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FIELD OBSERVATIONS FROM KURE ATOLL, 1977

by Mark J. Rauzon

From Nov. 9 through Dec. 6, 1977, I had an opportunity to make bird observations on Green Island, Kure Atoll (28°24'N, 178°18'W) while a member of a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service survey party studying the Hawaiian Monk Seal. On Dec. 2 I took a census of the birds on the island and obtained the following species counts:

Black-footed Albatross, 700; Laysan Albatross, 2500; Wedge-tailed Shearwater, 50; Bonin Petrel, 80; Red-tailed Tropicbird, 3; Blue-faced Booby, 60; Brown Booby, 40; Red-footed Booby, 300; Great Frigatebird, 225; American Golden Plover, 80; Wandering Tattler, 20; Ruddy Turnstone, 125; Sanderling, 7; Bar-tailed Godwit, 1; Sooty Tern, 1; Hawaiian Noddy, 300; White Tern, 5; Common Canary, 3; redpoll sp. 1; Savannah Sparrow, 1.

The numbers given are not exact for the more numerous species, but they give an approximate indication of the populations present. Several unusual species of land-birds and waterbirds were observed on the census and at other times during the period, as follows.

storm-petrel. A white-rumped storm-petrel of undetermined species was observed for about 30 seconds on Nov. 19. It was being harassed by two Great Frigatebirds, one of which had captured the storm-petrel in its beak. The frigatebirds were seen to pass the petrel from one to the other twice before one of the birds dropped it. The petrel regained flight and was lost to sight over the scaevola. I observed this encounter while standing on a dune, where the beach joins the scaevola. The birds were about 10 feet overhead and to one side. My presence probably disturbed the interaction.

Mallard. Two males and one female were seen Dec. 5, drinking rainwater on the runway.

teal. A teal of undetermined species, in

female or eclipse plumage, was seen and photographed Nov. 16.

Northern Shoveler. Dried remains of a bird in female or eclipse plumage were collected Nov. 10 and kept as specimen material for the USFWS Research office.

Aythya, sp. This duck, seen Nov. 13, 14, and 15, was thought possibly to have been an immature male Tufted Duck because of the reduced amount of white in the lores compared to a scaup. A photograph of the bird has been deposited in the Society's Rare Bird Documentary Photograph File. Tufted Ducks found at Kure on three occasions in 1963 and 1964 are the only prior records of *Aythya* known from the atoll.

Bristle-thighed Curlew. Three were seen Nov. 10 and again Dec. 6.

Bar-tailed Godwit. One bird was present throughout the period from Nov. 9 to Dec. 6.

gull, sp. An immature bird with a brown tail band was seen for about 30 seconds on Nov. 17, being harassed by Great Frigatebirds.

Common Canary. Three birds, now resident on the island, were observed throughout the period. A population of a few dozen feral canaries has been established for several decades on Midway Atoll, about 80 km to the east.

redpoll, sp. One bird was seen from Nov. 25 through Dec. 6, frequently feeding with the canaries. Red cap, black lores, white breast with brown lateral streaks, and two white wingbars were noted. The bird was seen daily in good light with binoculars.

Savannah Sparrow. One bird was seen from Nov. 29 through Dec. 6. It preferred to feed alone, hop-walking as it foraged in lawn areas. The bird was brown streaked, with a yellowish cast to the face, a stripe through the eye and a striped crown. There was no prominent confluence of breast

streaks into a solid dot, but rather an orientation of streaks toward the center of the breast. Sides and underparts were white with some lateral streaking. Legs were pinkish. The bird was seen daily in good light with binoculars.

Snow Bunting. This bird was first seen Nov. 15 on the beach and was present until at least Nov. 18. It was seen feeding with canaries on the lawn around the dormitory. It was judged to be a female or immature by the rusty tinges on the sides. The striking black and white pattern was clearly visible in flight.

The redpoll and Savannah Sparrow are the first reports of these species for the state of Hawaii. The Mallard, teal, Northern Shoveler, and Common Canary had not previously been reported from Kure Atoll.

The author has been studying birds in Alaska for the past eight years and is familiar with the various plumages of passerine birds common there, including redpolls, Savannah Sparrows, and Snow Buntings. He also worked with seabirds there for two years.

Mr. Jerry Ruehle of the Fish and Wildlife Service Anchorage office visited Green Island from Feb. 10 to May 13, 1977. During that visit he found a storm-petrel with a white rump washed up on the beach in a state of exhaustion. It soon died. The specimen was not retained. He also reported seeing the following birds:

Marbled Godwit--one bird observed on the island from February through May; Glaucous Gull--two second-year birds on the island Feb. 9-26; Ring-billed Gull--one bird sighted Mar. 21 and again Apr. 23 on the west spit of Green Island.

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ALOHA TO NEW MEMBERS

We welcome the following new members and encourage them to join in our activities.

Subscriber: Kenneth Gerber, Kidron, OH; Fred Luttenberger, Cedarville, OH; Colleen Shifflette, Seattle, WA; Terrill Soules, Atlanta, GA.

Junior: Jonathan Lee, Taejon, Korea.

Reinstatement: Dorothy Hart, Burlingame, CA; Carolyn Ing, Honolulu, Marlee Penner, Waimanalo.

A special Mahalo to new Life member, Benjamin L. Marx of Honolulu.

ADDITIONAL DETAILS ON HAWAIIAN VETCH

Mae Mull has supplied me with some additional details and corrections on my note ('Elepaio 38(12):142-3, 1978) on the vetch's newly acquired endangered status. I am very grateful for her interest.

C. J. Ralph

20 June 1978

"... *Vicia menziesii* was first collected by Archibald Menzies, botanist, on one of the Vancouver voyages between 1792 and 1794. It was collected again by James Macrae in 1825 and described by Sprengler in 1826. Jules Rémy collected this *Vicia* at some time between 1851 and 1855. The habit and habitat of *Vicia* are described by H. Mann (1866, 1867) and by Hillebrand (1888), although it is not clear from Degener's sheet (1970) whether these two botanists observed the species in the wild. The last recorded collection of *Vicia*, previous to 1974, was by Forbes in 1915. So this endemic vetch had been collected and recorded at least four times between the 1790's and 1915.

The information above is from Degener, *Flora Hawaiiensis*, sheet on *Vicia menziesii* (1970), and E. A. Kay, "Hawaiian Natural History: 1778-1900," in *A Natural History of the Hawaiian Islands: Selected Readings*.

Dr. Wayne C. Gagné rediscovered the *Vicia* on February 8, 1974 in the IBP transect area of the Kilauea Forest Reserve at about 5,200 feet elevation. I accompanied Gagné on this field trip but had no part in finding the small colony because I had no previous knowledge of this species. Gagné recognized the attractive legume as possibly the *Vicia* thought to be extinct because of his careful study of Degener's *Flora* over the preceding four to five years.

Because the occasion was noteworthy, I recorded the precise date and location of the event on my *Vicia* sheet.

