



New Bird Records for Guam, Yap, Saipan and Tinian

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This paper documents new bird records for the islands of Guam, Yap, Saipan, and Tinian in western Micronesia. Observers involved in sighting or recording these birds include A.B. Amerson (BA), R.D. Anderson (RA), C.M. Avenengo (CA), R.E. Ballard (BB), R.E. Beck (RB), P.J. Conry (PC), J. Engbring (JE), M.V.C. Falanruw (MF), W.L. Kruckenberg (WK), F. Martin (FM), G. Nicks (GN), J. Nicks (JN), R.P. Owen (RO), J.A. Savidge (JS), E. Stevens (ES), H.G. Stevens (GS), and G.J. Wiles (GW).

Tahiti Petrel (*Pterodroma rostrata*). A single live bird was found by J. Rivera in the yard of a house in Agat, Guam on 31 March 1986. It was given to GW and PC of the Guam Division of Aquatic and Wildlife Resources (GDAWR) and was released the following day after being identified. The petrel's head, chin, throat, breast, back, flanks, and wings were entirely dark brown and contrasted with the bird's white belly and undertail coverts (Fig. 1). A distinct line demarcated the brown breast and white belly. Leg color was pinkish, and the bill and webbing of the feet were black. Measurements of the live bird included a total length of 37.5 cm and wingspan of 86 cm, both of which match closely with those given for this species (Harrison 1983). Photographs of the petrel are filed with the GDAWR, Mangilao, Guam. The only previous record of a Tahiti Petrel in Micronesia was made by J.B. Hombron and C.H. Jacquinot in the mid-1800s at an unknown location in the Caroline Islands (Baker 1951).



Figure 1. Tahiti Petrel at Agat, Guam, Mariana Islands. 1 April 1986.
Photo by Gary J. Wiles



Figure 2. Streaked Shearwaters at Asan, Guam. 5 December 1986.

Photo by Gary J. Wiles

Streaked Shearwater (*Calonectris leucomelas*). On 5 December 1986, a Streaked Shearwater was found by B. San Nicolas at a house located 250 m from the ocean in Asan, Guam (Fig. 2). The bird, which appeared exhausted when captured, arrived on the island after three days of strong southwesterly winds associated with the passage of Supertyphoon Kim through the Mariana Islands. The bird was given to GW, RB, and RA of the GDAWR and was released the next day. Diagnostic features included a heavy tinge of white broken by fine brown lines on the top and sides of the shearwater's head. The neck, back, and rump were pale brown with many feathers fringed in light gray, and contrasted with a dark brown tail and upper wings. Other characteristics were white undersides, white underwings edged in dark brown, pinkish legs, and a heavy gray bill tipped in black. A large shearwater, the bird had a total length of 46 cm and a wingspan of 110 cm, measurements that are similar to those reported for the species (Harrison 1983). Photographs of the bird are filed at the GDAWR, Mangilao, Guam. Streaked Shearwaters breed in Japan, the Bonin Islands, and China, and winter mainly in waters off New Guinea from November to February (Harrison 1983, King 1967). The species has been previously reported from the western Micronesian islands of Palau, Yap, Truk, and the northern Marianas (Pyle and Engbring 1985).

Masked Booby (*Sula dactylatra*). This species was originally recorded from Guam by Jenkins (1983). However, because no supporting description of the bird was included in the report, Pyle and Engbring (1985) chose to consider this as a hypothetical record for the island. Jenkins' (1983) record for the species was

based on the recovery of a single bird by B. Cruz at Anao Point in northeastern Guam on 20 November 1979. The bird wore a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) band (No. 737-80509) and was subsequently turned over to the GDAWR. Based on the band number, the USFWS later confirmed the bird as being a Masked Booby (file reference 23808, Office of Migratory Bird Management, USFWS). It had been banded at an age of one or more years at Taongi Atoll in the northern Marshall Islands on 12 October 1964. In 1980, Maben (1980) recorded Masked Boobies during five of 40 pelagic seabird counts conducted around Guam. She observed 69 of these boobies, with 50 occurring in a single flock on 25 March at Rota Banks approximately 16 km north of Guam (A.F. Maben, unpubl. data). The flock contained about 10 immatures, 20 second-year birds and 20 adults. Masked Boobies are known or suspected breeders on several islands in the central and northern Marianas (Lemke 1984, Engbring *et al.* 1986). Elsewhere in Micronesia, the species has been reported from the Marshall Islands and Palau (Pyle and Engbring 1985).

Great Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax carbo*). A single Great Cormorant was observed at the reservoir between Colonia and the new airport in Ruul, Yap, on seven occasions between 9 and 22 March 1986 (JE, GW, FM, MF). During most sightings, the bird was accompanied by a Little Pied Cormorant (*P. melanoleucos*) (see following account). Both cormorants frequently perched close together while sunning themselves on several stumps in the center of the reservoir. On one occasion near dawn, the two birds were seen separately flying towards the reservoir from the direction of several ponds located south of the airport. In early November 1986, a Great Cormorant was still present at the reservoir (RO) and was undoubtedly the same bird that was seen in March.

The Great Cormorant was characterized by a blackish body tinged with dark brown on the wings and pale flecking on the breast (Fig. 3). Other features were a heavy dull yellow bill, a yellow facial patch located behind the bill, and a white cheek patch extending up to and behind the eye. Photographs of the bird are



Figure 3. Great Cormorant at a reservoir on Yap.

