



1986 Volcano Christmas Bird Count and First Annual Natural History Workshop

by Julie Williams, Larry Katahira, Paul Higashino

This year marked the fifteenth annual Volcano Christmas Bird Count. For the first time, the occasion was integrated into a two day natural history workshop emphasizing native plant and bird identification. The workshop began on January 2nd at the Magma House, Hawaii Volcanoes National Park. Thirty-seven enthusiastic participants came from all over the state, as well as from California and as far as New Jersey.

The participants were divided into two groups for the January 2nd daytime activities. One group spent the morning at the Magma House, where basic identification of Hawaiian forest birds and plants was presented using slides, bird skins, tapes of vocalizations, and plant material. Following lunch, Paul Higashino and Julie Williams led the group to Thurston Lava Tube and then up the Mauna Loa Strip Road. The second group, led by Larry Katahira and Jim Jacobi, spent the day at the forest of Kulani Correctional Facility, where a concentration of endangered forest birds were found. The highlight of the day was the discovery of an active nest of the 'Akiapola'au. The female was observed sitting on the nest while a male was busily feeding in a nearby koa tree. According to the literature, this marked only the third record of an 'Akiapola'au nest.

On Friday evening, the workshop participants were privileged to have educational and entertaining talks presented by Jim Jacobi on the variety of native plants and birds in our dwindling native forests, and by Bill Mull, on unique insect-plant interactions in Hawaiian forests.

On Saturday, 3 January, the Volcano Christmas Bird Count took place under ideal weather conditions. Fifty-five participants in 11 groups covered a total of 53.5 miles (19.5 on foot, 34 by car) and spent 43.75 hours in the field (36.25 on foot, 7.5 by car). Twenty-seven species were recorded, and a total of 4,004 birds were counted. Five endangered birds, 'Akiapola'au, 'Akepa, Hawai'i Creeper, Io, and Nene, were again recorded this year. For the second consecutive year, the O'u was not sighted, despite a determined effort by 7 birders searching known locations.

The highlight of the count occurred at Kulani where 6 'Akiapola'au, 14 'Akepa, 2 Nene, and 1 Io were recorded. Most of these birds were located near Puu Kipu in a mesic koa-ohia forest community with adjacent pasture lands. Participants were fortunate to get a quick, but distant, glimpse of the active 'Akiapola'au nest which was discovered the previous day. Approximately a half mile from this nest was another pair of 'Akiapola'au displaying courtship behavior. The male was observed singing and aggressively chasing the female. In addition, two separate family groups of 'Akepa were seen moving through the uppermost branches of the ohia canopy.

On Saturday evening, the participants of both the workshop and the bird count enjoyed a get-together barbeque. Following this, the group gathered for the bird count compilation and sharing of the

day's highlights. Afterwards, they were again honored with two engaging speakers: Paul Banko traced the population history of a number of endangered as well as extinct birds from the Kilauea Crater region, and Christina Heliker presented a close-up of the most recent eruptions at Puu Oo.

The workshop could not have succeeded without the help of the following: the Hawaii Audubon Society for donating \$200 to defray workshop expenses, our bosses Dan Taylor, Chuck Stone, and Don Sparling for their encouragement, generosity with equipment, and allowing us the time necessary to coordinate the workshop, the staff at Kulani Correctional Facility for their cooperation, Bishop Estate and Keauhou Ranch for allowing National Park Service personnel access on their land, the four speakers for their efforts and devotion to education, and of course, all you folks who participated in the workshop—mahalo!

*Hawaii Volcanoes National Park
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SECTORS AND PARTICIPANTS

