

THE ELEPAIO

Journal of the
Hawaii Audubon Society



For the Better Protection
of Wildlife in Hawaii

VOLUME 32, NUMBER 8

FEBRUARY 1972

HONOLULU CHRISTMAS COUNT 26 December 1971

	<u>AREAS</u>									TOTAL
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	
White-tailed Tropicbird	.	.	.	.	.	1	.	.	.	1
Blue-faced Booby	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	3	3
Brown Booby	.	2	.	.	.	.	.	.	71	73
Red-footed Booby	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1850	1850
Great Frigatebird	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	3	1153	1156
Cattle Egret	.	3	.	.	.	.	28	94	1002	1127
Black-crowned Night Heron	.	2	.	.	.	1	1	5	29	38
Hawaiian Duck (Koloa)	.	.	.	.	3	.	.	.	.	3
Pintail	.	2	.	.	.	.	.	.	16	18
Shoveler	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	2	6	8
Lesser Scaup	.	10	.	.	.	.	.	2	.	12
Common Gallinule	.	.	.	.	.	.	5	.	.	5
American Coot	.	51	.	.	.	1	16	5	.	73
American Golden Plover	.	201	34	11	17	139	41	4	36	483
Ruddy Turnstone	.	20	.	.	.	34	2	1	3	60
Wandering Tattler	.	3	.	.	.	11	2	.	4	20
Sanderling	.	66	.	.	.	17	.	.	.	83
Black-necked Stilt	.	78	.	.	.	16	11	.	72	177
Pomarine Jaeger	.	8	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	8
Ring-billed Gull	.	4	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	4
Sooty Tern	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	200	200
Spotted Dove	6	26	157	91	132	119	10	72	6	619
Barred Dove	7	71	63	323	350	307	70	78	6	1275
Green-cheeked Amazon	.	.	.	.	4	.	.	.	.	4
Red-whiskered Bulbul	.	.	4	.	.	.	.	.	.	4
Red-vented Bulbul	.	7	.	.	.	.	15	3	1	26
Mockingbird	.	1	.	.	1	4	1	.	.	7
Red-billed Leiothrix	.	.	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	1
Shama Thrush	5	7	25	9	.	.	.	9	.	55
Japanese Bush Warbler	5	.	.	3	.	.	.	.	.	8
'Elepaio	2	.	18	7	.	.	.	.	.	27
Common Mynah	1	198	125	501	1228	305	46	206	49	2659
Japanese White-eye	48	31	143	107	14	55	10	79	.	487
'Amakihi	15	2	30	51	.	.	.	.	.	98
'Apapane	15	.	22	22	.	.	.	.	.	59
Ricebird	34	16	4	37	20	161	30	133	3	438
Orange Weaver (Bishop)	.	.	.	.	3	1	.	.	.	4
House Sparrow	.	37	56	800	107	342	22	95	.	1459
Java Sparrow	.	.	.	.	4	.	.	.	.	4
Cardinal	3	8	39	29	7	37	10	18	1	152

Honolulu Christmas Count, 26 December 1971 - Continued

	<u>AREAS</u>									
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	TOTAL
Brazilian Cardinal	1	17	3	78	40	25	6	16	.	186
House Finch	12	3	47	67	15	26	9	5	3	187
Gray Singing Finch	.	.	.	.	3	.	.	.	.	3
Green Singing Finch	.	.	.	.	4	.	.	.	.	4
Saffron Finch	.	.	.	.	5	.	.	.	.	5
Orange-cheeked Waxbill	.	.	.	1	9	4	.	.	.	14
Red-eared Waxbill (Common)	.	.	.	.	13	.	.	.	.	13
Cordon Bleu	.	.	.	.	3	.	.	.	.	3
Lavender Finch	.	.	.	.	14	.	.	.	.	14
Pintailed Whydah	.	.	.	.	1	.	.	.	.	1
No. of Individual Birds:	154	874	770	2138	1997	1606	335	830	4514	13,218
No. of Species:	13	26	15	17	23	20	19	19	20	50

Total hours on foot: 43
Total miles on foot: 40

Total hours by car: 23
Total miles by car: 122

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

Weather conditions: Partly cloudy to overcast, dry.