Within the last four weeks I have learned from James Jacobi that he and Ranjit Cooray collected the *Vicia* in the IBP transect area at some time earlier than 1974, but their collection remained unidentified until after Gagné's rediscovery. The Jacobi-Cooray collection date would be on their herbarium sheets.

Subsequent to the Gagné find, the colony was visited by a number of botanists and collections were made when the plants bloomed and set seed in the summers of 1974 and 1975."

Mae Mull

RECENT OBSERVATIONS OF BIRDS --- DECEMBER 1977 TO FEBRUARY 1978

by Robert L. Pyle

The extended drought of the past three years continued unbroken through the winter. Rainfall at Honolulu during the season was one-fourth of the long-term average, and the total for all of 1977 was just barely half of the annual mean. The higher mountain areas have had some rain, but the dry slopes and lowland areas throughout the state continued to suffer. Little effect of the drought on birds was noted, although the expansion of some exotic species may be related to it.

Laysan Albatross--On Kauai I., Vernon Byrd reports finding a nest with one egg in mid-January near Kilauea Pt., about 30 m downhill from the location of last year's historic nest ('*Elepaio* 38(5):51, 1977). Nearby was the remnant of an old nest from last year or possibly the year before. Also nearby, but not at any nest, was a freshly broken egg, not rotten and without punctures or tooth marks. In a quarry area not far away, 3 Laysans were on the ground, 2 in display. The following day, at still another location in the same general area, 2 Laysans and one Black-footed Albatross were on the ground near an old nest from a prior year. On Mokuiae Islet off Kilauea Pt., one large egg, probably from an albatross, could be seen. Laysans were noted on the islet several times during January. None of these nesting attempts proceeded any further, and no other nesting activity has been reported through the end of February.

On Midway Atoll, Nancy Butowski-Casey reports that most Laysan eggs had been laid by Dec. 10. Eggs began hatching in January, and by the end of February brooding was finished and the chicks were generally being left alone except for feedings. An albinistic Laysan Albatross chick was observed and photographed on Sand I., Midway, during the winter (NB-C).

Wedge-tailed Shearwater--One Wedge-tail found on Dec. 18 was the only one seen on 17 visits to Sand I., Oahu, between Oct. 1 and Mar. 4 (RL). Through summer and early fall, from one to twenty were seen on every trip.

Bonin Petrel--On Dec. 30, around 6:30 p.m., 117 were counted in 20 minutes as they flew overhead, returning to Sand I., Midway Atoll (NB-C). They were identified by character-

istic flight pattern and clearly visible white underparts. Eggs were first observed at the end of January.

White-tailed Tropicbird--On Kauai I., Dec. 24, four were found in Waimea Canyon, and 4 more were circling over the pool at Wailua Falls (MT).

Red-tailed Tropicbird--This species generally leaves Midway Atoll by the end of November, but one juvenile was seen on Sand I. Dec. 27, and an adult and a juvenile were found on Eastern I. Dec. 30 (NB-C).

Blue-faced Booby--Four birds were found on Eastern I., Midway Atoll, Dec. 30, 2 of which were incubating eggs (NB-C). On the next visit in February, 2 were again found incubating, one of which could have been the same bird found incubating on Dec. 30.

Brown Booby--Eighteen, an unusually high count, were seen on Dec. 12, resting on the water one mile offshore of west Lanai I., with porpoises in the water around them (PJC). Three were observed on Dec. 24 and 25 feeding in the shallow inner waters of Hulopoe Bay, Lanai I. Following a fight between an adult and an immature over a fish, the adult flew to shore and allowed the observer to approach within 3 ft. On Oahu, Brown Boobies have been observed in the inner waters of Keehi Lagoon more frequently this winter. Weekly counts from Sand I., including birds over both the Lagoon and open ocean, reached a high of 22 on Jan. 28 and Feb. 11 (RL).

Cattle Egret--Although well-established on Oahu and Kauai, Cattle Egrets have only recently begun to increase on Hawaii I. A count of 79 at Lokoaku Pond in the late afternoon of Jan. 27 was an unusually high number for that island. Most were perched in an isolated pine tree in the middle of the pond, and others were roosting in the tops of a thick growth of trees on shore (RLP).

Canada Goose--One bird present for the past year at Mohouli Pond and nearby drainage channel in Hilo, Hawaii I., was joined by two others in late December (JMS, CJR, CPR). They remained until at least Jan. 28 (MEM, RLP, CFS).

Hawaiian Goose (Nēnē) (En)--Two banded birds were found on Jan. 29 along the jeep road above the upper end of Kaloko Mauka Road, near Kona, Hawaii I. They allowed approach to within 5 ft before flying off toward the north, honking loudly (RLP).

Brant--The Black Brant reported at Kealia Pond, Maui I., in November was seen again Dec. 23 and Feb. 27 (CBK).

Emperor Goose--A highlight of the winter season was the appearance of 2 Emperor Geese

along the shores of Lanai and Maui Islands for at least 10 days in late December. The birds were seen daily during the week prior to Christmas at Lahaina, Maui, feeding on the seaweed-strewn rocky beach fronting the William Baldwin home, or resting in the ocean beyond the surf. They were seen by numerous people, but by few birders. They were photographed by a newspaper reporter and given statewide newspaper publicity as "Imperial Canadian Geese." The birds' daily pattern was to leave the area at dusk and return early in the morning with loud honking that awoke the residents. One of the birds disappeared Dec. 25; the remaining bird was seen until at least Dec. 31 at 2 p.m. (DS). Earlier, on Dec. 20, 2 geese were sighted at Honuaula Beach on the remote north shore of Lanai I., about 40 km west of Lahaina across Auau Channel. The birds were sitting on a rocky point when first seen and then flew off in a westerly direction, honking loudly. The observer (PJC) identified them as the Emperor Geese after seeing the newspaper pictures of the Maui birds.

White-fronted Goose--One bird found at Kaunakakai treatment pond, Molokai I., Jan. 24 apparently was wild, as there is no known source of captive birds on Molokai (RAC). It was not seen again.

Mallard--One was seen at West Loch (Honouliuli) Unit of PHNWR Feb. 24 and 27 (GBla), one drake at Kawainui Marsh, Kailua, Oahu, Dec. 4 (RLP), and one or two at Kealia Pond, Maui on Jan. 10 and 30 (CBK).

Hawaiian Duck (Koloa) (En)--Six were found at Waipio Dec. 17 (RL), and 7 at Kii Pond, JCNWR, Jan. 12 (GBla).

Gadwall--Two were found at Waipio Dec. 17 (WMO, et al.) and 1 on Jan. 29 (RL).

Garganey--This rare Asiatic wanderer was well observed in female plumage and sketched in the field (by HDP) at Waipio on Jan. 17 (CJR, CPR).

Green-winged Teal--One to six birds were recorded throughout the winter at Kii Pond, Punamano Pond and Waipio on Oahu I., at Kanaha and Kealia Ponds on Maui I., and at Aimakapa and Opaepa Ponds on Hawaii I. (several observers). High counts reported were 9 at Kealia Dec. 23 (CBK), 10 at Waipio Jan. 21 (RL), and 8 at Punamano Jan. 7 (RLP, PP).

