



Hawaiian and Laysan Rails: S.B. Dole Corresponds With A. Agassiz

by Anita Manning

Recent archival research has produced two 19th-century references to now-extinct Rails.

HAWAIIAN RAIL

In 1889 in the Kingdom of Hawai'i, two years after the death of Hilo bird collector and storekeeper James D. Mills, an auction was held which included two Hawaiian Rails (*Porzana sandwichensis*) from Mills' collection. The mounted birds were purchased for \$260 by Honolulu Port Surveyor Frederick Turrill who resold them to British financier and bird collector Walter Rothschild for \$1000 (Manning 1979). Sanford Ballard Dole, amateur ornithologist and lawyer, had acted as an unsuccessful intermediary for Alexander Agassiz, director of what is now the Museum of Comparative Zoology at Harvard University, Cambridge, Massachusetts. Agassiz had also wished to acquire the specimens but could not afford to compete financially with Rothschild. In an August 1889 letter Dole informs Agassiz that Mills' Hawaiian Rails have gone to Rothschild, but holds out hope:

...for in an new road to the volcano which is now in the process of construction from Hilo, the work man [sic] are reported to have seen one of these birds run across the road, showing that the general belief they were extinct is incorrect. It is probable that the offer of say a hundred dollars for a skin would procure it. I think it necessary to offer a substantial inducement as the extreme scarcity of the birds would render it difficult to find them. (Dole 1889)

Agassiz replied from Cambridge in November 1889:

I should be very glad to pay \$100 for a skin of the wingless bird which I infer from your letter, it is quite within the possibilities to obtain....I am amazed at the price the owner got for his skins. But as I am not a Rothschild nor likely to be I must be satisfied with a more modest shot and hope it may kill my bird too. (Agassiz 1889)

Work on the new Hilo-Kilauea Volcano road stretched on into 1894 when the last few miles were completed (Volcano House 1891-1898). Dole's hope that a \$100 reward would result in the capture of a Hawaiian Rail was never fulfilled. Agassiz, however, closed his letter with a hope which would be fulfilled and would involve Mr. Dole directly:

We were all greatly surprised at the peaceful revolution which has taken place in Brazil and judging from the rumblings one hears there of the doings at the Sandwich Ids. we may have another surprise of the same kind there

almost at any time[.] I hope if it does come it may be as quiet a reversal of the present order of things. (Agassiz 1889)

It would be only over three years, January 1893, before "as quiet a reversal" resulted in Sanford Ballard Dole becoming President of the Provisional Government and later the Republic of Hawai'i.

LAYSAN RAIL

Dole continued to remember the needs of Agassiz's collection. Another chance to help came in 1892. As a trustee of Honolulu's Bernice Pauahi Bishop Museum, Dole asked Curator William T. Brigham for help in shipping two Laysan Rails (*Porzana palmeri*) to Agassiz. Brigham's letter of transmittal presents an interesting description of the Laysan Rail and a bit of a mystery.

June 20, 1892

Prof. Agassiz:

Dear Sir:

I send by this mail two skins of the so-called "wingless bird" from Laysan Island. These birds were brought alive to Honolulu, and I have had them running about my room for some days. It is impossible to keep them in an ordinary bird cage as they can easily pass between the wires[,] their bodies are so small. They are omnivorous, taking seeds, figs, ants, spiders, and even the flesh of their kind. They drink water frequently (although there are no streams on Laysan[]). They do not roost (at least in confinement[]) and have a habit of standing on one leg. They can fly up into a chair when pursued. Eyes crimson; eyeball .31 in[ches] diam[eter]. The birds belonged to Hon. S.B. Dole and I send them at his request.

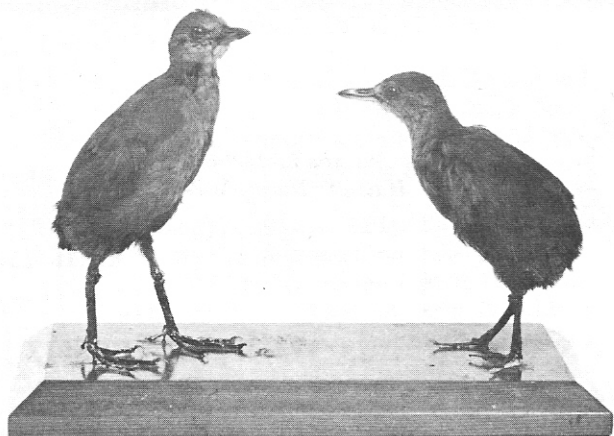
Yours very truly,

Wm. T. Brigham
Curator, B.P.B. Mus.
(Brigham 1892)

The bird skins were registered at Harvard on July 18, 1892, and mounted for the collections. They are now skins 34852, male, and 34853, female (Museum of Comparative Zoology, n.d.).