Temperature: 68 - 80°F.

Wind direction and velocity: NE, 0 - 15 m.p.h.

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

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

Twenty-eight observers in 13 parties:

Andrew J. Berger
Diane Berger
Margaret Brown
William Brown
Pat Conant
Nora Cromley
William Cromley
Timothy Earle
Lawrence Harai
Colin Huddleston
Donald Huddleston
Doris Huddleston

Charles G. Kaigler
Hildegard Kaigler
Unoyo Kojima
Thomas R.L. McGuire
Mae Mull
William P. Mull
David Olsen
William W. Prange, Jr.
Mary Roberts
Robert Shallenberger
Roxanne Sullivan
David Taira

Jack L. Throp
Ronald L. Walker
Harry Whitten
David Woodside

HONOLULU CHRISTMAS COUNTS
1962 - 1971

	1962	1963	1964	1965	1966	1967	1968	1969	1970	1971
Black-footed Albatross	.	1	5	7	7	4	.	.	.	.
Wedge-tailed Shearwater	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	2	.
Red-tailed Tropicbird	.	.	.	.	.	2	.	.	.	.
White-tailed Tropicbird	.	.	.	.	3	.	.	.	.	1
Blue-faced Booby	.	.	.	5	1	.	2	13	2	3
Brown Booby	51	60	51	68	46	51	132	60	20	73
Red-footed Booby	600	739	580	240	430	1750	1700	2380	1438	1850
Great Frigatebird	250	219	408	117	164	952	270	377	333	1156
Cattle Egret	.	.	.	15	.	34	87	151	158	1127
Black-crowned Night Heron	21	15	51	31	19	18	23	49	9	38
Canada Goose	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	.	.
Mallard	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Hawaiian Duck (Koloa)	.	.	.	.	.	.	5	15	11	3
Pintail	.	25	.	38	29	77	.	54	111	18
American Widgeon	7	.	.	.	.	4	.	.	.	.
Shoveler	12	195	62	3	30	13	15	18	7	8
Ring-necked Duck	.	.	.	.	1	.	.	.	.	.
Lesser Scaup	4	.	.	.	1	.	.	3	2	12
Scaup (sp?)	.	.	2	2	.	1	7	2	.	.
Bufflehead	.	.	.	.	1	.	.	.	.	.
Duck (sp?)	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	10	.	.
Ring-necked Pheasant	.	.	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.
Common Gallinule	3	6	14	8	5	1	7	2	6	5
American Coot	178	101	61	33	47	19	31	151	92	73
Semipalmated Plover	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	.	.
American Golden Plover	239	314	225	591	590	1093	574	637	599	483
Ruddy Turnstone	92	65	97	226	93	347	215	160	125	60
Common Snipe (Wilson)	.	.	.	.	1	.	.	1	.	.
Wandering Tattler	22	15	18	39	11	26	18	23	23	20
Bar-tailed Godwit	.	.	.	.	.	1	.	.	.	.
Sanderling	25	62	150	85	132	35	43	39	35	83
Black-necked Stilt	174	201	123	115	189	90	25	101	128	177
Pomarine Jaeger	11	23	12	6	31	37	5	.	24	8
Glaucous Gull	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	2	.
Glaucous-winged Gull	1	.	.	.	.	2	2	.	.	.
Herring Gull	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	.	.	.
Ring-billed Gull	3	1	.	.	2	.	.	.	.	4
Laughing Gull	.	.	.	.	1	.	.	.	.	.
Unidentified Gull	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	.	.	.
Sooty Tern	.	5000	1600	4500+	.	6000	.	2	.	200
Brown Noddy (Common)	.	1	1	2	.	.	6	26	.	.
Black Noddy (Hawaiian)	2	.	2	.	.	27	5	.	1	.
White Tern (Fairy)	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	.
Spotted Dove	71	40	259	245	477	506	636	678	534	619
Barred Dove	208	157	1371	1028	1802	2184	1207	1694	1298	1275
Short-eared Owl	1	.	1	2	2	3	.	.	.	.
Green-cheeked Amazon	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	4
Shell Parakeet	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	3	.
Skylark	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Varied Tit	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Red-whiskered Bulbul	.	.	.	.	.	2	7	.	.	4
Red-vented Bulbul	.	.	.	.	.	.	9	7	7	26
Mockingbird	4	5	11	22	7	9	12	4	2	7
Chinese Thrush	2	1	.	2	.	1	.	3	.	.
Red-billed Leiothrix	106	81	91	98	98	130	18	.	.	1