Photo by John Engbring

filed with the USFWS, Honolulu, Hawaii. The bird was distinguished from the Japanese Cormorant (*P. capillatus*), a similar species occurring in temperate waters in Japan and China, by the brownish cast on its wings and by its preference for freshwater ponds. *P. capillatus* has a greenish mantle and occurs almost exclusively in marine environments (Harrison 1983). The Asian range of the Great Cormorant extends eastward to Japan, southeastern China, and Australia (Harrison 1983). This is the first Micronesian record for the species.

Little Pied Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax melanoleucos*). A Little Pied Cormorant was observed associating with a Great Cormorant on Yap (see previous account). The bird possessed white underparts and a white face, a black nape, crown, upperparts and tail, and a short yellow bill with the top of the upper mandible edged in black (Fig. 4). It was about 25% smaller than the Great Cormorant. Photographs of the bird are filed with the USFWS, Honolulu, Hawaii. An Australian species, the Little Pied Cormorant occurs as a breeding resident in Palau (Baker 1951). This is the first time the species has been recorded in Micronesia outside of Palau.



Figure 4. Little Pied Cormorant at a reservoir on Yap.

Photo by John Engbring

Green-winged Teal (*Anas crecca*). On 9 December 1983, a Green-winged Teal was caught in a residential area in Ordot, Guam and brought to JS at GDAWR. The bird was mottled grayish-brown with a pale lower belly and breast. Its speculum was green with buffy-white borders in front and behind. Other features included a grayish black bill and gray legs and feet. The duck was found about 1 km from the nearest source of standing water in an exhausted condition with blood on its bill and breast. The bird recovered after four days of care and was released.

Two other Green-winged Teal were observed in southern Guam in the winter of 1985-86. One bird was seen regularly between 3 and 31 December on Naval Magazine (PC, GW and others), where it shared a shallow mud wallow with herds of up to 20 feral water buffalo (*Bubalus bubalis*). It was mottled brown and

had a green-and-black speculum bordered in white. The second bird was a male in partial breeding plumage that was observed in a puddle at the dump on Naval Station on 12 January (RB). Other Micronesian records for this holarctic species include sightings in the Marshall Islands (Baker 1951), Palau (Engbring and Owen 1981), and on the islands of Pagan, Tinian and Rota in the Marianas (Baker 1951, Pratt 1984).

Spot-billed Duck (*Anas poecilorhyncha*). First seen on 11 January 1986, a single Spot-billed Duck resided at a marsh adjacent to the main entrance of Naval Station, Guam until 1 February 1986 (PC, CA, RB). Distinctive features observed included a yellow spot on the tip of the bill, dark facial stripes running through the eye and across a rather pale cheek, and a white bar on the tertiaries that was visible in flight and when the bird was swimming or resting. The remainder of the duck's plumage was mottled brown. The duck was noticeably larger than other waterfowl at the marsh including a Eurasian Wigeon (*A. penelope*), three American Wigeons (*A. americana*), a Garganey (*A. querquedula*), and several Common Moorhens (*Gallinula chloropus*). A first record for Micronesia, Spot-billed Ducks are resident to eastern Asia from China and Japan south to India through the Philippines (King and Dickinson 1975).

Gadwall (*Anas strepera*). On 23 November 1984, three Gadwalls were observed at Lake Hagoi, Tinian (RB, GW, BA). The birds were among 11 other ducks (including several Tufted Ducks (*Aythya fuligula*) and an unidentified wigeon) that were flushed from the marsh surrounding the lake. Seen briefly in flight, the Gadwalls appeared mottled brown and possessed a white speculum. Two days later, on 25 November, a larger group of seven Gadwalls was seen at Lake Hagoi by Pratt (1984). These are the first confirmed sightings of this holarctic species in Micronesia (Pyle and Engbring 1985).

Osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*). An Osprey was sighted at Lake Susupe, Saipan on 29 and 30 November 1985 (JN, GN, GW, PC, CA). Perched in a dead tree snag above the north shore of the lake on the second day, the bird exhibited distinctive plumage that included dark eye and breast stripes, brown upperparts, a white crown, and white underparts. After 20 minutes, the bird took flight and swooped low over the surface of the lake, dragging its feet in the water at one point. In flight, dark patches were visible at the bends of the wings. Ospreys have been previously recorded in Guam and Palau (Baker 1951), and birds were observed in southern Guam in the winters of 1984-85 and 1985-86. Surprisingly, this raptor has never been noted before from the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands although fresh and brackish water marshes occur on the islands of Saipan, Tinian and Pagan.

Black-winged Stilt (*Himantopus himantopus*). A single bird was observed near the new airport in Ruul, Yap on six occasions between 8 and 22 March 1986 (GW, JE, MF). It frequented a large pond and several shallow pools, where it foraged by wading in water up to its belly. The stilt appeared to be an immature male that was entering breeding plumage. Field traits noticed were long pink legs, dark brownish gray wings and back, white underparts, and a slender black bill (Fig. 5). The crown, upper halves of the face, and hindneck were pale gray. In flight, a white tail and wedge-shaped rump patch were highly visible as were the long legs that extended behind the body. Photographs of the bird are on file with the USFWS, Honolulu, Hawaii. An Old World species, the Black-winged Stilt has been previously recorded in Micronesia from Palau (Engbring and Owen 1981).



Figure 5. Black-winged Stilt on Yap.