CORRECTED NUMBER OF RAILS IN COLLECTIONS

While preparing the foregoing notes, I found two errors in the literature. In Banko (1979) the number of Hawaiian Rails in museum collections is reported as seven. Actually



Agassiz hoped to acquire Hawaiian Rails such as these, which are in the Bishop Museum collections.

Bishop Museum Photo

there are only six birds; an error occurred when B.P. Bishop Museum specimen BBM 20 was counted twice. At the beginning of Banko's study this bird was on loan to the American Museum of Natural History, New York. When the American Museum was surveyed, two Hawaiian Rails were counted: AMNH 54632 and BBM 20 (Bishop Museum 1928). Later, when Bishop Museum was surveyed, two Rails, including the returned loan, were reported: BBM 20 and BBM 21.

In Ely and Clapp (1973) Table 5-6 reports that the Museum of Comparative Zoology has only three Laysan Rails. However, Raymond A. Paynter, Jr., Museum of Comparative Zoology ornithologist, states (personal communication) that the number of Laysan Rails in that institution is correctly listed by Banko (1979) as eleven.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The Hawai'i Audubon Society generously contributed \$100 to support travel in June 1981 to continue my research on Bishop Museum, R.C.L. Perkins, and *fauna Hawaiiensis*. The letters referenced here were found during that research. I also wish to thank R.A. Paynter, Jr. and A. Blum, Museum of Comparative Zoology, for their cooperation in bringing this material to 'Elepaio. For comments on drafts of the manuscript I thank M. Ashford, A. Elston, F. Howarth, S. Montgomery, and A. Ziegler.

Literature Cited

- Agassiz, A. 1889. Letter to S. B. Dole, November 19. In Agassiz Letter Bk., Vol. 2, Library, Museum of Comparative Zoology, Harvard University (hereafter MCZ), Cambridge, MA. Published with permission. These excerpts from the Museum of Comparative Zoology Archives may not be reproduced without prior permission from the Librarian of the Museum.
- Banko, W. E. 1979. History of Endemic Hawaiian Birds, Specimens in Museum Collections. CPSU/UH Avian History Report 2. University of Hawaii at Manoa, Honolulu. 80 p.
- Bernice P. Bishop Museum. 1928. Loan Records, BP-4252.

- Brigham, W.T. 1892. Letter to A. Agassiz, June 20. In Agassiz Correspondence (b. Ag 148.10.4), MCZ, see restrictions at Agassiz.
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- Ely, D.A., and R.B. Clapp. 1973. The Natural History of Laysan Island, Northwestern Hawaiian Islands. Atoll Research Bulletin, No. 171. Smithsonian Institution, Washington, DC.
- Manning, A. 1979. Bishop Museum's First Hawaiian Birds: The Mills Collection. 'Elepaio 40:35-43.
- Museum of Comparative Zoology. n.d. Bird Catalog.
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Bishop Museum
P.O. Box 19000-A
Honolulu, Hawaii 96819

MAHALO TO C.J. RALPH

The Board of Directors of the Hawaii Audubon Society wishes to express, on behalf of the entire Society, our appreciation for the excellent work done for the Society by our retiring Editor, C. J. Ralph. Dr. Ralph (C. J. to all of us) became Editor in August 1977 and since then has worked energetically to develop our journal. Both C. J. and Carol Ralph have generously donated a considerable amount of time and personal resources towards editing and production of the 'Elepaio. Many of us have enjoyed the frequent and delightful offerings of brunches, lunches and dinners at the Ralph's home on "pasteup" days. We will miss the Ralph's efforts on behalf of the 'Elepaio and wish C. J. and Carol the best in their new endeavors. Mahalo and aloha.



C.J. Ralph with next-generation editor at HAS 40th Anniversary celebration.

RED-EARED AND COMMON WAXBILLS ON OAHU

by W.M. Ord

During the past several years Red-eared Waxbills (*Estrilda troglodytes*) have been reported from several different locations on Oahu. In the late 1970's, it was frequently seen in Kapiolani Park and adjacent areas including Honolulu Zoo and numerous bird-feeders within this same area. However, it has not been recorded in the Kapiolani Park area for at least two years and probably has disappeared because of lack of active bird-feeders.

