

# 'ELEPAIO

Journal of the  
Hawaii Audubon Society



For the Protection of  
Hawaii's Native Wildlife

VOLUME 38, NUMBER 8

FEBRUARY 1978

## 1977 HONOLULU CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

Robert L. Pyle, Compiler

The 34th annual Honolulu Christmas Bird Count, conducted this year on Sunday December 18, recorded 15,542 birds of 52 species, compared to 16,393 birds of 55 species last year. Thirty-seven observers working in 18 parties spent 103 party-hours in the field, which also was down somewhat from last year. The weather was less cooperative than in 1976. Cloudy skies with occasional light showers affected the entire Count area, while on the higher ridges strong gusty winds and rain severely hampered observations.

Fewer party-hours spent in valley and lower mountain forests this year resulted in much lower totals for Japanese Bush Warbler, Japanese White-eye, Shama and Melodious Laughing-Thrush. Party-hours in other habitats were about the same as last year.

Redhead (duck) and Black-headed Munia were new species for the Count this year, and Red Munia (Strawberry Finch) had been found only once before. Red-vented Bulbuls are still increasing explosively. The 744 recorded this year compares to 453 in 1976 and 212 the year before. More than 400 were found by the Waimanalo party alone. Only a few Red-whiskered Bulbuls were tallied this year, but probably does not represent any real population decline. On the other hand, a reduction in numbers of Red-eared and Orange-cheeked Waxbills from their peak highs of two years ago may represent a real population fall-off, possibly related to the near drought conditions of the past two years on Diamond Head.

A few birds seen by the Count participants are clearly escaped or released cage-birds that are not known to have reproduced in the wild, and hence cannot be classed as established species maintaining themselves as a viable population. Such species cannot

be included in the official Count, but it is worthwhile to record the observations of these birds to document their current status and to help in determining trends in their numbers. Such birds seen on this year's Count include: 2 feral Mallards in Kaneohe; 2 Red-crowned Parrots and a Nanday Conure leaving the Waikiki Aquarium area noisily in early morning, headed toward Kahala; a Rose-ringed Parakeet (Indian Ring-necked Parrot) and another long-tailed green parrot in the Waimanalo area; 3 Indian Hill Mynas at the Lyon Arboretum, a remnant of the dozen or more released there some years ago; and 2 Bishops in winter plumage at Kapiolani Park, presumably males of either the Red or the Golden Bishop, both of which have been frequently seen in splendid summer plumage in this area in recent years.

### Sectors Covered

- 1- A Aiea Trail: John Obata  
B Halawa Ridge: Omer Bussen, Frank Howarth.
- 2- Sand Island, Salt Lake, Moanalua to Nuuanu: Rey Larsen, Jack and Alice Mitchell.
- 3- A Makiki, Tantalus, Punchbowl: Bill Burke and Larry Hirai.  
B Puu Ohia, Pauoa Flats: John Walters.
- 4- A Lyon Arboretum, Woodlawn Trail, Upper Manoa: Sheila Conant, Peter Ballaway, Margit Anonsen, and Leilani Pyle.  
B Manoa Park, University campus: George Campbell.  
C Waioli Tea Room: John Walters.  
D Mid-Pacific Institute, Lower Manoa: Bill Bigler.  
E Waahila Ridge Trail: Maile Stemmerman, Harry and Ruth Whitten.



Species	Sectors										Total
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
Hawaiian Noddy	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	.	1
Rock Dove	.	24	.	.	150	.	1	3	31	.	209
Spotted Dove	30	114	31	126	22	48	27	54	165	163	780
Barred Dove	17	461	119	510	187	73	179	205	192	258	2201
Barn Owl	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	1
Melodious Laughing-thrush	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	1
Red-whiskered Bulbul	.	2	.	15	.	.	.	.	.	.	17
Red-vented Bulbul	10	44	.	24	8	21	426	111	91	9	744
Mockingbird	5	1	.	.	2	.	1	.	1	.	10
Shama	33	3	23	14	5	2	5	4	39	5	133
Japanese Bush Warbler	4	.	1	2	.	.	.	.	.	1	8
Oahu 'Elepaio	19	.	.	4	.	.	.	.	.	.	23
Japanese White-eye	171	20	217	215	31	15	53	80	128	23	953
Common Myna	5	333	42	214	158	36	199	222	862	102	2173
Oahu 'Amakihi	41	.	20	67	.	.	.	.	.	.	128
'Apapane	78	.	4	63	.	.	.	.	.	.	145
Red-cheeked Cordon-bleu	.	.	.	.	5	.	.	.	.	.	5
Lavender Fire-finch	.	.	.	.	22	.	.	.	.	.	22
Orange-cheeked Waxbill	.	.	.	.	3	.	.	.	.	.	3
Red-eared Waxbill	.	.	.	.	2	.	.	.	.	.	2
Red Munia	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	3	.	3
Spotted Munia	13	56	11	25	30	19	38	66	463	26	747
Black-headed Munia	5	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	5
Java Sparrow	.	7	.	120	79	.	.	.	.	.	206
Pin-tailed Whydah	.	.	.	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	1
House Sparrow	.	235	76	157	113	83	38	117	164	129	1112
Saffron Finch	.	.	.	.	9	.	.	.	.	.	9
Red-crested Cardinal	1	56	5	30	76	7	15	10	39	7	246
Northern Cardinal	41	16	42	42	11	4	26	17	74	8	281
Yellow-fronted Canary	.	.	.	.	4	.	.	.	.	.	4
House Finch	45	40	36	87	56	2	14	14	10	4	308
Individuals	529	1639	658	1782	998	385	1162	1141	6386	862	15,542
Species	17	27	14	18	22	16	24	23	34	17	52

\*Cattle Egrets observed in sectors 7, 8, and 10 (shown in parentheses) are not included in the totals for those sectors, since they may well have been among the egrets counted returning to the roost in Sector 9.

