THE ELEPAIO

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For the Better Protection of Wildlife in Hawaii

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HONOLULU CHRISTMAS COUNT 22 December 1974

AREAS

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	TOTAL
Wedge-tailed Shearwater							1			1
Brown Booby									3	3
Red-footed Booby									938	938
Great Frigatebird					1		2		299	302
Cattle Egret							19	42	373	434
Black-crowned Night Heron		14				7	4	6	41	72
Hawaiian Gallinule							2			2
Hawaiian Coot		34						1		35
Pacific Golden Plover	3	64	40	27	33	98	69	5	308	647
Ruddy Turnstone		47				38	3		33	121
Wandering Tattler		6				9	3		7	25
Willet									1	1
Sanderling						9				9
Hawaiian Stilt		16					2		81	99
Brown Noddy (Common)									1	1
Rock Dove				25						25
Spotted Dove	8	53	20	101	207	57	10	22	95	573
Barred Dove	12	90	49	308	664	196	37	68	95	1519
Red-crowned Parrot * 1					3					3
Rose-ringed Parakeet * 2					3.					3
Black-hooded Parakeet * 3					1					1
Barn Owl									1	1
Short-eared Owl									1	1
Red-whiskered Bulbul			2							2
Red-vented Bulbul		7	2		2		27	9	3	50
Mockingbird			1		1	1	1		3	7
Shama Thrush	12	5	30	12		4				63
Japanese Bush Warbler	1		2							3
Oahu 'Elepaio	18		3							21
Common Mynah		146	93	242	1358	107	62	98	367	2473
Japanese White-eye	80	34	120	90	14	94	14	13	38	497
Oahu 'Amakihi	2	3	12	15						32
'Apapane	50		18	2						70
Yellow-fronted Canary * 4					4					4
House Finch	70	70	10	37	42	4	1		8	242
Cordon-bleu					2					2
Lavender Fire-Finch * 5					4					4
Spotted Munia * 6	7	40		7	20	351		121	119	665
Java Sparrow			19	6	17					42
House Sparrow		81	118	110	289	156	6	16	92	868
Pin-tailed Whydah					18					18

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	TOTAL
Cardinal	12	26	19	7	10	24	10	6	17	131
Red-crested Cardinal	2	14	10	29	121	24	30	1	15	246
Saffron Finch					7				•	7
No. of Individual Birds: No. of Species:	277 13	750 18	568 18	1018 15	2821 22	1179 16	303 19	408 13	2939 24	10,263 44

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Also seen on count week, but not count day: Orange-cheeked Waxbill & Black-rumped Waxbill

*Suggested preferred names according to International Code of Zoological Nomenclature:

1. Red-crowned Parrot (Green-cheeked Amazon)

2. Rose-ringed Parakeet (Indian Ring-neck Parakeet)

3. Black-hooded Parakeet (Nanday Conure)

4. Yellow-fronted Canary (Green Singing Finch)

- 5. Lavender Fire-Finch (Lavender Finch)
- 6. Spotted Munia (Ricebird)

Areas Covered

- 1 Aiea Trail
- 2 Moanalua Gardens, Nuuanu Valley, Salt Lake, Sand Island, Keehi Lagoon (offshore and by through telescope)
- 3 Tantalus (Hanoa Cliff Trail), Makiki Trail, Punchbowl, Pensacola cemetery

4 St. Louis Heights Trail, Woodlawn Trail, Manoa Valley, Ala Moana Park

- 5 Kapiolani Park, Ewa slope of Diamond Head
- 6 Diamond Head Crater, Kaimuki to Paiko Lagoon
- 7 Kaelepulu Pond, Bellows Field
- 8 Kawainui Swamp, Quarry Road, Kailua
- 9 Kaneohe Marine Corps Air Station, Moku Manu (through telescope)

Habitat Coverage: residential 40%, forests 25%, ocean/fresh water 20%, parkland 10%, scrubland 5%. Date: 22 December 1974 from 0600 to 1745 hours. Weather: A.M.--mostly cloudy, intermittent moderate rain; P.M.--partly cloudy, intermittent light rain. Temperature--68° to 75°F. Wind--NE, 5-20 m.p.h.

Total hours on foot: 52

Total hours by car: 10 Total miles by car: 85 Total miles on foot: 39

Forty-two Observers in Ten Parties: Glenn & Willard Beachy, Susan Bellows, Bill Burke, Omer Bussen, Gui Buzzard, Mary Chew, Pat Conant, Michael Crozier, Betsy & Wayne Gagne, William Gilbert, Dave Hatten, Lawrence Hirai, Peggy Hodge, Colin, Don & Doris Huddleston, Jean Jacobi, Barbara Macauley, Garry & Nan McKay, Evelyn-Gail Miike, Diana Miner, John Obata, Charlie, David, Joshua, Paul & Tom Reppun, Doug Roselle, Clarence Rosling, Pat Schattenburg, Roxanne Sullivan, Jack Throp, Jo-Ann Togashi, Charlotte & Ronald Walker, Erika Wilson, David & Leiana Woodside, and Jean Yarsites.

The 1974 Honolulu Christmas Bird Count

By Erika Wilson, Compiler

Typical winter conditions--overcast skies, moderate trade winds, and intermittent rain --prevailed on December 22, 1974, during Honolulu's annual Christmas bird count. The adverse conditions, however, didn't dampen the enthusiasm of the forty-two counters (nineteen Audubon Society members plus fifteen resident guests and eight Mainland visitors participated). They worked together to produce a good count in the Honolulu area.

The count area is a circle fifteen miles in diameter, with its center two-fifths of a mile ENE of Nuuanu Pali $21^{\circ}22$ 'N, $157^{\circ}48$ 'W/; near the circle's perimeter but inside the count area are sections of Aiea, Salt Lake, Diamond Head, Paiko Lagoon, Waimanalo, Mokapu Peninsula, and Kahaluu. The count area was established in 1954 when the staff of AUDUBON FIELD NOTES included the Honolulu count in its annual coverage of Christmas counts. AMERICAN BIRDS (formerly AFN) now accepts counts from Canada, the United States, Mexico, and Central America.