1. **Kipuka Pauulu, Volcano Golf Course and surrounding areas:** Marjorie Chase, Paul Higashino, Meredith Ing, Keiko Kokubon, Nina Kokubon, Diane Ley, Jill Ley, Rachelle Ley, Jenoma McLaughlin.
2. **Kilauea Crater Rim:** Jo Diotalevi, Caroline Evans, Dina Kageler, Kathy Lowder, Kate Schuerch, Mellisa Stomblor, Steve Stomblor.
3. **Mauna Loa Trail:** Andrea Bruner, Phil Bruner, Heidi Campbell, Greg Ching-Paulson, Yvonne Ching-Paulson, David Gnauck, Jack Jeffery.
4. **Keauhou Ranch:** Linda Cuddihy, Larry Katahira, Collen Matt, Chuck Stone, Danielle Stone.
5. **Mauna Loa Strip Rd. (4,000'-6,600'):** same as #3.
6. **Volcano Community:** Paul Banko.
7. **Puu Makaala and Stainback Highway:** Pat Conant, Patricia Gerrodette, Tim Gerrodette, Darcy Hu, Stephanie Nagata.
8. **Kilauea Forest Reserve:** same as #4.
9. **Olaa Tract:** Lyman Abbott, Robin Eilerts, Linda Patton, Christine Tam, Julie Williams, Alving Yoshinaga, Margie Ziegler.
10. **Kulani:** Larry Aumiller, Paul Banko, John Culliney, Jane Culp, Peter Donaldson, John Earle, Pat Finnegan, Christine Heliker, Rose Kerr, David Rolph, Margaret Russo, Maile Stemmermann, David Takeuchu, Suzanna Valerie, Rob Zimmermann.

TABLE 1. Christmas Bird Count for Volcano, 1986.

SPECIES	SECTOR										Total
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
White-tailed Tropicbird	—	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	6
Hawaiian Goose (Nene)	4	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	2	8
Hawaiian Hawk (Io)	—	1	—	4	2	3	—	—	—	1	11
Kalij Pheasant	—	—	—	2	2	—	1	—	—	10	15
Unidentified Pheasant (vocalization)	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
California Quail	—	—	—	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	5
Lesser Golden-Plover	4	—	—	33	1	—	—	—	—	7	45
Spotted Dove	2	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	5
Zebra Dove	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	3
Short-eared Owl (Pueo)	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
Eurasian Skylark	—	—	—	5	5	—	—	—	—	3	13
'Elepaio	17	9	—	15	10	—	19	39	2	16	127
'Oma'o	7	19	—	43	1	—	87	108	35	104	404
Melodious Laughing-thrush	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	2
Red-billed Leiothrix	3	—	—	—	3	—	—	3	—	4	13
Common Myna	5	—	—	6	—	—	—	—	—	3	14
Japanese White-eye	28	20	3	45	137	—	84	42	37	84	480
Northern Cardinal	7	10	—	2	19	—	8	1	1	2	50
House Finch	10	1	—	10	8	—	—	—	—	1	30
Common 'Amakihi	3	14	28	8	26	—	5	25	2	61	172
'Akiapola'au	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	6	6
Hawaii Creeper	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	3
Hawaii 'Akepa	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	14	15
'Iiwi	—	4	2	14	11	—	13	75	2	161	282
'Apapane	56	234	13	147	80	—	766	351	85	519	2251
House Sparrow	3	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	8
Nutmeg Mannikin	—	—	—	3	23	—	—	—	—	8	34
NUMBER OF INDIVIDUALS	150	320	46	348	333	3	983	645	164	1015	4004
NUMBER OF SPECIES	14	11	4	17	18	1	8	9	7	20	27

Kauai Christmas Bird Counts - 1986

LIHUE COUNT

Excellent weather conditions and dedicated participation from count observers resulted in good coverage during the 20 December 1986 Lihue Christmas Bird Count. Unfortunately, a narrative of the day's events was not submitted with the count data (Table 1). The most exciting find was a total of 17 Nene at Kipu Kai.

SECTORS COVERED:

1a. Kipu Kai

1. Wailua River to north side of Lihue, including holding ponds west of Lihue.
2. Nawiliwili Harbor, Huleia Street, Menhune Fishpond.
3. South of Lihue and Knudsen Gap Road, including Kipu Road, and Waita Reservoir.
4. Omao Road, Koloa Town, Poipu.
5. Pacific Tropical Botanical Gardens.
6. Lihue Town, including airport road.
7. Kalaheo, including Kukui o Lono Park, and Kalaheo Heights.