HONOLULU CHRISTMAS COUNTS, 1962-1971 - Continued

	1962	1963	1964	1965	1966	1967	1968	1969	1970	1971
Shama Thrush	5	11	7	5	12	22	18	7	9	55
Japanese Bush Warbler	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	8
'Elepaio	32	42	27	24	39	36	20	22	4	27
Common Mynah	462	177	2871	2449	5825	6447	4265	4267	2981	2659
Indian Hill Mynah	.	.	.	.	2	7	2	1	.	.
Japanese White-eye	85	107	298	222	235	260	300	227	287	487
'Amakihi	34	41	35	43	29	46	40	44	22	98
Hawaiian Creeper (Oahu)	.	.	.	.	.	.	2	.	.	.
'Apapane	13	26	57	32	42	26	19	17	9	59
'I'iwi	2	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Ricebird	65	49	289	333	551	647	196	238	451	438
Orange Weaver (Bishop)	.	.	.	.	3	2	.	9	6	4
Yellow Weaver (Napoleon)	.	.	.	.	1	.	.	2	1	.
Weaver (Orange or Yellow)	.	.	.	1	.	.	2	.	.	.
House Sparrow	119	71	1089	670	1111	1128	592	1294	1222	1459
Java Sparrow	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	4	11	4
Cardinal	36	53	59	100	96	79	128	94	74	152
Brazilian Cardinal	10	12	85	210	246	274	122	158	202	186
House Finch	16	46	127	107	89	152	140	110	107	187
Strawberry Finch	.	.	.	.	4	.	.	.	.	.
Diamond Firetail Finch	.	.	.	.	1	.	.	.	.	.
Gray Singing Finch	.	.	.	5	22	37	18	6	9	3
Green Singing Finch	.	.	.	17	6	2	2	1	5	4
Saffron Finch	.	.	.	.	.	1	1	3	13	5
Orange-cheeked Waxbill	.	.	.	30	6	23	32	24	27	14
Red-eared Waxbill (Common)	.	.	.	6	2	7	29	12	13	13
Cordon Bleu	.	.	.	3	7	4	2	4	6	3
Blue-headed Cordon Bleu	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	12	8	.
African Firefinch	.	.	.	30	6	5	8	4	2	.
Lavender Finch	.	.	.	4	2	17	23	6	7	14
Pintailed Whydah	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	7	5	1
Senegal Combassou	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	.	.
No. of Individual Birds:	2969	7963	10,139	11,820	12,557	22,641	11,024	13,236	10,454	13,218
No. of Species:	39	35	34	46	51	51	49*	53#	51	50

*Unidentified gull excluded.

#Unidentified scaup and duck excluded.

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HIGHLIGHTS OF THE 1971 CHRISTMAS COUNT

The Hawaii Audubon Society (HAS) conducted its annual census of birds in the greater Honolulu area on December 26, as part of the National Audubon Society's annual nationwide census at Christmas time. Unlike last year and the year before, our Honolulu weather was ideal on Count Day.