Our bird count began at 6:00 a.m. under leaden skies and ended at 5:45 p.m. under similar conditions. The birders divided into ten counting teams and traveled approximately 124 miles within the count circle, putting in sixty-two party hours. They tallied 10,263 birds of forty-four species, including two species new to the Honolulu count.

As usual introduced birds out-numbered those which occur here naturally--of the forty-four species seen on the count only eighteen arrived in Hawaii by their own efforts. This year the Kaneohe area reported the greatest number of species (twenty-four), and was closely followed by Kapiolani Park area which reported twenty-two. Both of the species new to the count this year were seen in the Kaneohe area; they are the Willet, a migratory shorebird, and the Barn Owl, an introduction.

Another bonus from the Kaneohe area was a thorough census of the Hawaiian Stilt at the Kaneohe Marine Corps Air Station where the group saw eighty-one individuals. These, plus the sixteen seen at Salt Lake and the two seen at Bellows Field, gave an encouraging total of ninety-nine Hawaiian Stilt which compares very favorably with the fourteen seen last year. Paiko Lagoon, however, was empty of Stilt. A local resident said she often sees half a dozen Stilt on the mud-flats at low tide. Thus far the State Bird Refuge at Paiko Lagoon with its "nesting islands" seems not to have attracted any breeding Stilt, although several other species of shorebirds were seen feeding there this year.

A Pueo was counted this year--the first time this owl has appeared on the Christmas count since 1967. It was seen in the early morning near the Likelike Highway on the windward side of the island. Another indigenous bird seen after several years' absence from the Christmas count was a Wedge-tailed Shearwater. It was also seen on the windward side. The Brown Booby count hit a new low of three, but the other seabirds were reported in average numbers. The indigenous Black-crowned Night Heron was seen in record numbers (seventy-two).

The native 'Apapane was reported in high numbers; although the number (seventy were counted this year) is well below the 500+ seen in 1956, it is the highest number recorded in the past ten counts. In general, higher numbers of native forest birds were seen, presumably due to the extended coverage of mountain areas this year.

New highs were recorded for the Rock Dove (Pigeon), the Rose-ringed Parakeet (Indian Ring-necked Parakeet), the House Finch, the Spotted Munia (Ricebird), the Java Sparrow, and the Pin-tailed Whydah. The marked increase in the latter species is of some interest. The Pin-tailed Whydah belongs to a group of birds known to be brood parasites, that is, they lay their eggs in somebody else's nest. In Africa, the native home of this species, Whydahs generally parasitize members of the Estrilidae family, several species of which can be found in the Kapiolani Park/Diamond Head area. It might be interesting to try to determine which species is being parasitized by the Pin-tailed Whydahs here.

Also seen in the count circle, but not on count day, were Orange-cheeked Waxbills and Black-rumped Waxbills (Red-eared Waxbills).

This year's count was very rewarding; I would particularly like to thank the group leaders who had Mainland visitors in their charge. The increased coverage made possible by our forty-two observers speaks for itself. Again, I would like to thank each of them for their time and effort.

<u>Aiea Loop Trail</u>: On arriving in the lower picnic area, we observed 7 shama thrush, 9 N.A. cardinal, 2 barred dove, a dozen white-eye and house finch.

The plover of the day before was not to be seen on this day.

Well up into the trail, a very few lehua in bloom. It was here we observed the 24 'apapane. Nothing was to be seen of the 'amakihi excepting for one lone juvenile.

The strong gusty winds and lack of paperbark, eucalyptus and lehua in bloom were the key to the whole thing.

Roxanne Sullivan

Nuuanu, Moanalua Gardens, Salt Lake, Keehi Lagoon, & Sand Island: We arrived at the Nuuanu Reservoir at 6:45 a.m. in overcast, windy, and cool weather. There were 4 'alae ke'oke'o (Hawaiian Coot) on each pond and nothing else other than some exotic forest birds in the nearby vegetation. We then proceeded to the Judd Trail at 7:15 a.m. and worked it for 2 hours. There were a number of House Finches singing in the tops of the Norfolk Island Pines along with a few Spotted Doves, both hard to see. At the far end of the loop we heard 3 'amakihi, the only native forest bird for our portion of the count. We then proceeded to Moanalua Gardens, arriving there at 9:33 a.m., and worked its periphery, counterclockwise. As usual, there were many House Sparrows, doves, Common Mynahs, and plovers on the lawns, seemingly oblivious to the din from the adjacent freeway. At the Diamond Head (East) end we saw the Red-vented Bulbuls in the trees. White-eyes and House Finches were working the monkeypods. A single Muscovy Duck, possibly feral, was feeding

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in the drained ponds on the north side of the park.

We arrived at Keehi Lagoon at ebb tide (about 10:45 a.m.) in clearing, occasionally sunny weather. It was very poor for shorebirds, with only a few tattlers, turnstones, and plovers on the coral rubble along the shore, and a few of the latter two species on the lawns of the adjacent park. More birds could just barely be discerned with the spotting scope on the refuse-ridden, squatter-occupied offshore islets. We couldn't make out what they were, but in any case the presence of people and pets all along them probably kept most birds away. We were surprised to see a pair of Red-vented Bulbuls in the koa haole thickets at the edge of the construction equipment parking area on the east side of the park. This species continues to spread on urban Oahu.

After dropping the McKays off at the airport to catch their plane back to Canada, we proceeded to Salt Lake with dim expectations--fearing the "Lake" to be now entirely filled in--to meet Mr. Crozier who had permission to lead a grand tour of the abuilding golf course and environs. He had made a count at 7:00 a.m. that morning, so we tried to top his counts, succeeding on all species except the Ruddy Turnstones and Ricebird totals. The developer seems to have taken some note of our pleas because approximately 10 acres of the former lake has been set aside on the north side, adjacent to a Black-crowned Night Heron rookery in the kiawe trees on the side of the crater. This is where the Hawaiian Stilts and Hawaiian Coots were concentrated, as well as the migrants. Also, wildlife values have been taken into account as Mr. Crozier pointed out, in the construction of several "water hazards" for the golf course. An island has been placed in the center of each one with the hope that the Hawaiian Stilts will eventually find them suitable for nesting. So, if nature is allowed to take its course, with the eventual recolonization of emergent vegetation, and food organisms, and protection from human harassment and other predation, Salt "Lake" may regain some of its former self. Mr. Crozier thought the new set-up could outdo the old Salt Lake if careful attention is given to wildlife values; we remained skeptical.