There were 23 observers in 14 parties, plus 3 at bird feeders: Stephen Au, Pat Beck, Clark Bowen, Stuart Bradley, Karen Caires, Sophie Cluff, Zipporah Douglas, Leilani Fehr, Kamal Islam, Milton and Henri Kushkin, Louise and Ralph Luce, Roberta

McIvor, Dan Moriarty, Bernice and Cliff Newbery, Robin and Lisa Rice, Winona Sears, Virginia Siewertsen, Rera Stiglmeir, and William Theobald. The compiler was Winona Sears, 190 Lulo Road, Kapaa, HI 96746. Party-hours totaled 57; party-miles 204.

KAPAA COUNT

Clear weather held for the Kapaa Christmas Bird Count, conducted on 27 December 1986. As with the Lihue Count, no narrative was submitted with the count results (Table 1). The rare sighting of six Short-billed Dowitchers was later confirmed by David Takeuchi and, separately, by another qualified observer.

There were 18 observers in 5 parties: Elena Atkins, Jackie Barnard, David Berner, Elsie Burton, Angelina and Mario Guiterrez, Judy Jordan, Louise and Ralph Luce, Mary Jane and Rebekah Moore, Georgia Poppin, Frances Powell, Larry Steingarten, Barbara and Robert Stuart, David Takeuchi, and Joyce Tyler. The compiler was Barbara Stuart, P.O. Box 267, Hanalei, HI 96714. Party-hours totaled 27; party-miles 32.

WAMEA COUNT

The Waimea Christmas Count on Kauai did not get fully organized and compiled this year, but 5 observers participated on 28 December 1986. Altadena delaCruz counted birds from the porch of her house on Kaana Ridge, 0.25 miles from the pavilion in Waimea

State Park, between 1000 and 1830 hr. Amber Glisson counted at Pacific Missile Range Facility, Barking Sands, from 0900 to 1330 hr. And Larry and Alice Steingarten and Joe Wilkinson counted from

1100 to 1500 hr in forest around the Kokee Museum and Lodge. Their combined list of birds is given in Table 1. The compiler was Joe Wilkinson, P.O. Box 781, Lawai, HI 96765.

TABLE 1. Christmas Bird Count data for Kauai, 1986.

SPECIES	SECTORS								Total	Kapaa Total	Waimea Total
	1a	1	2	3	Lihue 4	5	6	7			
Laysan Albatross	—	—	—	—	*	—	—	—	*	13	19
White-tailed Tropicbird	2	—	—	—	1	3	—	—	6	13	—
Brown Booby	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	19	—
Red-footed Booby	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	872	—
Great Frigatebird	*	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	18	—
Cattle Egret	75	67	35	74	1656	13	18	71	2009	146	51
Black-crowned Night-Heron	—	—	—	2	1	1	—	—	4	12	1
Hawaiian Goose (Nene)	17	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	17	—	—
Hawaiian Duck (Koloa)	—	—	—	17	—	—	1	—	18	41	—
Erckel Francolin	*	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	3	—	—
Chukar	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	2	—	—
Japanese Quail	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	6	—
Red Junglefowl	—	—	7	6	—	7	—	17	37	34	30
Ring-necked Pheasant	2	8	—	15	—	2	2	9	38	7	5
Common (Haw'n) Moorhen	2	1	—	8	—	3	—	—	14	3	—
American (Haw'n) Coot	3	27	—	42	2	5	8	—	87	91	—
Lesser Golden-Plover	21	45	180	31	40	7	15	17	356	164	24
Black-necked (Haw'n) Stilt	—	41	—	—	—	—	31	—	72	30	—
Lesser Yellowlegs	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Wandering Tattler	—	—	2	—	—	—	1	—	3	9	—
Ruddy Turnstone	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	—
Sanderling	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	1
Short-billed Dowitcher	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	6	—
Rock Dove	—	—	5	—	—	—	—	—	5	—	2
Spotted Dove	4	29	4	45	3	6	—	190	281	84	6
Zebra Dove	53	64	58	169	118	—	100	71	633	275	24
Common Barn-Owl	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—
Short-eared Owl (Pueo)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
'Elepaio	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	7
White-rumped Shama	2	1	4	6	1	3	4	19	40	21	4
Greater-necklaced	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Laughing-thrush	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	4	—
Melodious Laughing-thrush	2	1	—	5	—	3	1	11	23	21	1
Northern Mockingbird	2	—	—	—	1	—	—	3	6	1	15
Common Myna	56	110	130	121	81	9	51	117	675	397	71
Japanese White-eye	19	15	1	16	12	11	16	62	152	154	12
Northern Cardinal	9	6	—	8	—	3	3	31	60	27	9
Red-crested Cardinal	3	1	4	—	2	—	8	8	26	31	4
Western Meadowlark	3	11	—	23	1	—	—	10	48	19	1
House Finch	2	—	26	—	3	—	9	26	66	182	4
Common 'Amakihi	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	9
'Anianiau	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5
'Iiwi	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	10
'Apapane	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	22
House Sparrow	4	6	36	21	84	8	27	28	214	5	5
Nutmeg Mannikin	201	56	40	37	448	—	1	57	840	68	20
Chestnut Mannikin	82	—	1	—	48	78	—	59	268	86	31
Java Sparrow	—	—	—	35	—	—	18	—	53	39	10
NUMBER OF INDIVIDUALS	565	489	533	681	2506	164	315	806	6059	2906	403
NUMBER OF SPECIES	22	17	15	19	19	17	19	18	33	37	28

