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REDISCOVERY AND IDENTIFICATION OF THE "MYSTERY" GARRULAX ON OAHU

by Avery L. Taylor, Jr. and Mark S. Collins

Between 1947 and 1960, at least 17 reports were published in the *'Elepaio* dealing with a "mystery" laughing-thrush (*Garrulax*). The bird was often heard but seldom seen on field trips along Poamoho Trail in the Koolau Mountains of Oahu. On these trips, from 2 to 15 birds were recorded between the jeep road just below the trailhead and 670 m elevation on the trail. Most observations were concentrated along the trail near the crossover to Helemano Valley at 640 m.

Published descriptions of this bird were varied, but similar enough to indicate that all records were of a single species. The song was described by some to be flutelike in quality, while others likened it to a human whistle. Pyle (1954) noted that the bird responded to whistles. He also observed the bird flecking bark off the trunk of a dead tree. R. Brasier (1950) similarly described the bird feeding on 'Ohi'a (*Metrosideros collina*) in the manner of a woodpecker.

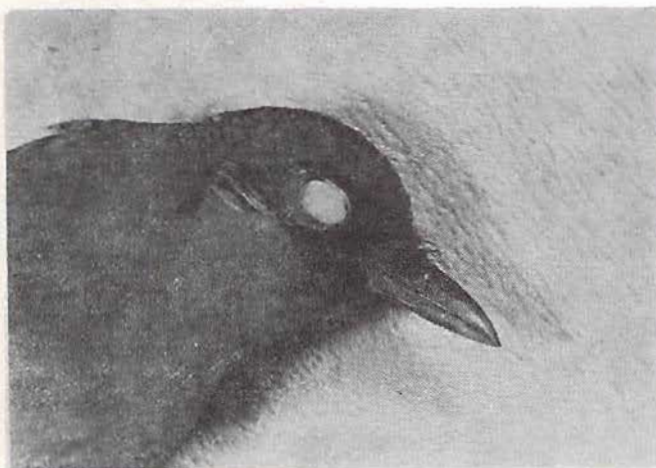


Fig. 1. Head of specimen of Gray-sided Laughing-Thrush.

Photo by Robert Shallenberger

The last published observation of the "mystery" *Garrulax* was on 9 October 1960 (Kojima 1960). In the 18 years since then, no observations of these birds have been reported in the *'Elepaio* despite frequent Poamoho Trail hikes by Hawaii Audubon Society members (Shallenberger 1978), nor were any seen during a survey of Army lands in 1976 (Shallenberger 1977).

It was surprising, therefore, to have a close encounter with two of the "mystery" birds along Poamoho Trail on 16 February 1978, while we were working on an avifaunal survey of the central Koolau Range. We were playing a prerecorded tape of the song of an 'I'iwi (*Vestiaria coccinea*) along the trail at 625 m, where we had seen 'I'iwi previously. What we received for our efforts was not the squeaky hingelike call of an 'I'iwi, but instead, soft catlike "meow" calls from a pair of the "mystery" *Garrulax* perched within 12 m of us.

We were immediately impressed with the black triangular face mask (Fig. 1), the robust stature (Fig. 2), and handsome plumage. The two birds stayed close to each other, remaining low in the 'ohi'a just above the uluhe (*Dicranopteris linearis*). They flicked their long, rounded tails up several times from a downward position and gave the meow call often, apparently in response to the taped calls of the 'I'iwi. When one bird flew a short distance to another perch, the other followed closely, landing within a few feet of the first. When they flew or flicked their tails, we glimpsed white on the outer tail feathers (Fig. 3). They did not try to stay concealed, and we had very good views of them for about 10 minutes. The rufous tail and wings softly contrasted with the olive-beige back and breast and the gray belly (Fig. 4). We also noted white undertail coverts and a dark bill with a lighter tip. There were no apparent differences between the two birds.

The identity of the "mystery" *Garrulax* has been in question since it was first observed. In 1950, R. Brasier sent to the Smithsonian Institution a description of the bird from early sightings. In a reply, W. Schmitt (1950) indicated that the description closely resembled certain races of the Gray-sided Laughing-thrush (*Garrulax caerulatus*), a bird native to southern Asia. He also speculated that this bird may be the one referred to in a report on exotic birds in Hawaii by Caum (1933). Caum reported that five birds of an unidentified species of laughing-thrush purchased from a dealer on a Japanese ocean liner were liberated on Oahu in 1928.

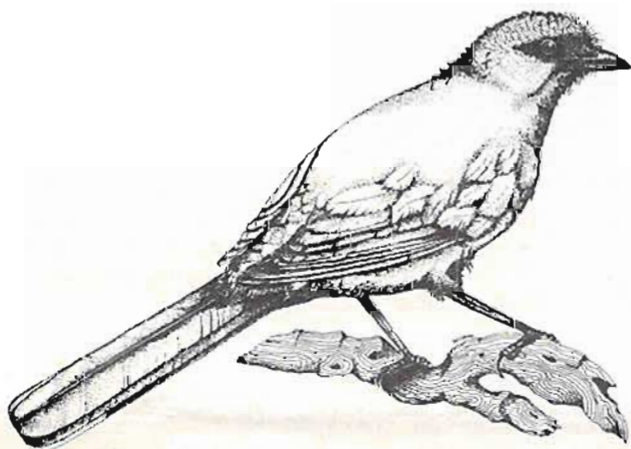


Fig. 2. Drawing of Gray-sided Laughing-Thrush.
by Marian Collins

In an attempt to clarify further the identity of the "mystery" *Garrulax*, we sent a letter to the Smithsonian Institution containing an earlier description by H. Porter (1949), as well as more recent descriptions by R. Pyle (1954) and ourselves. In response, Storrs L. Olson, Curator of Birds, confirmed that the bird described is the Gray-sided Laughing-thrush, and that of the eight subspecies known, most can be eliminated by plumage differences. He believes the Poamoho bird is either *G. c. berthemyi* from the province of Fukien in southeast China, or *G. c. ricinus* from northwestern Yunnan in southern interior China. These forms, although separated in range by nearly 1600 km, apparently cannot be distinguished unless in the hand (Riley 1930). It is far more probable that the form *berthemyi* would have been introduced, since the coastal province of Fukien is a more likely source of cage birds.

Olson also sent us a female specimen of *G. c. berthemyi* collected in Kuatung, N. W. Fukien. We consider the specimen to conform with observations of the bird in the field



Fig. 3. Underside of tail of Laughing-Thrush showing extent of white.

Photo by Robert Shallenbarger

by ourselves and others. The following description is based upon the specimen we received.