Birds identified as Red-eared Waxbills have, however, been reported with ever increasing frequency from the Kuilima/Kahuku area and Waipio Peninsula between Middle and West Locks. The birds seem to prefer open areas with a variety of different seeding grasses and with fresh water ponds nearby.

On a Hawaii Audubon field trip January 11, 1981 in the Kuilima area, "Red-eared" Waxbills were seen in fairly good numbers. While the birds were constantly moving while feeding, I estimated that there were at least 18-24 birds. Watching the birds closely, I became conscious that these birds were acting slightly differently from Red-eared Waxbills. On closer examination their profile struck me as also being slightly different. Upon walking closer with several members, all of the birds took flight and were not seen again.

I went back on a weekday during the following week and again observed the birds feeding in the same area. This time I was able to get within 20 feet of the feeding birds without frightening them into flight. The weather was hot and sunny and the birds, perched in the tall grasses in

TABLE 1

Table 1. Distinguishing features of three species of Waxbill.

	RED-EARED	COMMON	CRIMSON-RUMPED
Bill:	red	red	black with a hint of red
Rump:	black	red	red
Tail:	black	dark brown	dark brown
Breast:	pale brown with rose shading in abdominal area	rose shading starts high on chest thru abdominal area	similar to Red-eared though not as visible
Overall Color:	Dark brown above paler brown underparts, both with faint rose cast.	Prominent but fine striations over brown uppersides and undersides.	Similar to Red-eared though not as attractive, flatter colors.
	Held in the hand, it is possible to see very faint barred effect.	No rose cast to coloring. Underside of tail and undertail coverts black.	Dull red markings on wing coverts.
Sub-species:	None	Several, though less attractive and smaller	one (<i>centralis</i>) smaller and darker
Length:	3½" - 4" tail 1"+	4" - 4½" tail 2"+	4" - 4½" tail 1"+

brilliant sunlight, were easily seen with 10 X 50 mm binoculars. One look and I immediately recognized the birds as Common (St. Helena) Waxbills (*Estrilda astrild*). Again, there were at least 18 birds feeding in the area and a close look at each satisfied me that all were the same species. During 1981, I have been out to the Kuilima area at least four times and on each occasion have been able to clearly identify the birds as Common Waxbills.

On December 13, 1981, while birding the Waipio Peninsula with Bob Pyle, we stopped the car to see some Red Munia that we had heard calling. As we searched for the Red Munia, the familiar call notes of waxbills were heard off to our left. The birds were spread out feeding over a large area. The light was good and it was easy to identify the birds out in the open as Common Waxbills. We estimated at least six birds in this group.

Red-eared Waxbills have been reported by many people including myself from this area. Unfortunately, one usually sees them when they are heard as they take flight. The red bill and red ear mark are usually seen but that is all, and explains why we haven't been able to properly identify the species in the past.

To add to the confusion, there is a third species with the red-ear mark, but with a black bill. This species is known as the Crimson-rumped Waxbill (*Estrilda rhodopyga*) and, to the best of my knowledge, has not been seen in the wild on Oahu.

The table will identify the important field marks between the three species. It is taken from Rutgers (1965) and Bates and Busenbark (1968).

The three species are very common in aviculture. During the early 1960's all three species were regularly sold in Honolulu pet stores from \$3 to \$5 per bird. Now, when they are available, they sell for close to \$30 per bird.

All are known as Common Waxbills in Africa and have, in the past, been sold as such in Honolulu, even though all three species were represented. The Common (St. Helena) is the most popular because its color is more outstanding. The Red-eared is sometimes referred to as the Black-rumped while the Crimson-rumped is sometimes referred to as Sundevall's Waxbill.

Nesting habits are similar for all three species. They build domed nests with two compartments, one for the female incubating and an upper nest for the roosting male. Four to six white eggs are laid hatching in 11 days. The young birds leave the nest between 12 and 14 days after hatching. The young look like drab adults but have black bills and lack the red ear marks. Two to three months after leaving the nest, the young cannot be told from the adult birds. Male and female birds are difficult to separate though females tend to have less brilliant coloring in breast and abdominal areas.

LITERATURE CITED

- Rutgers, A. 1965. The Handbook of foreign birds. London, Blandford Press.
- Bates, H.J. and R.L. Busenbark, 1968. Finches and soft-billed Birds. Neptune City, N.J., TFH Publications.

