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New Bird Records for the Eastern Caroline Islands

by Floyd E. Hayes

Although many ornithologists have visited Micronesia, the Eastern Caroline Islands have received less attention than other island groups and little is known of avian distribution. I lived on Kosrae from 27 August 1981 to 20 May 1982 and visited Pohnpei (formerly Ponape) from 23-27 August 1981, 4-15 January 1982, and 21-25 May 1982. From 1-4 January 1982 I traveled aboard the ship M.V. *Kaselehlia* from Kosrae to Pohnpei. Here I report my sightings of eleven species of birds previously unrecorded from Kosrae and five bird species previously unrecorded from Pohnpei.

Diomedea immutabilis—LAYSAN ALBATROSS

I saw one bird for 15 seconds a few hundred m off the stern of M.V. *Kaselehlia* approximately 32 km west of Mokil, near 6°42′N, 159°27′E at 1700 on 3 January 1982. I saw a second individual at 1130 the following day for 30 seconds as it flew near the ship approximately 12 km north of Pohnpei near 7°6′N, 158°22′E. I noted the large size, black wings and back, and white body that distinguish this species from Black-footed Albatross *(Diomedea nigripes)* and Short-tailed Albatross *(Diomedea albatrus),* the only other regularly occurring albatrosses in the north Pacific. This species has been recorded from Micronesia in the Marshalls (Amerson 1969) and at Wake (Dixon and Starrett 1952). The nearest observation of this species is recorded from 8°30′N, 163°35′W on 1 February 1945 by Thompson (1951). The Eastern Caroline Islands represent the species' farthest southwesterly distribution. The most southerly record is of a specimen from San Cristobal in the Solomon Islands in 1965 (Robbins and Rice 1974).

Puffinus pacificus—WEDGE-TAILED SHEARWATER

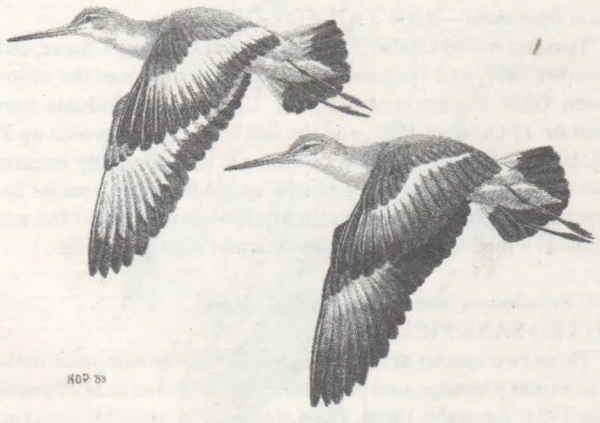
Wedge-tailed Shearwaters occur in two distinct plumage variations: an entirely brown dark phase and a light phase with white underparts. On 2 January 1982, I observed 63 birds (48 dark phase, 15 light) at sea between Kosrae and Pingelap from aboard the M.V. *Kaselehlia.* On 3 January 1982, I saw 18 dark-phase birds near Mokil. Pingelap and Mokil are two small atolls east of Pohnpei within the Pohnpei Group. Although this species is widespread in Micronesia, this is the first record for islands near Pohnpei.

Puffinus tenuirostris—SHORT-TAILED SHEARWATER

I saw a Short-tailed Shearwater at close range from 0720-0725 on 3 January 1982, approximately 42 km east-southeast of Mokil, near 6°24′N, 160°6′E. This species is difficult to distinguish from the Sooty Shearwater *(Puffinus griseus),* and both migrate regularly through Micronesian waters. The Sooty Shearwater is larger and usually has a white wing lining. The bird flew low across the ocean toward the bow of the ship. It then arced high above the ocean, flying repeatedly across the bridge of the ship. Frequently the bird glided within five m and was observed from every angle. The wing linings were gray, only slightly paler than the upperparts. I have seen thousands of Sooty Shearwaters in both the Atlantic and Pacific and feel certain this bird was a Short-tailed Shearwater. Previously recorded from the Marshalls (Baker 1951), Gilberts (Amerson 1969), and Marianas (Drahos 1977), this sighting represents the first record from the vicinity of Pohnpei.

Oceanodroma matsudairae/tristrami—MATSUDAIRA'S/ SOOTY STORM-PETREL

At 0630 approximately 84 km west-northwest of Kosrae near 5°36′N, 162°10′E on 2 January 1982, two large, dark, fork-tailed storm-petrels were sighted following the M.V. *Kaselehlia.* Four birds followed the ship throughout 2 January; four were seen 3 January 1982 near Mokil; and two on 4 January 1982 near Pohnpei. These birds flew with a shallow wingbeat, interspersed with much gliding. They followed the ship with ease, arcing and gliding back and forth across the wake, with occasional erratic movements. They did not patter, but hovered for a few seconds near the surface. Occasionally one alighted on the water, returning to follow the ship several minutes later. I studied these birds for an hour through binoculars over the course of the three days, and saw no other pale areas besides the conspicuous pale wing bars. The large



Black-tailed Godwit (L) and Hudsonian Godwit (R) to show differences in wing and tail pattern. From forthcoming book *"A Field Guide to the Birds of Hawaii and the Tropical Pacific"* by H.D. Pratt, P.L. Bruner, and D.G. Berrett.

Pencil drawing by H.D. Pratt

size, all dark coloration, and long deeply forked tail eliminate all western Pacific species except for Matsudaira's Storm-Petrel and Sooty Storm-Petrel. Matsudaira's Storm-Petrel is a spring breeder on Volcano Island, south of Japan, with a southward dispersal. This species is best identified by the white shafts on the base of the primaries, which are absent in the Sooty Storm-Petrel. Matsudaira's Storm-Petrel was recorded from Guam by King (1976) and others, and from Palau (Engbring and Owen 1981). The Sooty Storm-Petrel is a winter breeder in the Volcano, Bonin, and Hawaiian Islands, and disperses northward. Considering the absence of white on the primaries, the birds observed were most likely Sooty Storm-Petrels, previously unrecorded from Micronesia.

Anas clypeata—NORTHERN SHOVELER

On 13 October 1981, eight ducks flew into an impoundment at the airport under construction at Okat Harbor, Kosrae. The ducks were all females or immatures. Viewed from 100 m, the most conspicuous feature of the birds was their long spatulate bills. The birds flew away a few minutes later, and I saw the bluish wing patch characteristic of this species. Northern Shovelers have been recorded from Micronesia in the Marianas and Pohnpei (Baker 1951), the Marshalls and Gilberts (Amerson 1969), and at Wake (Johnston and McFarlane 1967).

Limosa limosa—BLACK-TAILED GODWIT

I observed a Black-tailed Godwit on 13 December 1981 at Okat Harbor, Kosrae, with four Bar-tailed Godwits *(Limosa lapponica).* The bird, seen in flight and at rest, was identified by the bold white wingstripe on black wings and the black and white tail pattern. The similar Hudsonian Godwit *(Limosa haemastica)* of North America is a "rare, but possibly regular" visitor to New Zealand (Falla et al. 1979:123), is recorded from Fiji (Skinner and Langham 1981), and may occur in Micronesia as well. The Hudsonian Godwit has sooty wing linings and a narrower wingstripe in contrast to the white wing linings and bold wingstripe of the Black-tailed Godwit. I did not see the underwings of the Kosrae bird well. Black-tailed Godwits have been recorded from Micronesia in Palau (Owen 1977a), Yap (Pratt et al. 1977) and Guam (Jenkins 1978).

Limosa lapponica—BAR-TAILED GODWIT

Two Bar-tailed Godwits were present at Walung, Kosrae, on 8 September 1981, and I regularly saw others throughout the winter between Okat Harbor and Walung. Up to 13 individuals were present on 17 October 1981, and the last individual was seen on 27 April 1982. All were in winter plumage, but gradually became redder through the months of March and April. This species has been recorded from several areas in Micronesia (Owen 1977b), and is a regular winter visitor to the western and central Pacific.