* Seen at sector prior to count day.

RECENT OBSERVATIONS DECEMBER 1986 TO FEBRUARY 1987

(Editors' note: This article is excerpted from Bob Pyles' 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.

RAINFALL - this season was well below normal for the winter months, as has been rainfall for four of the past five winters. Localities with above average rainfall were north-central Hawaii Is. and parts of Maui. Rainfall would be expected to have an adverse effect not only on the habitat for waterbirds but also potentially on the food availability and nesting success of native forest birds and other species.

SEABIRDS - The banded subadult **Short-tailed Albatross** which has visited Sand Is., Midway Atoll the previous two winters returned again this November and was still present at the end of February (KM). A Black-footed Albatross, a rare visitor to the main islands, landed briefly at Mokuiaue islet off Kilauea Point, K. on 31 Dec. (JD *et al.*).

Dogs decimated the colony of Laysan Albatrosses at Pacific Missile Range, Barking Sands, K. again this year, destroying 16 of 19 nests and killing 12 adults and subadults (TT). At Kilauea Point, K. where the birds are well protected, 11 birds were seen regularly through the winter. This species visited the north shore of Kauai in record numbers this winter, with as many as 40 counted at Pila Beach (TT). The surge in numbers continued on Oahu as well. High counts at Dillingham airstrip were at least 19 on 25 Jan. (WG) and 23 on 16 Feb. with others flying nearby. Dogs also kill some of the Dillingham birds. At Kaena Point, O., 5-8 were reported in Jan. and Feb. (JO *et al.*).

A pair of White-tailed Tropicbirds, a species rarely nesting in the leeward islands, nested in a flower box at a military home on Sand Is., Midway. This popular nest site has been home to several broods over the past ten years. This year's nest held an egg on 20 Nov. and a large chick on 11 Feb. (KM *et al.*). A Lesser Frigatebird seen sporadically at Tern Is., FFS in recent years, was observed there again 26 Jan. to 17 Feb. (RV, JS).

Counts of Pomarine Jaegers off Sand Is. O. were 3 on 1 Feb. (PD) and 15 on 16 Feb. (AE). Hundreds could be found there in winter before the sewer outfall was shut down several years ago. Vagrant gull sightings include: a Laughing Gull at Aimakapa Pond on 4 Jan. and 2 there 15 Feb. (RD); an adult Franklin Gull in full spring plumage flying over Kii Pond, 31 Mar. (SB) (this bird has since disappeared); 3 Ring-billed Gulls at Kii Pond 4 Dec. (MO), of which two stayed on all winter (DT, PD); and a large gull at Aimakapa, 4-6 Jan. which was photographed and identified tentatively as a 2nd winter Herring Gull (RD).

WATERBIRDS - The Pied-billed Grebes nesting at Aimakapa Pond, H. now number five birds: a pair and three fully grown young. Some of the young produced earlier this year must have died or dispersed; none have been recorded on other ponds in the state (RD).

A vagrant Great Blue Heron turned up at Whittington Park,

H. on 10 Feb (SB); solitary individuals (possibly all the same bird) of this species were reported from Hawaii, Maui and Molokai last winter. The stray Cattle Egret on Tern Is., FFS remained through fall and winter (RV, JS).