## HONOLULU CHRISTMAS COUNTS

1968 - 1977

	1968	1969	1970	1971	1972	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977
Arctic Loon	.	.	.	.	1	.	.	.	.	.
Wedge-tailed Shearwater	.	.	2	.	.	.	1	.	.	.
shearwater (sp?)	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1
White-tailed Tropicbird	.	.	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.
Blue-faced Booby (Masked)	2	13	2	3	.	.	.	6	7	.
Brown Booby	132	60	20	73	33	6	3	24	29	26
Red-footed Booby	1700	2380	1438	1850	1615	1475	938	549	1940	1647
Great Frigatebird	270	377	333	1156	984	297	302	245	723	571
Cattle Egret	87	151	158	1127	1208	868	434	596	1032	1316
Black-cr Night Heron	23	49	9	38	29	30	72	50	121	83

	1968	1969	1970	1971	1972	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977
Canada Goose	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Black Brant	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	.	.
Mallard	.	.	.	.	.	1	.	.	.	.
Hawaiian Duck (Koloa)	5	15	11	3	2	.	.	7	12	31
Pintail	.	54	111	18	71	7	.	47	.	4
American Wigeon	.	.	.	.	5	.	.	.	.	.
Northern Shoveler	15	18	7	8	89	14	.	8	8	5
Redhead	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	2
Lesser Scaup	.	3	2	12	2	.	.	.	2	.
scaup (sp?)	7	2	.	.	.	2	.	.	.	3
Bufflehead	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	.
Hooded Merganser	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	6	.
duck (sp?)	.	10	.	.	.	1	.	12	.	.
Peregrine Falcon	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	.
Ring-necked Pheasant	.	.	.	.	.	1	.	.	.	5
Hawaiian (Com) Gallinule	7	2	6	5	6	3	2	6	10	9
Hawaiian (American) Coot	31	151	92	73	116	31	35	47	36	40
Semipalmated Plover	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	.
Golden Plover	574	637	599	483	683	407	647	928	785	993
Black-bellied Plover	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	3
Common Snipe (Wilson)	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Wandering Tattler	18	23	23	20	18	14	25	21	36	33
Ruddy Turnstone	215	160	125	60	139	39	121	109	124	134
Willet	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	.	.	.
Sanderling	43	39	35	83	33	9	9	23	39	45
Hawn (Blk-neck) Stilt	25	101	128	177	141	14	99	97	157	106
Pomarine Jaeger	5	.	24	8	10	.	.	6	8	4
Glaucous Gull	.	.	2	.	.	.	.	.	1	.
Glaucous-winged Gull	2	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Herring Gull	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	.
California Gull	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	.
Ring-billed Gull	.	.	.	4	.	.	.	.	.	.
Franklin Gull	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	2	.	.
gull (sp?)	1	.	.	.	.	2	.	2	2	.
Sooty Tern	.	2	.	200	.	.	.	.	.	.
Brown Noddy (Common)	6	26	.	.	56	.	1	149	.	.
Hawn Noddy (White-cap)	5	.	1	.	.	.	.	3	.	1
noddy (sp?)	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	37	.
White Tern (Fairy)	.	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Rock Dove	.	.	.	.	.	8	25	468	78	209
Spotted Dove	636	678	534	619	627	578	573	1072	1145	780
Barred Dove	1207	1694	1298	1275	1809	1438	1519	1557	2091	2201
Salmon-crested Cockatoo	.	.	.	.	1	.	.	.	.	.
Red-crowned Parrot	.	.	.	4	2	9	3	1	.	2
Eclectus Parrot	.	.	.	.	1	.	.	.	.	.
Nanday Conure	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1
Rose-ringed Parrot	.	.	.	.	1	2	3	3	.	1
Shell Parakeet	.	.	3	.	.	2	.	.	.	.
Black-hooded Parakeet	.	.	.	.	.	3	1	.	.	.
Barn Owl	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	1	2	1
Hawn (Sh-ear) Owl (Pueo)	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	.	.	.
Melodious Laughing-thrush	.	3	.	.	1	4	.	7	10	1
Red-billed Leiothrix	18	.	.	1	1	.	.	2	.	.
Red-whiskered Bulbul	7	.	.	4	.	.	2	5	77	17
Red-vented Bulbul	9	7	7	26	56	14	50	212	453	744
Mockingbird	12	4	2	7	13	10	7	7	11	10
Shama	18	7	9	55	36	66	63	161	303	133
Japanese Bush Warbler	.	.	.	8	4	10	3	63	113	8
Oahu 'Elepaio	20	22	4	27	21	12	21	14	27	23