Photo by John Engbring

Snowy Plover (*Charadrius alexandrinus*). A single Snowy Plover was sighted at Togcha Beach on the east coast of Guam on 15 September 1985 (RB, GW, CA). The bird was present among 30 to 40 other small and medium-sized shorebirds that were feeding on a rocky reef flat. The plover exhibited a white forehead that faded into a pale brownish stripe extending beyond the top of the eye, a brown cap with faint horizontal barring, and a white ring encircling the neck. An incomplete brown breast band, a black bill and gray legs were also noticeable. The bird was slightly smaller than several Mongolian Plovers (*C. mongolus*) that were standing nearby. In flight, white wingbars extended into the outer half of the primary feathers. Another Snowy Plover was observed in a parking lot at the new airport in Ruul, Yap, on 21 and 22 March 1986 (JE, GW, MF). This individual displayed similar features but had an incomplete black breast band and a black longitudinal forehead bar. The Snowy Plover occurs nearly worldwide and has been previously recorded in Micronesia as a winter migrant in Palau (Baker 1951) and Saipan (Engbring and Owen 1981).

Common Redshank (*Tringa totanus*). A Common Redshank was seen feeding on a shallow reef flat at Togcha Beach in Yona, Guam, on 21 September 1986 (BB, GW, PC). The bird was noticeably taller than a nearby Gray-tailed Tattler (*Heteroscelus brevipes*) and possessed long reddish legs, pale brown upperparts, and a straight medium-length bill that was orange at the base and black at the tip. A white rump and broad white secondaries were noted in flight and distinguished the bird from a Spotted Redshank (*T. erythropus*). The Common Redshank occurs widely through Eurasia and Africa (King and Dickinson 1975), and in Micronesia, has been previously reported in Palau (Owen 1977) and Yap (Pratt and Bruner 1981).

Curlew Sandpiper (*Calidris ferruginea*). On 31 August 1985, a single Curlew Sandpiper was seen feeding on a tidal mud flat at Duncas Beach in Tamuning, Guam (GS, ES, CA, GW). Characteristics observed included a decurved bill, a pale brown chin and upper breast, a white brow above the eye, and white

wingbars extending to the outer portions of the wings. The bird was differentiated from a Dunlin (*C. alpina*) by the presence of a white rump that was noted in flight. Previously recorded in Micronesia from Palau (Baker 1951) and Yap (Pyle and Engbring, 1987), this is the first sighting of a Curlew Sandpiper in the Mariana Islands.

Ruff (*Philomachus pugnax*). On 8 March 1986, a single Ruff was observed south of the new airport in Ruul, Yap (JE, GW). It flushed from a shallow pool of water and was relocated later in the morning in a nearby mowed lawn at the U.S. Weather Bureau Station. The bird possessed yellow legs, a medium-sized and slightly decurved black bill, and a brown back with feathers edged in buff, giving the back a scaly appearance (Fig. 6). The Ruff was distinctly taller than several nearby Lesser Golden-Plovers (*Pluvialis dominica*). When flushed, narrow wingbars and white oval patches on each side of the base of the tail were visible. Photographs of the bird are filed with the USFWS, Honolulu, Hawaii. On 10 March 1986, another Ruff was seen on Falalop Island, Ulithi Atoll approximately 170 km east of the main islands of Yap (JE). This individual was part of a mixed flock comprised of 17 Lesser Golden-Plovers, six Ruddy Turnstones (*Arenaria interpres*), five Whimbrels (*Numenius phaeopus*), and a Wandering Tattler (*Heteroscelus incanus*). In Micronesia, Ruffs have been previously noted from Palau, Truk, the Marianas, and the Marshalls (Pyle and Engbring 1985).



Figure 6. A Ruff on Yap.

Photo by John Engbring

Little (Least) Tern (*Sterna albifrons*). One Little Tern was recorded on Lassau Island, Ulithi Atoll, Yap on 12 March 1986 (GW). In flight, the bird's small size, ashy gray upper wings, black wing tips, and white tail separated it from other species of Asian terns. A black cap and white forehead were noticeable when the bird alighted briefly on a sandy beach. A new record for Yap, this tern has been previously noted throughout the rest of the Carolines and in the Marianas (Pyle and Engbring 1985).

White/Black-backed Wagtail (*Motacilla alba/lugens*). The American Ornithologists Union (1983) recently recognized these

wagtails as distinct species. On 17 November 1984, a single bird was seen beside a puddle in a dirt parking lot at the Paseo in Agana, Guam (GW, WK). The bird had a white face with a black eyestripe, a gray back, and large white patches on the wing coverts that contrasted strongly with black upper wings when resting. The tail, which was pumped up and down in wagtail fashion, was black in the center and edged in white. The White Wagtail and Black-backed Wagtail exhibit similar plumages that are difficult to distinguish in the field (Morlan 1981), and we were unable to identify this individual to species. Birds of this species complex have been previously recorded in Micronesia only from Palau (Owen 1977).

Red-throated Pipit (*Anthus cervinus*) One Red-throated Pipit was observed on Falalop Island, Ulithi Atoll, Yap on 10 and 16 March 1986 (JE, GW, FM, MF). It was present in short grass near the garbage dump at the east end of the island's airfield. Features of the bird included a pale rusty brown head and upper breast, bold dark striping along the flanks, and black streaks on a brownish back. The bird's call was a single high *peet* note. This species ranges through Eurasia and Africa eastward to the Philippines and Japan. In Micronesia, it has been previously recorded from Palau (Engbring and Owen 1981).