The overall length is 26.7 cm. A black mask covers the forehead, chin, and lores, extending through the eye; the ocular skin is dark blue. The plumage of the rump, back, nape, crown, throat and upper breast is olive-brown; many of the crown and nape feathers are slightly edged at the tips with black. The lower breast, belly, and sides are gray, becoming white on the undertail coverts. The secondaries and primaries are rufous, except for a cinnamon-beige on the leading edge of the primaries. The tail is long and rounded, with a rufous upperside and dark gray underside, and has broad white tipping on the three outermost pairs. The bill is black with a yellowish tip and the legs are dark gray. The

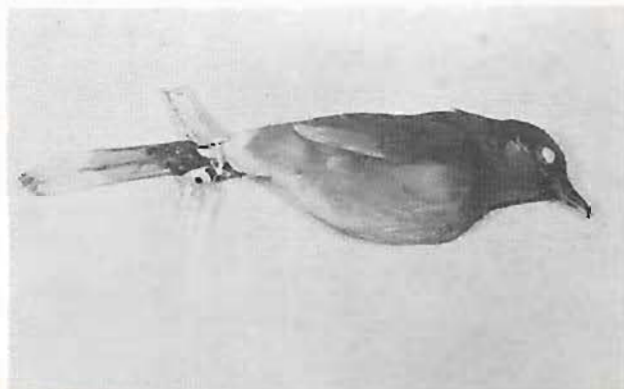


Fig. 4. Full view of Gray-sided Laughing-Thrush specimen.

Photo by Robert Shallenbarger

more obvious characteristics distinguishing this species from the Melodious Laughing-thrush (*G. canorus*), also found on Oahu, are the black mask, gray-to-white undersides, and white-tipped rectrices.

Whether or not the Gray-sided Laughing-thrushes on Poamoho Trail are descendants of the 1928 *Garrulax* release will remain uncertain. Why (or if) the species remained undetected in the Poamoho area from 1960 to 1978, despite frequent use of the area by experienced observers, is difficult to understand. It will be interesting to see what the pattern will be for future observations of this elusive and beautiful bird.

We thank Marian Collins for the use of her illustration of the museum specimen; C. J. Ralph and Storrs L. Olson for their assistance in obtaining information and the specimens from the Smithsonian Institution, and Rob Shallenberger for his assistance and encouragement. C.J. Ralph and R. Shallenberger read and made helpful comments on the manuscript.

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LAYSAN ALBATROSS IS ATTEMPTING TO ESTABLISH BREEDING COLONIES ON KAUAI

by G. Vernon Byrd
and Thomas C. Telfer

The first recent nesting record of the Laysan Albatross (*Diomedea immutabilis*) on Kauai involved one nest near Kilauea Point during the winter of 1976-1977 (Zeillemaker and Ralph 1977). In winter 1977-1978 Laysan Albatrosses were again found near Kilauea Point, and information was obtained about a second colony near Barking Sands, Kauai.

Results

Kilauea Point

From late December 1977 to early April 1978, up to 22 albatrosses were observed on the ground from the bluffs 1 km east of Kilauea Point (Fig. 1) to Mokaee Islet, 200 m north of Kilauea Point. At least three eggs were laid, but none hatched. One of the eggs was broken, perhaps by a predator prior to January 15, the date it was discovered. Another egg was being incubated when it was discovered by David Boynton on January 7. A week later John Maciolek found that the nest and egg had been covered with branches of Christmasberry (*Schinus terebinthifolius*), perhaps by someone wishing to keep predators from taking the egg. Byrd removed the debris, but the egg was not incubated again. Byrd noticed a third egg, on Mokaee Islet off Kilauea Point on January 9 when a bird was seen incubating. Although we saw one to six Laysan Albatrosses near the egg through the end of January, incubation was not observed again, and the egg disappeared in early February.

In addition to the eggs, we found empty nest scrapes near the nest site reported by Zeillemaker and Ralph (1977). During frequent observations in this area from late December through early April, Laysan Albatrosses were always observed "billing" and "yapping".

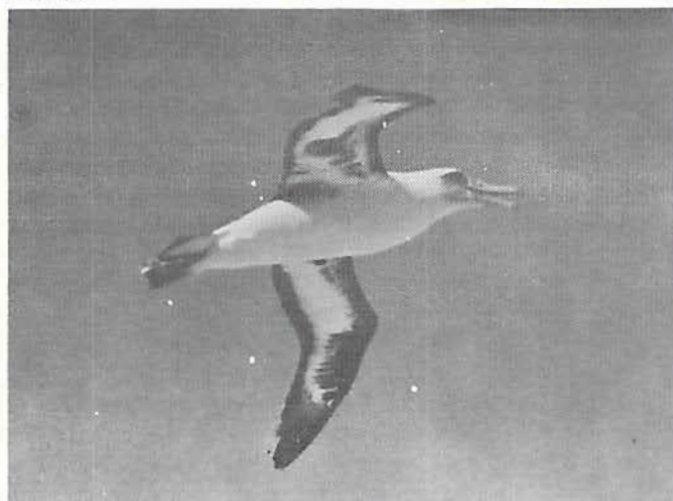
Barking Sands

Lt. Cdr. J.L. Meiling and Fire Chief J. Bissitt told Telfer that Laysan Albatrosses were present at the U.S. Navy Pacific Missile Range Facility, Barking Sands, for the third consecutive season. Up to 10 birds were present during the period December 1977 to July 1978. It is unknown how many birds were present in previous years. No nests were reported. In April 1978 the colony was decimated by dogs; seven of the ten albatrosses were killed.

Discussion

It seems evident that Laysan Albatrosses are attempting to establish colonies on Kauai. As noted, there has been a high abandonment rate, a failure to lay eggs in nest scrapes, and predation of adults by dogs. Disturbance of nesting birds by people and dogs may have contributed to nesting failures, but it is also possible that the birds are young and inexperienced.

In some other members of the order Procellariiformes (e.g. the shearwaters) it appears that most birds return to breed at colonies from which they fledged (Harris 1966); however, some young Manx Shearwaters (*Puffinus puffinus*) have been recaptured on breeding colonies up to 320 km from their natal colonies (Harris 1966). Serventy (1961) also found interchange in colonies of Short-tailed Shearwaters (*Puffinus tenuirostris*), and he indicated birds that reach about eight years old without being able to obtain a nest site on their natal island may go elsewhere to breed. Therefore it seems probable that albatrosses found in new areas would be young birds. Interestingly one of the albatrosses killed at Barking Sands had been banded as a nestling at Eastern Island, Midway in May 1969 by personnel of the U.S. National Museum. The bird was nine years old in 1978. Most Laysan Albatrosses first breed at age eight or nine years, and over 10 percent first breed later (Fisher and Fisher 1969). Young Procellariiformes tend to be less attentive to eggs and therefore less successful as nesters than older, more experienced birds (Shallenberger 1973). If the albatrosses seen on Kauai over the past three years continue to return and manage to escape dogs, breeding success should increase.