Blue-winged Teal--One drake was found at Aimakapa Pond, Hawaii I., Jan. 24 (RAC), and 2 drakes and 4 females were there on Jan. 29 (RLP). On Maui I. one was noted at Kanaha Pond Jan. 30 and two at Kealia Pond Feb. 27 (CBK).

European Wigeon--A bird in eclipse or female plumage, thought to be possibly this

species, was seen with other wigeon at Waipio on Nov. 13 and 27 (WMO, RLP). On Jan. 7 a bird with the male pattern beginning to show was definitely identified (CJR, CPR, HDP) at the same locality, and the bird was seen in better plumage Jan. 14, 21, and 29 (RLP, JFW, RL). By Feb. 12, he was in fine male plumage (HAS).

American Wigeon--One to six birds were found regularly through the winter at Kii and Punamano Ponds of JCNWR, at Pearl City Unit of PHNWR, at Waipio (all on Oahu I.), at Kakahaia NWR on Molokai I., and at Aimakapa Pond on Hawaii I. (several observers). Seven were found at Kakahaia Dec. 7 (RAC).

Redhead--Two males found at Kawainui Marsh Nov. 13 (RJS, HAS) were seen there regularly through the winter until at least Jan. 22 (RLP). One male was found on the Lihue Christmas Count (Kauai I.) Dec. 17 (WS, GVB).

Canvasback--A bird in fine male plumage was seen regularly at Aimakapa Pond, Hawaii I., from early December through at least Jan. 29 (EKr, RAC, RLP, HDP, DS).

Scaup--Highest counts this winter were 18 (Jan. 7, RLP, PP) and 16 (Jan. 12, GBla) at Punamano Pond, JCNWR. At least some, if not all, of these were Lesser Scaup. Fourteen wintered on Waiakea Pond and adjacent Mohouli Pond in Hilo, Hawaii I. (JMS, MEM, RLP). Most of these also were Lessers, although two were positively identified on Jan. 29 as Greater Scaup (CJR, CPR). From one to six individuals were seen repeatedly through the winter at Waipio, Kuilima Pond, and Kawainui Marsh on Oahu I.; at Kakahaia NWR and Kaunakakai treatment pond on Molokai I.; and at Aimakapa and Lokoaku Ponds on Hawaii I. Three at Waipio on Jan. 7 were Greater (HDP, CJR, CPR).

Hawaiian Hawk ('Io) (En)--One bird was found above the upper end of Kaloko Mauka Road, Hawaii I., on Jan. 1 and again on Feb. 6 (HDP).

Sea Eagle--A large raptor first reported by Coast Guard personnel on Kure Atoll in early February has been identified as an immature Steller Sea Eagle. George Balazs observed it well for several days in late February and obtained good photographs. Further details are being prepared for publication in the 'Elepaio.

Osprey--The bird frequenting Nuupia Pond, KMCAS, during the past year was reported there several times during the winter. On Jan. 22 it was observed catching a fish and then flying off directly across Kaneohe Bay to the far shore near Waikane, where it was lost from view (RLP). The bird reported on

Maui I. in November remained at Kanaha and Kalia Ponds until at least Feb. 27 (CBK).

Francolin--In North Kohala, Hawaii I., on Feb. 7 and 8, HDP found both Black and Gray Francolins to be common and calling throughout the area. He also reported 2 Erckel Francolins on Kauai I., along the Kokee-Mohihi Road on Jan. 28.

Kalij Pheasant--These are found regularly along the jeep road above the upper end of Kaloko Mauka Road, near Kona, Hawaii I. The species has spread to the windward side of Hawaii I. and was found on the Volcano Christmas Count this year ('Elepaio 38(10): 112, 1978).

Hawaiian Gallinule ('Alae 'ula) (En)--One was found in hau growth along the Wailua River, Kauai I., Dec. 24 (*fide* MT). One was seen in the pond in Kawainui Marsh Dec. 4, and two were there Jan. 22 (RLP). Several are still being seen through the winter along Hamakua Drive, Kailua.



Young
Hawaiian
Coot.

Photo
by
Robert J.
Shallen-
berger,
Ahuimanu
Produc-
tions

Hawaiian Coot ('Alae Ke'oke'o) (En)--Twelve were counted on the streams crossed by the highway between Hanalei and Haena on Kauai I. Dec. 23 (MT). At Kakahaia NWR, Molokai I., 5 nests were still active on Jan. 24, one attended by two adults with red frontal shields (RAC). Other winter counts include 22 (Jan. 7, RLP, PP, RAC) and 18 (Jan. 12, GBla) at Punamano Pond, JCNWR; 6 (Jan. 7, RLP et al.) at Kawainui Marsh; 4 to 6 regularly through the winter at Salt Lake (RL), and 40 on Aimakapa Pond, Hawaii I., Jan. 29 (RLP).

Semipalmated Plover--Two to five were found at Waipio through the winter (WMO, RLP, CJR, et al.), and at least 6 were reported from the West Loch (Honouliuli) Unit of PHNWR Feb. 20 (GBla).

Killdeer--The bird at Waipio was seen regularly through the winter. The one found on the Christmas Count at Lihue, Kauai I., was seen there again Jan. 18 (WS).

Black-bellied Plover--One was found regularly at Kii Pond, JCNWR from Dec. 26 through Mar. 4 (RL, RLP, HAS). Three to five were seen regularly at Waipio (WMO, RL, RLP, CJR, et al.).

Common Snipe--Two birds were studied in excellent light at 20 to 35 ft distance near the old Koloa release pen in Kawainui Marsh Dec. 6 (TAB). One was heard at Waipio Dec. 17 (WMO), and one was flushed at Kii Pond, JCNWR Jan. 7 (PP).

Bristle-thighed Curlew--CORRECTION: In 'Elepaio, March 1978, p. 103, last sentence under Bristle-thighed Curlew should read: "...as many as 12 seen together..." (not 2).

At Midway Atoll, 6 Bristle-thighs were found on a visit to Eastern I. on Dec. 30 (NB-C). On Sand I., Midway, they were seen in good numbers through December and January, but less frequently in February (NB-C). On Oahu I. 4 were seen regularly at Kii Pond, JCNWR, from Dec. 4 through Mar. 4 (RL, RAC, GBla, RLP). Six were seen there Jan. 2 (RL). Pumping water to create improved habitat at Kii Pond is apparently inducing curlews to remain there through the winter, which they had not been doing in recent years when no water was available in the pond. On Lanai I., one was found regularly from Feb. 18 through Mar. 19 at Iamo Pt. feeding along the rocky shoreline (PJC). On March 13 a curlew flying along the nearby Keomuku shoreline was clocked at 30 mph (PJC).

Lesser Yellowlegs--One bird was seen at Kii Pond, JCNWR, repeatedly from Dec. 26 through at least Feb. 12 (RL, GBla, RLP, PP, RAC). Two were found at Kanaha Pond, Maui I., on Dec. 23 and again on Jan. 10 (CBK).