This year, twenty-eight members and guests, in thirteen parties, covered selected census areas within the customary fifteen-mile-diameter circle centered near Nuuanu Pali and bounded by Aiea, Salt Lake, Sand Island, Diamond Head, Paiko Lagoon, Waimanalo, Mokapu Peninsula and Kailua.

The teams identified 50 species and counted 13,218 individual birds within the count area. These overall figures, and the breakdown figures for the occurrence and populations of the individual species included, differ little from results of HAS Christmas Counts in recent years. The top four species in population recorded were again this year, as they were last year, the Common Mynah, Red-footed Booby, House Sparrow and Barred Dove, in that order. Again we note that among these four only the booby is a native of Hawaii, with the other three being aliens brought here by man. Again also, we add the ecologically significant note that over half (27) of the fifty species recorded were introduced here

unnaturally by man. This represents a kind of biological pollution -- to add to all the other forms of man-made pollution that conservationists and others are concerned about these days insofar as they affect Hawaii's natural environment.

This year, two new species were added to the thirty-one-year record of Christmas counts by the HAS. They are the Green-cheeked Amazon and the Japanese Bush Warbler -- both here under human auspices. The Bush Warbler is the famed uguisu of Japanese poetry; introduced here in 1929, this small, shy bird has eluded our Christmas counters until this year, when fine weather apparently prompted this now-well-established species to reveal its presence on Count Day by its unseasonal and unique call-notes and singing. The Amazons, parrots from Central America, are doubtless escaped cage birds, which have been around Diamond Head for the past three years and which may now have managed to breed successfully, judging from the increase in the increase in the flock size since they were first observed "in the wild."

NOTES ON UNUSUAL RECORDS

Cattle Egret: High count. The huge jump to 1127 from last year's 158 -- and even smaller counts for previous years -- was the result primarily of concentrated coverage of the main rookery in the Count area, at Kaneohe Marine Corps Air Station. However, the species clearly is on the increase and has not yet reached its optimum population on the island of Oahu since its successful introduction beginning in 1959.

Ring-billed Gulls: An occasional visitor to Hawaii; it was last reported on a Christmas count here in 1966. Observed from two different angles and distances through 20x-60x scopes at Sand Island in good light during a one-hour period by four members of the count party -- including two experienced observers (William and Mae Mull). Plumage was that of second-winter immatures. Five birds of identical description and identification were reported by other experienced observers in the same area during the week following Count day.

Green-cheeked Amazon: First record for Count day on a Christmas Count. Reports from various observers indicate the population of this escape species has increased from three to ten birds over the past three years in the area in which these four individuals were observed on Count day by Jack Throp, Director of the Honolulu Zoo and an expert on exotic bird species. It is not known whether this increase in the flock is due to additional escaped individuals or to successful breeding of the original birds.

Japanese Bush Warbler: First record for Christmas Count. The species has become well-established on Oahu since its original introduction from Japan in 1929. On this occasion, it was reported independently by two different, experienced observers (Unoyo Kojima and Pat Conant) in two different areas, by voice. The most unusual aspect of these reports is not that the birds were there, but that they were calling and singing in December. The breeding biology of this exotic species in Hawaii has not yet been studied by competent authorities.

'Elepaio, 'Amakihi and 'Apapane: High counts. The counts for each of these endemic forest bird species was the highest in recent years and markedly higher than recorded last year. These high counts were from three different areas, covered by experienced observers (Unoyo Kojima, Charles and Hildegard Kaigler, and Pat Conant), but probably were more the result of good weather than increased populations of these species in the Count area.

William P. Mull

Aiea Loop Trail:

With mixed feelings I write this report on the Aiea Loop trail. The first bird we counted was the Brazilian cardinal. Then soon after we heard the melodious call from the hau ticket at the Keaiwa Heiau. What a wonderful rhapsody! Two handsome shama thrushes were calling at each other.