We arrived at Sand Island at 4:25 p.m., but even here at low tide, it is the most depressing, sorriest bit of real estate in the Hawaiian Islands. The count reflected this. How can any shoreline life exist when the banks are lined with squatters' shacks, the water is constantly churned by waterskiers, dune buggies and dirt bikes rampage along the shore and over the heaps of garbage? What a way to end a Christmas bird count! Wayne Gagne

St. Louis Heights Trail, Woodlawn Trail, Manoa Valley, U.H. campus, and Ala Moana Park:

The three observers started before sunrise in weather that turned out to be cloudy and frequently windy, with intermittent rain. The area is about 75% suburban, with St. Louis Heights Trail and upper Manoa Valley the only forested portion. The St. Louis Ridge, especially the upper end, contained a large number of 'ohi'a and koa trees. Most of the morning was spent on the St. Louis Ridge and the descent to the Woodlawn Trail, where 15 'Amakihi and 1 'Apapane were heard and 1 'Apapane seen (at the top of a koa tree). Shama Thrushes and White-eyes were other bird species seen or heard mainly in the forested area. Java Sparrows, including four immatures (without black heads and only faintly colored pink bills and legs) were seen on the University of Hawaii campus. Other bird species seen on campus the past year but not on count day include Red-vented and Redwhiskered Bulbuls. Because the native birds were seen only along the St. Louis Heights Trail, it is strongly recommended that this area be covered, and not left unfilled, in future bird counts.

<u>Kahala/Fort Ruger</u>: Our group of four began counting at 7:00 a.m. at Kahala Mall where the urban birds were busy finding scraps in the parking area. We stopped at school yards, parks, and a cemetery on the way to Diamond Head crater; Golden Plover were seen on every grassy area, along with doves, mynahs, sparrows, and cardinals. <u>Diamond Head Crater</u>: The crater vegetation was greener this year than last year at Christmas. Large flocks of Spotted Munia (Ricebirds) were observed throughout the crater, feeding in tall grasses and flying in clouds into kiawe trees. We also saw several old nests of this species in these same trees. Male Cardinals were singing their primary song and female Cardinals were chipping in the undergrowth; the Red-crested Cardinals were feeding at the more open areas. A large flock of Barred Doves heavily out-numbered the few Spotted Doves seen. Small groups of Japanese White-eyes moved through the kiawe and we saw a few House Finches. A Mockingbird completed the list of introduced birds in the crater; only the Golden Plover are indigenous here.

<u>Kaimuki/Palolo</u>: A stop along La-I Road yielded a Shama Thrush, some Cardinals, and Spotted Doves. At Kawao Park we were rewarded by more Shama Thrushes, Japanese White-eyes, and Cardinals.

<u>Paiko Lagoon</u>: Two visits were made to Paiko Lagoon, one in the late morning, and the other in the late afternoon when the tide was out. In general the counts were higher in the evening when the mudflats were exposed, but on neither occasion did we see any Hawaiian Stilt in this new bird refuge. The 40 Golden Plover were the most numerous shorebird, followed closely by Ruddy Turnstones; other shorebirds included Sanderlings, Wandering Tattlers, and Black-crowned Night Herons.

Lanipo Trail: We walked a short way along this trail without seeing anything but Japanese White-eyes in the Christmas Berry shrubs scattered on the steep grassy slopes. Our stomachs convinced us that lunch was more appealing than the long climb up to the treeline. Erika Wilson

Kaneohe Marine Corps Air Station, Moku Manu: Field conditions for observation were good-overcast skies stimulated bird activity throughout the day; winds were moderate and there was little rain. If there is any truth to the old saw that frigatebirds come in from the sea in anticipation of storms, than the forecast for the day after the count had to be fair weather. The seabird count was relatively low at Ulupau and on Moku Manu. Perhaps the fishing at sea was particularly good. At dusk, the normal increase of seabirds over the daytime totals at these locations noted in previous years was not apparent.

Red-vented bulbuls were noted for the first time in urban Kaneohe (Three weeks prior to the count, I saw four of this species on my paperbark trees in Crown Terrace).

The high stilt count was as a result of a lengthy "walk-out" of the Nuupia Ponds where many were noted in hidden pockets of vegetation along the edges. Although Hawaiian ducks were released in Nuupia Pond a few weeks prior to the count, none were seen despite an extensive search. (The Marine Corps conservation officer reported that he saw several being led by a mallard a week previous to the count.)

The most unusual sighting was that of a willet on the shore of the Eastern-most pond. It was approached belly downwards to within 20 yards and the following description made: Body slightly larger than that of a stilt, chunkier. Gray above with barring and/or spotting. White or light gray below. White flashed on rump and wings in flight. Bill two times length of head, straight, dark gray or black. Legs dark gray or black. Light stripe over eye, eye dark. Plumage roughened as if in moult. (or wind?) Looked like a large dowitcher. Feeding, preening and bathing in company with several stilts.

A fast check of past indices to THE ELEPAIO revealed that a willet was recorded on Lagoon Drive during the 1967 Christmas Count, but outside the census circle. This may be the first official record of a willet for our annual affair.