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'ALALA RESOLUTION

On 9 February 1982 the Board of Directors of the Hawaii Audubon Society adopted the following resolution, which was sent to the Department of Land and Natural Resources:

RESOLUTION REGARDING THE 'ALALA OR HAWAIIAN CROW (*Corvus tropicus*)

WHEREAS

The 'Alala is one of the most critically endangered birds in Hawai'i, and

WHEREAS

There is a breeding pair of 'Alala at Pohakuloa in facilities of the State of Hawai'i Department of Land and Natural Resources, and

WHEREAS

There is limited information about the breeding behavior of this species in the wild and in captivity, and

WHEREAS

There has been a specific plan for the management of the captive birds (i.e., "Synopsis of the 1982 'Alala Breeding Season, a Cooperative Project of the Department of Land and Natural Resources and the Honolulu Zoo") prepared by Tim Burr, Wildlife Biologist with DLNR, and

WHEREAS

The principal objective of a captive breeding program for the 'Alala is the eventual release of captive-raised birds into the wild in order to increase the natural population of the species, now



'Alala, or Hawaiian Crow, fledgling.

Dept. of Land and Natural
Resources Photo

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT

1) the Hawai'i Audubon Society recommend that the captive breeding program employ a "least manipulative strategy" for the 1982 breeding season (i.e., that removal of eggs or young birds for incubation and/or hand-raising be used only as a last resort technique, instead allowing the captive breeding birds to incubate their own eggs and raise their own young), and that

2) the HAS urge the DLNR to initiate immediately a cooperative program with a mainland researcher to study the effects of captivity and manipulation on nesting success in a surrogate species such as the Common Crow, in order to obtain data of potential applicability to captive rearing of 'Alala, since the 'Alala is too rare to be subjected to experimental manipulation in the absence of data from surrogate species, and that

3) the HAS immediately initiate specific action, including, if necessary, legal consultation and action, that would result in the DLNR removing from the Pu'u Wa'awa'a Ranch lease, (Lease S-3589 to F. Newell Bohnett), those State lands which, according to the latest draft 'Alala Recovery Plan (January 1981), are essential habitat for the survival of the 'Alala, and that

4) the HAS recommend that this habitat, and all other essential habitat as defined in the 'Alala Recovery Plan, be managed to enhance the survival of the 'Alala, including, for example, predator control, severe limitations of human disturbance, and maintenance of native forest ecosystems, and that

5) the HAS request that the DLNR provide for a full review of the total 'Alala Recovery Plan, including the status and prospects for 'Alala in the wild, plans for habitat maintenance, and the role of captive propagation in sustaining a viable wild population, and that

6) the HAS initiate appropriate publicity to call attention to the plight of the 'Alala.

FIELD TRIP TO MANOA CLIFFS TRAIL

The Society field trip on Sunday, January 17th was to Manoa Cliffs Trail in back of Honolulu. The trail skirts the side of Tantalus Mountain for three miles, from the Pauoa Valley side off Tantalus Drive to the Manoa Valley side off Round Top Drive.

According to Pukui, Elbert and Mookini in *Place Names of Hawaii*. Tantalus is a "mountain (2012 feet high) behind Honolulu, named by early Punahou students for the Greed god who, always thirsty, was punished by being placed in a pool of water. When he tried to drink, the water receded. (Thrum's Annual, 1928:105-106). Perhaps similarly, as the students climbed, the peak seemed always to recede." The Hawaiian name for the mountain is Pu'u'ohi'a.

It was a cloudy-all-over, showery, wet kind of day, and only a handful of hardy souls turned out to join trip leader Maile Stemmermann. Predictably, the trail was wet and muddy.

Along the first half mile, avocados were in bloom attracting the native birds 'Amakihi and 'Apapane. An 'Elepaio was seen twice. Japanese White-eyes joined the native birds in the avocado flowers, and Shammas provided a constant concert. Two calls of the Japanese Bush-Warbler greeted us at the junction with Pauoa Flats Trail. These were the first that most of us had heard this season. Beyond the trail junction, near a grove of the native white hibiscus koki'o-ke'oke'o (*Hibiscus arnottianus*), were two House Finches showing yellow rather than reddish heads.

Two species of Cardinals, and two species of Bulbuls, were seen often on the drive up to Tantalus and occasionally along the trail. A flock of Spotted Munia were also seen along the road up. No sign of a Red-billed Leiothrix was seen or heard. A decade and more ago, Leiothrix were one of the more abundant species on this trail.