Sharp-tailed Sandpiper--At Waipio, 4 were found for the Christmas Count Dec. 17 (WMO, RLP, CJR, CPR), and 5 were still there Jan. 10 (RLP). Only 2 could be found Jan. 14 (RLP, CJR, CPR), and one on Jan. 21 (RL). One was found at Aimakapa Pond, Hawaii I., on Feb. 23 (RAC).

Pectoral Sandpiper--The lone report of the winter was of one bird seen at Kii Pond, JCNWR on Jan. 7 (RLP, PP, RAC).

Least Sandpiper--The accommodating bird at settling basin no. 4 at Waipio remained there through the winter for numerous observers to see.

Dunlin--Seven were at Waipio Nov. 27 (WMO, RLP), and 8 for the Christmas Count Dec. 17. Two to three were reported there regularly through January.

Dowitcher--Three birds in winter plumage were seen regularly at settling basin no. 4, Waipio, through the winter to at least Feb.

12 (WMO, RL, et al.).

Hawaiian Stilt (Āe'o) (En)--Twenty-eight Stilts were found on Dec. 26 and ten on Jan. 29 along the marshy shore of Ft. Kamehameha at the mouth of Pearl Harbor channel (PH). High counts at Kii Pond, JCNWR, were 31 on Jan. 12 (GBla) and 35 on Feb. 4 (RLP). Ten were at nearby Punamano Pond on Jan. 7 (RAC, PP, RLP). At the remnant of Salt Lake near the present clubhouse, counts of stilts on ten dates from Dec. 18 through Mar. 5 ranged from 19 to 24 birds (RL). Many wintered at Waipio, with a high count of 77 on Jan. 7 (CJR, CPR, HDP).

Jaeger (probably Pomarine)--Counts from Sand Island, Oahu, at roughly weekly intervals through the winter ranged generally from 20 to 70 birds but increased to 99 on Feb. 11 and to 135 on Mar. 5 (RL).

Herring Gull--An immature bird was at Kealia Pond, Maui I., from Jan. 10 to at least Feb. 27 (CBK).

Ring-billed Gull--One immature was found on the Christmas Count at Lihue, Kauai I., on Dec. 17 (WS et al.).

Black-headed Gull--An adult in fine winter plumage was discovered at the fountain pond at Waipio on Dec. 26 (DS). It was seen by several observers during the next three days (RLP, CJR, CPR) but could not be found on Jan. 2 (WMO) or thereafter. The bird stood on the concrete embankment and flew by at 20 to 100 m distance, in good light, while observers watched with scope and binoculars. Among the field marks noted were the orange legs, deep red bill with darker tip, dark spot behind the eye, dark smudge on the rear of head, white tail without band, underwings dark on outer half, with outermost primaries bright white both below and above, black tips to primaries, and white leading edge of the wing. The bird appeared stockier than a Bonaparte Gull, with body and head proportions more like the larger gulls (RLP). Only one previous record is known of this species in Hawaii: a winter-plumaged adult beautifully photographed at Midway Atoll in November 1976 ('*Elepaio* 38(1):7, 38(5):58, 1977).

Bonaparte Gull--One bird in winter plumage was found at Aimakapa Pond on Dec. 7 (RAC) and remained there through January and February. Another was at Kealia Pond, Maui I., from Dec. 23 through Feb. 27 (CBK).

Gull--One gull, possibly a California Gull, was at Kii Pond, JCNWR, Feb. 4 (RL), and a gull of undetermined species was observed at Eastern I., Midway Atoll, on Dec. 30 (NB-C).

Hawaiian Noddy (Noio)--At Sand I., Midway Atoll, these birds were still collecting nesting material during December. Fifteen-minute counts of birds returning to the island at the north beach were made just before sunset on seven dates from Dec. 30 through January. The counts ranged from 87 to 159, averaging 108 birds (NB-C). At Kaluapuhi Pond, KMCAS on Oahu I., where these birds may be found all year, a high count of 35 in sight at once was recorded Jan. 22 (RLP).

White Tern--At Sand I., Midway Atoll, numbers declined during December, then built up again from 44 birds counted Jan. 17 to 81 on Jan. 22. They continued to increase through February and were incubating eggs by month's end. On Oahu I., 5 on Dec. 21 and 3 on Jan. 18 were noted flying over Kalakaua Avenue mauka of Ala Wai Canal along the flyway between their regular haunt in Kapiolani Park and their newly discovered nesting area near Beretania Street ('*Elepaio* 38(6):63, 977) (GGC).

Barn Owl--One was reported in upper Maunalei Gulch, Lanai I., on Dec. 29 (*fide* PJC).

Hawaiian Owl (Pueo)--One bird was seen foraging near Kii Pond, JCNWR, on Jan. 27 (RAC, RLP) and Feb. 4 (RL). This species has become very scarce and difficult to find on Oahu I.

Vanikoro (Edible-Nest) Swiftlet--This species, rediscovered in North Halawa Valley in September 1976 and seen several times since, was confirmed as a breeding bird in Hawaii when several old nests were found on Jan. 16 in a cave in the upper part of the valley. All were inactive, but one was reasonably fresh (CTA, ALT).

Belted Kingfisher--Clarence F. Smith, an experienced birder from Berkeley, California, has provided the following notes on his sighting of a Belted Kingfisher near Hilo, Hawaii I.: "It was seen by both me and my wife, and was in fact first seen and identified by her. The location was Lokoaku Pond, Hawaii, and the date January 3, 1978. We watched it for half an hour, at distance of 100-500 yards, and at one point within 100 feet. It flew, it 'rattled' and showed itself to excellent advantage in all its aspects. Since I was busy looking for coots and ducks, I paid but little attention to it and did not notice its sex--nor did my wife. The day was rainy, but visibility and light were good." The bird was not seen there subsequently. Two fishermen who live on the shore of Lokoaku Pond were queried Jan. 28 and indicated they had not seen this bird. However, Roy Blackshear observed a king-

fisher in February at a pond on the Shipman Estate near Keaau, south of Hilo (fide DHW). The first reported occurrence of Belted Kingfisher in Hawaii was of a pair at Hakalau Gulch, 20 km north of Hilo, in November 1901. One bird was collected, and the other disappeared. David Woodside found one in about 1955 in Waipio Valley, roughly 60 km north of Hilo, and saw the same bird or another in Hilo at about the same time. Finally, a kingfisher of undetermined species was reported to have been seen near Pearl City, Oahu I., in early 1962.

Hawaiian Crow ('Alalā) (En)--Two Crows were coming regularly to the back yard of Mr. and Mrs. Dan Boone, near Captain Cook, Hawaii I., for a period in December and early January (fide RAC, Mrs. Boone). Four birds found above the upper end of Kaloko Mauka Road, Dec. 29 (DS) were also seen there Jan. 1 (HDP et al.). On the latter date, 2 appeared to be going through some sort of display flight. Crows could not be found in that area on Jan. 29 or Feb. 5.