Actitis hypoleucos/macularia—COMMON/ SPOTTED SANDPIPER

These two species are extremely difficult to distinguish in the field in winter plumage, and both have been collected in Micronesia (Baker 1951, Amerson 1969). I saw single birds, possibly the same individual, at Kosrae on 15 January, 10 February, 19 March, and 1 April 1982. The bird normally rested on a rocky jetty along the causeway to Lelu and was once observed along a river bank near the ocean during low tide at Tofol. It was identified as an *Actitis* species by the whitish eyebrow, white wingstripes, white outer tail feathers, stiff-winged flight, and characteristic tail bobbing habit.

Calidris alba—SANDERLING

I saw a Sanderling with a mixed flock of shorebirds resting on the rocky dikes outlining the new runway at Okat Harbor, Kosrae, on 14 November 1981. I noted all field marks as I observed the bird at rest and in flight for five minutes. A second individual was with a flock of Ruddy Turnstones *(Arenaria interpres)* on a sandy beach at Tafunsak, Kosrae, on 18 December 1981. Sanderlings are a regular migrant through Micronesia and are recorded from most of the major island groups (Owen 1977b).

Calidris acuminata—SHARP-TAILED SANDPIPER

I saw single birds at Okat Harbor, Kosrae, on 27 September 1981, and on 17, 21, and 31 October 1981. Two birds were present on 16 October 1981 at Okat Harbor. I also saw individuals in Malem, Kosrae, on 12 November 1981 and in Tofol, Kosrae, on 22 November 1981. The birds observed had a rufous crown and lacked the distinct breast line of the similar Pectoral Sandpiper *(Calidris melanotos).* They usually flocked with other shorebirds, and allowed approach within five m. This species had previously been reported from every major island group in Micronesia except Kosrae (Owen 1977b).

Sterna fuscata—SOOTY TERN

I heard three birds calling and saw them flying over Okat Harbor, Kosrae, on 20 April 1982. The birds did not land, but I clearly saw the jet black upperparts and white underparts which distinguish this species from the similar Grey-backed Tern *(Sterna lunata)* and Brown-winged Tern *(Sterna anathetus),* both of which have lighter colored upperparts and a distinct eyeline. On 13 May 1982, another Sooty Tern flew high over Okat Harbor. Previously unrecorded from Kosrae, this species is widespread in Micronesia (Owen 1977b).

Sterna albifrons/antillarum—LITTLE/LEAST TERN

The American Ornithologists' Union (1983) recently recognized these two birds as distinct species. This species complex is recorded from many island groups in Micronesia (Owen 1977b) including Pohnpei (Engbring and Owen 1981). One bird was observed at Okat Harbor, Kosrae, on 3 October 1981. Several individuals were present through 5 May 1982, with up to five individuals present on three occasions. The small size and high-pitched voice readily distinguish these species from Black-naped Tern *(Sterna sumatrana),* which has yet to be recorded from Kosrae. The birds usually rested on the airport runway, and frequently foraged in the harbor or ocean. The birds were all in winter plumage, but began molting into breeding plumage during March and April.

Thalasseus bergii—GREAT-CRESTED TERN

I saw two Great-crested Terns at Tafunsak, Kosrae, on 31 August 1981; they remained until 13 September 1981. A small population wintered on Kosrae from 5 December 1981 to 5 May 1982, with up to six adults and one immature present on 16 January 1982 at Okat Harbor. They often rested on the airport runway and fished nearby. I observed them along the western shore of Kosrae from Cape Halgan to Walung. This bird is an uncommon resident in the Eastern Caroline Islands, and breeds on Ant Atoll, near Pohnpei (John Engbring, pers. comm.)

Columba livia—ROCK DOVE

Baker (1951) recorded this species as an introduced resident in the Marianas. John Engbring (pers. comm.) found Rock Doves near Kolonia, Pohnpei, during the summers of 1981 and 1982. I found three birds in Sokehs, Pohnpei, on 9 January 1982 and two

birds at Madolemihw, Pohnpei, on 14 January 1982. I found three birds in Lelu, Kosrae, on 16 December 1981, which were still present when I left the island. Obviously these birds are introduced, either from a visiting ship or as escaped pets.

Acknowledgements

I wish to thank Douglas Pratt, Phillip Bruner, John Engbring, Peter Pyle, Philip Ashman, and Tony Futcher for reviews of the manuscript. I also received helpful advice from Edna May Loveless, David Czaplak, Ben King, and Floyd Murdoch. In addition, Roger B. Clapp of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in the Smithsonian Museum of Natural History in Washington D.C. provided advice, encouragement, and access to the Smithsonian collection.

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Noteworthy Bird Records from Eastern Micronesia

by Floyd E. Hayes[1] and Glen P. Volyn[2]

We observed the following birds in eastern Micronesia during the winter and spring of 1981-1982. They were observed at localities from which they are known on the basis of only a single or a few records, and are reported to help document their patterns of occurrence.

INTERMEDIATE EGRET *(Egretta intermedia)*

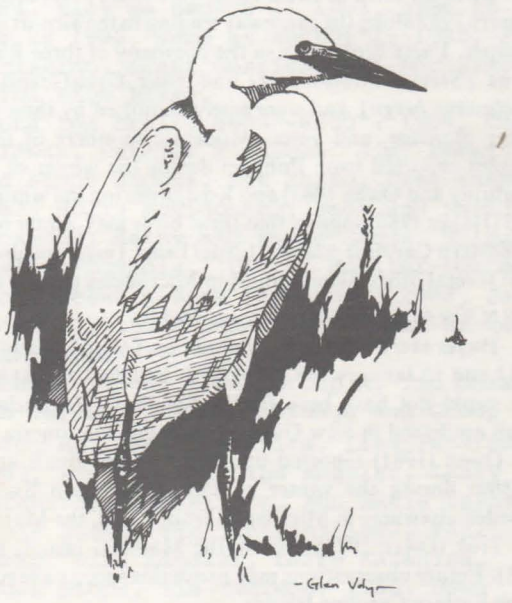
Hayes saw an Intermediate Egret on an antenna field on Moen Island, Truk, on 25 May 1982. The bird was identified by its graceful S-curved neck, large size, yellow bill and black legs. Intermediate Egrets have been reported from several localities in western Micronesia (Owen 1977a), but only once previously on Truk (Owen 1977b).

NORTHERN PINTAIL *(Anas acuta)*

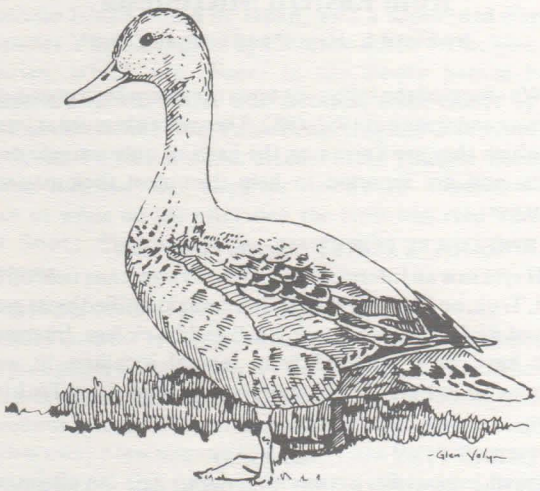
During the winter of 1981-1982 (exact date unknown), Volyn found a female Northern Pintail on a lawn at Laura, Majuro. The bird was identified by the even brown coloration, slim neck and overall profile, and gray bill. The bird allowed approach within 10 m, and the white border on the outer edge of the brown speculum was clearly seen as it flew away. Northern Pintails have been reported from several localities in the Marshall Islands (Pearson and Knudson 1967, Carpenter et al. 1968, Amerson 1969, Anderson 1981), but this is the first report for Majuro.