	1968	1969	1970	1971	1972	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977
Japanese White-eye	300	227	287	487	561	419	497	1099	1960	953
Common Myna	4265	4267	2981	2659	2427	2295	2473	2211	1929	2173
Hill Myna	2	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	4	3
Oahu 'Amakihi	40	44	22	98	34	22	32	103	171	128
Oahu Creeper	2	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	1	.
'Apapane	19	17	9	59	11	24	70	72	103	145
Red-cheeked Cordon-bleu	2	4	6	3	17	1	2	7	9	5
Blue-headed Cordon-bleu	.	12	8	.	.	.	.	1	.	.
cordon-bleu (sp?)	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	5	.	.
Lavender Firefinch	23	6	7	14	40	1	4	34	11	22
African Firefinch	8	4	2	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Orange-cheeked Waxbill	32	24	27	14	15	5	.	33	22	3
Red-eared Waxbill	29	12	13	13	19	7	.	48	18	2
Red Munia	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	3
Spotted Munia (Ricebird)	196	238	451	438	369	172	665	348	354	747
Black-headed Munia	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	5
Java Sparrow	.	4	11	4	24	38	42	45	231	206
Pintailed Whydah	.	7	5	1	1	1	18	1	5	1
House Sparrow	592	1294	1222	1459	2538	778	868	841	1068	1112
Red Bishop	.	9	6	4	3	1	.	.	.	.
Golden Bishop	.	2	1	.	1	.	.	.	.	.
bishop (sp?)	2	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Senegal Combassou	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Saffron Finch	1	3	13	5	24	.	7	8	7	9
Northern Cardinal	128	94	74	152	204	108	131	216	364	281
Red-crested Cardinal	122	158	202	186	298	139	246	188	211	246
Yellow-fronted Canary	2	1	5	4	3	2	4	5	8	4
White-rumped Serin	18	6	9	3	.	.	.	.	.	.
House Finch	140	110	107	187	156	184	242	231	487	308
No. of Individ. Birds	11,024	13,236	10,454	13,218	14,559	9,574	10,263	12,008	16,393	15,542
No. of Species	49*	53*	51	50	52	48 <del>7</del>	44	54#	55*	52

Excluded: Unidentified \*gull; \*scaup and duck; ~~7~~duck; and #duck, gull, and cordon-bleu.

## 1977 WAIPIO, OAHU, CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

Maile Stemmermann, Compiler

The first annual Waipio Christmas Bird Count was conducted on Saturday, December 17, 1977. The Count circle is centered near the north edge of Mililani Town and encompasses several rich birding areas never previously covered by Christmas Counts - the Pearl Harbor area, the central portions of both the Koolau and Waianae Mountains. Nineteen observers in ten parties found 4616 birds of 46 species.

Weather conditions, which had been superlative for the past two years at Christmas Count time were far from ideal. Rain was intermittent in most areas, heavy in some, at times accompanied by high wind. As a result, birds (and birders) were less active than might have been possible. Several

species were not observed on Count day but have been seen recently within the Count circle. Notable among these were native species such as the Pueo, the 'I'iwi, and the Oahu Creeper, and exotic species such as Erckel's Francolin and the Melodius Laughing Thrush. Several accidentals such as the ibis and the Least Tern have also been seen in the Pearl Harbor area in recent months.

In spite of the weather problems, there were two sightings of species previously unknown to the Count area: the Red-eared Waxbill, and the Red-whiskered Bulbul. Such observations may indicate range expansion of these species. The appearance of trends in future Counts should tell us what is occurring with the populations of these and other species in this new Count area.

Species	Sectors										Totals
	1A	1B	2	3A	3B	4	5	6	7		
Cattle Egret	91	1	12	.	.	2	.	2	.	108	
Black-crowned Night Heron	9	4	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	13	
Hawaiian Duck	8	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	8	
Pintail	14	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	14	
Green-winged Teal	19	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	19	
Northern Shoveler	411	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	411	
Gadwall	2	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	2	
Scaup (sp?)	6	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	6	
Ring-necked Pheasant	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	.	1	
Hawaiian Coot	8	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	8	
Semipalmated Plover	5	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	5	
American Golden Plover	91	48	34	1	49	95	50	27	.	395	
Black-bellied Plover	4	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	4	
Killdeer	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	
Common Snipe	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	
Wandering Tattler	9	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	9	
Ruddy Turnstone	32	18	.	.	100	.	.	.	.	150	
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	4	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	4	
Sanderling	35	29	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	64	
Dunlin	8	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	8	
Dowitcher (sp?)	3	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	3	
Least Sandpiper	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	
Hawaiian Stilt	163	87	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	250	
Rock Dove	.	.	15	.	.	.	.	10	.	25	
Spotted Dove	23	.	8	.	11	23	8	13	9	95	
Barred Dove	162	.	15	3	5	130	10	29	23	377	
Skylark	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	4	.	4	
Red-whiskered Bulbul	.	.	2	.	.	.	.	.	.	2	
Red-vented Bulbul	.	.	11	.	.	5	.	.	.	16	
Mockingbird	.	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	
Shama	.	.	.	2	.	.	.	.	.	2	
Japanese Bush Warbler	.	.	.	.	1	.	.	.	2	3	
Oahu 'Elepaio	.	.	.	.	1	.	.	.	4	5	
Japanese White-Eye	7	.	5	31	125	56	12	34	46	316	
Common Myna	85	.	41	.	67	67	21	51	.	311	
Oahu 'Amakihi	.	.	.	.	2	.	.	.	14	16	
'Apapane	.	.	.	1	68	.	.	.	17	86	
Red-eared Waxbill	5	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	5	
Red Munia	58	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	58	
Spotted Munia	70	.	4	31	22	.	36	3	.	166	
Black-headed Munia	1026	.	9	.	1	72	.	46	.	1154	
Yellow-faced Grassquit	.	.	.	5	.	.	.	.	.	5	
House Sparrow	12	.	55	.	.	51	28	59	.	205	
Red-crested Cardinal	9	.	15	.	.	44	.	12	4	84	
Northern Cardinal	10	.	6	8	4	8	3	6	9	54	
House Finch	4	.	2	3	51	31	10	10	30	141	
Totals: No individuals	2396	187	235	85	506	585	178	301	161	4616	
No Species	34	6	15	9	14	11	9	14	11	46	