Gray-sided Laughing-thrush--An unknown laughing-thrush during the 1940's and 50's was thought to be *Garrulax caeruleus*, although the birds never were positively identified. On Feb. 16 an individual was seen well at this same spot (MC, ALT, fide RJS). Dr. S. L. Olson of the Smithsonian Institution identified a sketch of this bird as *G. caeruleus*. This sighting is 18 years after the last report of the species and indicates the species is probably established.

Red-billed Leiothrix--Once common on Oahu, this species is much reduced in numbers but still holds on. Twenty-seven were recorded (fide RJS) in 200 person-days during the forest bird survey in the relatively unexplored forests of the Koolau Mountains, Oahu I.

Red-whiskered Bulbul--On Feb. 10 JSW observed a pair of this species in a small roof park located on top of the Amfac Tower parking structure at Nimitz and Fort Streets in downtown Honolulu. One bird was calling; the other was silent. A single bird was seen there several times subsequently until at least Feb. 25. Across town, a nest of this species on the grounds of the Unitarian Church on Pali Highway had two fully grown young on Feb. 13. The nest was empty on the 14th, but two birds, presumably adults, were seen carrying food into nearby trees (GGC). The birds were still present on Feb. 27. The nest was in a hedge about 7 ft above ground. Two Red-whiskered Bulebuls found at Pearl City Heights on the Waipio

Christmas Count on Dec. 17 were far west of the species' previously known range in Honolulu.

Red-vented Bulbul--On Feb. 20, a dozen birds in one group were seen 1½ miles up Manana Ridge Trail from Pacific Palisades (RLP, JFW) and up to 2000' on the Waimano and Manana Trails during the Oahu Bird survey (fide RJS). This represents further penetration of this species into the Koolau Mts.

Shama--Two Shammas working through a yard in the 1700 block of Makiki Street, Honolulu, on March 1 (MMR) provide just one example of the current wandering of this species into new habitats from its traditional haunts in dense tangles of the forest understory. One to three individuals have been seen frequently this winter in open parkland at the southeast end of Kapiolani Park and at the start of Na Laau trail (RLP, HAS, et al.). One bird has been a regular visitor since October to a yard one block from the beach in Kailua, where none had been recorded before (RLP).

Rothschild Starling--The bird frequenting Ft. DeRussy in Waikiki in April 1977 (see Berger, 'Elepaio 37(12):149, 1977) was reported again in the same locality in early December (NB). The bird is striking white with a prominent crest, blue mask, dark bill and legs, and black tips to the wings and tail. This individual is undoubtedly an escapee or a release. It is a popular cagebird, known also as the Bali Myna.

Hawaiian (Hawaii) Creeper--A group of 5 creepers, at least some of which were immatures, was found in a kipuka at 5800 ft elevation on the Saddle Road, Hawaii I., on Feb. 5 (HDP). Five days earlier the same observer heard what he thought was a creeper there, although he had birded there many times before and never found creepers. This spot is only a few yards from the Road, and if the birds remain, it will be a good location for visitors to look for creepers. Many 'Oma'o, 'Amakihi, 'Apapane, 'I'iwi and a few 'Elepaio were found there as well. Onē Hawaiian (Kauai) Creeper was found in the parking lot of the upper Kalalau lookout in Kokee, Kauai I. on Jan. 27 (HDP). Three Hawaiian (Oahu) Creepers sighted during the recent forest bird survey on Oahu (fide RJS) are the best verified reports on this island in several years. They prove that the form persists despite severe habitat loss. They were observed on Dec. 30 south of Manana Trail (PLB), Jan. 29 in Moanalua Valley (MS), and Feb. 10 in N. Halawa Valley (MC, RJS).

'Akepa--In the Kokee area of Kauai I., 2 were found at Kalalau lookout on Dec. 23 (MT), along with two dozen 'Apapane and 3 or 4 Anianiau, 'Amakihi, and 'Elepaio. At least a dozen were seen Jan. 28 along the Pihea Ridge Trail in the same area on Jan. 28 (HDP), with good numbers of 5 other native species also present. The Kokee area remains one of the best and most accessible places in the state to see a good variety of endemic landbirds.

'I'iwi--Only about 10 were seen on the Oahu survey (*fide* RJS), confirming that this species still is in severe trouble on Oahu.

Red Munia--Nine males and six females were found in an open, bare area about 200 m makai of the old Koloa release pen in Kawai-nui Marsh on Dec. 6 (TAB). They were foraging on the bare ground with puddled water nearby. Three birds were found in the same general area on the Christmas Count on Dec. 18 (BG). This locality is on the other side of Oahu I. and across the Koolau Mts. from Waipio Peninsula, where this species is normally found.

Warbling Silverbill--HDP reported "hundreds, if not thousands" at Mahukona in North Kohala, Hawaii I., Feb. 7 and 8. They were nesting in the thatch of the information booth at Lapakahi State Park. He also found several flocks, totalling several hundred birds, at Waikoloa in South Kohala. A flock of 30 was seen at a water drip in Pohakuloa State Park, Hawaii I., Jan. 28 (RLP).

Black-headed Munia--In the residential neighborhood around Aliamanu School near Salt Lake, the species has been seen in flocks, mostly containing fewer than 20 birds, whereas 50 or more were commonly seen last year (RL). A flock can also be found regularly now at Pearl Harbor Park on Kamehameha Highway (DB).

Saffron Finch--On Jan. 14 and 15 a pair was seen at each of three different localities within a quarter mile radius near Aliamanu School in Salt Lake (RL). Four miles farther west at Pearl Harbor Park, Saffrons were found for the first time on the Christmas Count on Dec. 17, and they have been seen there several times since (DB). On Hawaii I., this species is well established around Kailua-Kona and Hualalai. A pair was reported at the old Kailua-Kona airfield in early February (RC, KC).

Yellow-faced Grassquit--At least 35 individuals, found during the Oahu forest bird survey between Kipapa Trail and S. Halawa Valley, represent a further spread of the species both north and south from the Manana Trail area, where they were first found in 1974 and again last October (*fide* RJS).

Yellow-billed Cardinal--About 20, mostly adults, were found at the Honokohau Boat Harbor, Hawaii I., in January (HDP). Ten were seen at nearby Opaepala Pond Jan. 24 (RAC).

Common Canary--One nest under observation at Sand I., Midway Atoll during February unfortunately was abandoned at month's end (NB-C).

Yellow-fronted Canary--A startling discovery during the season was the good numbers of Yellow-fronted Canaries at several places on Mauna Kea, Hawaii I. This species had never been reported away from the Diamond Head area of Oahu I. until this season. Eleven were found first at 2130 m near Puu Laau on Dec. 29 (CvR). During February, an amazing 125 were found in at least five different areas (EK, JMS, NS, CBK). This area has been censused extensively and regularly over the past three years for the endangered Palila, and CvR has spent more than 750 days in the past 7 years in the habitat. The origin of these birds is a mystery (for details, see van Riper, *'Elepaio* 38(9):99-100, 1978), although it is suspected they spread from an undocumented release.