BAR-TAILED GODWIT *(Limosa lapponica)*

On 24 May 1982, Hayes saw a Bar-tailed Godwit with Pacific Golden Plovers *(Pluvialis fulva)*, Whimbrels *(Numenius phaeopus)*, and Ruddy Turnstones *(Arenaria interpres)* at Takatik



Intermediate Egret *(Egretta intermedia)*.
Pen and ink by Glenn Volyn



Female Northern Pintail *(Anas acuta).*
Pen and ink by Glen Volyn

Island, Pohnpei (formerly Ponape). The bird was seen at rest and in flight. Field marks noted include the long, slightly upturned bill, absence of a wingstripe, and thin bands on the tail. Bar-tailed Godwits are widely reported in Micronesia (Owen 1977a), but only two individuals have been previously reported from Pohnpei (Brandt 1961).

LITTLE/LEAST TERN *(Sterna albifrons/antillarum)*

Up to six Little or Least Terns were seen by Hayes on 11 and 12 January 1982 along the causeway leading to the airport at Kolonia, Pohnpei. These birds were in the company of three Black-naped Terns *(Sterna sumatrana)* and four Great-crested Terns *(Thalasseus bergii),* and were easily identified by their small size, winter plumage, and voice. Moderate numbers of this species complex reported from Pohnpei during the winter of 1978-1979 (Engbring and Owen 1981) and Kosrae during the winter of 1981-1982 (Hayes 1985) suggest that these birds may winter regularly in the Eastern Caroline Islands. Little/Least Terns are also reported from several other island groups in Micronesia (Owen 1977a).

BARN SWALLOW *(Hirundo rustica)*

Hayes saw three Barn Swallows on Takatik Island, Pohnpei, on 11 and 12 January 1982. The birds had dark breast bands, and thus could not have been Pacific Swallows *(Hirundo tahitica),* which are found in New Guinea but not in Micronesia. Engbring and Owen (1981) reported up to seven individuals at the same location during the winter of 1978-1979. Barn Swallows are recorded elsewhere in Micronesia from Palau, the Marianas, Yap and Truk (Owen 1977a) and in the Marshall Islands (Anderson 1981). Future observations may prove this species a regular visitor to the Eastern Caroline Islands.

Acknowledgements

We thank John Engbring, Douglas Pratt, and Peter Pyle for helpful reviews of the manuscript.

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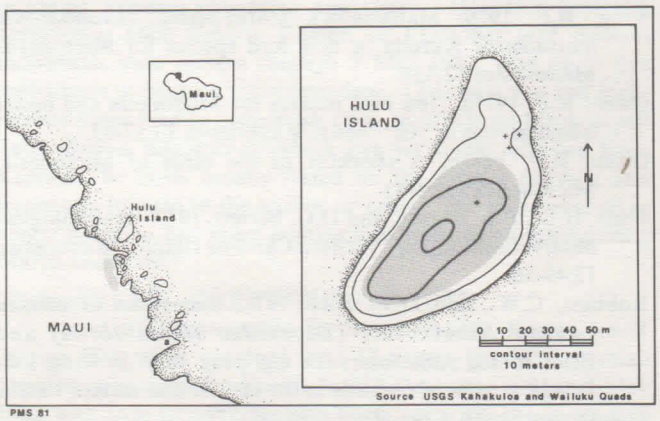


ERRATUM

Above is the corrected map of Hulu Island, which appeared in the Vol.45(11) issue of *'Elepaio* as Figure 2 in "Hawaii's Seabird Islands, No. 2: Hulu Island and Vicinity, Maui" by T.R. Simons, C.B. Kepler, P.M. Simons, and A.K. Kepler. The printers express their apologies for mistakenly eliminating the shaded areas on the original map.

VOLCANO, HAWAII, CHRISTMAS COUNTS -1980, 1982, 1983, 1984-

Larry Katahira

The 13th consecutive Volcano Christmas Bird Count was held on 29 December 1984. Thirty-three participants were divided into 8 parties, spending 45 hours (40 on foot, 5 by vehicle) and travelling 80 miles (15 on foot, 65 by vehicle)conducting the counts. The weather was clear and calm in the morning with typical overcast conditions in the afternoon. Twenty-five species and a grand total of 4,864 birds were counted. The 15-mile diameter count circle, with Kulani Cone as the center, contains probably one of the richest endangered bird habitats on the Big Island. This includes the montane rainforest at Pu'u Maka'ala and Ola'a Tract, native subalpine shrubland on Mauna Loa Strip, and the seasonal montane ohia-koa forest at Keahou Ranch, Kilauea Forest Reserve, and Kulani.

Five endangered bird species, the Nene, 'Io, Hawaii Creeper, Hawaii 'Akepa, and 'Akiapola'au were again recorded this year. Unfortunately, we were unable to field an experienced birder in Ola'a Tract where 'O'u were located in the 1977 through 1979 and 1983 counts. (In fact, the highlight for last year's count was a new high of three 'O'u recorded by Stephanie Nagata and Pat Conant in Ola'a Tract along U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) transect 31. Vocalizations of this rare and endangered bird were distinctly heard and confirmed by tape recordings furnished by the USFWS. Also, along transect 31 in Ola'a Tract, the Hawaii Creeper was recorded--a rare sighting for this species in this relatively lower elevation.)

At upper Keauhou Ranch, birders in Sector 4-group B were treated to a rare sighting when two 'Akiapola'au, an adult male and female, and a Hawaii Creeper were seen foraging on the same koa tree. The koa tree, approximately 60 feet tall, provided excellent viewing which lasted for 20-25 minutes. The Creeper searched methodically along the upper branches, frequently giving its single note chip, while the two 'Akiapola'au, located a few branches below, probed through the lichen; they stopped occasionally and repeated a short song. As this activity was occurring, two 'Akepa were singing and flitting atop an ohia tree approximately 150 feet away.

Group A of Keauhou Ranch and the party at Kulani also got excellent visual sightings of male and female 'Akepa in their respective areas.

Each year, coverage into prime bird habitat varies depending on number of experienced birders, accessibility into private and State lands, weather conditions, and availability of off-road vehicles. Due to this, results are difficult to interpret and/or predict into valid trends, especially for the endangered forest birds.

Our thanks to Bishop Estate, Keauhou Ranch, and Kulani Correctional Facility for allowing our group access into their lands, and to Hawaii Volcanoes National Park and the USFWS for loaning vehicles and radios. Mahalo to Tim Ohashi who was especially helpful with logistics and compilation of results.

(Editors' note: the results of the 1980, 1982, and 1983 Volcano Christmas Counts are included here also, because they have not previously been published.

Persons who are interested in participating in the 1985 count may contact Larry ahead of time at P.O. Box 100, Hawaii Volcanoes National Park, Hawaii 96718.)

SECTORS COVERED

1. Kipuka Puaulu, Golf Course and adjacent areas: 1984, Paul Higashino, Meredith Ing, Keiko and Nina Kokubon, Diane, Jill, and Rachelle Ley; 1983, Paul Higashino, Wendy Guyer, Toni Thompson, Grant Gerrish; 1982, Wendy Guyer, Paul Highashino, Kathy Lowder, Frank Matsuno, Toni Thompson; 1980, Howard Sakai.
2. Rim of Kilauea Crater, Thurston Lava Tube: 1984, same as sector 1; 1983, same as sector 1; 1982, same as sector 1; 1980, Paul Higashino, Grant Gerrish, Pat Moriyasu, Carol Mayo Riley.
3. Mauna Loa Trail, 6600'-8200': 1984, Casey Baldwin, Patrick Finnegan, Jim, Emmett and Simon Jacobi, Pat Saito, Greg Santos; 1983, Holly McEldowney, Jack and Marti Lockwood, Betsy and Wayne Gagné, Tilman Mueller-Dombois, Dieter Mueller-Dombois, Janet Wessel, Rick Warshauer; 1982, Jack Lockwood; 1980, Jane Dixon, Rena Wenkart, Jaan Lepson.