SECTORS COVERED

- 1A Waipio Peninsula: Bob Pyle, Mike Ord, Rey Larsen, Carol and C.J. Ralph.
  - 1B Pearl Harbor National Wildlife Refuge (West Loch and Pearl City Units): Demi Black.
  - 2 Aiea, Pearl City, Waipahu: Linda Ogata, Julia Williams, with additional observations by David Bremer.
  - 3A Manana Trail: John Walters.
  - 3B Poamoho Trail and access road: Frank Howarth, Omer Bussen, with additional observations by Rey Larsen.
  - 4 Wahiawa, Mililani: David Bremer, Bill Bigler.
  - 5 Schofield, Wheeler, Kolekole Pass: Barbara Mull, Alex Appfel.
  - 6 Kunia Plain: Maile Stemmerman, Felicity Peacock.
  - 7 Palehua Road, Palehua Trail: Sheila Conant, Terry Parman.
- Habitat Coverage:* Scrub and Mountain Forest 37%, Parks and Residential 26%, Wetlands 19%, Agricultural 18%. *Date:* 17 December 1977 from 0615 to 1600 hours. *Weather:* Overcast, with intermittent rain; temperature 63-75°F; Wind, NE 0-15 mph.  
*19 Observers in 10 parties.* Total party hours 41 (23 on foot, 18 by car). Total party miles 160 (20 on foot, 140 by car).

Notes on Unusual Species

*Red-whiskered Bulbul:* Two birds heard and seen in good light at Pearl City Heights (L. Ogata), about 10-15 feet away in scrubby vegetation. The birds were seen clearly from the front, and were easily distinguishable from Red-vented Bulbuls by the white breast. This is the first record of this species from this part of the island.

*Red-eared Waxbill:* Five individuals feeding with a flock of Spotted Munia at Waipio Peninsula. They were seen well at 20 feet in good light and were heard calling by Mike Ord and the Waipio Party. Observers are quite familiar with both Red-eared and Orange-cheeked Waxbills. This species has been established at Diamond Head, and has been recorded occasionally elsewhere on Oahu. This is the first recorded occurrence in the Waipio area, about 13 miles from Diamond Head.

LIHUE, KAUAI, CHRISTMAS COUNT

17 December 1977

Winona Sears, Compiler

The seventh annual Lihue Count recorded 34 species, a record number, up from last year's 32 species. New species recorded were the Red-head (duck), Killdeer, Ring-billed Gull, Greater Scaup, Green-winged Teal, and Erckel's Francolin. Eleven species set all time records of abundance. Most spectacular were the 31 Green-winged Teal, unreported on any previous count. Cattle Egret continue to show an increase, with 341 being recorded, as compared to last year's high of 246 and the previous year's 15. The increase to 16 observers probably helped in these totals.

	Sectors					Total
	1	2	3	4	5	
White-t Tropicbird	.	2	.	.	.	2
Cattle Egret	50	194	21	76	.	341
Black-cr Nt Heron	1	2	1	8	3	15
Hawaiian Duck	25	10	.	14	.	49
Pintail	.	20	.	102	.	122
Green-winged Teal	.	.	.	31	.	31
Northern Shoveler	.	2	.	4	.	6
Redhead	.	.	.	1	.	1
Greater Scaup	.	.	.	3	.	3
Red Jungle Fowl	10	18	.	1	16	45
Ring-nk Pheasant	.	9	2	3	.	14
Erckel's Francolin	.	.	.	.	7	7
Hawaiian Gallinule	25	4	.	.	2	31
Hawaiian Coot	38	102	1	142	.	283
Killdeer	1	.	.	.	.	1
Am. Golden Plover	43	28	3	33	7	114
Ruddy Turnstone	16	1	.	1	.	18
Wandering Tattler	1	1	.	3	.	5
Hawaiian Stilt	8	3	.	2	.	13
Ring-billed Gull	.	.	.	1	.	1
Spotted Dove	14	24	11	1	18	68
Barred Dove	97	242	44	11	77	471
Short-eared Owl	.	.	1	.	.	1
Mockingbird	2	4	2	2	.	10
Mel Laughing-thrush	.	1	4	5	2	12
Shama	5	13	5	2	4	29
Common Myna	167	120	73	17	37	414
Japanese White-eye	58	29	114	51	36	288
Spotted Munia	84	163	73	4	12	336
House Sparrow	43	39	33	.	.	115
Western Meadowlark	2	7	6	7	3	25
Red-cr Cardinal	4	2	8	.	.	14
Northern Cardinal	9	12	15	1	5	42
House Finch	46	29	27	.	1	103
No. Individ. Birds	749	1081	444	526	230	3030
No. of Species	23	27	19	26	15	34

## Sectors Covered

1. Oceanside of Belt Road from Wailua River to Kalapaki Bay, Paradise Pacifica, Holding ponds west of Lihue to Wailua Falls, Ponds west of Waita Reservoir.
2. Nawiliwili Harbor, Menehune Fishpond to Knudsen Gap Road, oceanside of Koloa Sugar mill.
3. Poipu, Koloa, Knudsen Gap Road to Omao Road.
4. Huleia Stream, Waita Reservoir, Kahili Mountain Park (latter mostly rained out).
5. Pacific Tropical Botanical Garden. (Rest of circle from Pac. Trop. Bot. Garden west not covered).

*Sixteen observers in six parties* (personnel from 1, 2 & 4 joined at Waita Reservoir) (1) Phil & Sue Fergusson, Fran Welsh, David Sears (2) Peggy Kai, Sophie Cluff, Virginia Siewertson, Winona Sears (compiler, 190 Lulo Road, Kapaa, HI 96746) (3) Dr. Jessie Bierman, Myrna Campbell (4) Vernon Byrd, Dale Watkins, Sandy Westendorf (5) H. Clark and Eleanora Dalton, John Townsend (6) Phil & Sue Fergusson, Fran Welsh, David & Winona Sears. (Party 6 continued and finished Count Area 1).