Botanizing also was popular with the group, and we were pleased to see quite a few native species along the trail.

Leilani Pyle

MEMBERS WELCOME AT BOARD MEETINGS

The Board encourages members to attend and participate in the monthly Board meetings. It is a good way to get more involved in conservation issues and in the workings of the Society.

CORRECTION

On the first page of the March, 1982 'Elepaio, (page 77) the volume and number was incorrectly typed as Vol. 42, Number 8. The correct volume and number was Vol. 42, Number 9.

ANNUAL TREASURER'S REPORT 1981

prepared by Norris Henthorne
 audited by Robert L. Pyle, Marie Morin,
 Lawrence T. Hirai, George G. Campbell

1981 Revenue

Dues	\$ 7246.96
Donations	1660.88
Hawaii's Birds (Profit on copies sold)	7294.29
Guide to Hawaiian Birding	78.70
Field Checklist	41.99
Preliminary List	37.87
Endangered Waterbirds	8.50
Posters	19.56
'Elepaio, back issues	432.25
Tinker's List	1.00
T-shirts	291.25
Postcards	77.10
Scholarships	450.00
Interest	4552.17
Miscellaneous	544.41
Net Revenue	<u>\$22,736.93</u>

1981 Operating Expenses

'Elepaio	\$ 9030.12
Office	1147.25
Telephone	299.62
Taxes	182.84
Assistance Grants	654.00
Research Grants	600.00
Professional Fees	274.80
Travel	150.00
Scholarships	900.00
Miscellaneous	1418.67
Total Operating Expenses	<u>\$14,657.30</u>

1981 Net Income \$ 8079.63

Assets

Checking Account	\$ 2,291.15
Savings Accounts	15,094.69
Temporary Investments	20,000.00
Inventory-Hawaii's Birds 1.	33,486.09
-Pacific Birds 2.	9,834.50
	<u>\$80,706.43</u>

Equity

Retained Earnings from 1980	\$72,626.80
1981 Net Income	8,079.63
	<u>\$80,706.43</u>

Footnotes

- Hawaii's Birds Inventory of 32,100 copies.
- Pacific Birds Book Inventory of 23 paintings, 6 of which were purchased in 1981 in a total 1981 outlay of \$2457.00.

MAHALO TO CONTRIBUTORS

We would like to thank the following contributors whose gifts have arrived since the last 'Elepaio acknowledgements:

Charles Dunn, Honolulu; John Engbring, Honolulu; Helen Fillat, Riverdale, New York; Ray Greenfield, Honolulu; Alice M. Johnson, St. Paul, Minnesota; Patricia Johnson, Seaside, Oregon; Joan Lai, Hilo; Jaan K. Lepson, Princeton, New Jersey; George-Ann Maxson, Bemidji, Minnesota; Florence Mc Goldrick, Honolulu, Noel Miller, Palatine Br., New York; Kerry Mucci, Clifton, New Jersey; Olga Myers, Honolulu; Turner Nearing, Decatur, Illinois; Scott Perkins, Kula; Gail Rawcliffe, Pittsford, New York; Jean-Marie Spoelman, Fremont, California; Les Walls, Haleiwa; Rick Warshauer, Volcano; Erika Wilson, Rockville, Maryland.

Norris Henthorne

NATURAL HISTORY SCHOLARSHIP

The Hawaii Audubon Society is accepting applications for the Rose Schuster Taylor Scholarship, a one-year undergraduate tuition scholarship at the University of Hawaii, Hilo or Manoa campus. Its purpose is to lend financial assistance to deserving undergraduates majoring in natural science, especially those interested in Hawaiian natural history.

For further information and application forms write to Dr. Sheila Conant, Scholarship Committee, Department of General Science, 2450 Campus Road, Honolulu, Hawaii 96822, or call 948-8241. Please leave your name and address with the General Science Department if you want to receive an application form.

Deadline for completed application is April 30, 1982.