4a. Keauhou Ranch; 1984, Group A, Tim Ohashi, Dan Taylor, Yukie Yoshinaga and Group B, Darcy Hu, Larry Katahira, Lisa Peterson; 1983, Paul Banko, Dina Kageler, Larry Katahira, Andy Kikuta, Ann Marie LaRosa, Chuck Stone, Tim Tunison; 1982, Paul Banko, Dina Kageler, Larry Katahira, Chuck Stone, Tim Tunison; 1980, Dawn Breese, Carmelle Crivellone, Larry Katahira, Lynette McLamb, Lani Stemmermann, Chuck Stone, Marilyn Milberger, Greg Fulkerson.

VOLCANO, HAWAII, CHRISTMAS COUNT, 29 DECEMBER 1984

Areas:	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	11	Total
White-tailed Tropicbird	.	3	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	3
Hawaiian Goose(Nene)	.	7	.	2	.	.	.	.	.	9
Hawaiian Hawk('Io)	1	.	.	5	.	.	1	3	1	11
Kalij Pheasant	.	.	.	2	.	.	.	.	3	5
Ring-necked Pheasant	.	.	.	.	.	1	.	.	.	1
(Green Pheasant)*	.	.	1	.	.	1	.	.	.	2
Lesser Golden-Plover	.	8	3	7	.	30	.	.	25	73
Spotted Dove	4	2	.	2	1	21	.	.	.	30
Zebra Dove	.	.	.	3	.	.	.	.	.	3
Eurasian Skylark	.	12	.	5	4	.	.	1	.	22
Hawaii 'Elepaio	12	.	1	20	6	1	7	4	11	62
Hawaii Thrush('Oma'o)	11	3	2	55	3	7	338	30	157	606
Melodious Laughing-thrush	19	.	.	.	.	.	1	.	.	20
Red-billed Leiothrix	.	.	.	21	.	3	.	1	3	28
Common Myna	1	35	.	4	.	100	.	.	2	142
Japanese White-eye	24	.	4	23	26	64	126	11	26	304
Northern Cardinal	25	8	.	15	17	10	.	.	3	78
House Finch	.	3	.	79	9	4	.	.	1	96
Hawaii 'Amakihi	7	.	57	16	11	1	7	14	39	152
'Akiapola'au	.	.	.	3	.	.	.	.	.	3
Hawaii Creeper	.	.	.	1	.	.	.	1	.	2
Hawaii 'Akepa	.	.	.	6	.	.	.	.	3	9
'I'iwi	3	.	.	63	4	.	35	30	165	300
'Apapane	70	132	58	254	71	445	1018	158	552	2758
House Sparrow	.	8	.	.	.	10	.	.	20	38
Nutmeg Mannikin	.	.	.	26	.	51	.	.	30	107
No. Individuals	177	221	126	612	152	749	1533	253	1041	4864
No. Species	11	11	7	21	10	14	8	10	16	25

*Considered to be the same species as the Ring-necked Pheasant by the A.O.U.

VOLCANO, HAWAII, CHRISTMAS COUNT, 2 JANUARY 1984

Areas:	1	2	3	4a	5	6	7	8a	9	Total
White-tailed Tropicbird	.	2	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	2
Hawaiian Goose(Nene)	4	4	2	.	.	.	.	.	.	10
Hawaiian Hawk('Io)	.	.	.	1	.	.	3	2	2	8
Kalij Pheasant	.	.	.	5	.	.	.	.	1	6
Ring-necked Pheasant	3	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	3
(Green Pheasant)*	.	.	2	.	1	.	.	.	.	3
California Quail	1	.	.	.	12	.	.	.	.	13
Lesser Golden-Plover	27	.	.	54	.	.	.	.	.	81
Spotted Dove	2	.	.	.	.	5	.	.	.	7
Eurasian Skylark	.	6	.	3	2	.	.	.	.	11
Hawaii 'Elepaio	.	.	.	24	5	.	20	15	5	69
Hawaii Thrush('Oma'o)	5	2	4	181	4	1	370	59	26	652
Melodious Laughing-thrush	7	2	.	.	.	.	2	.	.	11
Red-billed Leiothrix	7	.	.	11	.	.	5	5	14	42
Common Myna	25	.	.	3	.	27	.	.	.	55
Japanese White-eye	105	15	21	149	20	82	79	37	45	553
Northern Cardinal	30	1	.	34	9	4	2	2	9	91
House Finch	3	.	2	22	10	36	.	.	.	73
'O'u	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	3	3
Hawaii 'Amakihi	11	1	49	38	13	.	7	9	.	128
'Akiapola'au	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	2	.	2
Hawaii Creeper	.	.	.	1	.	.	.	2	1	4
Hawaii 'Akepa	.	.	.	7	.	.	.	4	.	11
'I'iwi	3	7	5	163	6	.	37	54	6	281
'Apapane	105	120	54	402	91	519	1353	241	76	2961
House Sparrow	85	10	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	95
Nutmeg Mannikin	.	.	.	.	32	6	16	.	.	54
No. Individuals	423	170	139	1098	205	680	1894	432	188	5229
No. Species	16	11	8	16	12	8	11	12	11	26

*Considered to be the same species as the Ring-necked Pheasant by the A.O.U.

VOLCANO, HAWAII, CHRISTMAS COUNT, 26 DECEMBER 1982

Areas:	1	2	3	4a	5	7	8a	11	Total
White-tailed Tropicbird	.	4	.	.	.	.	.	.	4
Hawaiian Goose(Nene)	4	4	2	.	.	.	.	.	10
Chukar	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	1
Kalij Pheasant	.	.	.	11	.	.	.	6	17
California Quail	.	.	.	13	4	.	.	.	17
Lesser Golden-Plover	38	6	.	18	8	.	.	2	72
Rock Dove	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	1
Spotted Dove	16	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	16
Eurasian Skylark	30	6	.	9	13	.	.	.	58
Hawaii 'Elepaio	5	.	.	49	.	15	13	2	84
Hawaii Thrush('Oma'o)	.	1	.	151	1	172	54	24	403
Melodious Laughing-thrush	4	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	4
Red-billed Leiothrix	12	.	.	39	.	2	2	6	61
Common Myna	70	6	.	15	4	.	.	2	97
Japanese White-eye	90	27	.	148	6	42	11	13	337
Northern Cardinal	3	.	.	16	4	.	1	2	26
House Finch	14	6	2	8	2	.	.	.	32
Hawaii 'Amakihi	21	6	8	36	3	9	7	.	90
'Akiapola'au	.	.	.	3	.	.	3	.	6
Hawaii Creeper	.	.	.	3	.	.	2	.	5
Hawaii 'Akepa	.	.	.	13	.	.	.	.	13
'I'iwi	.	.	1	98	.	22	23	22	166
'Apapane	33	202	11	367	15	236	322	53	1239
House Sparrow	15	14	.	.	.	.	.	.	29
Nutmeg Mannikin	.	.	.	41	7	3	.	.	51
No. Individuals	355	283	24	1038	67	501	438	133	2839
No. Species	14	12	5	18	11	8	10	11	25