Laysan Albatross in flight.

Photo by Robert Shallenberger



Fig. 1. A portion of the Albatross colony near Kilauea Point. About 10 adults are visible on the ground and one in the air.

Photo by David Boynton

A similar situation has occurred in New Zealand (Robertson 1972). Royal Albatrosses (*Diomedea epomophora*) attempted to establish a colony as early as 1914 on the Otago Peninsula near several villages. Due to interference from the curious, vandals, and pets, nesting was unsuccessful until protection was afforded. To help the albatross, government officials and local citizens built fences around the colony and guarded it. As a result of the protection, the first Royal Albatross fledged in 1938.

The colony again declined during World War II because it was not protected, but since 1951, when a warden was appointed, the colony has slowly increased. Between 1970 and 1972 over 45 individuals were present in the colony, 35 of which were born there. In 1972 the area was opened to a limited public viewing.

With protection, the Laysan Albatrosses on Kauai would probably establish breeding colonies. We recommend that representatives of government agencies and local conservationists devise a cooperative plan to protect the albatrosses.

Acknowledgements

Cameron Kepler made us aware of the references to Royal Albatrosses in New Zealand, and he offered helpful suggestions. C.P. and C.J. Ralph offered particularly useful suggestions on the content and organization of the manuscript. David Boynton, John Maciolek, and Kimo McTavish contributed field observations.

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PARASITIC ULCERATION OF THE STOMACH

IN A HAWAIIAN MONK SEAL

(MONACHUS SCHAUINSLANDI)

by G. C. Whittow, G. H. Balazs,
and G. D. Schmidt

The circumstances surrounding the death of an Hawaiian Monk Seal (*Monachus schauinslandi*), an endangered species, are of interest to those concerned with the management and survival of the species. During a stay by two of the authors (GCW and GHB) at French Frigate Shoals (lat. 23°45' N, long. 166°10' W) in the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands in December 1977, a sub-adult male seal died during the night of December 2 while ashore on Tern Island. The seal was 145 cm long (tip of snout to tip of hind flipper), and its greatest girth was 77 cm. There were no external injuries, and the animal was not emaciated (Fig. 1). The distinctive scar on one of the rear flippers resembled that observed 17 days previously by

one of us (GHB) on a seal of similar size and sex on Necker Island (lat. 23°35' N, long. 164°42' W). An autopsy of the seal performed on the beach revealed the presence of blood on approximately two-thirds of the serosal surface of the stomach. The gastric mucosa was extensively ulcerated; at the site of each ulcer were clusters of nematodes (*Contracaecum* sp.) (Fig. 2). No other pathological changes could be identified.

Although *Contracaecum* has been reported to occur in Hawaiian Monk Seals (Chapin 1925, Kenyon and Rice 1959), the present note is the first report of an association between *Contracaecum* and gastro-intestinal ulcers in this species. On Necker Island, the seals make use of salt-water pools on a rock ledge, which at times become heavily contaminated with feces and urine. If the animal which died on Tern Island was indeed the same animal that had been seen on Necker, then its heavy infestation with parasites may have been related to the use of these pools, which may possibly contain the intermediate host. The green coloration of the dead seal's hair coat, presumably due to the presence of *Fringsheimiella scutata* (Kenyon and Rice 1959), is compatible with a period of time at sea, possibly in transit between Necker Island and French Frigate Shoals, a distance of 125 km. The question also arises whether the gastric ulceration and bleeding were directly or indirectly the cause of death of the seal. Keyes (1965) considered ascaroid infection to be a significant factor in the mortality of Northern Fur Seals. Examination of autopsy records

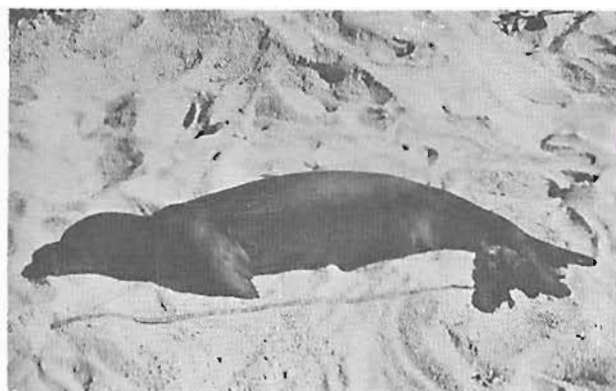


Fig. 1. Young monk seal prior to examination of internal organs.

Photo by George H. Balazs

of eight Hawaiian Monk seals that had been kept in captivity in Hawaii or in San Diego revealed that five of the animals had gastric ulcers. Four animals were reported to have parasites in the gut.

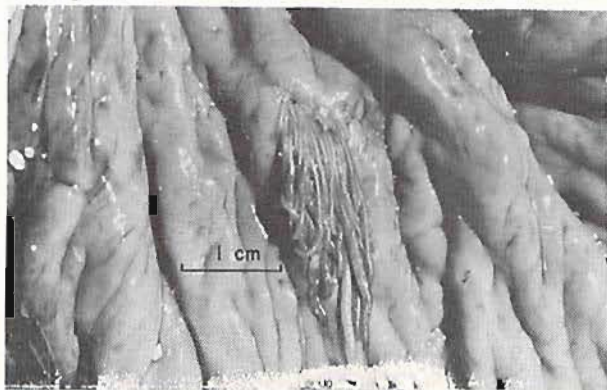


Fig. 2. Cluster of *Contracaecum* sp. attached to the gastric mucosa of a Hawaiian Monk Seal.

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NOMENCLATURAL NOTES ON HAWAIIAN BIRDS

by H. Douglas Pratt

The scientific names of birds are based on rules laid down by the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature (ICZN). These rules are contained in the International Code of Zoological Nomenclature (ICZN, 1964). The commission is the supreme court in matters concerning scientific names of animals, and its decisions are considered binding by virtually all zoological taxonomists. Amendments to the Code, opinions of the commission, and proposals submitted to the commission for consideration are published in the *Bulletin of Zoological Nomenclature*, a quarterly journal. A recent amendment to the International Code (ICZN, 1974, pp. 81-82) has the effect of changing the gender of several genera of Hawaiian birds. This paper documents the changes necessitated by the recent amendment. I have undertaken this report not because any such listing is necessary for the altered names to come into general use, but to call these changes to the attention of authors and editors, many of whom have apparently been unaware of the mandated changes.

The International Code (ICZN, 1964) as amended (ICZN, 1974) contains the following statement (Article 30, a, i, 2):

A noun of variable gender, masculine or feminine, is to be treated as masculine, unless its author states, when he first publishes the name, that it is feminine, or so treats it in combination with an adjectival species-group name; except that a genus-group name ending in *-ops* is to be treated as masculine regardless of its derivation or of its treatment by its original author.