Warbling Silverbill
at Pohakuloa State
Park, Is. of Hawaii.

Photo by
Robert Shallenberger
Ahuimanu Productions



ABBREVIATIONS AND OBSERVERS--Endangered Species (En), James Campbell National Wildlife Refuge (JCNWR), Kaneohe Marine Corps Air Station (KMCAS), Pearl Harbor National Wildlife Refuge (PHNWR), Carter T. Atkinson, George H. Balazs, Norman Barnes, Gordon Black, David Bremer, Phillip L. Bruner, Timothy A. Burr, Nancy Butowski-Casey, G. Vernon Byrd, George G. Campbell, Richard A. Coleman, Mark Collins, Peter J. Connally, Ralph & Kathleen Crawford, Brent Giezantanner, Pat Hammon, Cameron B. Kepler, Ernie Kosaka, Eugene Kridler, Rey Larsen, Mae E. Mull, W. Michael Ord, H. Douglas Pratt, Peter Pyle, Robert L. Pyle, C.J. Ralph, Carol P. Ralph, Mary M. Roberts, Nick Santos, J. Michael Scott, Winona Sears, Clarence F. Smith, Dan Snider, Maile Stemmermann, Hawaii Audubon Society field trip (HAS), Avery L. Taylor, Mark Thomas, Charles van Riper, John F. Walters, Jack S. Wilmoth, and David H. Woodside.

741 N. Kalaeo Ave.
Kailua, Oahu, HI 96734

CATTLE GRAZING IN PALILA HABITAT

26 May 1978

Mr. William Y. Thompson
Chairman
Board of Land and Natural Resources
Honolulu, Hawaii

Re: Memorandum of Agreement between the Board of Land and Natural Resources and Lau Ranch for limited cattle grazing in the Kaohe Game Management Area (GMA) on Mauna Kea, Island of Hawaii.

Dear Mr. Thompson:

By this letter we express our serious concern about the prospective introduction of cattle into the Kaohe GMA on Mauna Kea, a State-owned native forest in the Conservation District.

We have learned that the Board gave its approval to the agreement named above at its regular meeting in Honolulu on May 12, 1978, and that the agreement is now under review by the State Attorney-General. In the submittal letter to the Board from the Director of the Division of Fish and Game, the reasons given for permitting cattle grazing are: "to improve conditions for game bird hunting by opening the dense stands of grass", the recommendation of the Animal Species Advisory Commission for conditional grazing, and to reduce a potential fire hazard by grazing cattle on the grass cover.

We request that the Board give consideration to the following points before the agreement with Lau Ranch is signed:

- 1) Kaohe GMA is within the boundaries of the Mauna Kea Forest Reserve officially designated by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as critical habitat for the Palila, an endangered bird species. Intentional introduction of cattle into Kaohe would appear to be unlawful "taking" of the Palila under the federal Endangered Species Act because of the destructive impact of grazing and browsing mammals on the mamane-naio forest ecosystem declared to be essential to the survival of the Palila.

- 2) A civil suit has been instituted in federal court against the Department of Land and Natural Resources for maintaining feral sheep and goats within the critical habitat. In our view, the purposeful introduction of cattle into Palila critical habitat for any reason could be in violation of the law.

- 3) State agencies are required by Chapter 343, Hawaii Revised Statutes, and by the

Environmental Impact Statement Regulations to determine whether a proposed action will have a significant effect on the environment, with particular attention to lands in the Conservation District. It is our position that introducing up to 200 head of cattle into Kaohe "substantially affects a rare, threatened or endangered species of animal or plants, or habitat" (EIS Regulations, page 9), thus requiring an environmental assessment and the filing of a notice of determination with the Environmental Quality Commission that either the notice constitutes a Negative Declaration or that an EIS will be prepared. In either event, public notice and public response are provided for.

- 4) Under the revised Regulation 4 governing land use in the Conservation District, the approximately 7,000-acre Kaohe parcel is within the Protective Subzone where grazing is not a permitted use. Applications for conditional uses in the Protective Subzone require public hearings.

- 5) According to the Mauna Kea Plan, the Mamane/Naio Forest Ecosystem Management Area (which includes Kaohe) "will be managed primarily to maintain and improve the native Hawaiian ecosystem and the threatened and endangered species found therein." Under the Plan, protection efforts include "fire prevention and protection, accomplished by detecting fire hazards, and by temporary closure of hunting and recreational areas during any dry spell when the danger of fire is obvious." The Plan also lists as a protection effort the "prevention of destruction by exotic animals," to include the maintenance of the boundary fence between the Mauna Kea Forest Reserve and the adjacent grazing lands.

As we see it, cattle grazing is not consistent with the Mauna Kea Plan. The draft agreement appears in effect to be a proposed amendment to the Plan and thus is applicable to certain amendment procedures as adopted by the Board.

- 6) The agreement provides for an effective period of one year, with no payment of grazing fees to the State, and permits the Board Chairman to terminate the agreement upon two days notice to Lau Ranch. However, the grazing pressure of 200 steers on succulent native plants -- seedlings, ground cover, shrubs and young trees -- can have a devastating impact in even two days, let alone a year. Ranching operations in Kaohe also carry the threat of introducing extremely noxious vegetation into that habitat, such as fountain grass.

7) Has the fire hazard already been substantially reduced? By Board action at the same meeting on May 12, the Kaohe GMA and Pu'u Anahulu GMA were re-opened to public hunting. According to the submittal letter to the Board from the Director of the Division of Fish and Game on that agenda item, "recent rains in these areas on the Big Island have caused the vegetation to recover and the hazardous conditions no longer exist."

8) Grazing cattle in a native forest with protected status has long been recognized by Hawaii biologists as a grossly inappropriate management tool. Conversely, landowners have consistently used cattle as less expensive "bulldozers" to transform a forest into pasture.

The preventive medicine (grazing) may be more deadly than the disease risk (fire). We agree that a fire hazard exists during drought conditions and that it can be a serious threat to native biota. The fire danger can be mitigated by strict control of access, posting, public notice, and seeking the cooperation of the media, hunter and conservation groups, and the commander of the Pohakuloa Military Training Area.

Thank you for your consideration of these points. We would appreciate receiving a reply from you. Because time may be a factor in the resolution of this issue, I am taking the liberty of sending copies of this letter to other groups and persons concerned with land management on Mauna Kea.

With aloha,
Mae E. Mull
Island of Hawaii
Representative

HAS TESTIMONY SUPPORTS NATURAL RESERVES ON BIG ISLAND

Testimony for the Public Hearing held in Hilo, Hawaii on 19 May 1978 by the Board of Land and Natural Resources on the DRAFT REGULATIONS CONCERNING THE USE AND PROTECTION OF TEN NATURAL AREA RESERVES ON HAWAII ISLAND.