## Notes on Unusual Species

*Redhead.* Found at Waita Reservoir with other ducks, 150 m. out from bank. It was observed with 40X telescope in good light and had yellow eye, red head large and round, dark breast, white underparts, grayish back. It was seen by eleven observers; Byrd, Searses, Watkins and Westendorf were familiar with the bird from the Mainland. Seen again in full sun with 60X telescope by Searses on 1/6/78.

*Killdeer.* Seen in good light at a holding pond northwest of Lihue, with an American Golden Plover at 20 feet (from behind reed screen) with 50X binoculars. It was slightly smaller than Golden Plover and had two black neckbands across white chest, a white ring around back of neck, gray-brown bill and legs, and white in front of and behind eye. Seen on count day by five observers, and Fergusson and Sears were familiar with the bird on the Mainland. Cluff and Siewertsen found the bird on another day.

*Ring-billed Gull.* Seen at Waita Reservoir flying overhead along edge of water and over road, at a height of about 25 feet, and verified with spotting telescope. It was a medium-sized gull with black ring around bill in second year plumage. Seen by eleven observers; Byrd, Searses, Watkins and Westendorf were familiar with the bird from Mainland experience.

## EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING, NOVEMBER 9, 1977

The main item of business was a presentation by John and Marian Kelly of Save Our Surf. They were representing the Mokauea Fisherman's Association, which is seeking permission from the Federal Aviation Administration to lease Mokauea Island from the State for 65 years. The Association has plans for rebuilding the small community on the island as a living example of the Hawaiian fishing villages so important in island history. The group felt the chances of FAA approval would be enhanced by a letter from the Society supporting the existence of the fishing village as contributing to the protection of the waterbirds feeding and resting on Mokauea Island. The board approved the idea in principle, with some reservations about dogs and people disturbance.

In appreciation for use of the Waikiki Aquarium's classroom, the board unanimously agreed to fund a display board for the Waikiki Aquarium's Monk Seal exhibit for approximately \$150.

The biennial Workshop of the Western Region of the National Audubon Society, to be held in mid-March at Asilomar, California, will focus on Hawaii and Alaska. NAS would like three speakers from Hawaii. In the discussion of appropriate speakers, Rob Shallenberger, Jean King, and Bill Mull were suggested as possibilities. It was also suggested that the Society might help defray the expenses of some of the speakers, probably at about \$400 each.

Frank Howarth reported that the National Audubon Society recommends that its chapters register under the new Federal Lobbying Law. By registering, HAS would be permitted to spend up to a certain percent of its income on certain defined lobbying activities, while retaining tax-exempt status. By not registering, HAS continues to be bound by the standard regulation that "no substantial part" of its income may be spent to "influence legislation," not otherwise defined. A decision on this matter was deferred.



LIHUE CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT 1971-1977

	1971	1972	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977
Newell's Shearwater	.	.	+	.	.	.	.
White-Tailed Tropicbird	2	+	8	3	.	18	2
Great Frigatebird	1	18	+	.	1	.	.
Cattle Egret	.	.	.	.	15	246	341
Black-cr Night Heron	3	6	6	1	7	9	15
Mallard	.	.	.	.	.	10	.
Hawaiian Duck	27	26	5	2	10	58	49
Pintail	70	+	.	.	10	371	122
Green-winged Teal	.	.	.	.	.	.	31
Northern Shoveler	.	.	.	.	.	55	6
Redhead	.	.	.	.	.	.	1
Lesser Scaup	.	.	.	.	.	1	.
Greater Scaup	.	.	.	.	.	.	3
Peafowl	.	.	.	2	.	.	.
Red Junglefowl	25	2	1	3	13	14	45
Ring-necked Pheasant	6	15	6	17	7	13	14
Erckel's Francolin	.	.	.	.	.	.	7
Hawaiian (Com) Gallinule	18	17	9	23	21	16	31
Hawaiian (Am) Coot	16	24	4	30	204	346	283
Killdeer	.	.	.	.	.	.	1
Amer. Golden Plover	85	116	149	210	213	186	114
Black-bellied Plover	.	.	.	.	.	1	.
Ruddy Turnstone	21	14	18	15	19	51	18
Wandering Tattler	3	+	1	2	9	5	5
Lesser Yellowlegs	.	.	.	.	1	.	.
Sanderling	.	.	.	.	4	.	.
Sandpiper sp.	.	.	.	.	.	2	.
Hawaiian (Bl-n) Stilt	31	64	+	9	2	33	13
Ring-billed Gull	.	.	.	.	.	.	1
Spotted Dove	39	70	126	67	65	97	68
Barred Dove	219	396	334	576	379	683	471
Barn Owl	.	.	.	2	.	.	.
Short-eared Owl	2	1	1	1	1	.	1
Mockingbird	1	2	10	3	12	2	10
Gr. Neckl. Laugh. Thrush	.	1	.	.	19	.	.
Melodious Laugh. Thrush	10	18	23	8	57	33	12
Shama	9	18	27	17	42	37	29
Common Myna	203	340	244	452	366	367	414
Japanese White-eye	51	159	188	133	288	265	288
Spotted Munia	190	115	118	261	312	366	336
House Sparrow	36	77	64	137	42	109	115
W. Meadowlark	5	11	22	16	33	39	25
Red-crested Cardinal	+	2	3	10	8	12	14
Northern Cardinal	22	27	40	71	77	96	42
House Finch	43	50	51	131	107	131	103
Total Species	26	25	24	27	30	32	34
Total Birds	1148	1589	1458	2201	2344	3674	3030
Observers	4	7	9+1	11	11	11	21
Parties	1	3	5	7	4	6	6
Feeders	.	.	1	.	.	3	.