Previously (ICZN, 1964) names ending in *-ops* could be either masculine or feminine. Unfortunately, many avian genera ending in *-ops* had been regarded as feminine. Examples include *Rhynchops*, *Xenops*, *Zosterops*, and the native Hawaiian genera *Loxops*, *Melanerops*, and *Ciridops*.

The International Code also states (Article 30):

A species-group name, if an adjective in the nominative singular, must agree in gender with the generic name with which it is at any time combined, and its termination must be changed, if necessary, when the species is transferred to another genus. (ICZN, 1964)

Thus we must recognize the fact that the endings of several Hawaiian bird names as they are currently used (e.g. Pyle, 1977) are incorrect.

The genera *Melamprosops* and *Ciridops* present no nomenclatural problems. In *Melamprosops*, the only species-group name (*phaeosoma*) is a noun in apposition rather than an adjective (Casey and Jacobi, 1974). *Ciridops anna* is a patronym, with the epithet a noun in the genitive case. In neither situation must the two words agree in gender.

In the genus *Loxops* (as defined by Amadon, 1950) the epithets *virens*, *chloris*, *stejnegeri*, *wilsoni*, *sagittirostris*, *bairdi*, *newtoni*, and *caeruleirostris* do not require alteration, but *parva*, *maculata*, *flammea*, *montana*, *coccinea*, *rufa*, and *ochracea* must now take masculine endings. The subspecific epithet *mana*, of the Hawaii Creeper, appears to be feminine, but the word has no apparent meaning in classical Greek or Latin, and Wilson (1891) gave no etymology for the name. I believe the word was probably derived from Mānā, a locality in the Hamakua District of Hawaii. If so, the term is a noun and not an adjective. Until evidence to the contrary is presented, I believe *mana* should be so treated.

Altered names in the genus *Loxops* are as follows:

<i>Loxops parvus</i>	'Anianiau
<i>Loxops maculatus maculatus</i>	O'ahu Creeper
<i>Loxops maculatus flammeus</i>	Molokai Creeper
<i>Loxops maculatus montanus</i>	Lanai Creeper
<i>Loxops maculatus mana</i>	Hawai'i Creeper
<i>Loxops coccineus coccineus</i>	Hawai'i 'Ākepa
<i>Loxops coccineus rufus</i>	O'ahu 'Ākepa
<i>Loxops coccineus ochraceus</i>	Maui 'Ākepa

Among introduced birds in Hawaii, the name of the Japanese White-eye is thus correctly written *Zosterops japonicus*.

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HUMPBACK WHALE PROTECTION

by Sheila Conant

On June 29, 1978, the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) held a public hearing in Honolulu to receive testimony regarding the protection of the Hawaiian population of the humpback whale (*Megaptera novaeangliae*). Approximately 45% of the North Pacific's estimated 1,000 humpback whales come to Hawaii each year to presumably mate and give birth to their calves. Most individuals of this whale species are found in the Southern Hemisphere, but the size of the South Pacific population is unknown. Most of the Hawaiian whales can be found in the waters bordered by Moloka'i, Lana'i, Kaho'olawe, and Maui and on Penguin Bank. Recent interest in whales has resulted in a tremendous increase in scientific and recreational whale-watching, and, scientists fear, may seriously disturb the behavior of the whales during this critical stage in their life cycle. Concern about the problem has prompted citizens, conservation groups, charter boat owners, NMFS and other scientists to consider the need for increased regulation of their activities involving whales. Public hearings were held on Maui and O'ahu to obtain recommendations for protection, as well as information on whale populations. The next four paragraphs summarize HAS testimony presented at the hearing.

AUDUBON TESTIMONY

Expert participants in a workshop on problems of humpback whales in Hawaii (July, 1977) reached a consensus that harassment by people is the greatest detrimental factor affecting the Hawaiian population of humpbacks. Such harassment, experts feel, may have already reduced reproductive success. It

seems obvious, then, that existing legislation is not sufficient to protect Hawaii's State Mammal, and that habitat management aimed at regulating human activities is essential. We feel that this would be best accomplished by the declaration of critical habitat and the establishment of a sanctuary. The harassment problem is serious enough to warrant interim protective measures for the 1978 breeding season if more formal and comprehensive regulations are not forthcoming in time. Certainly at least one enforcement official should be stationed on Maui full-time during the whale season.

It has become apparent that effective management of habitat, in the sense of intact ecosystems, is perhaps the single most important conservation measure that can be implemented to protect endangered biota. While the Federal Endangered Species Act and the Marine Mammal Protection Act provide mechanisms to prevent direct harassment of individual whales, these measures are difficult, at best, to enforce, and thus of little effect in providing adequate protection for the species as a whole. Designation of a sanctuary with specified areas for recreational and scientific observation, or no observation at all (e.g., in calving grounds) would simplify enforcement and assure better protection, but not necessarily at the expense of research and recreation.

While the primary responsibility for enforcement of regulations that apply to such a sanctuary or to critical habitat should belong to the NMFS, the Hawaii Audubon Society endorses the concept of a cooperative program involving citizens and county and state governments. Maui County has declared certain months to be "Whale Months" and has designated some areas in the county as a "reserve." These actions alert the public to the whale problem but, without the benefit of enforceable regulations, provide no real protection. It is important that support in the form of federal regulations be forthcoming, and that federal actions not be viewed by citizens and government agencies as an attempt to "take over" local efforts with essentially the same goal.

The majority of harassment of whales originates from a natural and commendable curiosity of people to learn about these fascinating creatures. Such positive, but frequently misdirected interest, should not be allowed to result in further endangerment of our Hawaiian humpbacks. The tremendous increase in whale-watching that took place last year is not likely to abate this coming season. Immediate and wise regulation of these activities is strongly indicated.

LATER DEVELOPMENTS

In late October I spoke with John Naughton at the Western Pacific Program Office (WPPO) of the NMFS to determine the status of protective measures for the humpback whale in the coming winter season. Based on testimony from hearings, as well as other data sources, officials at the WPPO of NMFS have established a new policy regarding protection of humpback whales from harassment. This policy is outlined in the following press release from the NMFS:

"A policy which describes activities presumed to constitute harassment of humpback whales during the 1979 humpback whale season has been announced by the National Marine Fisheries Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

The new policy went into effect on January 5, 1979 and will be reviewed for possible changes in April 1979.

The State of Hawaii has designated the humpback whale as its official marine mammal. Each year an estimated 336 to 590 humpback whales winter in Hawaiian waters for breeding, calving, and nursing purposes.

Humpback whales are protected from harassment under the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972 and the Endangered Species Act of 1973. Individuals who harass humpbacks may receive a civil penalty of up to \$10,000 for each violation, and both acts provide for criminal penalties under some circumstances.