...The Hawaii Audubon Society strongly endorses the recommendations that ten Hawaii Island sites be designated as Natural Area Reserves for inclusion into the State-wide

system. We commend the Natural Area Reserves System Commission and the Department of Land and Natural Resources for their fresh spirit of cooperation and renewed zeal to fill out the system with significant natural areas on the main islands.

We also commend the Division of Forestry for recognizing the values of native biota in many of these areas years ago and assigning these forests a protective status within their management operations. Seven of the ten areas originally were nominated for reserves status by the Division of Forestry.

This action to set aside living natural systems is especially appropriate now when the desperate straits of Hawaii's biological communities are pointing toward disaster. Twenty-three bird species that occurred only in these islands are considered extinct and another thirty endemic species are officially endangered. That leaves only seventeen forms of birdlife not in present danger -- out of the 70 different kinds of endemic birds that lived in the archipelago when ships from Europe first anchored here 200 years ago. Hospitable habitat for all categories of native birdlife has been drastically reduced or degraded since the arrival of continental man.

Native Hawaiian plants are in deep trouble too. Almost 900 local species have been proposed for endangered status. This is more than one-third of Hawaii's endemic plantlife. Two hundred or more of these species may already be extinct.

The story of similar losses in other forms of native wildlife is emerging -- such as the disappearance of remarkable forms of tree snails, insects and other invertebrates uniquely adapted to these islands.

For the native biota that remain, the establishment of the ten natural areas on Hawaii Island is a giant step toward preserving the diversity and stability of ecosystems within those boundaries. The question is, will the areas be large enough to sustain the internal integrity and viability of those systems?

The language of the sample regulation seems clear and easy for the average person to understand. Will a map accompany the regulation for each reserve? Will each reserve have signs posted at strategic road-entry points?

A program for public education in non-consumptive uses of the reserves, except for game hunting, and enforcement of the regulations would be highly desirable.

The regulation for the Mauna Kea Ice Age Reserve lists a specific unlawful activity: trespass on Lake Wai-au. Will the regulations

for other reserves list prohibitions which are appropriate only to a given reserve? Also, will any reserve regulation contain a provision that would allow for later timber logging or hāpu'u cutting? We trust not.

COMMENTS ON SPECIFIC AREAS

Wao Kele 'O Puna: Extend the reserve acreage to include more of the Puna Forest Reserve on the eastern boundary. The highly active east rift zone of Kī-lau-ea cuts across the forest, apparently foreclosing development. The Division of Forestry has recommended the whole forest reserve as a natural area.

Pu'u Maka'ala: Add to the reserve the native rain forest acreage on the north side of Stainback Highway. Extend northward the eastern boundary of the reserve (that is contiguous with the Kilauea Forest Reserve) from Kulani Cone north to about the 5,800 feet elevation contour -- to include a wide swath of the 'Ōhi'a-koa forest that is undeveloped in the Kulani Prison Project. This whole area -- from the Kilauea Forest Reserve on the east to the exotic plantations on the west -- is a rich, diversified rain forest ecosystem housing many endangered species of plants and birds.

Pu'u-wa'awa'a: The several small parcels recommended for reserve status, amounting to about 2,800 acres, are remnant dry forest patches housing rare endemic trees. Cattle grazing exerts heavy pressure on these pocket stands. The leaseholder of the State-owned 105,797 acres of ranch land pays an annual rent of \$30,000, amounting to about 28¢ an acre. The withdrawal of 2.6% of the land under lease for reserve purposes would have slight effect upon ranching operations.

The official designation of the ten Natural Area Reserves by the end of the year will call for a celebration by all those who have long supported and worked toward this goal. We look forward with anticipation to inclusion within the reserves system of the additional seven Big Island areas recommended by the Commission during 1978.

Setting aside significant areas of biological value for the benefit of present and future generations is one contemporary way of expressing the aloha 'āina of ancient Hawaiians -- respect and care for the natural environment that sustains us.

Mae E. Mull
Big Island Representative

'Elepaio note: The ten areas proposed for

reserves status now and the seven additional recommended sites are listed in the June 1978 'Elepaio, p. 141.

MINUTES OF THE BOARD MEETING

May 9, 1978

The Grant Committee reported that several applications for HAS grants have been received. Doug Pratt's application received some discussion, as it entails substantial support for at least two years. The Board agreed that such a project (partial subsidy of a field guide to Pacific birds) is worthy of support. The Grant Committee agreed to negotiate with the author on questions concerning cost, editorial policy, etc. The Board unanimously approved the presentation of the Rose Schuster Taylor Award to Lisa Croft.

Rob Shallenberger reported on the progress of the new edition of "Hawaii's Birds". He is working out the details of cost and scheduling with the printers. The new edition will have new photographs on the front and back covers.

C. J. Ralph requested a change in editorial policy from that previously approved by the Board, so that authors can use diacritical marks in spelling Hawaiian words, should they so desire; the Board approved this change with one dissenting vote. The philosophical question of whether the 'Elepaio should serve as an archive for Society testimony, etc. has been solved for the present. Testimony is now being supplied with introductory material so as to make it better suited for publication.

The Hawaiian Humane Society requested that HAS co-sponsor a symposium on Cruelty, to be held between September 1978 and March 1979. The Board unanimously agreed that such a symposium would not be clearly related to the goals of the Society and declined co-sponsorship.

A number of conservation issues (Kealia Pond, Kahoolawe, Mauna Kea) were briefly discussed. We still badly need some active conservation work done. A question had been raised as to the money set aside for the Bicentennial education project. It was reported that most of the money remains unspent. The Bicentennial Commission provided only a fraction of the necessary funds, so the project has been given a low priority.

Maile Stemmermann
John F. Walters

MINUTES OF THE BOARD MEETING

July 3, 1978

Only four Board members were present; there was no quorum.

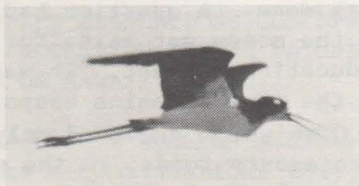
Bob Pyle reported the results of an inventory of the Society's holdings at Bernice P. Bishop Museum. Many valuable items, including copies of the rare books by Rothschild and Wilson and Evans, as well as George Munro's papers, have been loaned to the Bernice P. Bishop Museum and will be available to HAS members during the museum library's regular hours. Other items, such as individual issues of ornithological journals, will be offered to other local libraries under a similar loan arrangement. A few items of Hawaiiana will remain at Bernice P. Bishop Museum in a bookcase. Much material is of no remaining interest and will be disposed of. Liza Rice works at the museum and has agreed to provide liaison between HAS and Bishop Museum.

Omer Bussen reported on his work with the Society's library. We are receiving about 50 periodicals, from ornithological journals to newsletters of other Audubon Society chapters. It was the sense of the Board that the journals be placed in a local library under a loan agreement so that they will be more accessible to members. Omer brings new material to the monthly general meetings for everyone to look at. Omer will look into starting exchanges with several other publications.