Ronald L. Walker

HONOLULU CHRISTMAS COUNTS 1965 - 1974

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	1965	1966	1967	1968	1969	1970	1971	1972	1973	1974
Arctic Loon								1		
Black-footed Albatross	s 7	7	4							
Wedge-tailed Shearwate	er.					2				1
Red-tailed Tropicbird			2							
White-tailed Tropicbin	rd.	3					1			
Blue-faced Booby	5	1		2	13	2	3			
Brown Booby	68	46	51	132	60	20	73	33	6	3
Red-footed Booby	240	430	1750	1700	2380	1438	1850	1615	1475	938
Great Frigatebird	117	164	952	270	377	333	1156	984	297	302
Cattle Egret	15		34	87	151	158	1127	1208	868	434
Black-cr Night Heron	31	19	18	23	49	9	38	29	30	72
Canada Goose					1					
Mallard									1	
Hawaiian Duck (Koloa)				5	15	11	3	2		

-	1965	1966	1967	1968	1969	1970	1971	1972	1973	1974
Pintail	38	29	77		54	111	18	71	7	
American Widgeon			4					5		
Northern Shoveler	3	30	13	15	18	7	8	89	14	
Ring-necked Duck		1								
Lesser Scaup		1			3	2	12	2		
Scaup (sp?)	2		1	7	2				2	
Bufflehead		1		0						
Duck (sp?)					10				1	
Ring-necked Pheasant	1				•				1	
Hawaiian Gallinule	8	5	1	7	2	6	5	6	3	2
Hawaiian Coot	33	47	19	31	151	92	73	116	31	35
Semipalmated Plover					1					
Pacific Golden Plover	591	590	1093	574	637	599	483	683	407	647
Ruddy Turnstone	226	93	347	215	160	125	60	139	39	121
Common Snipe (Wilson)		1			1					
Wandering Tattler	39	11	26	18	23	23	20	18	14	25
Bar-tailed Godwit			1							
Willet										1
Sanderling	85	132	35	43	39	35	83	33	9	9
Hawaiian Stilt	115	189	90	25	101	128	177	141	14	99
Pomarine Jaeger	6	31	37	5	101	24	8	10		
Glaucous Gull)1				2		70		
Glaucous_winged Gull			2	2	•				· · · ·	
Herring Cull	0	*		1	•	· · · ·		· · ·		
Ring-hilled Cull	•	2	•	<u>+</u>	•		1		•	
Loughing Cull	•	1	•	0	•	•	4	•		•
Gull (an2)	•	<u> </u>	•		•		•			
Sootu Tom	4500.	•	6000				200	•	6	•
Brown Noddy (Common)	40007	0	0000	•	26	•	200	56	•	
Block Noddy (Verician	2	•	° 70	0	20	•	•	30		
White Torm (Faime)		•	<u> </u>	2	•	1	•	•	•	•
Rock Dorro	•	•	•	•	•		•	•	•	25
Spotted Dovo	245	177	506	636	679	571	610	607	578	573
Borned Dove	1029	1902	21.94	1207	1604	1209	1075	1900	1/30	1510
Salmon areated Coaleat	1020	1002	2104	1201	1094	1290	1213	1009	14.70	1019
Bed anounced Downet			•	•	•	•	•	1	•	•
Felectus Parrot	•	•	•	•	•	•	4		9	
Rege minged Developet	•	· · ·	•	•	•	•	•	1	•	•
Shall Developet	•	•	•		•	•	•	+	2	
Plack haded Developet	•	•	•	•	•		•		7	
Black-nooded Farakeet	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	2	1
Shamt armed Ord	•	•	• 7	•	•	•	•	•	•	1
Bod shisland Dulbul	2	2	2	•	•	•	•	•	•	
Red-whiskered Bulbul		•	2	1	•		4	•	•	50
Red-vented Bulbul		•	•	9	1	1	20	20	14	20
Mockingbird	22	1	9	12	4	2	1	12	10	
Melodious Laughing-th	rush									
(Chinese Thrush)	2	•	1	•	2	•	•		4	
Red-billed Leiothrix	98	98	130	18	•	•	1	1	•	•
Snama Thrush	5	12	22	18	7	9	55	36	66	63
Japanese Bush Warbler	•		•	•	•		8	4	10	3
Vahu 'Elepaio	24	39	36	20	22	4	27	21	12	21
Common Mynah	2449	5825	6447	4265	4267	2981	2659	2427	2295	2413
Indian Hill Mynah	•	2	7	2	1				•	•
Japanese White-eye	222	235	260	300	227	287	487	561	419	497
Oahu 'Amakihi	43	29	46	40	44	22	98	34	22	32
Oahu Creeper				2	•			•		•
Apapane	32	42	26	19	17	9	59	11	24	70
Spotted Munia(Ricebirg	1)333	551	647	196	238	451	438	369	172	665

	1965	1966	1967	1968	1969	1970	1971	1972	1973	1974
Orange Weaver (Bishop)		3	2		9	6	4	3	1	
Yellow Weaver (Napoleo	n).	1			2	1		1		
Weaver(Orange or Yello	W) 1			2						
House Sparrow	670	1111	1128	592	1294	1222	1459	2538	778	868
Java Sparrow					4	11	4	24	38	42
Cardinal	100	96	79	128	94	74	152	204	108	131
Red-crested Cardinal	210	246	274	122	158	202	186	298	139	246
House Finch	107	89	152	140	110	107	187	156	184	242
Strawberry Finch		4								
Diamond Firetail Finch		1								
Gray Singing Finch	5	22	37	18	6	9	3		8	
Yellow-fronted Canary	17	6	2	2	1	5	4	3	2	4
Saffron Finch			1	1	3	13	5	24		7
Orange-cheeked Waxbill	. 30	6	23	32	24	27	14	15	5	
Red-eared Waxbill(Comm	on)6	2	7	29	12	13	13	19	7	
Cordon-bleu	3	7	4	2	4	6	3	17	1	2
Blue-headed Cordon-ble	u.				12	8				
African Firefinch	30	6	5	8	4	2				
Lavender Fire-Finch	4	2	17	23	6	7	14	40	1	4
Pintailed Whydah					7	5	1	1	1	18
Senegal Combassou					1					

No. of Indiv. Birds:11,820+12,557 22,641 11,024 13,236 10,454 13,218 14,559 9,574 10,263 No. of Species: 46 51 51 49* 53* 51 50 52 48# 44

Excluded: Unidentified *Gull, *Scaup and duck, #Duck

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Volcano, Hawaii, Christmas Count 14 December 1974