The policy applies to aircraft, vessels, swimmers, and divers in all waters within 200 miles of the Hawaiian Islands, with more restrictive provisions for calving and nursery areas adjacent to Maui and Lanai.

The following activities are presumed to constitute harassment of humpback whales, according to the new policy:

Aircraft: Approaching a humpback whale by flying lower than 1000 feet while within a horizontal distance of 300 yards from the humpback whale. "Flying" includes hovering, circling, or buzzing.

Vessels, swimmers, and divers:

1. In calving and breeding grounds --Approaching within 300 yards of a humpback whale, or herding or driving a humpback whale from any distance, in the following calving and breeding grounds:

a. Lanai - all waters within two miles of the mean high water line from Kaena Point east by southeast, passing Halepalaoa Landing and Kikoa Point, to Kamaiki Point;

b. Maui - all waters inshore from a line drawn from Hekili Point at Olowalu southeast to Puu Olai.

2. In all areas subject to this notice other than the calving and breeding grounds described above --

a. Approaching within 100 yards of a humpback whale;

b. Traveling faster than a humpback whale, or the slowest whale in a group of whales, while between 100 and 300 yards of the whale or whales;

c. Multiple changes in vessel speed while between 100 and 300 yards of the whale;

d. Separating a whale from a calf;

e. Herding or driving whales.

Any other act or omission that substantially disrupts the normal behavioral pattern of a humpback whale is also presumed to constitute harassment. A substantial disruption of a normal behavioral pattern may be manifested by, among other actions on the part of the whale, a rapid change in direction or speed; escape tactics such as prolonged diving, underwater course changes, underwater exhalation, or evasive swimming patterns such as swimming away rapidly at the surface; stopping of breeding, nursing or feeding; attempts by a female or her escort to shield a calf from a vessel or a human observer by tail swishing or by other movements to protect a calf; or the abandonment of a previously frequented area.

The National Marine Fisheries Service also announced it will have a patrol boat operating in the waters near Maui, Lanai, Molokai, and Kahoolawe during the humpback whale season to check for compliance with these restrictions.

The only persons who may, in specific limited instances, lawfully harass humpback whales are those who have special scientific research permits issued by the Service. Such scientists must fly a triangular yellow flag from the boats while engaging in research under their permits."

The establishment of the above policy should allow for easier prevention of serious whale harassment. It remains to be seen whether or not it will be sufficient to reduce

harassment of females with small calves, which may leave the safety of nearshore waters when harassment levels are too high. To counteract this and similar problems, Naughton stated that the WPPO has brought another NMFS enforcement agent to Hawaii for the whale season. The new agent will relieve the two agents stationed here of some of their duties (their work takes them all over the Pacific) to allow at least one of them to be on Maui during the crucial months. In addition, the enforcement agents have set up an answering service (Maui number 244-7572) with a direct line to Honolulu (Honolulu number 946-2181) so that citizens may report violations on the spot. NMFS has a field station on Maui and is presently patrolling these critical waters with a 24 foot enforcement vessel. Although these measures may not afford all the protection many conservationists had hoped for, they should provide improved interim mechanisms for reducing harassment levels.

Department of General Science
University of Hawaii
Honolulu, Hawaii 96822

PROTECTION FOR VICIA URGED BY HAWAII AUDUBON

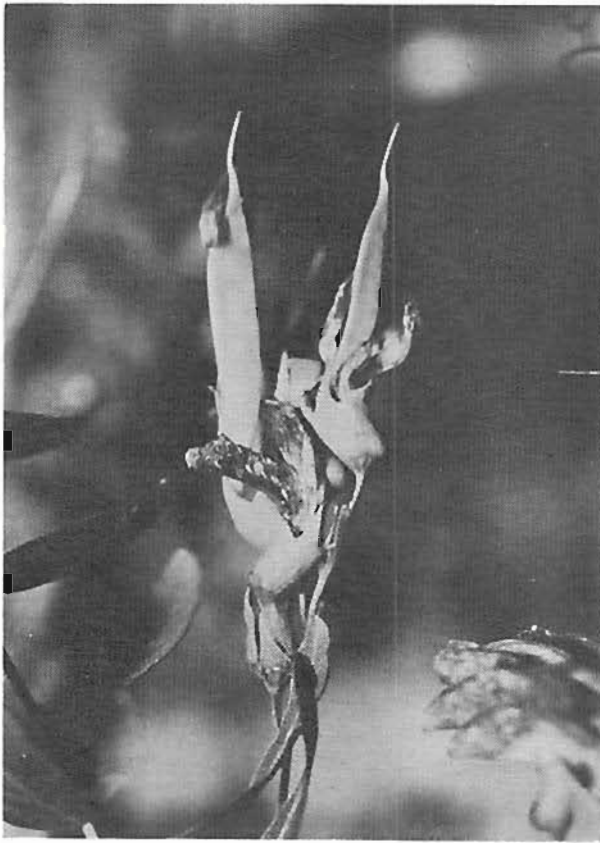
December 3, 1978

Mr. Libert Landgraf
State Forester
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Libert:

Thank you very much for the information and answers to questions that you and Ernest Pung generously gave in phone calls on December 1 concerning the status of the endangered plant species, *Vicia menziesii*, or Hawaiian vetch, on the 50-acre plot of the Kilauea-Keauhou Forestry Center currently undergoing alteration for the purpose of koa restoration.

As I brought up with you, our concern is that the heart of *Vicia* critical habitat may be destroyed in the logging and clearing operations that precede koa regeneration and planting. There are serious questions that this climbing vine with a life cycle of only a few years can survive as a viable species if the fifty acres is logged and all remaining vegetation smashed in place around the existing short-lived plants.



Hawaiian Vetch with flowers and pods.

Photo by Hulton Wood

We commend your initiative in searching for and locating *Vicia* on the remaining unaltered 100 acres of the koa restoration site in July, after it was officially listed as an endangered species. Then in November your staff flagged 50-foot perimeters around the eight patches in the 50-acre site and instructed the loggers to avoid these areas.

We see these actions as steps toward the fulfillment of the Department's responsibilities for endangered species in the administration and enforcement of the Hawaii Conservation of Wildlife and Plants Act of 1975 (Chapter 195D, Hawaii Revised Statutes). Under this Act it is unlawful for any person to "take" an endangered plant species. "Take," in this sense, means "to cut, collect, uproot, destroy, injure, or possess endangered or threatened species of plants, or to attempt to engage in such conduct" (Sec. 195D-2 (j)). "'Plant' means any member of the plant kingdom, including seeds, roots and other parts thereof" (Sec. 195D-2 (h)).

Additional measures appear necessary if the Department is to meet its obligations to prevent the "taking" of *Vicia* and to give priority "to the conservation and protection of those endangered plant, bird and mammal species

and their associated ecosystems whose extinction within the State would imperil or terminate, respectively, their existence in the world" (Sec. 195D-5 (d)).