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Late Summer Breeding of the 'Elepaio on Mauna Loa

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According to Berger (1981:104), little is known about the breeding biology of the 'Elepaio (*Chasiempis sandwichensis*) on the island of Hawaii. He lists as his latest observation of breeding behavior a fledgling (*C. s. bryani*; see Pratt 1980) being fed on 6 July. Conant (1977), who studied Oahu 'Elepaio (*C. s. gayi*), stated that the last young "become independent in June." The breeding season of the Kaua'i 'Elepaio (*C. s. sclateri*) is also reported to end in June (Berger 1981).

On 13 August 1985, we observed a fledgling 'Elepaio (*C. s. ridgwayi*) being fed by an adult 'Elepaio in Kipuka Puauulu in Hawaii Volcanoes National Park. This observation may represent an extension over a month to the breeding season of this species. The feeding took place approximately 500 m from the entrance to Kipuka Puauulu (initially travelling west) at about 1600 hrs. We were observing 2 adult 'Elepaio foraging in a large koa (*Acacia koa*) tree about 4 m from the ground when a fledgling flew into the tree next to one of the adults. It began vocalizing with its wings lowered and quivering. The adult fed the fledgling an unidentified arthropod, flew out of sight, and returned to feed the fledgling again. All 3 birds then moved out of sight. The fledgling flew fairly strongly; its plumage lacked the distinct markings of an adult and its retrices were noticeably shorter.

Although this observation may represent an anomalously late nesting attempt, the paucity of published observations of *C. s. ridgwayi* makes it impossible to exclude the possibility that this subspecies usually breeds later than the others. Future researchers studying the 'Elepaio should be aware that the nesting season may extend into August.

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Oahu 'Elepaio on the nest.

Photo by Sheila Conant

RECENT OBSERVATIONS AUGUST - NOVEMBER, 1986

(Editors' note: This article is excerpted from Bob Pyles's record of bird observations for the Hawaiian Islands. Refer to future issues of American Birds for a full account.)

ABBREVIATIONS: FFS = French Frigate Shoals; H = Hawaii Is.; K = Kauai Is.; M = Maui Is.; O = Oahu Is.; JCNWR = James Campbell NWR on Oahu; KMCAS = Kaneohe Marine Corps Air Station on Oahu; HRBP = Hawaii Rare Bird Documentary Photography File.

RAPTORS AND GAMEBIRDS - An uncommon record was an 'Io (dark phase) soaring over ma-mane woodland at Puu Mali on Mauna Kea on 15 Nov. At least two Osprey were present in the islands this season: one on Kauai that frequented Menehune Fishpond (14 July - 3 Nov.; SB, TP), Kipu Kai (9 Oct.; *fide* TT) and Poipu (12 Nov.; SD); and one on Oahu at Punamano Unit, JCNWR, on 25 Aug. (BE). A Short-eared Owl, resident at Tern Is., FFS since 6 Aug., was recorded feeding on turnstones, golden-plovers, and Wedge-tailed Shearwater chicks

(RV). Another Short-eared Owl was seen several times at Kii Unit JCNWR; the species is now rarely seen on Oahu.

Kalij Pheasants, expanding their range out of the windward rainforests of Hawaii Is., are now found in the mamane forests of Mauna Kea; a pair was seen at Puu Mali, 15 Nov. (TP).

SHOREBIRDS - This was a good year for sightings of Black-bellied Plover: 2 were seen at Waipio, O. on 6 Sept. (PD); one at Kanaha Pond and 2 at Kealia Pond, M. on 28 Nov. (PP); and one at Tern Is., FFS from 21 Nov. onward (RV). Readers should note that one of the Lesser Yellowlegs described in the 14 Sept. field tript report ('Elepaio 46:186) is now believed to be a Greater Yellowlegs, a species rare to the islands. This bird was seen repeatedly at Waipio, O. from 14 Sept. to 11 Oct. (PD, MO, DP, *et al.*). A palearctic Whimbrel with a prominent white lower back turned up at Kealia Pond, M. 1-2 Oct. (DP, RLP). The first Bristle-thighed Curlew of the season was seen well 11 Aug. flying down Vineyard Blvd. in downtown Honolulu as the observer was waiting at a traffic light (AE). Bristle-thighs at the traditional fall stopover spot near Kii Unit, JCNWR built up to at least 5 in Sept. (DW, PD), with 1 remaining through the season's end.

Outstanding shorebird of the season was a RUFOUS-NECKED STINT studied and photographed well (HRBP 498-500) at Aimakapa Pond, H. 18-31 Aug. (JL, RD, PD, RLP). Rufous on the chest, prominent when first seen, had largely faded away by end of August. Details of description are in preparation for publication. Also, a CURLEW SANDPIPER studied well at Amorient Aquafarm, O. on 6 Sept. (PD, RD, RLP) and later by others remained until at least 23 Sept. (PD). Finally, a BUFF-BREASTED SANDPIPER was a highlight of an Audubon field trip to Waipio on 14 Sept. (PD, RLP, *et al.*). All three are species recorded fewer than 5 times previously in the state.

Other casual shorebird species recorded this season included a Least Sandpiper at Waipio on 6-28 Sept. (many observations) and a Western Sandpiper at Kealia Pond, M. on 9 Nov. (RD) and 30 Nov. (PP). Another Western remained at Tern Is., FFS from 6 Sept. through 13 Nov. and a Semipalmated Sandpiper also was reported there 9-16 Oct. (LM, RV, JS). One Pectoral and one Sharp-tailed Sandpiper were at Tern Is. 14-22 Aug. (NN, RV, LM), but elsewhere in the state reports of these 2 species this fall were fewer than usual. An estimated 200 Sanderlings at Kealia Pond, M. on 9 Nov. (RD) was a very high count.