AREAS

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	TOTAL
White-tailed Tropicbird		3								3
Hawaiian Goose (Nene)				2						2
Hawaiian Hawk ('Io)				2		2	1		2	7
California Quail				1						1
Blue Pheasant				14	1			2		17
Pacific Golden Plover	12	8		36	2	13	*			71
Spotted Dove						16				16
Barred Dove				1						1
European Skylark	2	1		8	5					16
Red-billed Leiothrix	1			40		13	3	8	19	84
Hawaii Thrush ('Oma'o)		3	5	217		7	318	120	32	702
Hawaii 'Elepaio	3	1		74	4	1	45	17	24	169
Common Mynah	7	4		19		62			•	92
Japanese White-eye	32	53	2	31	9	99	78	6	20	330
Hawaii 'Amakihi	5	2	32	83	27	1	28	21	2	201
Hawaii Creeper				11				2		13
Hawaii 'Akepa				9				6		15
'Akiapola'au				14				6		20
'Apapane	94	131	14	909	32	357	1443	793	120	3893
'I'iwi	4		2	188	5	4	129	91	1	424
Spotted Munia (Ricebird)	5	1			5	81			1	93
House Sparrow		5		1						6
Cardinal	8			20	6	5		3		42
House Finch				45	5	3			1	54
No. of Individual Birds:	173	212	55	1725	101	664	2045	1075	222	6272
No. of Species:	11	11	5	21	11	14	8	12	10	24

- Areas Covered: 1 Bird Park (Kipuka Puaulu) in Hawaii Volcanoes National Park (Kaye, Katahira, J. Lockwood)
- 2 Rim of Kilauea Crater (Kaye, Katahira, M. Lockwood)
- 3 Mauna Loa Trail, 6600-8200' elevation (Reeser, Tomich)
- 4 Keauhou Ranch (P. Banko, Landsberg, Mitchell, Scott, van Riper)
- 5 Mauna Loa Strip Road, 4000-6600' elemation (Reeser, Tomich)
- 6 Volcano community (Cabral, C. Davis)
- 7 Kulani Road and Puu Makaala (W. Banko, Mulls)
- 8 Kilauca Forest Reserve (P. Banko, Landsberg, Mitchell, Scott, van Riper)
- 9 Olaa Tract (Ball, Cooray, J. Davis, Jacobis, Warshauer)

Count taken within 15-mile-diameter circle centered on Kulani Cone summit (19°31'N, 155°18'W), as previously described.

Weather: clear to cloudy, occasional rain; temperature 55-73°F; wind NE, 0-10 m.p.h.

Total hours by car: 13 Total hours on foot: 38

Total miles on foot: 34 Total miles by car: 69

Twenty-two observers in eight parties: Frederick Ball, Paul Banko, Winston Banko, Dennis Cabral, Ranjit Cooray, Clifton Davis, Joyce Davis, James Jacobi, Zoe Jacobi, Glen Kaye, Larry Katahira, Susan Landsberg, Jack Lockwood, Marty Lockwood, Nick Mitchell, Mae Mull, William Mull, Donald Reeser, Michael Scott, Quentin Tomich, Charles van Riper, Frederick Warshauer.

Highlights of the 1974 Volcano, Hawaii, Christmas Count by William P. Mull, Compiler

This year, we had more people (22 vs 18 last year) spending more time (51 party-hours vs 31.5 last year), traveling more miles (103 party-miles vs 58.5 last year) and covering more areas (e.g., Area 9, the 9754-acre Olaa Forest Tract under National Park Service administration, was added as a new count area) within our Count Circle, with the result that we counted more birds (6272 vs 4554 last year). Notably, though, we didn't add to the species list--and, in fact, got one less (24) than in the past two years (25) of our revived Volcano Count, mainly because we didn't get the single Ring-necked Pheasant logged in the past two counts, a deficit of no consequence. The only significant deficiency in our first three new Volcano Counts is that we've yet to get the Hawaiian Owl (Pueo) and the 'O'u, both of which have been sighted within the Count Circle during the past year. Win Banko almost recorded the '0'u this time, but his brief glimpse of a pair of shorttailed birds-one with sunlight glinting off its yellow head (!)--just wasn't enough to convince him.

This year we had new-high counts for 15 species (8 native, 7 introduced) and new lows for 3 (one native, 2 introduced), in terms of the 3-year history of the present Volcano Count Circle. Because of the brief history of our new Volcano Count and because of the variability factors involved, none of these new-high and new-low counts can be regarded as valid indications of increasing or decreasing populations of the species involved within the Count Circle. We are still in the process of establishing base lines for our area; our numerical highs and lows for species populations this year must await future hindsight to realize much of their value. Nevertheless, it was a rewarding experience to count 3893 'Apapane (3061 last year, 3269 the year before), one of which was an unusaul individual whose plumage is almost entirely white; 702 Hawaii Thrushes (284 last year, 382 the year before), 5 of which are part of an unusual population living in alpine scrub habitat near the 8000' level on Mauna Loa (not recorded on the previous two counts); 424 'I'iwi (161 last year, 246 the year before); and 169 'Elepaio (68 last year, 75 the year before).

Among the fragile endangered endemics, the species most deserving of attention within our Count area, it was exciting to count new highs of 15 (13 the previous two years) for the Hawaii 'Akepa and 7 (4 last year, one the year before) for the Hawaiian Hawk. Though the 20 'Akiapola'au was more than twice the 9 of last year, it did not equal the 30 of the year before. It was thrill to record a new high of 13 (3 last year, one the year before) for the elusive and cryptic Hawaii Creeper, a most-deserving nominee for endangered status. The new low of 2 (4 last year, 6 the year before) for the Hawaiian Goose is more symbolic than firmly indicative of the plight of this long-suffering bird, whose population in the wild is failing to reproduce at a viable rate for the species despite man's efforts to bolster the wild population with continuing releases of pen-reared birds.

The sole indigenous breeding species that occurs within our Count area, the White-

tailed Tropicbird, achieved a "new high" of 3, vs 2 the past two Counts.

As for the exotics, folks who've been following the ups and downs of the Red-billed Leiothrix populations in Hawaii in recent years may be interested in the new high of 84 (vs 13 and 16 the past two years). The other 6 new-high counts for exotics are: Blue Pheasant 17 (vs 12 and 9), Spotted Dove 16 (vs 6 and 2), Common Mynah 92 (vs 41 and 19), Japanese White-eye 330 (vs 239 and 169), Spotted Munia (Ricebird) 93 (vs 21 and 76), and Cardinal 42 (vs 22 and 19).