As we reluctantly left the shama and headed for the trail, we saw flocks of ricebirds busily feeding on the grass seeds. Today they were exceptionally numerous. The ricebird count for the last five years was only one or two birds, but this year

we counted 34, the second highest count of the day. Of course, the most numerous was the ubiquitous white-eye. They were feeding with the 'apapane and 'amakihi. The eucalyptus was blooming, so we were able to not only hear but also see the 'apapane and the 'amakihi. The wonderful surprise of the day was the bush warbler. After forty-two years (introduced 1929) finally the most unique songster made the count.

With bursting enthusiasm we were watching for the leiiothrix and the 'elepaio, then suddenly in front of us appeared a clearing that I wasn't able to believe my eyes. What happened! This was the very spot we saw the tit and where the 'elepaio came and performed for us. But, today, the koa and the lehua were gone and instead blocks of concrete placed smack on the trail stared at me. What is this? Why? Whose idea? Why smack on the trail? What will happen to the trail?

Power lines are already all over despoiling every ridge, and now the only decent trail enjoyed by hundreds of people is going to be polluted by the humming sound of the high voltage electric transformers that the hikers must walk under. What a shame? Is this necessary? Is this progress? This is outrageous! I can hear the blocks mocking me, "You lost again! This is progress!" I stood motionless staring at the concrete blocks and hoping that I was having a nightmare.

I was crushed. I felt rejected, alone, and helpless; then, a complete brilliant rainbow appeared before me. As I watched the changing colors, I realized that the beauty around me was gradually easing my pain. I whispered, "Thank you," and started to count birds again.

The cold concrete blocks emphasized the emptiness of the trail. No leiiothrix and creeper for three years, no tit for nine years, and no owl for ten years. One consolation was to know that the owl is still around. We found three pellets on the trail. A very sad experience not to see the friendly 'elepaio for two years in succession. We heard only two of them. Their habitat is being disturbed; I pray temporarily, so that they'll be back next year.

With each year beauty is becoming difficult to find. Rene Dubos writes: "Man is dependent not only on other human beings but also on the other creatures--animals, plants and microbes--that have evolved together with him. Man will ultimately destroy himself if he thoughtlessly eliminates the organisms that constitute the essential links in the complex and delicate web of life of which he is a part."

Kojima

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

1. The bulbuls were in the east section of Moanalua Gardens Park this year; their previous habitat at the west end has been destroyed by highway construction.
2. The ten scaups (half females, half males) at Salt Lake on count day were there the day before, and even more have been sighted there since. New buildings now occupy the area in which we got the high house finch count last year.
3. The Keehi Lagoon flats were unchanged from last year, but they will soon be replaced by the new reef runway for the airport. Keehi Lagoon Park produced far fewer birds this year, perhaps because of increasing human use of the lawn area there.
4. The pomarine jaegers were at their customary winter feeding site at the Sand Island sewer outfall. The four ring-billed gulls were on the offshore flats opposite the reviewing stand; they have been seen there several times since, including a count of five the following week.
5. Again we found no gallinules at the Nuuanu Reservoirs. And again this year we heard no 'elepaio in the Judd Trail area, despite excellent field conditions -- but the two 'amakihi seemed to make up for the missing 'elepaio, somehow.

William P. Mull

Tantalus, Makiki Valley:

Success on Tantalus was due to early start and no wind. Although one can see plenty, if one can distinguish by ear, at an early hour, walking the highway is as good as on the trail.

The Manoa Cliff Trail was excellent. As a contrast, the Makiki Valley Trail by noon and with high wind was almost worthless for a count. Of course, rain would

present problems at any time. Most of Makiki count come from driving streets and walking areas by homes and schools and nurseries with large lawns and trees plus feeder reports.

Charles G. Kaigler

St. Louis Ridge:

I hiked up the Woodlawn Trail that connects with the St. Louis Heights Trail. This is the reason for the shama thrush and most of the white-eyes being counted.