VOLCANO, HAWAII, CHRISTMAS COUNT, 27 DECEMBER 1980

Areas:	1	2	3	4a	4b	4c	4d	5	6	7	8a	8b	8c	8d	9	11	Total
White-tailed Tropicbird	.	3	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	3
Hawaiian Goose(Nene)	.	.	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1
Hawaiian Hawk('Io)	1	.	.	2	.	.	.	3	.	.	5	.	.	.	1	2	14
Ring-necked Pheasant	2	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	2
(Green Pheasant)*	2	.	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	3
California Quail	12	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	2	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	14
Lesser Golden-Plover	51	25	.	66	.	.	.	.	13	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	155
Spotted Dove	2	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	5	.	.	.	.	.	4	.	12
Zebra Dove	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1
Eurasian Skylark	.	.	1	28	.	2	.	4	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	35
Hawaii 'Elepaio	7	2	.	41	11	33	1	12	.	39	17	5	15	3	6	11	203
Hawaii Thrush('Oma'o)	.	21	.	309	80	51	31	1	9	414	85	18	33	26	8	40	1126
Melodious Laughing-thrush	2	12	.	.	.	2	.	.	.	9	.	.	.	.	.	.	25
Red-billed Leiothrix	.	.	.	16	11	13	7	1	.	1	11	16	.	9	26	.	111
Common Myna	30	20	.	25	.	5	1	.	23	.	.	.	.	.	.	15	119
Japanese White-eye	70	110	14	51	97	25	49	66	1	96	31	9	4	18	29	15	685
Northern Cardinal	27	1	.	14	1	11	8	.	1	2	1	.	4	.	7	6	83
House Finch	66	18	.	10	6	6	2	3	2	.	.	.	.	2	.	.	115
Hawaii 'Amakihi	5	12	20	40	18	20	2	114	.	24	21	5	8	.	2	7	298
'Akiapola'au	.	.	.	5	4	5	.	.	.	.	5	.	3	.	.	.	22
Hawaii Creeper	.	.	.	6	1	7	.	.	.	.	12	.	5	.	.	2	33
Hawaii 'Akepa	.	.	.	4	19	13	.	.	.	.	5	.	4	.	.	2	47
'I'iwi	2	13	7	41	66	33	.	14	.	57	30	16	5	.	19	6	309
'Apapane	101	171	68	866	577	296	50	110	94	1647	240	133	205	82	138	366	5144
House Sparrow	14	29	.	1	.	.	.	.	6	.	.	.	.	.	.	2	52
Nutmeg Mannikin	2	.	.	22	.	.	.	.	14	63	.	.	.	.	66	2	169
No. Individuals	396	439	110	1549	891	522	151	328	170	2352	463	202	286	140	306	476	8781
No. Species	17	15	5	20	12	15	9	10	11	10	12	8	10	6	11	13	25

*Considered to be the same species as the Ring-necked Pheasant by the A.O.U.

4b. Keauhou Ranch, Transect 29: 1980, Paul Banko, Maile Stemmermann.
4c. Keauhou Ranch, Transect 30: 1980, Lani Bowden, Miles Ishikawa.
4d. Keauhou Ranch, Transect 31: 1980, Tom Casadevall, Marsha Morrison, Steve Mountainspring.
5. Mauna Loa Road, 4000'-6600' elevation: 1984, same as sector 3; 1983, same as sector 3; 1982, same as sector 3; 1980, Dina Kageler, Josh Kohn.
6. Volcano Community: 1984, Mary Finley, Jack and Marti Lockwood; 1983, Maile Stemmermann-Kjargaard; 1982, no count conducted; 1980, Mary Lew Breese, Peggy Kai.
7. Stainback Highway and Pu'u Maka'ala: 1984, Bill and Mae Mull; 1983, Bill and Mae Mull; 1982, Bill and Mae Mull, Steve Holmes; 1980, Bill and Mae Mull.
8a. Kilauea Forest Reserve: 1984, same as sector 4; 1983, same as sector 4a; 1982, Larry Katahira, Tim Tunison; 1980,Larry Katahira, Lani Stemmermann, Chuck Stone.
8b. Kilauea Forest Reserve, Transect 29: 1980, same as sector 4b.
8c. Kilauea Forest Reserve, Transect 30: 1980, same as sector 4c.
8d. Kilauea Forest Reserve, Transect 31: 1980, same as sector 4d.
9. Ola'a Tract, National Park: 1983, Pat Conant, Carol Dorff, Jim and Zoe Jacobi, Stephanie Nagata; 1980, Sheila Conant, David McCauley.
11. Kulani Correctional Facility: 1984, Lyman Abott, Paul Banko, Sheila Doyle, Betsy and Wayne Gagné, John Hubbard, Lani Stemmermann, Suzanna Valerie; 1983, no count conducted; 1982, Reg Barrett, Dawn Breese, Holly McEldowney, Rick Warshauer; 1980, Jack and Marti Lockwood, Rick Warshauer.

For the 2 January 1984 ("1983") count: weather clear and sunny; temperature 65-80°F; wind SW 0-5 mph; 0630 to 1700 hours. Twenty-eight observers in 11 parties. Total party-hours, 49.25 (39.5 on foot, 9.75 by car); total party miles, 98(17.25 on foot, 80.75 by car).

For the 26 December 1982 count: weather overcast to moderately rainy; temperature 60-72°F; wind NE 0-5 mph; 0630 to 1700 hours. Eighteen observers in 11 parties. Total party hours, 37(21.7 on foot, 15.3 by car); total party-miles, 107.2(19.8 on foot, 87.4 by car).

HAS PRESIDENT VISITS CAPITOL

Washington DC was the site of a lobbying workshop attended by conservationists from 21 different chapters of the National Audubon Society in 17 different states. The week long program included training sessions on lobbying techniques, how to communicate with the media, legislative processes and briefing meetings on several important pieces of legislation being considered by the Congress this year, including reauthorization of the Endangered Species and Clean Water Acts. Participants also visited federal agencies, including the Environmental Protection Agency and the Office of Budget and Management, where they met with ranking officials to discuss the operations of the agencies themselves and current environmental issues. During two days of intense activity following briefing and training sessions, participants visited their congressional delegations to put into practice what they had learned and to raise issues of particular concern to their Audubon constituencies back in the home state.

Tackling environmental issues for Hawaii was not a simple task for me, as I had to choose only the most important issues to discuss with the senators and congressmen. I decided to focus on the Endangered Species Act (ESA) and on the appropriations bill that would fund various endangered species programs in Hawaii, including listing of new species, protection and recovery of listed species and acquisition of habitat to protect endangered species on the Island of Hawaii. When time permitted, I also discussed the proposed Tri-Fly eradication project and the possibility of getting Superfund monies to expedite clean-up of ground water sources contaminated with EDB and other pesticides.

The Hawaii congressional delegation received me with open arms and schedules. Congressman Daniel Akaka was well-acquainted with the ESA because of his former membership on a house committee working on the bill, and with Hawaii's unfortunate distinction of having more endangered species than any other state. He favors ESA reauthorization and was pleased to hear that the Mauna Kea Silversword, a plant in which he has a keen interest, has been proposed for formal listing as endangered. Congressman Akaka has gone on record as opposing the Tri-Fly eradication program as proposed, insisting that no action should be taken without the approval of the state.

Congressman Cecil Heftel, who is much respected by National Audubon Society staff members in Washington for his leadership in leg-

islation relating to international regulation of pesticides, articulated his support of the search for natural biological methods of controlling Hawaii's introduced fruit flies as an alternative to widespread spraying of pesticides. He is aware of the magnitude of Hawaii's endangered species problems and expressed his support for reauthorization of the ESA.

Senator Daniel Inouye has a keen appreciation of Hawaii's environmental problems, and expressed the opinion that we "don't have to worry about the Hawaii delegation" when it comes to the reauthorization of the ESA. His membership on the Senate Appropriations Committee puts him in a good position to support Fish and Wildlife Service funding that would maintain endangered species programs at current levels. He was most interested in my discussion of the need for funding to support recovery plans for endangered species and protection of the same via acquisition and management of important habitats.

Senator Spark Matsunaga gave me his attention during a busy lunch punctuated by calls to vote on the Senate floor. Like other members of the congressional delegation, Senator Matsunaga is well-informed and concerned about Hawaii's endangered species problems and favors reauthorization of the ESA. He felt that a proposed amendment that would prevent the sale of captive-raised Peregrine Falcons by falconers might kill the bill on the House floor. I hastened to assure him that those of us in Hawaii working towards conservation of native plants and animals would advocate passage of an unamended act because of its importance to dozens of endemic Hawaiian species close to extinction. Matsunaga is also hopeful that research will lead to methods of fruit fly control that Hawaii residents would find more acceptable than widespread use of malathion in the state.