The two new lows for exotics are Ring-necked Pheasant O (vs one and one) and Barred Dove (vs 18 and 11).

to St.Louis Heights ***** 12 January 1975 <u>field trip</u>/cancelled because of inclement weather. Erika Wilson

Field Notes from W. Patrick Dunbar, 17 December 1974 (at sea)

...We are approaching Guam; due in tomorrow. Today I saw three separate and quite large flocks of sooty terns evidently following fish. One of the flocks appeared to have a few brown noddy terns in it.

Enclosed are four snaps of my favorite seabirds, Laysan and black-footed albatrosses /will be displayed at the general meeting/. Have exposed most film on these than any other bird, probably because I see more of them than any other. I have a question about them and possibly you can help me obtain an answer. Recently I purchased a pocket book on seabirds; in it are estimated population figures on the black-footed and Laysan albatrosses (Laysan--1,500,000; Black-footed--300,000). I have seen similar figures before; have written to the author inquiring about his source of numbers; no answer yet. This is a ratio of five to one. I have seen albatrosses in the Bering Sea, Gulf of Alaska, coasts of the United States and Japan, vicinity of the Hawaiian Islands and the open ocean. The only place I've seen anywhere near this ratio was in the area around and on the Midway Islands. Usually it's just the opposite. The black-footed far and away outnumbering the Laysan. For the last six months I've been making a daily note of albatrosses seen; have at times counted twenty to thirty albatrosses astern and only three or four of them are Laysan. Would you please make a few inquiries and see if any member has any ideas about these numbers? ...

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

From Peggy Hickok Hodge, 29 November 1974: After two years of coaxing, we have bulbuls eating out of our bird dish high atop the railing of our Lanikai home on the hillside. We first discovered these jaunty fruit eaters from Malaysia long before Audubon believed they were here (I was firmly told we had no such birds, when I first reported them four or five years ago!). Since then they have been found on various parts of Oahu.

These red-vented birds with velvety black crests and freckled breasts come in flocks of two dozen to eat every berry off our Christmas berry tree in October! They used to sing beautiful songs when they first arrived but now have cut the music down to one short sequence and not the unusual song of before.

They love to eat the brassaia or octopus tree seeds and with the numerous mejiro make a fetching picture. Now to save on buying bird seed, we tie a huge seed bouquet from the brassaia on the deck railing and have lots of white-eyes, bulbuls, finches, doves and two kinds of cardinals feasting and swaying with the swift windward breezes.

The bulbuls finally came as a result of ESP with my husband. He concentrated and mentally called them from the telephone wires below and they came as if in answer and have been gorging themselves ever since. They particularly like papaya rind and seeds also.

Overhead at 6 or 7 a.m. we often have as many as a hundred 'iwa gliding by, always flying Ewa (having lived all my life on the other side I still refer to Ewa here) or Waimanalo and never the other way. ...

30 November 1974: Also seen from our lanai silhouetted against the coco palms were two white-tailed tropicbirds flying back and forth near the sea. When we are at the beach, we see red-footed boobies swiftly skimming the surface in handsome streamline. The tropicbirds are often paralleling them a few yards from shore.

4 December 1974: Just verified the new yellow, black and gray birds we have as the grassquits mentioned by Erika Wilson. /THE ELEPAIO, Dec.1974, Vol.35, No.6/ Have heard

the new song but did not know whose it was. Two or more are in nearby golden shower and mango trees.

In early evening we hear another new song, perhaps a seabird?

Drepanidid Specimens at the Australian Museum by Rhys Walkley, 27 December 1974: ...My research into drepanidid specimens in Australia has unearthed a single 'i'iwi in recent acquisitions to the Queensland Museum--the following information could be added to the article notes sent earlier this year for publication /THE ELEPAIO, Nov.1974, Vol.35, No.5, pp.51-52/: Queensland Museum, Brisbane, Australia--a single mounted skin Registered 17 December 1974 (the day I requested it to be registered) when I recognized the specimen as <u>Vestiaria coccinea</u>, possibly a young adult male in reasonably good condition. Registration No. 015784. The bird was donated on October 8 this year from the William Horne Collection (A private Queensland collection and this was an old specimen in his collection). The Curator Mr. D.P. Vernon and his assistant feel the bird was collected around the turn of the century.

No other Hawaiian Drepanidid is represented in the trays, index lists or display areas. As in Melbourne, there are many nineteenth century birds locked away in boxes needing reclassification, but Mr. Vernon is sure no Drepanidid is there as he's familiar with most of the specimens. ...

<u>Comments</u> from Alvin Y. Yoshinaga, Dept. of Botany, Univ. of Wisconsin, 1 November 1974: ...THE ELEPAIO, October 1974, Vol.35, No.4, arrived here Monday. I thought I'd comment on some of the contents: Page 37--I'm presently taking a course in theoretical animal ecology in which we've been considering character displacement, among other things. The whole business seems much less straight forward than it first appears. For example, for some competing species, one might expect convergence rather than divergence in zones of sympatry...an actual case of this phenomenon has apparently been observed in Caribbean Anolis (an Iguanid lizard) spp. communities by Schoener. This peculiar result follows from Ln-normal distribution of insect sizes. ...

Page 47--The Christmas (Island) Shearwater, <u>Puffinus nativitatis</u> Streets was first described in 1877 from specimens collected on Christmas Island (Bull. U.S. Nat.Mus. 7:29). Thus, it would seem Christmas Island Shearwater is the preferable name. The objection that Christmas Shearwater should follow from the Latin name <u>P. nativitatis</u> being pedantry. Incidentally in the type description, the specific name is spelled nativitatis rather than nativitatus. This inconsistency appears to be the result of slight differences in the International and the American Ornithologists' Union /AOU/ rules for nomenclature.

The official AOU name for <u>Anous stolidus</u> and sspp. is noddy tern, not common noddy or brown noddy. The AOU does not recognize vernacular names for subspecies, on the grounds that the species is the proper unit for most non-taxonomic studies.

Regarding the use of the possessive form in vernacular names: AOU policy is to use "'s" endings...I consider it preferable to conform to AOU usage, even for spp. not on the AOU list, in order to keep vernacular names reasonably consistent throughout the U.S. These comments are based on the 5th edition of the AOU checklist, published 1957. ...