The weather wasn't perfect but the wind was not strong. 'Amakihi were extremely numerous. Once I was near the main ridge, 'amakihi outnumbered white-eyes. 'Apapane were also very numerous. Three pigeons came by, while I was on the ridge.

The bush warblers were a surprise. Three were heard on the Manoa side at different places along the ridge. I am familiar with the warbler's song and call notes, so there is no doubt in my mind that they were bush warblers. Some birds I have seen around my home in Woodlawn may also be bush warblers. I have not had a good look at one of these unidentified birds, but they do hold their tails cocked up as a bush warbler does. The color was also similar to that of the bush warbler's. I have noticed bush warblers extending their range in other parts of Oahu over the years. This is probably what is happening on St. Louis Heights ridge.

Pat Conant

Kapiolani Park, Ewa slope of Diamond Head:

Ten green-cheeked amazons have been seen lately in Kapiolani Park. There has been a gradual increase in numbers in the last 2 - 2½ years. First 3 were sighted, then 5, 7, 8, and now 10.

All four of the Java sparrows were immature, the adults weren't evident anywhere in my territory.

Jack L. Throp

Diamond Head Crater to Paiko Lagoon

Appeared like it was going to rain in the morning, but turned out to be a beautiful day. We entered Diamond Head after counting in Kaimuki and Ft. Ruger areas. Water was low and no ducks were seen. Very little grass was in seed compared to last year, allowing us to approach very close to the Crater finches. They were all feeding in localized areas. Fifteen of the 65 ricebirds listed for the Crater were recorded as juveniles. They lacked the dark face patch or breast spotting but were otherwise identical, feeding in association with the mature ricebirds in the Crater and also in Kahala.

The most noticeable change in our counts outside the Crater, other than Paiko Lagoon, was the obvious reduction in golden plovers seen. All the same routes were taken. Possibly the high winds last year forced more birds onto the ground in the playground and golf courses.

One coot was spotted in the Hawaii Kai recreation center reed pond, but no seabirds were seen off Koko Head. We walked the length of the Aina Haina trail and saw no birds of particular interest -- only white-eyes. However, one white-tailed tropicbird was seen high above this valley.

The golden plover count at Paiko made up for the lack elsewhere. The flats outside the lagoon were covered with turnstones, plovers, and sanderlings late in the afternoon in our marvelous low tide. All but one of the 16 stilt were counted within the lagoon.

Robert Shallenberger

Kaelepulu Pond, Bellows, Kawainui Swamp, Quarry Road, Kaneohe Marine Corps Air Station:

Kaelepulu Pond, drainage ditch and Kawainui Swamp proper censused 2:45 to 5:45 p.m.

Bellows/Saddle City censused 8:30 to 10:30 a.m.

Kawainui Dike, channel outlet and Kalaheo Ave. censused 7:30 to 9:30 a.m.

Quarry Road and Kailua dump censused 7:30 to 10:30 a.m.

Kaneohe Marine Corps Air Station including Moku Manu and ponds censused 1:00 to 6:30 p.m.

Excellent field condition all day -- little wind, no rain.

Sanitary fill procedures at Kawainui dump accounted for low number of mynahs and egrets there.

Good lighting conditions at Moku Manu from Ulupau Head resulted in high count of frigates, most of which were actually seen far at sea beyond island on horizon. Maximum number of red-footed boobies seen at 6:00 p.m. at Ulupau (1350) was about double a count at 4:30 p.m. Cattle egret count at kiawe tree roosting area near highway on Marine Base was difficult due to movement of birds and failing light (6:00 p.m.), but it was estimated that 1000 were there. Sooty terns were noted flying behind Moku Manu low over sea, and then "swarming" high in air. Estimate of 200 is probably very conservative.

Red-vented bulbuls seen from Waimanalo to Kalaheo Avenue in Kailua.

Lack of temporary water areas as was the case last year accounted for low count of shorebirds inland.