The workshop was an excellent opportunity for me to become personally acquainted with the Hawaii delegation as well as staff members of National Audubon Society. I found that both NAS staff and workshop participants were eager to learn about how Hawaii is coping with its conservation problems and eager to lend their support. Hopefully the contacts I made will open some doors and garner some much-needed support and interest in Hawaii's unique but fast-disappearing fauna and flora.

Sheila Conant

NO NA LEO 'OLE

OF PALILAS AND SILVERSWORDS

The February, 1985, U.S. Fish and Wildlife and State census of the population of the Palila, an endangered bird restricted to the mamane-naio forest of Mauna Kea, indicates that the number of birds has declined to approximately 1,317. This is the lowest number of Palila ever censused. Hawaii Audubon Society (HAS) is concerned by the apparent decline of the species over the last few years. It is unknown whether the decline is due to climatic factors, represents a portion of a long-term cycle, or is real cause for alarm. The following is the census numbers for the last five years:

YEAR	ESTIMATED NO. OF PALILA
1980	3350
1981	6410
1982	3305
1983	2268
1984 1st half	2022
1984 2nd half	2021
1985	1317

Sharing high elevation Mauna Kea with the Palila is the highly endangered Mauna Kea silversword. On March 6, 1985, the Mauna Kea silversword was proposed for listing as an endangered species by the Department of the Interior. It is estimated that there are about fifteen natural individuals of this species left on Mauna Kea, in addition to 95 individuals which have been out-planted within a sheep exclosure.

Both the Palila and the Mauna Kea silversword have been impacted by the presence and maintenance of feral sheep and currently, mouflon, on Mauna Kea for sport hunting.

KOKE'E LOGGING: "MAINTENANCE"?

Over 400 koa trees have been marked by the State Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) for cutting by the Waimea Canyon Timber Co. in Koke'e State Park as part of what the State calls a "maintenance activity".

The forests of Koke'e are the most diverse mesic forests in Hawaii. These forests are now in jeopardy by what appears to HAS to be an illegal commercial logging operation in a State Park. Fifty-seven plant species occurring in Koke'e are candidate species for potential federal listing as threatened or endangered. These species represent 37% of all

the Kauai plant taxa under review by the Dept. of the Interior for endangered or threatened species status. HAS also fears that the last known population of the rare liana *(Dubautia latifolia)*, which is currently known only from road-side individuals, will be severely impacted by the proposed logging of trees within 66 feet of roads. The last known individual of *Solanum kauaiense* also occurs in this road-side strip. Naturally fallen tree trunks have provided the only refuge for the larvae of a group of rare beetles endemic to Koke'e. A recent wave of feral pig digging has destroyed all subterranean larvae except for those under rotting logs. Since Koke'e has an unusually high diversity of plant and tree species, Dr. Wayne Gagné commented that, "It is passing strange that all the trees to be cut for maintenance are koa."

In addition to opposing logging in a State Park, criticism of the proposed koa logging operation in Koke'e by HAS, Sierra Club, Conservation Council for Hawaii, and Hawaiian Botanical Society, centers on the lack of apparent reason or compelling emergency that could justify such a drastic "maintenance" activity in Koke'e State Park. Damage to the park's forest occurred during Hurrican Iwa in November, 1982, 2½ years ago. HAS considers hurricanes part of the natural perturbations to native ecosystems. Tampering by man with the natural succession of forest after such a natural perturbation will only increase the chances of permanant ecological damage to the native ecosystem. Already, koa suckering and seedling establishment and refoliation of wind-stripped 'ohi'a is occurring in abundance in Koke'e.

The DLNR's claim that the trees represent a fire or road hazard seems spurious. The only maintenance activity needed following the hurricane was clearing the roads and delicately removing fallen or hazardous branches. HAS considers the removal of whole standing strees unjustified, and previous clear-cutting and bulldozing of extensive areas of forest to be in violation of State land use and environmental regulations. It appears that the "maintenance activity" justification may be being employed as a mechanism for exploitation of Koke'e State Park's valuable koa timber. Despite the public outcry that has occurred, the individuals involved, including Waimea Canyon Timber Co. and the State Parks Administrator, are planning to resume the logging operation very soon.

'OHI'A WOODCHIPPING: BIOPOWER DOUBLE TALK

Although Biopower Corp.'s president, Mr. Warren Ramsey, has repeatedly stated to the press that "Biopower is committed to saving any unique or irreplaceable forest in Puna." (Honolulu Advertiser, May 1, 1985), chipping in the nation's last lowland tropical rainforest is continuing unabated. Biopower Corp. is chipping wood on Campbell Estate land under contract to AmFac which has a contract to provide HELCO with a source of electrical power.

On April 26, 1985, the Board of Land and Natural Resources (BLNR) gave Biopower final approval following awarding of the bid two months earlier, to immediately begin chipping 1,500 acres of state-owned eucalyptus in Waiakea. However, a Biopower representative announced at a recent public meeting on the Big Island that they intend to chip almost all of the 3,300 acres of native 'ohi'a forest on Campbell Estate land, in addition to chipping the eucalyptus. The Biopower representative also announced intentions to start a woodchipping operation on Kauai.

When sued by Friends of Hawaii's Forests, a concerned Big Island group, Biopower agreed to unilaterally refrain from harvesting the areas designated by Dr. Lamoureux (Botany professor at UH Manoa) as the most critical areas of forest for two years" (Honolulu Advertiser, March 14, 1985). However, Dr. Lamoureux was never contacted by Biopower or Campbell Estate to designate critical stands of forest. A copy of Dr. Lamoureux's February 1985 "Report on Forest at Kalapana and Kupahua, Puna, Hawaii", which was completed at the request of the Campbell Estate, has been made available to us. According to Dr. Lamoureux, areas of forest mentioned in his report as

Photo 1. Natural Area Reserve boundary is marked by tree with Forest Reserve sign; note surrounding chipping.

being "a particularly nice bit of forest" have been cleared. Also, an area of forest indicated by the report and attendant map as being of the "highest quality" native forest has been chipped. Dr. Lamoureux recommended to the Campbell Estate that the alternative action "most desirable from the biological/conservationist viewpoint" was to "stop chipping altogether in the native-dominated forest." A Campbell Estate Representative later notified us that they had selected the land to be chipped, or spared. Biological data and opinions are not being considered in woodchipping decision.

Dr. Mueller-Dombois, the leading authority on 'ohi'a ecology, asked Biopower to not chip along the borders of the 1977 lava flow, which lies adjacent to the area being chipped, so the flow could be naturally revegetated. In a May 1, 1985 letter to Mr. Ramsey, Dr. Mueller-Dombois wrote, "You certainly did not heed to my recommendations of leaving a strip of forest along the 1977 lava flow and to modify your operation into checkerboard cutting. Your words of assurance that you did not want to be reckless therefore did not carry much weight. This disappoints me greatly."

Biopower was fined $8,392 at the May 10, 1985 BLNR meeting for bulldozing a road over one mile long and 14 feet wide up the 1977 lava flow into the Wao Kele 'o Puna Natural Area Reserve adjacent to the chipping site; $500 of the fine was for entering the Natural Area Reserve illegally, $500 was assessed for the time spent by Biopower in the Natural Area Reserve, and $7,392 was a fine for damages to the Natural Area Reserve. In reference to the bulldozing, the staff report to the BLNR states, "That action had caused irreversible damage to a geological feature." The staff report further states, "The unfortunate destruction clearly demonstrates Bio Power's lack of regard for others." Mr. James Wriston, a Biopower representative, told the BLNR that Dr. Mueller-Dombois said bulldozing the road would "promote vegetative recovery of the lava flow." When informed of this, Dr. Mueller-Dombois said, "That's ridiculous!" At the May 10 meeting, the BLNR did not address the reported and documented violation of the Natural Area Reserve southern boundary by Biopower involving felling and chipping of trees within the Natural Area Reserve.(See Photo 1. Forest Reserve sign indicating the boundary of the NAR is indicated by the arrow. The tree bearing the sign is isolated by chipping of surrounding forest.)

