, Kailua-Kona, Hawaii 96740

Joseph R. Siphron, 50 East 72d St, New York, New York 10021

Mrs. B. Theodore Zartman, Sunset Hills Road, R.D. 3, Boyertown, Pa. 19512

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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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#### NOVEMBER ACTIVITIES:

- 8 November - Board meeting at McCully-Moiliili Library, 6:45 p.m. Members welcome.
- 14 November - Field trip to Poamoho 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: Charles G. Kaigler, 988-3195.
- 15 November - General meeting at the Waikiki Aquarium Auditorium at 7:30 p.m.  
Program for the night:
  - (1) Navy Program for Pollution Abatement in Pearl Harbor by Navy Captain Robert Yount
  - (2) Manana Island Field Trip and Pohakuloa by Mr. & Mrs. Gerald L. Bolton (color slides)

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#### HAWAII AUDUBON SOCIETY EXECUTIVE BOARD:

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Secretary-Mrs. Mae E. Mull, Treasurer-William W. Prange, Jr.

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