Ronald L. Walker

MIDWAY ISLAND, 2-6 December 1971

By Charles G. Kaigler

Any stay on Midway Island is, in addition to being difficult to arrange, an experience for the bird watcher, but the courtship and nesting period of the Laysan Albatross makes a winter visit particularly fascinating. I was extremely fortunate to find upon checking in at the BOQ that Dr. Harvey T. Fisher of Southern Illinois University, who has been studying the life history of the Laysan Albatross for some 25 years, was on the island. Dr. Pershing Hofslund of the University of Minnesota and Dr. John Richardson, also of SIU, were conducting the field work for Dr. Fisher, who broke his back two years ago and is now limited in his physical activity. The opportunity to learn from these men and to accompany them in their work was bonus beyond all expectation.

The strikingly beautiful Laysan Albatross dominates the minute land area of both Sand Island and Eastern Island. One's first sighting is through the window as the plane touches down on the runway on Sand Island and the final sighting is as the same plane takes off days later. In the interim period one sees them almost everywhere one can look; if not on a nest or standing about then soaring in the air. The nests occupy almost all the space available in all unpaved areas. Non-nesting birds sit, stand, walk about rather awkwardly or perform their fascinating courtship dance in those spaces not occupied by nests. And the noise is constant. The albatross has an amazing variety of groans, whistles, moos, squeals and bill-clacks and darkness brings no surcease.

The next most common bird on the islands during this period is the Black-footed Albatross and they occupy the areas that the Laysans do not. They also nest among the Laysan. As a matter of fact, they arrive a couple of weeks before the Laysan to begin their nesting period. They seem to be outnumbered about ten to one by the Laysan. Dr. Fisher estimates that, considering that there is usually an albatross feeding at sea for each one nesting, the total albatross population about Midway at this time can approach some 400,000.

Nesting had been, for the majority, underway for several weeks when I arrived and some females were already returning to the nests to take over from the incubating males. After the old pairs reunite, their territory reclaimed and the nest has been built up somewhat, (the birds return to the same nest area each year) and mating has taken place, the pair feeds at sea until the egg is due at which time the female returns to the nest and the egg is laid. A short time afterward the male returns, relieves the female on the nest, and remains for 24 days himself without food or drink (they cannot drink fresh water) before the female returns. When he is not sleeping, he works on building up the nest to a bowl shape. The female remains about 20 days while the male feeds, and they continue to alternate for shorter periods until hatching takes place. A total of about 60 days. It then takes some six months of parental feeding and care before the young bird can fly for himself. There is obviously some late mating, and I actually saw an egg being laid.

Most impressive or amusing, however one wants to describe it, is the "dancing" or

courtship of the immatures (five to seven years old) that have returned to their birthplace to establish a territory and to find a mate. Barring accident to either, the mating will usually be for life which can be 30 to 40 years. I just cannot describe the fascinating, ritualistic performance of bill touching, head-under-wing tucking, head shaking, bill clacking and bill to the sky on tiptoe "mooing," as well as the stomping that makes up this performance. Both the Laysan and the Black-footed conduct approximately the same dance. Incidentally, if, in the "stretching to the sky on tiptoe" portion of the dance the male cannot stretch taller than the female, the affair is off and the male seeks a different mate. He never has heard of Women's Lib.

I am really not qualified to go further in any description of the life of either albatross except to note that they defend their nests vigorously against intruders such as banders or band readers and the Black-footed is much more aggressive than the Laysan. My information is mostly from Dr. Fisher and Mildred L. Fisher's very readable book for the layman "The Albatross of Midway Island" which I heartily recommend. Mrs. Fisher worked as Dr. Fisher's assistant on Midway for a number of years.