Five Ruffs at Waipio 6-14 Sept. (PD, RD, RLP) were not seen thereafter, although indivi-

duals have frequently wintered there in recent years. A juvenile Short-billed Dowitcher, rare in Hawaii, was first seen at Waipio on 28 Aug. and last identified 3 Oct. (PD). Dowitchers (probably mostly Long-billed) increased at Waipio thereafter to high counts of 17 on 9 Nov. (RLP) and 19 on 21 Nov. (PD). A dowitcher was reported at Tern Is., FFS on 24 Sept. (LM) and 4 Long-billeds were at Kanaha Pond, M. on 11 Nov. (RD).

PARROTS THROUGH SWIFTLETS - The flock of 33+ Red-crowned Amazons frequenting Kapiolani Park this fall had moved out of the area by mid-Nov. (TP). Two Gray Swiftlets, a species resident and nesting on Oahu since the early 1960's, were seen on 31 Oct. near the lower end of Halawa Ridge Trail, O. (DW). Continuing on to the known nesting cave at the head of Halawa Valley, the observers found remains of older swiftlet nests, but no active or recent nests at this season.

NATIVE SONGBIRDS - The 'Amakihi, a common resident in the upper valleys and hills behind Honolulu, has turned up at ever lower elevations in recent years; one down to 120 ft. near Punchbowl Cemetery (JL) was the lowest elevation record yet and indicates the adaptability of this hardy native. An adult Kauai Creeper was sighted again on Pihea Trail, K. on 3 Aug. (TP).

ALIEN SONGBIRDS - A Melodious Laughingthrush and several Red-billed Leiothrix were heard singing along Wiliwilinui Ridge Trail in s.e. Oahu on 1 Sept. (TP). Both are hard to find now on this island. Red-whiskered Bulbuls are still expanding their range on Oahu, where 4 were seen on Aiea Loop Trail on 23 Nov. (RLP), while several at Ho'omaluhia Park in Kaneohe in late Nov. are the first reported across the Koolau Mts. Two Red-crested Cardinals on 30 Aug. at Kapalua Beach in extreme n.w. Maui (DA) and 3 at Kanaha Pond in n. central Maui on 28 Nov. (PP) are notable for that island where the species is still scarce. Yellow-faced Grassquits also appear to be expanding their range on Oahu, where they were reported from two new locations in the Koolau Mts.: 2 in a grassy area on Aiea Ridge Trail on 24 Aug. (BE) and a total of 6 (including a singing male) at 4 widely scattered spots on upper Poamoho Trail on 15 Sept. (TP). A colorful male Saffron Finch, not reported on Oahu in several years, was sighted at Salt Lake Golf Course in w. Honolulu on 16 Oct. (MO). Many Yellow-fronted Canaries were heard and seen on Na Laau Trail 1 Sept. (KF).

Orange-cheeked Waxbills still survive along the Na Laau Trail, O. where 4 were found on 1 Sept. (KF). Groups of Red-cheeked Cordonbleu and Lavender Waxbills were seen several times during Oct. and Nov. at the traditional spot

near Puuanahulu, H. (DP,PP). Two Lavenders were reported near Honaunau, H. on 11 Aug. (DP), and 2 were seen on Na Laau Trail, O. on Sept. 1 (KF). This species is reported to be increasing around Kailua-Kona, H. (RD). Warbling Silverbills seem to be establishing themselves now on Oahu, where 5 were observed feeding in Diamond Head Crater, O. on 22 Nov. (DM). Two Java Sparrows near Lihue, K. on Aug. 29 (TP) and 2 at a bird feeder in Kihei, M. on 21 Sept. (MS) document incipient establishment of that species on those islands.

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Robert L. Pyle

protect from development a significant native rain forest and the active upper rift zone of Kilauea.

On February 24 DLNR Chairman Paty sent the Society this welcome reply:

"Thank you for the warm congratulatory letter of 6 February. I very much appreciate the Hawaii Audubon Society Board of Directors expression of good wishes. In our mutual goal and desire to protect Hawaii's natural resources, I too look forward to a continuing cordial and beneficial relationship between my Department and your Society.

"As to procedural matters in getting the Kahaualea Natural Area Reserve established, the Executive Order document to set aside 16,726 acres as the Kahaualea NAR has been sent to the Governor for his approval. After the Governor's signature, the document is subject to disapproval by the Legislature in the next session following the signature date. I have asked Robert Lee, Executive Secretary of the Natural Area Reserve System Commission, to notify you when we receive the signed Executive Order.

Sincerely yours, William W. Paty, Chairman"

Mae E. Mull

Hawaii Island Representative

CONSERVATION NEWS

NEW DLNR CHAIRMAN AND KAHUALEA

At the direction of the Society's Board of Directors, on 6 February board member Mae E. Mull sent a letter of congratulations and welcome to William W. Paty, recently appointed to Governor Waihee's cabinet and new chairman of the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR).