## 1977 SEAFLITE CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

Robert L. Pyle

The SEAFLITE Christmas Bird Count was taken this year on December 27 along the route of the hydrofoil *KAMEHAMEHA* from Honolulu to Maui, and on to Kona as was done on the first Count two years ago. This year, after crossing Molokai Channel, the flight went north of Lanai through Kalohi Channel to a stop at Kaunakakai on Molokai, then through Auau Channel to Maalaea on Maui. From Maalaea the flight continued south through Alalakeiki Channel, across Alenuihaha Channel to Kailua-Kona on Hawaii Island.

Counting began at 8:10 a.m. off Honolulu harbor and continued until arrival off Kailua-Kona at 1:15 p.m., with breaks of 15 minutes at Kaunakakai and 30 minutes at Maalaea. During the 4½ hours of travel, the hydrofoil covered approximately 185 miles. Weather was mostly cloudy with southeast winds 10 to 15 knots. Seas were generally 1 to 3 feet in the lee of islands (70% of the trip) and 3 to 7 feet in Molokai and Alenuihaha Channels (30% of the trip). The *KAMEHAMEHA* sped along smoothly and comfortably, averaging 40 miles per hour. Observations were made from the cockpit by one observer. The following birds were recorded on the 1977, 1976 and 1975 Counts:

	Honolulu to Maalaea			Maalaea to Kona	
	77	76	75	77	75
Black-footed Albatross	.	.	1	.	.
Wedge-tailed Shearwater	1	.	1	.	.
Red-tailed Tropicbird	.	2	.	.	1
Blue-faced Booby	.	.	2	.	.
Brown Booby	16	3	9	.	.
Red-footed Booby	3	14	32	.	.
Great Frigatebird	2	.	.	.	1
Pomarine Jaeger	2	.	30	.	.
Brown Noddy	2	1	.	21	65
Black Noddy	.	1	.	.	.
noddy, sp?	.	4	.	.	.
White Tern	.	.	1	.	.
No. of individual birds:	26	25	76	21	67
No. of species:	6	5	7	1	3

As in the two previous Counts, most of the birds were found in the lee of Oahu and in Molokai Channel. Only 3 Brown Boobies and 2 Brown Noddies were seen in Kalohi Channel, and no birds thereafter until reaching Maalaea. The Maalaea-to-Kona leg was almost birdless despite a diversion around Molokini Island especially for the Count. The Brown

Noddies were seen off Keahole Point, less than half an hour from Kailua-Kona. In 1975, too, no birds were seen on this leg until reaching the lee of the Island of Hawaii.

I am grateful to Mr. Larry Kelly of SEAFLITE Operations Office for making arrangements for the Count, and to the *KAMEHAMEHA* crew, Captain Whitey Platt, John Belchez and Tim Dittrich for their help and interest during the flight. Unfortunately, this may be the last of these Counts, as SEAFLITE has announced that it has sold the hydrofoils to a Hong Kong firm and will cease operations in Hawaii after January 15th. It will be a great loss for Hawaii if the SEAFLITES cannot be restored to a viable operation.

## HAPU'U HARVESTING IN KA'U IS DELAYED

Reprinted from West Hawaii Today,

Friday, December 30, 1977

Bishop Estate has withdrawn a request to expand hapu'u (tree fern) harvesting activities in Ka'u because its environmental assessment was inadequate, according to Lawrence Cunha, estate land manager.

Niu Nursery is currently leasing 150 acres of estate land to harvest the hapu'u, but wants to expand its operation to 300 additional acres in the Kilauea Forest Reserve.

Public hearings were scheduled on the Conservation District Use Application (CDUA) by the state Board of Land and Natural Resources in the near future.

Cunha said the estate's environmental assessment did not include sufficient data, and additional information would have to be obtained. He added the format of the assessment was also not in accordance with land board requirements.

Cunha speculated that the application would be refiled "maybe in a month or so."

He said the opposition of conservationists was not a factor in the decision, adding that there is "always some kind of opposition" to most applications.

Opposition has come from noted biologists Drs. Otto and Isa Degener, who have urged that an environmental impact study "more formalized than an environmental assessment" be performed to determine the effect of the harvesting on forest land.

The hapu'u helps to regenerate the underground water supply through fog drip and provides a home for many native birds and insects, according to the Degeners.

## H3 ECOLOGICALLY UNSOUND

January 5, 1978

Mr. Ralph Segawa  
U. S. Department of Transportation  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96850

Dear Mr. Segawa:

The goal of the Hawaii Audubon Society is to protect Hawaii's native wildlife. Therefore, we are concerned with the development of H3. We have studied the *Draft Supplement to Interstate Route H3 Environmental Impact Statement* and make the following comments.

The desirability of H3 at this time is questionable. Conservation of our dwindling energy resources should be the highest priority of the Department of Transportation, not construction of such a vast monument dedicated to the inefficient private auto. Further, Oahu, being an island, is ideally suited for the development of mass transit.

To dissociate H3 from the urbanization process (pp. 135, 161, and elsewhere) is naive at best. One infrastructure begets another infrastructure and another and another as urbanization creeps along. Of course H3 will further pressure urbanization of Halawa Valleys and the windward side. The Oahu Plan for slower growth on the windward side implies no H3 is needed. The statement on p. 161 that since North Halawa Valley is conservation district it will always remain open space, even after being paved from side to side with concrete by H3, is especially nonsensical.