On the writing of "'" <u>/</u>'u'ina, the hamzah/ in Hawaiian words: Someone ought to get after Roger Tory Peterson and make sure he includes them next time he revises the FIELD GUIDE TO THE WESTERN BIRDS. (Incidentally, despite what he seems to imply in the Preface, the vernacular names he lists for Hawaiian birds are not official AOU names, there being none of the latter at the moment. (Come to think of it, it might be worth writing the AOU, too.)). Actually the worst orthographic offenders in this respect seem to be the government agencies (USGS particularly), although I have seen a street sign with "'" spelled in.

As for the matter of "s" as a plural marker for Hawaiian bird names, all things considered, I think it is probably preferable to allow use of "s" to form plurals of all foreign nouns used in English except for a few French and Latin in which the proper plurals have become so firmly entrenched it is now hopeless to try to replace them. For a more thorough but somewhat inconclusive discussion of this point, see Fowler's MODERN ENGLISH USAGE, particularly entries under LATIN PLURALS AND PEDANTRY. Otherwise you are confronted with having to memorize a plural for every foreign noun, an unreasonable demand for a speaker of a language with overwhelmingly regular plurals, like English. ...The most convenient policy would seem to be acceptance of the nominative singular as the normal form of the noun, not to recognize case at all, and to indicate plurals with "s".

Testimony on H.R. No. 401 and H.C.R. No. 62: Requesting the Department of Land and Natural Resources to Expedite the Development of the Master Plan for the Makiki-Tantalus State Park Complex to Rep. Richard A. Kawakami, Chairman, Committee on Water, Land Use and Development from President Wayne C. Gagne, 27 March 1974:

We speak in favor of these resolutions.

Within a few minutes the interested city dweller can, practically at his back doorstep, see the majority of Oahu's remaining native forest birds, especially the 'apapane, 'amakihi and 'elepaio. There are also a number of other introduced forest bird species in the proposed park complex that one cannot see in the city itself. The complex is also a great resource for native plants, landshells and insects. In other words, it represents an outdoor classroom for nature hikes, natural history and natural resource education. This area contains a number of different ecosystems, that is, interacting assemblages of plants and animals of diverse types which range in composition from native koa and 'ohi'a forests to introduced eucalyptus and bamboo groves. These in concert succinctly demonstrate the impact of man on our island biota from little disturbed native forests to man created forests.

This is no time to let appropriated monies lapse. Inflation dictates that the cost of developing this great park complex will never be lower. Procrastinate and a valuable recreational and educational resource could slip through our grasp. ...

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The Outdoor Circle Parks Committee's Suggestions for an Environmental Education Program -Makiki State Park, 30 November 1972

1. The primary purpose of the program be to develop a respect for and love for nature, since man is motivated to protect and preserve that which he loves.

2. The program be planned to reach the people of Hawaii, including families, organized groups and in such a way that it may be used as a resource for the D.O.E.

3. That the information to be presented be selected on the basis of what best can be illustrated by the history, geology, flora and use of the area. What is learned in the program can then independently be observed and found in the area.

4. That the entire area be planned to allow for a wide variety of pleasant experiences in which individuals may discover or renew through personal interaction our natural environment.

5. That a specialist trained in the appropriate museum techniques be retained when the information building and related activities such as nature walks are being planned and constructed. This specialist could also be responsible for the planning and institution of a volunteer docent program.

6. A small information and display building be placed in the valley near the present road head. Being very aware that the program will always have to operate with a limited budget, we suggest that the exhibits be designed to require minimum staff and maintenance. The location is recommended because of easy access by bus, car, bicycle or foot. Nearby homes and facilities will lessen the threat of vandalism. Existing activities could be incorporated into the education program. Even the goats at pasture could be used. The more level terrain could provide a short, easy walk for those first experiencing the forest environment. It is important that a first experience not be exhausting or it becomes counter-productive. Also, if field trips from schools are planned, a walk must be brief.

Possible displays: a) A geologic display showing with a succession of models how the present mountain and valley system evolved. b) A display, possibly prepared by the Board of Water Supply, to show the relationship between our water supply, the mountains, forests, springs and the dangers inherent in erosion and deforestation. c) A display to show how man alters the environment. A history of the valley and mountains would show how the endemic forest was denuded, reforested, how agriculture was introduced. The loss of native birds, the introduction of new species, the disappearance of land shells and causes could be covered. The exhibit could encourage the hiker to look for evidence of those changes and the changes which are currently taking place as aggressive exotics move in. d) A display showing the course of the stream to the sea. How silting and pollution of the stream affects the ocean. How urban development below the valley has caused flooding and runoff so that water no longer seeps into the ground but must be channeled into drainage canals. e) A hiking safety and fire prevention display prepared jointly by Forestry and the City and County Fire Department. f) The State Foundation on Culture and the Arts has in its collection some fine prints and paintings which through the eyes of local artists reveal the beauty of our Island forests. These and funds of the Foundation could be used. The power of art to develop sensitivity and awareness should be exploited to its fullest. g) Brochures, maps, and other materials prepared by the D.L.N.R. and from other sources could be distributed here.

7. That the need of a small overnight group camping site in this general area be explored. Its purpose would be to provide organizations such as the Girl Scouts, Campfire Girls, Y.H.C.A., and Y.W.C.A., Y.H.B.A., P.A.L., church groups, the Department of Recreation and others with a first camping experience for younger children. It would provide a physically safe area and also a psychologically reassuring atmosphere for that first time away from home. Also, the program opportunities would be tremendous.

8. That the old home at Nut Ridge Farm be considered as a possible overnight hostel for youth groups who have hiked up one of the many trails which will lead up from Manoa, Makiki and possible Nuuanu. Advance registration and a fee could be charged for use. The building could also be used by organized youth groups to gather for non-overnight functions such as square dancing, club meeting, song fests, and discussion groups.

Educational Opportunities:

Seattle Audubon Society, 714 Joshua Green Bldg., Seattle, Wa. 98101, is scheduling a Costa Rica Ecology Workshop, April 4-19, 1975. Write for brochure.