To date, about 750 acres of native 'ohi'a forest has been clear-cut and chipped (photos 2 and 3). As long as 'ohi'a chips are accepted as an economically preferred fuel, as long as landowners (both local and absentee) are willing to sell off native forests while keeping the land beneath them, and as long as the public is willing to accept this needless destruction of our depleted native forests, the chipping will continue. Bagasse (solid waste from sugarcane processing) now provides 38% of the Big Island's electrical power needs. With the predicted demise of Hawaii's sugar industry, there will be an increased need for alternative fuels to replace bagasse. This need will increasingly out-strip the growth potential of alternative fuel woods on abandoned cane lands, if indeed, they are ever planted for that purpose, and the pressure will be on native forest to be chipped to provide this stop-gap power. State agencies and corporations are not planning and planting in advance for this eventuality.

Photo 2. Woodchipping destruction of Kalapana rainforest.

It is becoming painfully obvious to for-

Photo 3. 750 acres of forest has been chipped to date.

est watchers that Biopower has no intention of honoring their word or heeding the scientific community on the importance of preserving our dwindling native forests. We need to act en masse to turn public attention to this problem and to demand that our governor, other Federal, State, and County decision makers, and our elected representatives intervene. Take action to stop the chipping of Kalapana rainforest:

1. Write Governor George Ariyoshi, State Capitol, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813. Ask him to intervene personally to stop the chipping of 'ohi'a forest.
2. Write letters to the editors of the Honolulu Advertiser, P.O. Box 3110, Honolulu, Hawaii 96801, and the Honolulu Star-Bulletin, P.O. Box 3080, Honolulu, Hawaii 96801. Express your concerns for the future of Hawaii's disappearing native forests and associated unique bird and insect fauna.
3. Write our congressmen: Senator Daniel K. Inouye, 722 Hart Senate Office Bldg., Washington, D.C. 20510; Senator Spark M. Matsunaga, 109 Hart Senate Office Bldg., Washington, D.C. 20510; Representative Daniel K. Akaka, 2301 Rayburn House Office Bldg., Washington, D.C. 20515; Representative Cec Heftel, 1034 Longworth House Office Bldg., Washington, D.C. 20515. Ask them what they are doing to end rainforest destruction in Hawaii. Tell them that rainforests of the world are disappearing at the rate of 76,000 acres a day and that this should not be happening in Hawaii which has the country's last lowland tropical rainforest. Our rainforests are a precious bioresource for our entire nation and the world. Also not that it is an embarrassment that the U.S. is chipping its irreplaceable tropical rainforests while advising third world nations not to do so.
4. Write or call your state legislators. Laws should be passed that prevent clearing of native forests for energy purposes.
5. Tell your mainland friends to write the Hawaii Visitors Bureau, 2270 Kalakaua Ave., Suite 804, Honolulu, Hawaii 96815. We need to preserve the verdure that tourists find attractive.
6. Express your displeasure with woodchipping by writing directly to AmFac: Mr. George St. John, President, AmFac Energy Inc., P.O. Box 3230, Honolulu, Hawaii 96801. *(Editors Note: Although the Hawaii Audubon Society Board of Directors has not yet formulated any specific protest policy except for writing letters, the authors of this conservation column suggest that concerned individuals may wish to boycott AmFac subsidiaries such as Liberty House; e.g. by "chipping" your Liberty House credit card and mailing it with an explanation of your displeasure with destroying native 'ohi'a forest, to Mr. St. John, Amfac's President, at the above address.)*
7. Support with a donation Friends of Hawaii's Forests, a group of Big Island activists battling chipping: P.O. Box 1530, Hilo, Hawaii 96721.

For more information on this issue and sample letters, please contact Libby. Phone days: 948-8588, evenings: 988-4956. I will send out a packet of informational materials on request.

PUU WAAWAA NATURAL AREA RESERVE PROPOSAL

On June 14, 1985, the Board of Land and Natural Resources (BLNR) plans to decide the size of the Puu Waawaa Natural Area Reserve (NAR).

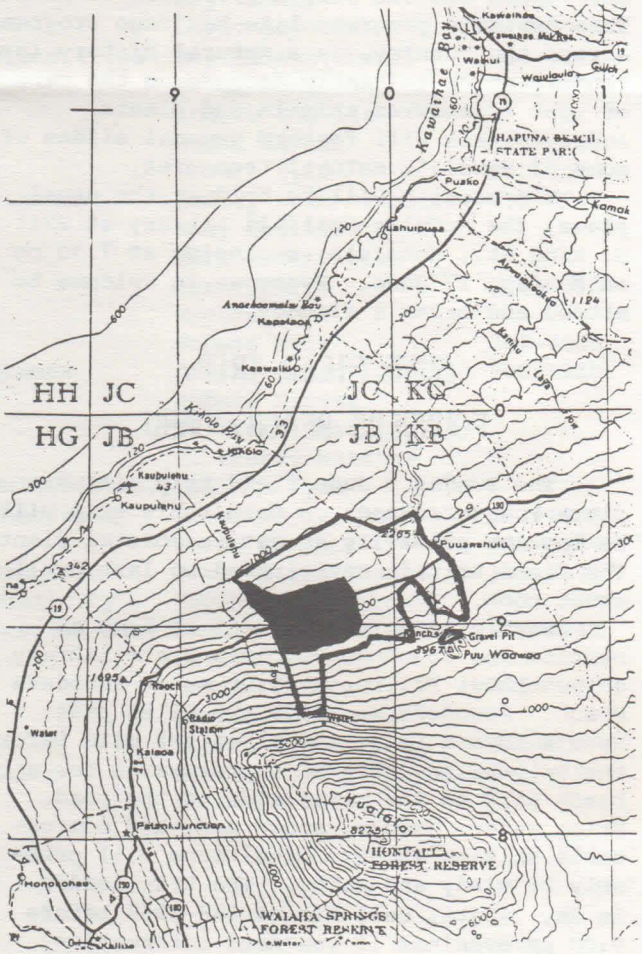
The NAR System (NARS) Commission members present at the March 13, 1985 meeting, who were mostly State administrators, recommended to the BLNR that an area of about 3,000 acres proposed by Bob Lee, NARS administrator, be the minimum area considered as a NAR and that as much as possible of the 12,000 acre proposal presented by Rick Warshauer and Dr. Clifford Smith, commission member, be included. Please see map. The black area is 3,000 acre proposal. The 12,000 acre proposal is outlined and includes a disattached segment of forest on the north slope of Puu Waawaa.