The stray Fulvous Whistling-Duck at Kakahaia NWR stayed on at least through 13 Feb. (GY). Vagrant geese this winter included: a Snow Goose at Keaau Ranch pond, H. (TP); a Brant at Aimakapa Pond, H. through the end of February (RD) and another at Keaau (same bird?) (TP); and the Brant mentioned in last season's report at Tern Is., FFS on Dec. 5-8, which died and is now BPBM-175791 in the Bishop Museum.

Migrant ducks, mostly Northern Pintails and Northern Shovelers, seemed low in numbers again this year at JCNWR and Waipio, O. and Aimakapa Pond, H., although counts at Kealia Pond, M. were higher. Among them up to 7 Green-winged Teal were reported from ponds on Oahu, Maui, and Hawaii. A female Gadwall appeared at Aimakapa Pond on 26 Dec. and remained through season's end (RD). This was an unusually good year for Eurasian Wigeon. One or two males were reported during Dec. and Jan. at Kanaha Pond, M. (DP), Kii Pond, O. (DT), and Kekaha Res., K. (TT). Four males with a female were seen at Kakahaia NWR, Molokai on 12-13 Feb. (GY), and 2 males with 2 male American Wigeon and 3 females were at Waiakea Pond, H. during Dec. and Jan. (RD). Ring-necked Ducks were reported at 5 localities on 3 islands, with a highest count of 1 male and 4 females at Kealia Pond, M. on 9 Feb. (GY). High counts of Lesser Scaup were 27 at Punamano Pond and 12 at Haleiwa Pond both on Oahu, 15 Jan. (PD), and 15 at Lokoaka Pond, H. on 10 Jan. (RD). Three or fewer were reported from 5 other localities. The female Greater Scaup, much rarer than the Lesser in Hawaii, remained at Aimakapa Pond, H. though season's end.

High counts of (Hawaiian) American Coots on Aimakapa Pond, H. were 123 on 3 Dec. (SB) and 142+ on 5 Jan. (RD). Among them, two coots identified as the N. American race were found on 14 Dec. (RD) and 1 on 17 Jan. (RLP). Counts of Black-necked Stilt at Aimakapa were 20 on Dec. 3 (SB) and 27 on Feb. 15 (RD). Nearby at Makalawena (Opauala) Pond, 11 stilts were counted on 2 Dec. (SB). Across the island at Keaau, 5 stilt were found at a small pond near the old Puna sugar mill (RLP); this locality record demonstrates the stilt's ability to find and use new areas of habitat.

SHOREBIRDS - A few Bristle-thighed Curlews pass through the main Hawaiian Islands in fall, and they over-winter only rarely. This year, one chose Kii Ponds, JCNWR as its winter home (AB,PD,DP). Other unusual winter records were: a Sharp-tailed Sandpiper at Kanaha Pond, M. during the week of 12 Jan. (SB); single Pectoral Sandpipers at Waipio, O. on 20 Dec. (PD) and Puna sugar mill pond, H. on 10 Jan. (RD); two Least Sandpipers at Waipio, O. on 23 Jan. (PD); and a Western Sandpiper at Tern Is., FFS on 3-7 Jan. (RV, JS).

RAPTORS - The Osprey on Kauai stayed on through winter, ranging from Kipu Kai (*fide* TT), to Menehune Fishpond (early Dec., RD), to Kilauea Pt. NWR (24 Nov., *fide* KM). Oahu's Osprey was reported at Punahoolapa Pond on 14 Jan. (SB).

A Peregrine Falcon drew the attention of the news media when it chose to roost this winter in the top floors (25th to 44th) of a highrise condominium in Aiea, O. overlooking Pearl Harbor and the Waipio Peninsula. Residents permitted the bird to stay, even though it repeatedly violated condo house rules by not cleaning up the lanais after eating its meals (mostly plovers). First

reported at the building on 14 Jan. (PD), the falcon could be seen there most mornings and evenings well into March (GG). Reports of peregrines from Punamano and Kii Units (SB and DW, respectively) of JCNWR and Makapuu Pt. (BE) suggest that this same bird ranged over much of Oahu while hunting. A peregrine was also seen: in downtown Honolulu on 2 Dec. (BE), at about the same time in Waikiki, and at Kailua on the Honolulu Christmas Bird Count on 21 Dec. Possible peregrines were also reported from Maui (MU) and Molokai (GM).