We ask if you would develop a management plan for the conservation and protection of *Vicia* and its associated ecosystems in cooperation with the land owner. We also ask if you would consider requesting that the Bishop Estate not proceed with the site preparation on the 50-acre plot to ensure sufficient time for the Department and the land owner to comply with the letter and spirit of the Hawaii law protecting endangered species.

In addition to the Hawaiian vetch, it appears likely that the Kilauea-Keauhou Forestry Center site of 200 acres is also part of the critical habitat of three endangered Hawaiian honeycreepers: Hawaii Creeper, Hawaii 'Akepa, and 'Akiapola'au.

We can see the validity of Mr. Pung's concern that two aggressive grasses (both apparently introduced) pose a threat to seed dispersal, germination and growth of *Vicia* to maturity. Grass suppression by hand control or by a systemic herbicide such as Round-up could encourage *Vicia* seed germination and plant growth. In the long term, grass pests would be shaded out by 'ohi'a, koa and other native plants in the ecosystem. Such management actions, in our view, would be consonant with the conservation and protection provisions of the Hawaii statute.

Mr. Myron B. Thompson, a Trustee of the Bishop Estate, has said that one of the purposes of the Kilauea-Keauhou Forestry Center is:

"To perpetuate the procreational and maintenance area for native flora and fauna." (Proceedings, 18th Annual Hawaii Forestry Conference, Nov. 18-19, 1976, Honolulu, Hawaii, page 32.)

This purpose surely would be contradicted if the habitat of Hawaii's only officially endangered plant were destroyed in the effort to rehabilitate koa at this particular location.

Considering the sensitivity of this area, would it be possible to relocate the second 100 acres for koa restoration to a site at lower elevation on Keauhou Ranch that is not within endangered species habitat?

We greatly appreciate your leadership over the years in the designation of prime native ecosystems for the Natural Area Reserves System.

Aloha,

Mae E. Mull
Island of Hawaii Rep.
Hawaii Audubon Society

ALOHA TO NEW MEMBERS

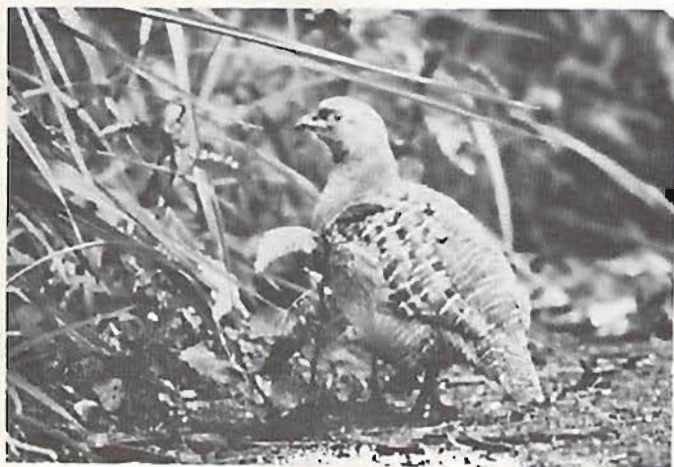
We welcome the following new members to the Society and hope that they will join in our activities to further conservation in Hawaii:

Joint with National: Harold Boyce, APO San Francisco, CA; Mr. and Mrs. Zadoc Brown, Jr., Kihei, Maui; Mr. Robert Camara, Hilo; Pat and Sandy Colvin, Honolulu; Miriam Cook, Honolulu; D. Debacker, APO San Francisco, CA; Timothy G. Dwight, Lihue; Mrs. John L. Earle, Ewa Beach; Dr. Gladys Falshaw, Kekaha; Mr. James E. Grise, Aiea; Linda L. Hickey, Makawao; Mary Joe Kinnison, Honolulu; Kohala High & Elementary School, Kapaau; Christine Ling, Honolulu; Cathy M. Lowder, Hilo; Mr. and Mrs. A.D. MacLean, Kailua, Oahu; Douglas G. Mason, Kolonia, Ponape, Caroline Islands; Richard W. Mitchell, Lahaina; Craig S. Nelson, Pearl City; Dr. Arnold Nurock, Kilauea, Kauai; Dr. Ruth Oda, Hilo; Velma O. Sawyer, Honolulu; Mr. Frank Seki, Mililani; Mr. Marx Skinner, Saipan, Northern Marianas Islands; Preston Smith, Honolulu; Pamela G. Stewart, Haiku, Maui; David Stoppel, APO San Francisco; Masatake M. Sumida, Honolulu; Mrs. Myron Thompson, Honolulu; Jeff Van Etten, FPO San Francisco; A. Vosold, Honolulu; Joanne Wakefield, Kealahou.

Local Regular: Barry Brady, Honolulu; Elizabeth Gould, Honolulu; Anita Manning, Honolulu; Ronald Nagata, Hilo; Ruth Norton, Honolulu; Thomas Telfer, Lihue.

Subscribers: Mary Jane Edwards, Levittown, PA; Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, LA; Stuart Tingley, Sackville, NB; Mrs. J. A. Wessel, Walnut Creek, CA.

A special MAHALO to new Life Member Omer Bussen.



Grey Franklin

Photo by Sheila Conant

PUU O KALI, MAUI
CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

by John F. Walters, Compiler

The new Puu o Kali Christmas Count got off to a rousing start with 1,999 individuals of 38 Maui bird species. Apprehensions about the weather, based on two solid weeks of gale-force winds, proved groundless; conditions were ideal on Count Day, Saturday, December 23 (rescheduled from December 22 to increase participation). The six birders who turned out for the count covered a lot of ground, from sea level to 8800 feet. This area must have one of the largest elevation ranges of any count circle in the nation. The heavy rains in late November and early December produced lush grass at low and middle elevations and abundant mamane flowers at high elevations, so birds were conspicuous and well fed.

Any new count circle will produce surprises. There were two big surprises on this count, one negative and one positive. The negative surprise was the total absence of seabirds in the Maalaea Bay sector of the circle, based on nearly three hours of observation, from shore and up to four miles offshore in a small boat. The positive surprise was the discovery of a large, obviously established population of Warbling Silverbills in the kiawe thickets below Ulupalakua. This species has been established on the Big Island since at least 1972, but our count marks the first time it has been recorded elsewhere in the state.

As expected, Kealia Pond produced a large number of shorebirds and waterfowl. All of the vagrant species recorded there in the past month turned up on Count Day except the Black-bellied Plover. In addition, the Greater Yellowlegs represented a first record for the season at Kealia. Polipoli State Park was full of forest birds, notably the Maui Creeper, which is very abundant there. Unfortunately, after 8 miles down the southwest rift zone of Haleakala my right knee needed a valve job, so we weren't able to cover the park as thoroughly as planned. Three creepers were also seen far above the park in a mamane tree at about 7500 feet. The three 'I'iwi were all feeding in mamane along the edges of the exotic plantings at Polipoli.