It is stated (p. 99) that H3 will open up the valley for scenic viewing, yet the only scenes to view will be bumpers and tail lights of the car ahead which can already be seen on Pali and Likelike Highways.

North Halawa Valley, with 3 fairly common native species, is apparently richer in native bird species than Moanalua Valley. These species will be seriously affected by H3 as acknowledged. The misstatement on p. 65 that none of the probable avian visitor species in North Halawa Valley are rare or endangered needs qualification. It seems fairly certain that the Oahu Creeper uses North Halawa Valley, since it has been seen on neighboring Aiea Ridge Trail in recent years and a questionable record exists for North Halawa Valley (Appendix G). Optimistically, one could hope that I'iwi also inhabit the valley and certainly could

be visitors, although there have been no confirmed sightings in the area for many years.

No assessment is made in the EIS of the possibility of detrimentally splitting the native Hawaiian forest bird populations into smaller enclaves by restricting local migration patterns along the Koolaus by H3.

We disagree that the impact on trails (p.99) will be minimal. Hawaii Audubon Society has a long history of formal bird counts on both Aiea Loop and Aiea Ridge Trails (reviewed in Appendix G). Although you discuss the impacts on enjoyment of Aiea Loop Trail, we feel the impacts on Aiea Ridge Trail will be greater. North Halawa Valley can be seen from much of this trail and these vistas will be dominated by H3. Noise levels from H3 may discourage bird habitation on the ridge (as acknowledged on p. 136). The area between the ridge and the highway will also be affected. We feel the native birds seen on the ridge trail will be negatively affected, and thus our enjoyment and the enjoyment for future generations will be diminished. Parts of Halawa Trail (which runs along a contour just below the crest of the ridge south of North Halawa Valley) will be similarly disturbed, although it is not referred to in the body of this draft. Halawa Trail is not in North Halawa Valley as stated (p. 222).

Appendix G is referred to or implied as a faunal survey (p. 63, 65, 149) yet it focused mainly on birds. The conclusions on the aquatic fauna on p. 149 did not come from Dr. Shallenberger's report in Appendix G nor is a list of aquatic species included there. Most of the fauna of the valley remains completely unsurveyed, e.g., insects, crustaceans and other arthropods, snails, other invertebrates, fish, and mammals. The native stream life will be mostly destroyed by siltation, channelization, and construction activities. It is incorrect to assume that it is insignificant because the stream is intermittent. Most native aquatic groups have evolved mechanisms to cope with such natural phenomena. The diadromous species may be gone due to channelization of the makai end of Halawa Stream, not to its intermittent nature, but it would be worth looking for them. Many of the nondiadromous species survive there and are likely to be significant. It is true that no Hawaiian Islands invertebrate is listed as rare or endangered because of our lack of data. It is incorrect, however, to brush

them off as insignificant. The list of plant taxa and the populations of native insectivorous birds in the valley implies that the insect fauna is significant. We recommend that both the aquatic and terrestrial surveys be made.

On pp. 205-207 an apparent interdisciplinary team biological survey is summarized. Where is their full report and who conducted it? Most of the conclusions in this summary were not treated in detail in the appendices and, in fact, could not have been because of insufficient data. Most of the functional groups in the ecosystem weren't even surveyed! There appears to be no data to support these conclusions; thus, this section (ecological analysis) is very misleading and wrong, and the impacts grossly minimized.

The proposal to replant road cuts with native species is commendable (pp. 159 and 210), but we question whether serious plans have been made for this, and, in the pressure of hastened erosion, expediency will take precedence. Where is the seed or propagule source for native species? Who are the consultants in botany and horticulture to advise on suitable species and propagating methods? How are you going to cope with the introduction of weedy species, many of which spread as seeds on tractor treads or are so vagile that they appear as soon as the ground is broken? Rapid and serious erosion is going to take place given the physical and climatic setting of North Halawa Valley and the level of proposed construction. A new balance may be struck in 10 years or more but at what a great environmental cost.

Some of the weeds introduced by construction will spread and may seriously affect the native biota. Some of these are prone to fire, thus further exacerbating that concern. Given the steepness of the slopes and their proximity to the proposed roadway, fire and its control will be a major problem.

In short, again we have an example of the Midas touch of federal funds, where everything turns to worthless "gold". The only argument given in favor of H3 is the infusion of federal highway monies.

Thank you for the opportunity to review this proposal.

Sincerely yours,

Francis G. Howarth  
Ph.D.

## HAWAII FEATURED IN MARCH AUDUBON CONFERENCE

The National Audubon Society's Western Conference to be held 18-21 March 1978 at the Asilomar Conference Grounds near Monterey, California will feature "Alaska and Hawaii: A Question of Stewardship." Registration is now open for the conference, which will focus on wildlife management and conservation.

On the Hawaiian wildlife panel will be Dr. William Mull, Dr. Andrew J. Berger, Dr. Robert J. Shallenberger, Dr. Niklos D. F. Udvardy, and Dr. C. J. Ralph. A featured evening speaker will be Senator Jean S. King, Chairperson of the Ecology, Environment and Recreation Committee of the Hawaii State Senate.

Alaskan speakers will include Dr. Robert LaResche, Commissioner, Department of Natural Resources; Dr. Robert Weeden, Professor of Resource Management, University of Alaska; and several others in agencies and organizations concerned with resource management and conservation.

Asilomar is situated on the tip of the Monterey Peninsula overlooking the Pacific Ocean, amongst 100 acres of pine and cypress forest in a beautiful setting. The meals and lodging for the event from Saturday afternoon through Tuesday noon will range from \$57 to \$108 per person. Field trips to land and ocean areas will be featured Monday morning. Further information can be obtained from: Audubon Conference, 555 Audubon Place, Sacramento, CA 95825.