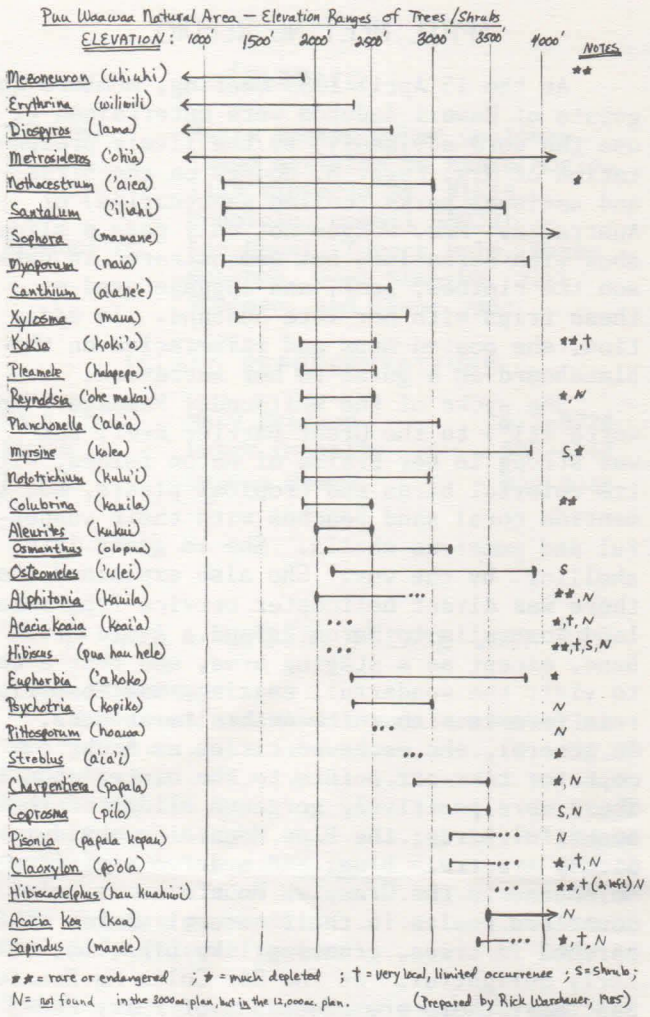
The 3,000 acre proposal is a relict of an earlier NAR plan formulated when neither the State nor the Ranch wanted to set aside the acreage for a larger NAR. However, the 3,000 acre proposed NAR is insufficient to represent and adequately protect Puu Waawaa's unique forest types. A larger acreage is absolutely necessary to get representation of the whole ecosystem, the full range of successional and elevational differences in community composition, and to provide enough acreage to insure "in perpetuity" survival of the different plant communities. The 12,000 acre proposal is commensurate in scale with the sharp reductions in Ranch acreage that occurred when the BLNR and the Rancher both proposed and agreed to the removal of approximately 80,000 acres of poor pastureland from the Ranch. Most of this 80,000 acres will be established as a State Game

Management Area. The 12,000 acre NAR proposal not only maximizes biological diversity, but also utilizes existing fence lines and natural barriers to protect the Reserve. There is no substantive competition with the Ranch for decent pasture within the 12,000 acre proposal since the area is overrun with unpalatable fountain grass or rough a'a lava and is, at best, minimally productive for cattle.

The 12,000 acre proposal contains 40% more tree species than the 3,000 acre plan. Many of these species are depleted or rare and desperately need protection from grazing animals. Please see accompanying chart. Practical management of either the 3,000 acre plan or the 12,000 acre NAR can be primarily acheived by exclusion of ungulates and additionally by fire prevention along the bisecting belt highway and biological control of fountain grass, a major problem to cattle ranchers on the Island. Natural regeneration should sustain the plant communities when the cattle are removed. Little or no fence work will be needed for the 12,000 acre proposed NAR and cattle can be easily excluded.

Puu Waawaa's public natural resources,





our legacy to our decendants, needs your support. Without strong public support, the 12,000 acre proposed NAR may be ignored at the BLNR meeting. Bob Lee and other DLNR officials are currently actively promoting the 3,000 acre plan while not giving the 12,000 acre plan serious consideration.

Please write Susumu Ono, Chairman of the BLNR, Department of Land and Natural Resources, P.O. Box 621, Honolulu, HI 96809 and to Govenor Ariyoshi, State Capitol, Honolulu, HI 96813. This is the last chance many of these rare species of forest trees and their habitat have to be protected. Surely a chance to save these native Hawaiians is worth a letter! (Please also send a copy of your letter to HAS c/o Libby Powell).

Libby Powell and Rick Warshauer

APRIL MEETING REPORT

At the 15 April 1985 meeting, members and guests of Hawaii Audubon were entertained (I use the word advisedly) by the lively presentation of Mrs. Peggy H. Hodges on the birds and national parks (called sanctuaries) of Australia. Mrs. Hodges not only gave a slide show with narration, but demonstrated in person the clothes, gear, and luggage used on these trips with her late husband. In addition, she posted maps and itineraries on the blackboard as a guide to her narration.

She spoke of the Whitsunday Passage ("Not worth it!") to the Great Barrier Reef, but was strong in her praise of Heron Island, with its colorful birds and tropical plants, not to mention coral sand beaches with their wonderful and numerous shells. She is great into shelling, by the way. She also explained that there was direct helicopter service from mainland Australia to Heron Island. Avoid Brisbane, except as a staging area, and rent a car to visit the wonderful, amazing, and inspiring rain forests with which Australia abounds. In general, she eschewed cities as such, except for take-off points to the hinterlands. There were positively gorgeous slides of the beautiful birds; the Blue Mountains ouside Sidney are truly blue; and a drive west from Melbourne to the Grampian Mountains revealed countless koalas in their natural state, perched in trees, grunting like pigs, but utterly delightful. At the Sir Colin MacKenzie Sanctuary there are thousands of Fairy Penguins, which are on Philip Island, southwest of Melbourne. She also mentioned places good for fishing, swimming, and snorkeling, such as Wilson Island, 7 miles off Heron Island, with clear blue water and fabulous snorkeling.

Among the many birds pictured were Black and White Herons, Azure Kingfishers, Noddy Terns, White Banded Rails, and also a beautiful Silver Tern. A two-hour drive out of Brisbane takes one to Mt. Tamborine and Lamington National Park, where Lorikeets are tame (they sat on her hat!), Wild Turkeys, and gum trees, 300 feet high.

One bit of disillusioning advice she gave was not to bother with photography; hunting for equipment and setting it up often lost the object of the picture, so it was better to observe and get pictures (from which she made slides) from nature books, encyclopedias, and the like. Some of the birds pictured included White and Grey Cockatoos, also Black Crested Cockatoos, Fairy Wrens (an iridescent blue), Splendid Blue Wrens, and the rare Bowerbird and Lyre Bird. Among the scarier items were giant monitor lizards (or iguanas), and the spiny anteater (not a bird, she was careful to point out).

Anyone who missed this lively, entertaining program missed a real jewel of an evening. She also gave tips on costs, where to stay and eat, and gracious commentary on the open hospitality of the Australian people wherever they went.

Betty L. Johnson

JUNE PROGRAM:
HAWAII HERITAGE PROGRAM

The 17 June general meeting will feature a free talk and slide show program by Audrey Newman on "The Nature Conservancy's Heritage Program in Hawaii".

Audrey currently works for The Nature Conservancy (TNC) of Hawaii, and is also finishing up a M.S. degree in Geography at the University of Hawaii at Manoa.

Her talk will focus on her efforts in developing the TNC Heritage Program in Hawaii. This heritage program, like heritage programs across the country, is a natural history inventory which initially focuses on the rarest or most endangered animals and plants. Audrey's talk will feature unusual slides of some of Hawaii's natural treasures.

The meeting will be held at the usual place, the McCully-Moiliili Library at 2211 S. King St., Honolulu, beginning at 7:30 pm on Monday, 17 June. Everyone is welcome to attend and bring a friend!

JUNE FIELD TRIP:
POUNDERS BEACH, OAHU

The Sunday 9 June field trip will explore Pounders Beach on Oahu; this trip will be looking primarily at native coastal plants. The field trip is anticipated to last until about noon.

Participants should meet at 8:00 am next to the downtown Honolulu State Library on Punchbowl St., or at 9:00 am at Pounders Beach. Pounders is about two miles past Hauula toward Laie, and about 1/2 mile before the Polynesian Cultural Center watch for a beach park on the makai side of the road. Bring water, snacks, sunscreen, and comfortable walking shoes. Conditions will probably be windy and salty. The trip leader is Ray Tabata; call him at 988-2958 before 9:00 pm evenings if you need information.

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

June 4 (Tues.) Board meeting at the home of Dr. Conant, at 3663 Alani Dr. Oahu at 7 pm. Call for info.

June 9 (Sun.) Field trip to Pounders Beach, Oahu. See page 136. Ray Tabata trip leader (988-2958).

June 15 (Sat.) Paste-up of *'Elepaio* beginning at noon. Call 533-7530 for information.

June 17 (Mon.) General meeting at McCully-Moiliili Library with Audrey Newman on "Hawaii's Heritage Program". 2211 S. King St.; meeting begins at 7:30 pm. See page 136.

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By-laws available by request.

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