However much the albatrosses dominate the island they are not the only birds there by any means. The Sooty Terns have already completed breeding and have departed as have the Common Noddies. I saw only one immature Common Noddy and no Sooty Tern. The same applies to the Wedge-tailed Shearwaters, but the Bonin Island Petrels are quite active in the evenings flying in after sunset and preparing their burrows in among the albatross nests on Sand Island. The Hawaiian Noddies are busy building nests in the ironwood trees and Fairy Terns flutter overhead. Red-tailed Tropicbirds are numerous; the last chicks are almost ready to leave the nest which is a scrape under a bush. There is a small breeding colony of Red-footed Boobies and one of Great Frigatebirds on Eastern Island with a number of immatures of each in evidence. The Pacific Golden Plover and the Ruddy Turnstone are common as is the Wandering Tattler. I saw no Sanderlings. The island had been dry until the day I arrived and the "Midway Lake," a shallow scrape near the boat harbor, was dry too, but I encountered a drenching rain on arrival that lasted the entire day and the next days the shallow "lake" held a pair of Short-billed Dowitchers (identified by sound as they flew), one Sharp-tailed Sandpiper and one Dunlin, four Pintail, one Green-winged Teal, one European Widgeon and one possible Gadwall.

I suppose I should also mention that mice and rats are abundant. And I am certain I saw, with Dr. Fisher, a pair of Mynahs in flight. Now where would they have come from? Too, one must comment on the canaries. I have always read that the Sand Island Canary was a pale yellow and many were, but there were also a number just as bright a yellow as one can find in any pet shop. I learned that residents have released their own canaries from time to time and it is possible that this may have produced a newer breeding stock.

PLEASE BE CAREFUL

From July 1971 READER'S DIGEST, page 212:

OCEANUS, the publication of the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute, urges seafarers to cut each of the rings of the plastic holders which keep six-packs of beer or soft drinks together before throwing them overboard. Otherwise, sea gulls sometimes get their heads stuck through one of the rings and are doomed.

—UNESCO Features

Some of the sea birds found dead along the coast have strangled on pull-tabs from soda and beer cans thrown into the drink by picnickers and yachtsmen. The circling birds see the tabs glinting in the water, think they're fish, swoop down and make the fatal mistake of trying to swallow them.

—Herb Caen in San Francisco CHRONICLE

HAWAII'S BIRDS, a field guide, is available for \$2.00. Send in your orders to: Book Order Committee, Hawaii Audubon Society, PO Box 5032, Honolulu, Hawaii 96814.

THE ELEPAIO

Expenses from 1 January through 31 December 1971:

Envelopes and stamps	\$ 157.60
Paper	161.57
Stencil	22.80
Miscellaneous	<u>25.55</u>
Total	\$ 367.52

Miscellaneous

Addressograph plates	22.27
Correction fluid ...	.85
Twine	2.43

Mimeographing Gratis (Bishop Museum)

Typing Gratis (members)

Mailing Gratis (members)

Mailing list as of 31 December 1971:

Honolulu	131	Mainland	98
Rural Oahu	29	(29 states)	
Hawaii	17	Canada	3
Kauai	10	New Zealand	3
Maui	5	England	1
Molokai	4	France	<u>1</u>
Guam	2	Copies	306
APC	2		

This is your publication. Please send in suggestions to Kojima, 725-A 8th Avenue, Honolulu, Hawaii 96816.

MAHALO NUI LOA

ALOHA to new members:

Geoffrey Haines, P.O. Box 80, Puunene, Maui 96784
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 Delaware Museum of Natural History, Box 3937, Greenville, Delaware 19807

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FEBRUARY ACTIVITIES

- 13 February - Field trip to Woodlawn Trail to study forest birds. Bring lunch, water, and if possible your car. Transportation cost (50¢) 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.
- 14 February - Board meeting at McCully-Moiliili Library, 6:45 p.m. Members welcome.
- 21 February - General meeting at the Waikiki Aquarium Auditorium at 7:30 p.m. Speaker: Robert Shallenberger
 Topic: Hawaiian Islands National Wildlife Refuge (color slides)

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