Mull also asked about the designation of Kahaualea as a natural area reserve. The State of Hawaii acquired the 16,000-acre parcel on the island of Hawaii in the land exchange with Campbell Estate on 25 October 1985. At that time the Board of Land and Natural Resources declared its intention that Kahaualea be made a natural area reserve to replace the State-owned Wao Kele O Puna Natural Area Reserve and the remainder of Puna Forest Reserve lands that were to be exchanged with Campbell Estate. The purpose of the exchange was to facilitate the development of geothermal energy in the Kilauea middle east rift zone. Kahaualea borders the east boundary of Hawaii Volcanoes National Park. Kahaualea Natural Area Reserve would

NEWS FROM THE LEGISLATURE

Testimony was presented by the Hawaii Audubon Conservation Chair, Wayne Gagné, at the State Legislature on the following bills and resolutions:

In opposition to H.R. No. 59 & H.C.R. No. 32, S.R. No. 20 & S.C.R. No. 15, all entitled "Urging the Governor to direct the Attorney General to appeal the court's decision in Palila v. Hawaii Department of Land and Natural Resources." This legislation passed the House with two recorded no's (Pfiel, Isbell) at almost the same instant the Acting Governor was signing a proclamation designating March as "Hawaii Wildlife Awareness Month." It was referred back to Committee in the Senate because of an alleged communication from the AG that the suit would be appealed. Deputy AG Johnstone Wong confirmed this with Gagné by phone and admitted that this measure was unusual in that the defendants filed a motion for reconsideration with Judge King on Feb. 6 (on the same day). Both major Honolulu papers expressed an interest in the story, but so far nothing has appeared.

In support of a package of bills which establish protective management funds and biotic surveys in a heritage program fund for the State Natural Area Reserves, viz: H.B. No. 654, entitled "Relating to Natural Area Reserves" and H.B. No. 735, entitled "Relating to Natural Area Reserves System" as well as some companion measures in the Senate, viz: S.B. Nos. 534 & 535 with the same titles, as well as S.B. 536, entitled "Relating to the Conveyance Tax" and S.B. No. 1133, entitled "Relating to Natural Area Reserves Systems." S.B. 536 would increase the conveyance tax from 5¢ to 11¢ per \$100 with the 6¢ increase paid into a special separate nonlapsing account known as the "natural area reserve fund." All emerged from Sen. Hagino's committee and await Finance Committee hearings. DLNR also has a line item in their biennial budget of \$500,000 to establish protective management for HNARS.

In support of H.B. No. 1563, entitled "Relating to Forests" which would help sort out some of the conflicts between those who value native forests for native biota and watershed, and those who value them for commercial and hunting aspects. This bill will undergo extensive revision. Gagné testified against H.B. No. 610, entitled "Relating to Forest Reservations, Water Development, Zoning" which would designate Kilauea Forest Reserve as a subzone within the Conservation District. (It already is!) DLNR also testified against H.B. 610, and the bill was filed. The Hawaii Forestry Committee, with which the Society is loosely affiliated, testified in favor of H.B. 1562 and H.B. 1567, which deal with enhancement of tree farms to foster more interest in commercial silviculture of koa. Both groups were unaware that H.B. 611, entitled "Relating to Emblems and Symbols," would designate koa, rather than kukui, as Hawaii's State Tree. DLNR was non-committal. Those expecting a controversial bill similar to that for the State Fish, instead heard about the woes facing koa both as a commercial and biological entity. Koa was designated with the kukui as State Tree.

In favor of passage of two bills that would direct the Dept. of Planning & Economic Development (in S.B. No. 775) or the DLNR (in S.B. No. 778) to survey all forested lands not presently within the Conservation District to identify those forested primarily with native species for removal from other land use designations and into the Conservation District where they would be less susceptible to destruction for commercial endeavors. DLNR was in favor of this activity, and S.B. 775 passed Sen. Hagino's Committee on Planning & Environment.

Wayne Gagné

ACQUISTION OF CRATER HILL AND MOKULEA POINT FOR INCLUSION IN KILAUEA POINT NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

The Kilauea Point National Wildlife Refuge (hereafter, KPNWR) is a sanctuary for seabirds along Kauai's northern coastline. The refuge, located at the site of the Coast Guard lighthouse on a promontory at Kilauea Pt., is currently trying to acquire an adjacent 138 acres of coastal land, called Crater Hill and Mokulea Pt., to augment its existing 32 acres. The impetus behind the acquisition drive is a citizen group of the Kilauea Neighborhood Association called the Crater Hill Preservation Committee.

Crater Hill abuts KPNWR at its western end. It is a narrow strip of coastal land marked by its cliffs and crests. It was set aside and designated a conservation district by the County of Kauai during the development of the Crater Hill Subdivision in the 1970s. The conservation conditions required the owners, Crater Hill Properties, to preserve the land as habitat for the nesting seabirds. The 101 acres is tax assessed at \$400 per acre for oceanfront conservation land, but due to the imposed restrictions the resale value for the entire parcel is \$1,000.

The property adjacent to Crater Hill is Mokulea Pt. peninsula. It contains 37 acres, of which 20 are zoned conservation (but with



Mokulea Point, Kilauea, Kauai



Crater Hill, Kilauea, Kauai

no restrictions) and are assessed at \$9,045. The remaining 17 acres are zoned for agricultural use; the value is assessed at \$449,820. Its agricultural designation allows it to be developed more readily. The total value for the two properties is \$459,865.

The National Wildlife Refuge system is managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, an agency of the Department of the Interior, and set up to protect wildlife and its habitat. For this reason, accessibility by the public often conflicts with protection, and consequently some refuges are inaccessible to the general public. This is the case with nearly all the NWR's in the Hawaiian archipelago, including those on Oahu, Molokai and the Big Island, as well as those on the uninhabited remote northwest islands. The sole exception is the refuge at Kilauea Pt. It is designed as a public park, with interpretative services to increase the enjoyment of all visitors: tourists, residents and school children. There is no admission fee. (NWR use was not included under the 1986 congressional mandate for user fees in the national parks).