ALOHA TO NEW MEMBERS

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

Joint (National and Hawaii): Ray Alford, Honolulu; Charles A. Anderson, Paauilo; Edward Bittner, Anahola; L.Cpl. Jon R. Brandt, Jr., FPO San Francisco; MMZ T. W. Calhoun, FPO San Francisco; W. S. Chillingsworth, Hilo; Mr. and Mrs. Charles Clark, Kailua; Courtland Cleland, Honolulu; D. Connelly, Haleiwa; Mr. and Mrs. C. M. Culberson, APO San Francisco; Joel Fithian, Honolulu; Janine M. Fryant, Kealia; Jonathan D. Good, Lahaina; Beverly J. Haid, Honolulu; Virginia Hammon & Family, Kamuela; Sheila F. James, Honolulu; Stephen Johnson, Haleiwa; Alice Katterman, Honolulu; Frank & Martha Katterman, Kahului; Brad H. Koach, Honolulu; Dr. Charles H. Lamoureux, Honolulu; Eleanor Matsuda & Family, Aiea; Geoffrey Miller, Kapaa; William E. Nakoff, Ewa Beach; Charles H. Nishioka, Hilo; Frank Nutch, Hilo; Neil O'Brien & Family, Papaikou; Deborah A. Putnam, M.D., Kailua; Mrs. Roger Schulte & Family, Honolulu; Matt Smith Family, Honolulu; Ron & Linda Stringer, Mililani; Vivian S. Takagaki, Honolulu; Robert E. Talmadge, Kaneohe; Robert Thomson & Family, Keaau; Walter Tokushige, Honolulu; K. Wasserman, Honolulu; M.A. Wentworth, M.D., Inc., Waimea; R. Wilson, Honolulu; Leslie W. Wishard, Sr., Kamuela; and Jeffrey Wung, Aiea.

Local: Jerri Anderson, Honolulu; Karen Asherman, Honolulu; Yvonne M. Bartko, Honolulu; Keith Bashant, Honolulu; Joan E. Canfield, Honolulu; Judy L. Champaign, Aiea; Yvonne N.L.H. Ching, Aiea; Christine Copes, Volcano; Conrad C. Dippel, Kaneohe; Roger P. Donahue, Honolulu; Ruth Hallanger, Kailua; Esta Holden, Kailua-Kona; Elizabeth B. Holmes, Honolulu; Deborah Hopkinson, Honolulu; Darcy E. Hu, Honolulu; Anne Dina Kageler, Volcano; Roy Kaneshiro, Waipahu; Florence G. McGoldrick, Honolulu; Peter Paton, Hilo; Elizabeth Ann Powell, Honolulu; John Radovich, Waimanalo; Mark J. Rauzon, Honolulu; Mary M. Roberts, Honolulu; Alice T. Rudh, Kihei; Clifford Smith, Kailua; and Edith King Wilcox, Lihue.

Subscriber: Philip Ashman, Agana, Guam; Helen Bordeaux, Dearborn, Michigan; Helen P. Fillat, Riverdale, New York; Frederick W. Hamer, Oceanside, California; and A.E. Mott, Grass Valley, California.

Junior: Scott E. Perkins, Kula.

Life: Lydia Macy S. Cooke, Kualapuu; Laura Lawrence, Warrenton, Virginia; Michael V. Wonn, Kailua.

Susan Schenck

ACTION ALERT!

LAST CHANCE FOR HAWAIIAN HUMPBACK WHALE SANCTUARY?

Establishment of a National Marine Sanctuary for Humpback Whales in Hawaiian waters, which has received the recommendation of the world's foremost whale scientists, has long been stalled in bureaucratic red tape. A hearing, which could decide the fate of the proposed whale sanctuary once and for all, will take place within a month. The more representation at the hearing, the better. Perhaps even more important than representation at the hearing is to let the Governor know that a large segment of the public is in favor of protecting the environment of the endangered Humpbacks. Please contact the Governor c/o the State Capitol at your earliest convenience. For exact place and date of the hearing, and for more in-depth information about the Sanctuary proposal, call John Frizell at 537-9506.

HAWAII GEOGRAPHIC SOCIETY/UHM-CCECS SERIES:

"Exploring the Neighbor Islands of Hawaii," is a series of six, Wednesday evening lectures and films being offered by UH-Manoa College of Continuing Education and Community Service. Beginning Wednesday evening, April 21st, the series continues weekly through May 26th. Each of the Wednesday evening programs will begin at 7pm, at Tenney Theatre, St. Andrews Cathedral, Beretania at Richards Streets. Parking is free; the bus routes are nearby. Films and other materials from the Hawaii Geographic Society will be utilized by Society Executive Secretary-Treasurer, Willis H. Moore, who is the instructor coordinator. Information on the course is available by telephoning 538-3952; registration by mail or in person begins April 1st. An optional series of neighbor-islands-in-one-day excursions will be offered to course participants and others interested in actually exploring the neighbor islands.