Ring-necked Pheasants are usually abundant in the count circle, but they were lying low on Count Day, probably because of hunting season. Kay Kepler got one, more or less by accident, near her Kula home. Some neighbor children

Puu o Kali, Maui

	Sectors							Total
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
Cattle Egret	.	9	.	.	.	.	.	9
Black-crowned Night Heron	.	69	.	.	.	.	.	69
Canada Goose	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	1
Mallard	.	6	.	.	.	.	.	6
Pintail	.	136	.	.	.	.	.	136
Northern Shoveler	.	49	.	.	.	.	.	49
Lesser Scaup	.	15	.	.	.	.	.	15
Chukar	20	20
Gray Francolin	.	20	.	11	.	16	.	47
Black Francolin	.	.	.	3	.	.	.	3
Ring-necked Pheasant	1	.	1
Hawaiian Coot	.	47	.	.	.	.	.	47
American Golden Plover	.	12	.	12	.	27	7	58
Greater Yellowlegs	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	1
Wandering Tattler	.	7	1	5	.	.	.	13
Ruddy Turnstone	.	11	.	12	.	.	.	23
Sanderling	.	3	.	4	.	.	.	7
Hawaiian Stilt	.	76	.	.	.	.	.	76
Herring Gull	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	1
Least Tern	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	1
Rock Dove	3	.	3
Spotted Dove	.	30	.	20	.	22	.	72
Barred Dove	.	28	3	174	.	37	.	242
Hawaiian Owl	.	1	.	.	.	.	3	4
Skylark	.	.	.	7	.	10	20	37
Red-billed Leiothrix	4	26	30
Mockingbird	.	1	.	8	.	6	3	18
Japanese White-eye	.	35	2	7	.	8	66	118
Common Myna	.	48	19	21	.	43	.	131
Maui 'Amakihi	3	194	197
Hawaiian (Maui) Creeper	46	46
'Apapane	9	234	243
'I'iwi	3	3
Warbling Silverbill	.	.	.	40	.	.	.	40
Spotted Munia	.	.	.	32	.	.	.	32
House Sparrow	.	8	12	.	.	24	.	44
Northern Cardinal	.	6	8	11	.	5	4	34
House Finch	.	14	.	.	.	97	11	122
<hr/>								
Total individuals	-	635	45	367	.	315	637	1999
Total species	0	26	6	15	.	16	13	38
Total party-hours	2 3/4	4	2 1/2	1 1/2	0	4 1/2	11 1/2	26

delayed her as she was about to go out for counting, and the pheasant flew by right in front of her as she stood talking to the kids, the only one any of us saw all day. A near thing!

Those of us who turned out had a lot of fun and saw a lot of interesting birds. There is plenty of room for future growth on this count, particularly in the Ulupalakua, Kula, and Upland sectors. If you didn't participate this year, make plans now for next year's count!



Warbling Silverbill

Photo by
Rob Shallenberger

Sectors covered:

- 1 Offshore--Maalaea Bay: Cam Kepler
- 2 Kealia Pond: Cam and Kay Kepler
- 3 Coastline--Kihei area: David Brown, Cam and Kay Kepler
- 4 Ulupalakua area: Cam and Kay Kepler
- 5 Lowland scrub and agricultural areas: No coverage
- 6 Kula area: Roland Asakura, Kay Kepler, John Walters and Dalwyn Wong
- 7 Uplands, including Polipoli State Park and Alpine scrub to 8800 ft: John Walters and Dalwyn Wong

Habitat coverage

Alpine scrub 25%, exotic forest 15%, salt pond 15%, residential 15%, ocean 10%, pasture 10%, lowland scrub 5%, beaches 5%.

Additional Details: Time: 0600 to 1900.

Weather: sunny all day at low elevations; sunny morning, turning overcast and foggy at high elevations; wind N, 0 to 20 mph; temperature 43°-82°F. Observers: six in six parties. Total party-hours, 26 (17 on foot, 6 by car, 3 by boat) plus 1 owling. Total party-miles 173 (15 on foot, 145 by car, 13 by boat).

1978 KAPAA, KAUAI, CHRISTMAS COUNT

by Delano Kawahara, Compiler

The center of the count was the foothill junction of Makaleha and Anahola mountains, as described in the 1977 count. Elevation 0 to 210 ft.; habitat coverage: 60% open grasslands, pastures; 15% reservoirs, ponds, streams; 10% residential; 10% forested; and 5% taro patches. The count was held on December 24, 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. During the day it was mostly clear with intermittent light rain; the temperature was 62° to 76°F, and the wind NNE, 0-15 mph.

Nine observers participated in 6 parties. Total party-hours: 20½, 3 on foot and 17½ by car. Total party-miles: 127, 2 on foot, 125 by car.

Participants: Bob Broshear, H.C. Dalton, E.K. Dalton, Delano H. Kawahara, John Maciolek, Ruth Romero, Dr. Fred Snyder, William Villanueva and Grace Voder.

Below are the results with the 1977 results for comparison:

<u>Species</u>	<u>1977</u>	<u>1978</u>
Laysan Albatross	3	(3)*
White-tailed Tropicbird	21	15
Brown Booby	1	10
Red-footed Booby	127	1081
Great Frigatebird	1	29
Cattle Egret	283	1782

Black-crowned Night Heron	27	27
Koloa (Hawaiian Duck)	17	43
Pintail	3	0
Northern Shoveler	2	0
Red Jungle Fowl	53	10
Ring-necked Pheasant	4	6
Hawaiian (Common) Gallinule	8	28
Hawaiian (American) Coot	264	79
American Golden Plover	238	141
Ruddy Turnstone	4	17
Wandering Tattler	4	4
Sanderling	0	13
Hawaiian (Black-necked) Stilt	110	24
Rock Dove	0	24
Spotted Dove	184	41
Barred Dove	930	480
Hawaiian (Short-eared) Owl	3	0
Barn Owl	0	1
Mockingbird	6	1
Melodious Laughing-Thrush	32	25
Shama	59	31
Common Myna	457	415
Japanese White-eye	157	118
Spotted Munia	136	167
House Sparrow	127	114
Western Meadowlark	28	44
Red-crested Cardinal	1	4
Northern Cardinal	111	49
House Finch	886	42

Total Individuals 4,288 4,865

Total Species 32 31

*in the count area at Kilauea Lighthouse during the count week, but not on count day.

RR 1, Box 261-421
Kapaa, Kauai 96748

NOTE TO CONTRIBUTORS TO THE 'ELEPAIO

All contributions concerning natural history and conservation are welcomed, especially those pertaining to the Pacific area. The Editorial Committee wishes to encourage material from the Pacific Islands, such as the Trust Territory, Guam, American Samoa, and other areas. Articles on all natural history subjects are solicited.