Just as Kilauea lighthouse serves all seafaring ships in its range, the refuge benefits all who visit it. It is non-exclusive, a true public good.

There are two major justifications for the acquisition. First, it serves to maintain the integrity of the coastline as a natural area. If fragmented by housing or other commercial uses, the continuity of the cliffs is broken and the panoramic vista is

lost. Second, a five fold expansion (32 acres to 170 acres) of KPNWR will increase the experience and further the enjoyment for visitors. In 1985, KPNWR hosted 350,000 people. A typical visit at the present time is to drive up, look around, return to vehicles, and drive away. Time spent varies, but the average visit takes about 15-20 minutes. An increased area would allow footpaths to be installed, giving the visitor a more substantial and personal confrontation with the environment.

Additionally, the nesting birds will have a larger area of their nesting habitat protected and managed. The scientific research community will have an expanded natural laboratory to study nesting colonies of Red-footed Boobies and Wedge-tailed Shearwaters. KPNWR is the most accessible location in the U.S. to view these species.

The seabirds that nest on the existing refuge and those that nest on adjacent Crater Hill can be viewed biologically as a single colony. Protection and stewardship is given to only a portion of a natural entity that is divided by property ownership. Wildlife management will be enhanced by federal acquisition, which would erase the artificial distinction between the two areas.

Finally, the Kauai community and the Kilauea neighborhood will take pride in having a federal park akin to Hawaii Volcanoes National Park, Haleakala National Park, and the Arizona Memorial that are on the other major islands.



Kilauea Point National Wildlife Refuge, Kauai

There are no known arguments against the acquisition. The property owners are eager to sell; there are no current competing uses for the land; there is no dissent for its intended use.

Indeed, wildlife for wildlife's sake is being supported by not only the aforementioned parties but also the Kauai County Council, Mayor Tony Kunimura, Congressman Dan Inouye, and organizations such as the Hawaii Audubon Society and the Sierra Club. However, the organization with perhaps the most clout, The Nature Conservancy, an altruistic real estate agency specializing in land acquisitions for the preservation of nature, is not at this time actively involved in the pursuit of Crater Hill and Mokulea Pt. It has set as its priority protection of the habitats of imperiled species such as endangered forest birds found in preserves and refuges on all major islands. Kilauea Point's value in providing recreational and educational uses is acknowledged by The Nature Conservancy, but the seabird species which inhabit KPNWR are prolific on the northwest remote islands, and The Nature Conservancy of Hawaii has set its priorities elsewhere.

More support has come from The Trust for Public Lands, a San Francisco based, non-profit group which acts as a facilitator to aid in buying and setting aside private land primarily in wilderness areas, but its objectives also include preserving public open spaces for scenic and recreational uses in urban areas. The Trust for Public Lands has taken a keen interest in Crater Hill and Mokulea Pt. and is hopeful of success. It has already obtained an option to buy Mokulea Pt. from the landowners. Like The Nature Conservancy, the expertise of The Trust for Public Lands is in real estate and law. They can greatly facilitate grassroots efforts in protecting such areas as Crater Hill and Mokulea Pt.

While both organizations are working for the protection of wild areas it is important that they do not impede each other's work as they compete for funding.

The "public good" rationale is far reaching in many examples of conservation of natural resources. People must recognize that we are tied inextricably to the natural environment. Where wildlife still exists, it must be protected and managed. It is too easy to lose wildlife to our overwhelming population increases. The preservation of wildlands and wildlife is a preservation of our essential spirit.

Yukie Yoshinaga
1123 B 2nd Ave.
Honolulu, HI 96816

1987 HAS PHOTO/ART CONTEST AND EXHIBIT

The Hawaii Audubon Society's Photo/Art Contest and Exhibit held in March at Hoomaluhia Park was a great success. Almost one hundred photographs, paintings, and drawings were entered, all of which portrayed Hawaii's wildlife, plants, landscape, marine life and human relationships with nature.

Opening ceremonies were held on March 1st at the Hoomaluhia visitor center. The Hula Halau O Kawai Hoomaluhia performed for visitors and pupus were served by HAS members. Dr. Sheila Conant, Chair of the UH General Science Department, was emcee and chief judge. The judge of photography was David McCauley, an accomplished photographer, whose background includes a degree in fine arts and undergraduate and graduate degrees in language. The judge of artwork was Elaine Murphy, Director of Art and Culture for the City and County of Honolulu.

Judging was not an easy task since there were so many beautiful entries. The Best in Show award went to Patrick Ching for his painting of a nesting pair of Poouli, an endangered Hawaiian Honeycreeper. Photography awards were as follows: First Place went to Dr. Andy Andrews for his photo of flower clusters of the native Wiliwili tree. Robin Eilerts took Second Place for her photo of a sleepy Hawaiian Monk Seal. Jack Leishman's photo of a native damselfly won an Honorable Mention. The winners in the category of artwork were First Place to Phyllis Ha for her pen and ink drawing of an Oahu Oo. For his goache painting of several Hawaiian Stilts, Norman Nagai won Second Place. Honorable Mention went to Bryan Harry for his painting of a Nene. Congratulations to everyone!

Several sponsors supplied gift certificates for contest winners, and HAS presented a \$75 cash award for Best in Show. Mahalo to Light Inc., Hawaiian Graphics and Mark Merlin for supplying gift certificates and prizes awarded. HAS would also like to express its appreciation to Patrick Ching, Bruce Eilerts, the staff of Hoomaluhia Park and the dozens of family and friends who helped make this exhibit possible.