EELS AGAIN AT STATE LEGISLATURE

For the fourth time, a legislative attempt is being made (in House and Senate) to alter existing law to permit introducing freshwater eels of the order Anguilliformes into Hawaii (earlier attempts were in 1973, 1977, and 1979). Hawaii Audubon Society presented testimony against a Senate proposal (S.B. 2134-82, which would allow the introduction) at a hearing in early March. Some of the points made in the HAS testimony were that (1) anguillids readily escape from captivity and are capable of wide dispersal through fresh and salt water, as well as overland; (2) the eels are voracious and opportunistic predators capable of feeding on almost every group of aquatic animals they encounter, including those used in aquaculture and even young waterbirds; and (3) no adequate market demand study or rigorously prepared cost-benefit analysis has been done, so that only vague promises of economic success are being offered, against the probable negative impacts on native species which would result from the introduction.

The following summary of action on the House proposal is adapted from a status report provided to HAS by Alan Ziegler:

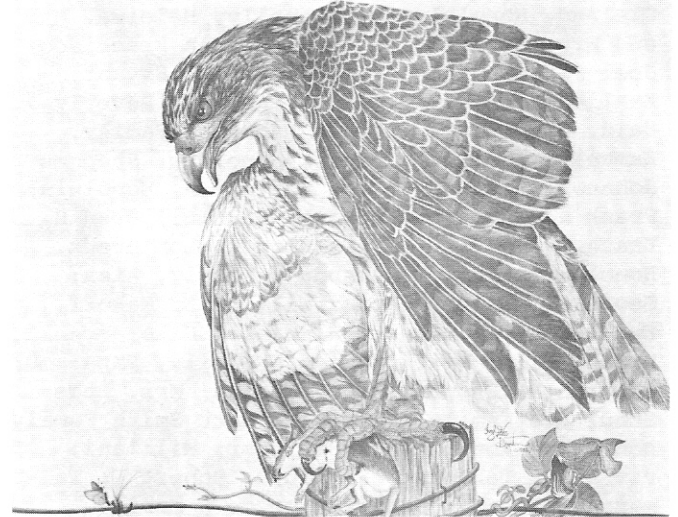
As a result of a flood of telephone calls and other protests to State House Agriculture Committee Members, the House "Eel Bill" (H.B. 2222) was altered to retain the current law banning importation of anguilliform eels but with the critical exception that "...a government agency may bring into and maintain in the State Anguilla rostrata for experimental or other scientific purposes..." (A. rostrata is the East Coast North American eel). Unfortunately, this revised House version (H.B. 222, House Draft 1) passed the full House on 8 March 1982 after heated floor debate by a vote of 36 to 13, even though it is obviously just a "foot in the door" aimed at later allowing large-scale importation and cultivation of freshwater eels here.

This amended bill has now passed over to the Senate, where the Agriculture Committee there is planning a public hearing, possibly near the end of March or beginning of April (Call Senator Ajifu's office, phone number listed below, to be notified of the hearing date or for other eel information). The Senate Agriculture Committee members and their office telephone numbers are: Ralph Ajifu, Chair (548-3163); Ann Kobayashi, V. Chair (548-4771); Milton Holt (548-6518); Duke Kawasaki (548-7855); Mamoru Yamasaki (548-6512); Patsy Young (548-3283); and Richard Henderson (548-2430).

Come and testify at the hearing, or at least give the members a phone call to tell them your own feelings on bringing freshwater eels into Hawaii.

WILDLIFE WEEK POSTER

As part of Hawaii Audubon Society's educational contribution to National Wildlife Week (March 14 through 20, 1982), HAS donated 600 dollars (total project costs were approximately \$4500) towards production of the color Hawaiian Hawk poster enclosed in this issue of 'Elepaio. The hawk poster, reproduced below, has been distributed to 6,000 classrooms



in Hawaii, along with additional written material for teachers. The special Hawaii materials focused on Hawaiian raptors, to coordinate with the Nationwide theme "We Care About Eagles". Permission to reproduce the watercolor for the poster was generously given by Sheryl Ives Boynton of Kokee, Kauai.

APRIL FIELD TRIP

The April 18th HAS field trip will be to Ulupau Head and Nu'upia Ponds on the Kaneohe Marine Corps Air Station. Ulupau Head is the location of one of the two Red-footed Booby colonies in the main island chain, and visitors will be treated to excellent close-up views of the nesting birds with young. It is also the site of an excellent overlook of Moku Manu, an offshore islet which has breeding populations of many other seabirds.