## HAWAII AUDUBON JOINS SUIT AGAINST STATE

January 16, 1978

Mr. Michael R. Sherwood  
Sierra Club Legal Defense Fund, Inc.

Dear Mr. Sherwood:

Thank you very much for keeping us informed about developments in the Palila habitat destruction case through copies of your correspondence.

The Board of Directors of the Hawaii Audubon Society, at its January 9th meeting, voted to support the Sierra Club in its litigation against the Hawaii Department of Land and Natural Resources as a co-plaintiff. We are requesting in a letter to Paul Howard that the National Audubon Society also join

in as a co-plaintiff, and that the NAS contribute funding and necessary assistance in the suit. The HAS is in the midst of an expensive revision of its publication *Hawaii's Birds*, and we feel we can commit only up to \$1000 in this legal effort. We hope the NAS will be able to make a larger commitment, and be ready to contribute additional funding if the case goes to trial.

This letter will serve as official written authorization for you to represent the Hawaii Audubon Society in this matter. If the NAS agrees to participate in the suit, they will have to provide you with authorization independently of the HAS. We apologize for the delay in our responding to this matter, and hope that our participation will be of assistance to you.

Aloha,  
Robert L. Pyle  
President

HAS ASKS NATIONAL TO JOIN PALILA SUIT

January 16, 1978

Mr. Paul Howard  
Senior Vice President  
National Audubon Society  
New York, NY

Dear Paul:

At our January 9th meeting, the Hawaii Audubon Society Board of Directors voted to join in the Sierra Club Palila suit as a co-plaintiff. Although our current field guide revision will tap our bank account, we have decided to commit up to \$1000 to the litigation.

We hope that the NAS will also join in the suit and contribute additional funding, legal advice and other assistance where necessary. We feel that the threat of suit, and perhaps even the actual trial, are now the only recourses in this battle, in light of the stalemate on the issue in the state government at this time. The arguments in the proposed suit appear to be sound and certainly in keeping with the objectives of the HAS and the NAS. We hope that the issue does not come to trial, but if it does, it is likely that the HAS would be conspicuous in its lack of involvement should the case be tried without our participation.

This is an appropriate time for NAS involvement in an issue of national importance, as a court testing of the Endangered Species Act in this way will set important precedent for the future of wildlife conservation. If you choose to join in this effort, it will be

necessary to provide Michael Sherwood with independent written authorization to serve as attorney on your behalf. The HAS of course will be happy to provide expertise and support to the limit of our ability.

Aloha,

Robert L. Pyle  
President

ALOHA TO NEW MEMBERS

The Society wishes to welcome the following new members: Penelope C. Blair, Honolulu; William C. Brooks, Jr., Honolulu; Stephanie Nogata, Fort Collins, Colorado; A. Sonia Faust, Honolulu; John Ford, Honolulu; Elizabeth C. Johnson, Honolulu; Edward K. K. Kaohelaulii, Honolulu; Bob and Peggy Miller, Aiea; Dr. Alley Y. Miyahara, Honolulu; Ben Okimoto, Manhattan, Kansas; and Claire Wolfe, Hawaii National Park. A first installment for a life membership was received from Shirley D. Bennett, Honolulu. Mahalo!

Mahalo also to John M. Rybczyk, Honolulu, for a donation to the Society.

PUBLICATIONS OF THE SOCIETY

HAWAII'S BIRDS by the Society (1975). This is the best field guide to our birds, and includes colored illustrations of all native and well-established exotic species.  
(Postpaid, add 27¢ for airmail)..... \$3.30

FIELD CHECK-LIST OF BIRDS OF HAWAII by R. L. Pyle (1976). A pocket-size field card listing the species recorded in Hawaii with space for notes of field trips.  
(Postpaid). . . . . .25  
(ten or more, 10¢ per copy)

GUIDE TO HAWAIIAN BIRDING by members of Society and edited by C. J. Ralph (1977). Where to go and some idea of what you are likely to see. For the islands of Hawaii, Maui, Molokai, Lanai, Oahu, and Kauai.  
(Postpaid). . . . . .50

PRELIMINARY LIST OF THE BIRDS OF HAWAII by R. L. Pyle (1977). An authoritative compilation of all species naturally occurring in Hawaii as well as those introduced by man currently established as viable populations. Gives an excellent summary of each species' status.  
(Postpaid). . . . . \$1.00

HAWAII AUDUBON EXECUTIVE BOARD

HAWAII AUDUBON SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Feb. 12. Field trip to waterbird areas on Oahu, Waipio Peninsula, Pearl Harbor areas, and possibly Kahuku in the afternoon for those interested. Meet at the State Library on Punchbowl St. at 8 a.m. Leader: Timothy A. Burr (235-4036).

Feb. 13. Board meeting at the Ralphs' home, 2841 Kahawai, one block ewa of Manoa Safeway (988-6921, for directions), 7 p.m. All members welcome.

Feb. 20. Membership meeting. "Cooperative Waterbird Color-banding Project." Rick Coleman and Tim Burr will outline the exciting project designed to discover the nature of water bird movements into the Hawaiian Islands. Waikiki Aquarium Auditorium, 7:30 p.m.

President . . . . . Dr. Robert L. Pyle  
Vice-President (Conservation) Dr. Robert J. Shallenberger  
Vice-President (Program) . . . . . John Ford  
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Carol Pearson Ralph, Maile Stemmermann, and  
John F. Walters.

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Junior Member (18 and under) . . . . 1.00  
Life Member. . . . . 100.00  
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\* \* \* \* \*

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