The exhibit was visited by fifty to seventy-five people per day and because of the enthusiasm and quality of this year's show HAS would like to continue this activity on an annual basis. Get out those cameras and paint brushes folks and we'll see you next year!

MAJOR ART EXHIBIT VISITS BISHOP MUSEUM IN MARCH

A major exhibition of more than 60 original paintings and sculptures of North American birds opened March 12 at Bishop Museum for five weeks.

The 11th annual *Birds in Art* exhibition features the work of 25 artists from the United States and eight other countries, including Japan, Australia and Canada. Following its Bishop Museum showing, the exhibition moves to the Beijing Natural History Museum in The People's Republic of China.

Well-known artists whose works will be at Bishop Museum include Roger Tory Peterson, 1978 Master Wildlife Artist, Robert Bateman, 1982 Master Wildlife Artist, and Guy Coheleach, 1987 Master Wildlife Artist. A painting by Honolulu-born Thomas Quinn is included.

The exhibition is organized each year by the Leigh Yawkey Woodson Art Museum, Wausau, Wisconsin, and sponsored by Northwest Airlines, Inc. It will be on display through April 18 in Bishop Museum's Hawaiian Hall Vestibule Gallery and Kahili Room.

Bishop Museum is open 9:00AM to 5:00PM Monday through Saturday and the first Sunday of each month. Admission fee includes *Birds in Art* and all other galleries, planetarium show (11:00AM and 3:15PM), Hawaiian craft demonstrations (9:00AM to 3:00PM) and the music and dance performance (1:00PM).

AIEA RIDGE FIELD TRIP REPORT

The March 15th field trip to Aiea Ridge was cancelled due to heavy rain. Future trips will include an alternative outing in case bad weather forces cancellation of the scheduled activity. A calendar of H.A.S. field trips is being prepared by the Field Trip committee and will be printed in the next issue of the 'Elepaio. The calendar will list monthly field trips from April '87 to January '88.

Bruce Eilerts

BIRD WALK AT HOOMALUHIA

On Sunday, 12 April, at 9:30, the staff of Hoomaluhia Park will be conducting a guided bird walk at the park. Located at the end of Luluku Rd. in Kaneohe, Hoomaluhia is a vast botanical garden dramatically situated at the foot of the Koolau pali. Expect to see a variety of introduced forest

birds inhabiting this impressive sample of the world's flora. For further information call Martha McDaniel at 235-6636.

APRIL FIELD TRIP

Sunday, April 26th
Waianae Kai State Forest Reserve
Leader: Steve Perlman (734-0519)

The Sunday, April 26th field trip will be a visit to the Waianae Kai State Forest Reserve in Waianae Valley. This will be a difficult and hardy hike up the back slopes of the valley to a ridge crest trail below Mt. Kaala. The ridge provides spectacular views into Makaha and Waianae valley. Native birds such as the Elepaio and Apapane may be found, and rare and unusual native plants will be seen. Participants should pack a lunch and bring binoculars, a hat and sunscreen. Meet at 7:30 am in front of the State Library on Punchbowl Street or at 8:30 am at the Waianae McDonalds.

APRIL 20TH PROGRAM

Location: McCully-Moiliili Library
Speaker: Keith Woolliams, Director of Arboretum and Botanical Gardens at Waimea Falls Park
Title: Garlands of Generations

The program will include a 35 minute slide presentation with synchronized narration. This slide presentation, which discusses the role that botanical gardens around the United States are playing in the conservation of our endangered plant species, was produced by the Center for Plant Conservation, a national organization which promotes the propagation and cultivation of endangered plants. Mr. Woolliams will also discuss a few of the many botanical projects that the Waimea Arboretum is involved with.

FREE ICE CREAM

Will again be served to those volunteers who help with the typing, proof-reading, or paste-up of next month's 'Elepaio at Thane Pratt's house, 1022 Prospect St. on Saturday, 18 April, at 1:00 PM. Phone 524-8464 for more information. Authors of articles, notices etc. must submit these by 15 April to be included in the May issue.

Many thanks to Sheila Conant, Georgine Curry, Karen and Charlie Falkenmayer, and David McCauley for helping with the preparation of this issue.

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(NOTICE TO CONTRIBUTORS: The 'Elepaio invites authors to submit scientific articles on natural history of Hawaii and the Pacific. Scientific articles are subject to peer review. The 'Elepaio also serves as a newsletter to inform members of conservation issues, Society events, and other subjects of interest to members. Manuscripts of articles and newsletter items may be sent to Thane Pratt at 1022 Prospect St., Apt. 1103, Honolulu, HI 96822. Articles not subject to peer review MUST be received by the 15th of each month to be considered for publication in the next month's issue.)

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All Local Memberships and Subscriptions are for a calendar year, January through December.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Apr. 13 (Mon.) Board Meeting at Bishop Museum at 7:00 PM. Call Phil Bruner, 293-3820 (wk).
- Apr. 18 (Sat.) 'Elepaio paste-up at Thane Pratt's house at 1:00 PM. Call 524-8464.
- Apr. 20 (Mon.) General Meeting at McCully-Moiliili Library at 7:30 PM. Announcement on page 47.
- Apr. 26 (Sun.) Field trip to Waianae Kai State Forest Reserve. Meet at State Library on Punchbowl St. at 7:30 AM. Announcement on page 47.

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