Larry Hirai and George Campbell were given the job of estimating the Society's total income and expenses for the coming year. Several alternatives were discussed to cut expenses and increase income, such as decreasing the size of the 'Elepaio and increasing the membership dues. No action was taken for now.

Two applications for Society grants were discussed. One was felt to be insufficiently defined and was tabled; the other, to Larry Hirai and Charles Van Riper for a bird study on Lanai, was approved and partially funded.

John F. Walters



BOARD DECISIONS ON FIELD GUIDE

A special meeting addressed the working arrangement between the Society and our field guide distributor, Bob Boom. Several questions involving marketing the new edition of "Hawaii's Birds" had not been resolved during the regular Board meeting because cost and sales figures were not available. Bob Pyle supplied the special meeting with prospective sales statistics figured several different ways for various book prices and various allocations of our present house accounts between Hawaii Audubon Society and B. Boom. It was clear that maintaining the retail price of the book at \$3.00 would provide insufficient income for both HAS and Boom. The Board decided, with one dissenting vote, to raise the retail price to \$3.25. Bob Boom concurred with the price increase and strongly urged that the price be printed on the cover to discourage excessive retail markups that would in his opinion, affect sales. The board voted 3-2 to print the price on the cover.

John F. Walters

HAS NEEDS YOUR KOKUA

Now that we are a chapter of the National Audubon Society, our total membership has tripled. We welcome all of our new joint members, and we want to put you to work. There are a lot of things you can do, if you are interested.

For example, our chapter's area now includes Guam and the Trust Territory of the Pacific. We would like to hear from these areas. What sorts of conservation issues are you facing, and how can we help? What sorts of unusual birds (and other animals) are you seeing? Many of our new joint members are naval personnel at sea. We would like observations of seabirds from the central Pacific, as well as landbird waifs that come aboard.

For our new Hawaii joint members (and any of our old local members), we have all sorts of jobs that need doing. Are you interested in conservation? Many conservation issues arise each year to which the Society could respond if we had more interested people. We need people to help prepare the 'Elepaio: typing, layout, and mailing. Can you lead a field trip, speak to a group, play tour guide for a mainland birder, or prepare educational materials for schools? Any special skill that you have may be useful to the Society. If you are interested in helping out, contact Robert L. Pyle, 741 N. Kalaheo Ave., Kailua, HI 96734 (ph. 262-4046).

FIELD TRIP TO ULUPA'U CRATER

On June 11, a dozen cars with over fifty members and guests were shepherded through the KMCAS gate at 7:50 a.m. by Sgt. Wendy Walters. At Kahekili's Leap we divided our time between observing the Red-footed Booby colony and viewing Moku Manu Island through several telescopes.

The boobies seemed to be well past the peak of their egg laying season. Great Frigatebirds were numerous, soaring overhead and chasing other birds below the sea cliff. A single Red-tailed Tropicbird was seen over the crater. From our vantage point, two hundred feet above the ocean we saw flying by Brown Boobies, Sooty Terns, Common Noddies, and a single White-capped Noddy with its lighter contrasting tail.

On Moku Manu, in addition to numerous Sooty Terns, Common Noddies, and Red-footed and Brown Boobies, two other species were seen through a 1250 mm telescope. One was Masked Boobies, three adults and a chick in one group and two adults in another. The other was Gray-backed Terns flying above the island and seen by Bob Pyle.

A very brief stop on the makai side of Kaluapuhi Pond found 20 Hawaiian Stilts, several Cattle Egrets, 35 White-capped Noddies, three Ruddy Turnstones, and one Wandering Tattler (I saw one of the latter the day before across from Sea Life Park). Surprisingly, no Black-crowned Night Herons were seen.

Omer Bussen



Adult Red-footed Booby on nest with downy young. The colony at the Kaneohe Marine Corps Air Station is one of the few colonies to be found on the main islands.

*Photo by Robert J. Shallenberger
Ahuimanu Productions*

MANANA ISLAND FIELD TRIP

CANCELED FOR NOW

Word has been received by telephone that William Y. Thompson, Chairman of the Hawaii State Board of Land and Natural Resources, has denied the Society's application for a permit to visit Manana Island on the date requested. The application had been approved by the State Division of Fish and Game, and by its Wildlife Branch. No reason for the denial was given.

The Society has sent a letter to the Chairman, DLNR, asking for the reasons why the permit was denied. It is hoped that the application may be adjusted to overcome his objections and resubmitted, perhaps for a later date. However, chances seem slim that this can be accomplished in time to have the trip this year.

The field trip, as listed in the July 'Elepaio, is canceled for now. However, anyone still wishing to go to Manana Island if we should obtain the permit should call Larry Hirai (531-2907) to register. Those who reserved for the originally announced trip should call Larry again. If the Society is successful in getting a permit, probably on short notice, details of the trip will be telephoned to registrants.

FIELD RESEARCH GRANTS AVAILABLE

The Center for Field Research is currently accepting proposals for 1979. The Center is a non-profit organization established to raise private funding for field research scientists and to encourage public understanding of science. The Center and its affiliate, EARTHWATCH, have raised over \$1 million from members of the public who have given their time, their skills, and their dollars to the support of worthy research. In 1978 it will channel another \$500,000 to research.

Eligible disciplines include, but are not limited to, anthropology, archaeology, botany, conservation, ethology, geology, marine sciences, and ornithology. Among projects being supported in 1978 are behavioral studies of spider monkeys in Tikal National Park, Guatemala, and research on diseases of native and introduced birds in Hawaii.

For a copy of the 1978 edition of The Center's Guide to Funds and Volunteers for Field Research contact: Elizabeth E. Caney, The Center for Field Research, 10 Juniper Road/Box 127R, Belmont, Massachusetts 02178.

HAWAII AUDUBON EXECUTIVE BOARD

HAWAII AUDUBON SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

August 13. Field trip to Manana Island CANCELLED (for now). See the note on p. 25 for details.

A Forest Bird Field Trip is planned in its place. The trail taken will depend upon weather conditions on the day. Meet at the State Library on Punchbowl St. at 7 a.m. Bring binoculars, lunch, water, and if possible, your car. Transportation cost (50¢) paid to the drivers.

August 14. Board Meeting at the Campbell's, 7 p.m., 1717 Ala Wai Blvd. (941-1356). Members welcome.

August 21. Membership Meeting. An exciting program "Natural History of the Marquesas Islands and Tahiti" will be presented by Steve Montgomery and Phil Bruner at 7:30 p.m. at the Waikiki Aquarium Auditorium. Special emphasis will be on the forest birds. Refreshments.

President Dr. Robert L. Pyle
Vice-President (Conservation)

Dr. Robert J. Shallenberger
Vice-President (Program) John Ford
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Corresponding Secretary . Dr. John F. Walters
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Kammy Wong
Education Committee Linda M. Ogata
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Robert Shallenberger, C. J. Ralph

'ELEPAIO EDITORIAL COMMITTEE

Robert L. Pyle, C. John Ralph (Editor),
Carol Pearson Ralph, Maile Stemmermann, and
John F. Walters.

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