The University of California Extension at Berkeley is offering six programs in the summer of 1975 in the Natural Environment Studies program. Each of the following six areas will be the site of a comprehensive course in the ecology of the area: Sea of Cortez, Hawaii, Alaska, Galapagos, The Andes, and The Amazon. For additional information, write to: Natural Environment Studies, University Extension, 2223 Fulton Street, Berkeley, California 94720.

ALOHA to new members:

David G. Baker, 2950 Manoa Road #3, Honolulu, Hawaii 96822 David John Bullock, Institute for Astronomy, P.O. Box 336, Hilo, Hawaii 96720 Mrs. Y. Clarke, 16 York Street, Dundas, 2117 NSW, Australia Patrick Conant, 3663 Alani Drive, Honolulu, Hawaii 96822 (Reinstated) William R. Coops, 215 Lumahai Place, Honolulu, Hawaii 96825 Donald A. Gardner, 11317 Broadgreen Street, Potomac, Maryland 20854 William Gilbert, 7420 Circle Hill Drive, Oakland, California 94605 Mrs. E. A. Grantham, 830 Mokulua Drive, Kailua, Oahu 96734 Duane L. Guernsey, Dept. of Zoology, Univ. of Hawaii, 2538 The Mall, Honolulu, HI 96822 John Heide, 2049 Round Top Drive, Honolulu, Hawaii 96822 Dr. Francis G. Howarth, 210 Bates St, Honolulu, Hawaii 96817 Mrs. Betty L. Johnson, 376 Kaiolu St, Honolulu, Hawaii 96815 Mr. & Mrs. John P. Lockwood, PO Box 71, Haw Volcanoes Nat Park, Hawaii 96718 Evelyn-Gail Y. Miike, 1517 Ala Amoamo St, Honolulu, Hawaii 96819 Marjorie A. Huecke, EWC Box 1426, 1777 East West Road, Honolulu, Hawaii 96822 Dr. Frank J. Radovsky, c/o Bishop Museum, PO Box 6037, Honolulu, Hawaii 96818 Lani Stemmermann, 46-458 Haiku Plantation Drive, Kaneohe, Oahu 96744 Lawrence J. Taylor, 4679 William St, Omaha, Nebraska 68106 (Reinstated) Gustave J. Yaki, 6372 Montrose Road, Niagara Falls, Ontario, Canada Dept of Library Service, Ball State University, Muncie, Indiana 47306 Laboratoire Des Mammiferes, Et Des Oisseaux, Museum National d'histoire Naturelle, 36, rue Geoffroy, St. Hilaire, 75005 Paris, France (Reinstated)

Commendation to Florence Hendrycy

Florence Hendrycy has been the Treasurer of the Hawaii Audubon Society for two years. During that time she has generously devoted her time, skills, and energy to the difficult task of maintaining the Society on a sound financial footing. Her counsel at Executive Board meetings has always been prudent, and her books have always been in order. As Treasurer she has been intimately involved in the collection of membership dues, in the sales of our field guide, in our financial grants to researchers, and in the IRS's

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monitoring of the Society as a non-profit organization.

We owe Florence a debt we can never repay; without her the Society would not be what it is today. As a small token of our appreciation, an ilima (Oahu's native flower) lei was presented to her on 16 December 1974 at the General Meeting.

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	TI	HE ELEPAIO		
Expenses from 1 January th	rough 31 Decer	aber 1974:		
Envelopes and stamps	\$ 189.59			
Paper	247.26	Mailing list	as of 31	December 1974:
Stencil	25.02	Honolulu	146	Mainland 105
Miscellaneous	49.82	Rural Oahu	29	(31 States & DC)
		Hawaii	28	Australia 3
Total	511.69	Kauai	13	Canada 5
Miscellaneous		Lanai	1	England 4
Addressograph plates	22.92	Maui	10	Fiji 1
Correction fluid	2.02	Molokai	4	Germany 1
Twine	5.70	Guam	2	Malaysia 1
Photo reprints	13.62	Virgin Is	1	New Guinea 1
Manila folders	5.56	APO	3	New Zealand 3
Mimeographing Gratis (Bis	hop Museum)	FPO	4	
Typing Gratis (mem	bers)			Copies 365
Mailing Gratis (mem	bers)			

Please send in suggestions to improve the quality of the publication to Kojima, 725-A 8th Ave, Honolulu, Hawaii 96816. Urgently needed is material for junior members.

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HAWAII'S BIRDS, a field guide, is available for \$2.50 postpaid, AIRMAIL 65¢ extra. Send in orders to: Book Order Committee, Hawaii Audubon Society, PO Box 5032, Honolulu, HI 96814. ****

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### FEBRUARY ACTIVITIES:

7 .....

- 9 February Field trip to Waipio to study the shorebirds. 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: Mrs. Erika Wilson, telephone 523-1843.
- 10 February Board meeting at McCully-Moiliili Library, 6:45 p.m. Members welcome.

17 February - General meeting at the Waikiki Aquarium Auditorium at 7:30 p.m. Program: Old songs, an ancient chant and new poems about Hawaiian wildlife. This program will show the inspirations wildlife has given to artists, and will demonstrate the varied pleasures and meaning wildlife give to men. (1) Michael & Lorna McClellan will play their instruments and sing "Ulili E", "Manu O-o" and "Kahuli Aku". (2) Part of the Kumulipo, a Hawaiian creation chant, and its English translation will be presented. It gives the ancient poetic story of the origin and inter-Rumulipo, a Hawaiian creation chant, and its English translation will be presented. It gives the ancient poetic story of the origin and inter-dependence of birds, plants, and sealife. (3) Dr. John Unterecker of the U.H. English Dept. will read his poem about the nene, "State Symbol". (4) Sunny Gail Mitsui of Kauai will read Joe Hadley's pidgin poem "Dabeegeeneen" which relates a wilderness experience. Miss Mitsui will combine this with slides taken from Robert Wenkam's KAUAI AND THE PARK COUNTRY OF HAWAII. The program is being coordinated by Steve Montgomery (Telephone: 941-4974).

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HAWAII AUDUBON SOCIETY EXECUTIVE BOARD:

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