Nu'upia Ponds feature Hawaiian Stilt populations, as well as migrant shorebirds; a visit to these areas will round off the field trip.

Bob Pyle and Audrey Newman will be co-leaders for this trip. Meet at the Punchbowl St. side of the main library downtown at 7:45 a.m. or at the KMCAS main gate at 8:30 a.m.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Want to get involved? Typists to help with 'Elepaio preparation are needed, as well as people who would like to follow and write up current conservation issues. Call Peter Galloway at 988-6522 or Marie Morin at 533-7530.

MAY 'ELEPAIO PASTE-UP

The May edition of the 'Elepaio will be pasted-up beginning at 5:30 p.m. on April 15 (Thursday) at the home of Marie Morin, 1415 Victoria Street #1515. Call Marie at 533-7530 beforehand, in order to obtain the building security number for the apartment.

"VOLCANO VISITORS" PROGRAM ON BIG ISLAND

Russ Apple, well-known author of the weekly newspaper column, "Tales of Old Hawaii", and retired Pacific Historian for the National Park Service, will present an illustrated program, "Volcano Visitors", on Saturday, April 24 at 7:30 p.m. in the Hawaii Volcanoes National Park Auditorium.

Starting with the ancient Hawaiians, people who made the strenuous climbs to the summits of Mauna Loa and Kilauea to marvel at Madame Pele's creative handiwork are the subject of Russ Apple's ongoing research. He will relate the little-known adventures and accomplishments of volcano visitors such as sailing ship captains and crewmen, missionaries, exploring expeditions, early scientists, horseback riders, walkers, wagon passengers and 19th century sightseers of all ages.

These early travelers who described in print what they observed are an important source for historic earthquake records and volcanic eruption events. From their writings, biologists also glean useful descriptions of native birds and plants and their habitats as they existed 70 to 200 years ago.

This is the ninth program in a Hawaiian natural history series jointly sponsored by the Hawaii Audubon Society and Hawaii Volcanoes National Park. These programs feature up-to-date information and insights about natural Hawaii, presented by specialists involved in current research.

The programs are for the public and everyone is invited.

HAWAII AUDUBON SOCIETY

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Table with 3 columns: Position, Name, Phone Number. Includes President (Dr. Charles Lamoureux), 1rst V.P. (David H. Woodside), 2nd V.P. (Dr. Robert L. Pyle), Treasurer (Norris G. Henthorne), Rec. Secy. (Marie Morin), Corr. Secy. (Barbara Johnsen), and Directors (Peter Donaldson, Dr. Wayne Gagné, Paul Kores, Barbara Lee, Audrey Newman, Maile Stemmermann).

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REPRESENTATIVES

Table with 3 columns: Location, Name, Phone Number. Includes Lanai Island (Peter Conally), Hawaii Island (Mae Mull), and Washington, D.C. (Warren B. King).

'ELEPAIO COMMITTEE

Table with 2 columns: Role, Name. Includes Editors (Marie Morin, Peter Galloway), Editorial Committee (Sheila Conant, Wayne Gagne, Robert L. Pyle), and Production Committee (Janet Biggs, George Campbell, Laura Carter, Karen Henthorne, Norris Henthorne, Thea Johanos, B.J. Johnsen, Jack Mitchell, Christa Russell, Maile Stemmermann, Janet Tamura, Kammy Wong, Winifred Yamashiro, and JoAnn Yamashita).

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- April 12 (Monday). Board meeting; place of meeting to be decided. Call Dr. Charles Lamoureux at 988-2255 for final meeting place prior to April 12.
- April 18 (Sunday). Field trip to Ulupau Head and Nu'upia Ponds on the Windward side of Oahu, to see seabirds and waterbirds. Meet at the Punchbowl St. side of the main library downtown at 7:45 a.m. or at the main gate of the Kaneohe Marine Corps Air Station at 8:30 a.m. Trip leaders are Audrey Newman (521-1724) and Bob Pyle (262-4046).
- April 19 (Monday). General meeting at McCully-Moiliili Library, 2211 S. King St., 7:30 p.m. Talk will feature our retiring editor, Dr. C.J. Ralph, on *Birds of New Zealand*.
- April 24 (Saturday). Russ Apple on *Tales of Old Hawaii*, 7:30 p.m. in the Hawaii Volcanoes Nat. Park Auditorium.

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