It would facilitate the processing and review of your contribution if it could be submitted typewritten and double spaced, although this is not a requirement. All articles of a scientific nature are sent out for comments to at least two reviewers familiar with the subject.

To insure proper handling and rapid publishing of your contribution, it should be mailed to the Editor: C.J. Ralph, 3467 Alani Drive, Honolulu, HI 96822.

A NEW PARK FOR HAWAII

Hawaii and Guam are among the beneficiaries of the National Parks and Recreation Act of 1978 (NPRA) recently signed by President Carter. This legislation authorizes numerous additions to the National Park System, the Wild and Scenic Rivers System, and the National Trail System, as well as a grant program for urban parks operated by state and local governments.

One of the seven historic sites authorized to be added to the Park System is the Kaloko-Honokahau area on the Big Island, just north of Kailua, Kona. Birdwatchers may know Honokahau as a good place to see the exotic Yellow-billed Cardinal and the native Hawaiian Coot, Hawaiian Stilt, and migratory ducks. The historical and cultural interest in the area lies in the remnants of a complete Hawaiian village, including dwellings, temple platforms, and three fishponds. The lava tubes there were important burial sites, and the area is considered sacred. The Park Service plans to continue archeological work in the new park and develop it as a live-in park, where a group of people will live as the Hawaiians did. Visitors will be allowed on a restricted basis. Land acquisition for this National Historical Park is already under way.

Elsewhere in the Pacific, the NPRA also provides funds for studying the feasibility of a Guam National Seashore. This park would complement the War in the Pacific National Historical Park that already has been authorized by different legislation. On Saipan, again under separate legislation, the Park Service is committed to helping preserve and develop the American Memorial Park.

C.P. Ralph

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

BIRD-PLANE COLLISION THREAT AT KANAHU POND

An obstacle in the way of making Kanaha Pond a permanent wildlife sanctuary has been the claim that the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) opposes such action because of the threat of bird-plane collisions in the landing pattern for the Kahului airport. However, effective October 15, 1978, a memorandum of agreement between the FAA and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) is supposed to have stepped up measures to prevent collisions between planes and birds to further advance airline passenger safety. Perhaps, now with the help of the FWS, proposed extension of the

Kahului airport can be in the direction of Spreckelsville to save the pond.

When I retired from the National Park Service in 1972, I received an honor award for superior service. One of the achievements mentioned in the citation accompanying the award stated: "His efforts in conservation were highly significant in making Kanaha Pond the second National Natural Landmark in the State of Hawaii." I have returned to Maui annually since my retirement, and frankly I can't see that designating Kanaha Pond as a natural landmark has resulted in convincing the politicians that the natural values of the area outweigh the economical potential. If it had, the Mayor would have concurred so the Governor would have transferred the property from the Department of Transportation to the Department of Land and Natural Resources, to make it a bonafide refuge or sanctuary.

An often used excuse for not transferring the land to benefit wildlife is that in 1956, when the Navy turned the land over to the Territory of Hawaii, it was stipulated that the land be used for airport purposes. I do not believe such a clause in the land transfer is valid today because of the esthetical significance which qualified the site as a natural landmark. Furthermore, it is likely the Navy no longer cares what the State wishes to do with the pond because if it is lost to wildlife it would be in violation of certain provisions of the Endangered Species Act of 1973. If the airport is expanded in the other direction, it should make the FAA happy because it would be removing the potential bird-plane collision threat.

If the people of Hawaii do not act to save Kanaha Pond, we will one day see earth moving equipment on the site to drain and fill the area for airport expansion. Provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act may be violated, but it will still be too late to save another one or two species from the list of extinct birds in the world.

*Jerome J. Pratt
Wildlife Management Consultant
3000 Meadowlark Drive
Sierra Vista, Arizona 85635*

MAHALO FOR CONTRIBUTIONS

MAHALO NUI LOA to the following members who have generously sent contributions to the Society, ranging from \$2.00 to \$25.00: George Campbell, Donn Carlsmith, Susumu Fujii, William Judd, Donald Mitchell, Viola McLaughlin, and Dick Wong.

FEBRUARY FIELD TRIP

KANEHOE MCAS PONDS

This month's field trip will be to the water and shorebird habitat of the Kaneohe Marine Corps Air Station. The ponds, normally off-limits to the general public, host the endangered Hawaiian Stilt and Hawaiian Coot. This is the site of much of the color-banding effort of the Division of Fish and Game to determine movements of the stilts. A good variety of migrant shorebirds and ducks at this time of year can spice up the bird watching.

As this field trip is dependant upon permission from the Marine Corps, it is best if participants contact one of the leaders in advance for last minute details. Leaders: Rob Shallenberger (261-3741) and Sheila Conant (988-6522).

Meet at 7:30 a.m. at the Hawaii State Library on Punchbowl Street; or at 8:00 a.m. at the entrance parking lot of the Kaneohe Marine Corps Air Station. Bring binoculars, water, lunch, and telescope, if you have one.

HAWK RESEARCH FEATURED AT
FEBRUARY MEETING

At the February Audubon meeting Curtis Griffin, from the University of Missouri, will give a talk on "Hawk Research: To Save a Falcon". Mr. Griffin will tell about his experiences with the Canadian Wildlife Service in southern Alberta doing raptor research. Studying the hawks and eagles of the area required many hours in the field hiking, canoeing, climbing cliffs, and banding young falcons. Mr. Griffin will illustrate his interesting talk with slides taken during the research, including hair- (and feather-) raising climbs into aeries to band young birds (to determine their survival); and to put transmitters on raptors (to follow their movements). He also will describe the CWS captive breeding program.

Mr. Griffin, a graduate student, is planning to work on the endangered Hawaiian Hawk and is now headquartered in Volcano, making preliminary arrangements for his research.

The meeting will be at 7:30 p.m. on Monday, February 19, at the McCully-Moiliili Library, 2211 South King Street. Free, well-lighted parking is available in back of the library.

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Life	100.00

(payable in \$25 annual installments)

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(For Details, see Inside Back Cover)

- Feb. 11 (Sun.) Field trip to ponds in Kaneohe Marine Corps Air Station, for water and shorebirds. Leaders: Rob Shallenberger (261-3741) and Sheila Conant (988-6522).
- Feb. 12 (Mon.) Board meeting at the home of George Campbell, 1717 Ala Wai Blvd., Apt. 2303 (941-1356). 7 p.m. All members welcome.
- Feb. 19 (Mon.) Regular meeting, featuring Curtis Griffin on *Hawk Research: To Save a Falcon*, dealing with his work with raptors in Canada. McCully-Moiliili Library, 2211 South King St., at 7:30 p.m.

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