Loss of habitat has reduced the population of Short-eared Owls (Pueo) on Oahu to relictual numbers. Thus it was a rare find when hikers flushed a Pueo from its nest high in the Waianae Mts. near Pohakea Pass. Hidden in grass growing on a steep cliff, the nest contained two eggs when found on 26 Feb. (SP, JO). The observers returned to photograph the nest on 19 March and found an egg and large chick. This is the first Pueo nest to be reported in the islands in many years.

PARROTS - A flock of approximately 30 Rose-ringed Parakeets in Kapiolani Park, O. on 30 Nov. (DP) was an all time record for Honolulu and indicates that numbers of the species are increasing, probably through breeding in the wild. Farmers on Kauai, where this species is now well established, complain that parakeets raid crops of corn, mangoes, and lychee.

NATIVE SONGBIRDS - An unusual locality for 'Elepaio was an isolated patch of forest at 800 feet elevation below Kohala Ranch. Here PB observed two on 17 Dec. A count of 25+ 'Apapane on 15 Dec. at the top of Lanai's central range was an unusually high number for the island (LF). Another Kauai Creeper was seen on 6 Dec. on Kilohana Trail a short distance beyond its intersection with Pihea Trail, Kokee, K. (PD).

ALIEN SONGBIRDS - Several Red-cheeked Cordonbleu and 10-20 Lavender Waxbills were found near Puuanahulu, H. on 7 Dec. (DP) and 11 Jan. (RD). Warbling Silverbills, Yellow-fronted Canaries, and Saffron Finches were also seen there in large numbers. Three Lavender Waxbills were also observed in a yard in Kailua-Kona, H. on Feb. 12 (RD), and 2+ were found on Nalaau Trail, O. on 2 Feb. along with 3+ Common Waxbills (PD). Three Orange-cheeked Waxbills were at the Kaneohe Water Treatment Facility, O. on 23 Dec. (PD, RLP). Several huge flocks of roughly 500 Nutmeg Mannikins swarmed over the slopes below Kohala Ranch on 15 Dec. (PB). The Kauai Christmas counts revealed that Chestnut Mannikins have spread dramatically over much of the southern and eastern lowlands of Kauai.

CORRIGENDA - The "Sharp-tailed Sandpiper" at Tern Is., FFS, reported in this column for fall, 1986 ('Elepaio 47:42) has been re-identified as an immature Ruff.

ADDENDA - The Solander Petrel reported in this column in March ('Elepaio 47:29) was held for two months at Sealife Park before it sickened and died. It is now a specimen at B. P. Bishop Museum (BBM-175801).

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CONSERVATION NEWS

MARIJUANA GROWING ON CONSERVATION DISTRICT LANDS

In August 1986, the Hawaii Division of Forestry and Wildlife proposed the eradication of marijuana growing on State-owned lands zoned as Conservation District on the Islands of Hawaii, Maui, and Molokai. A similar project for the island of Kauai had been approved in January 1986. An environmental impact statement was published with opportunity for public comment. Public hearings on the proposal were held on the affected islands. On these occasions, the Society gave its support to the proposal with the condition that disturbance to native forest communities be kept to a minimum.

A group of Maui residents who objected to the use of chemicals in the environment called for a contested case hearing on the Conservation District Use Application for the permit to use Weed Oil as a herbicide. The hearing was held before the Board of Land and Natural Resources, the decision-makers, at Wailuku, Maui on 4-5 May 1987. The Division of Forestry and Wildlife asked the Society to be a witness in support of the project to eradicate marijuana from Conservation District lands. The following statement was presented at the hearing by Mae E. Mull, Island of Hawaii Representative:

"The Hawaii Audubon Society fully supports the goal of the Division of Forestry and Wildlife to eradicate marijuana growing on Conservation lands on all the Hawaiian Islands. The Society takes this position because most of the native forests that still exist are in the Conservation District. These forests house the remnants of Hawaii's remarkable assemblage of endemic birds, plants and invertebrates. These unique plants and animals found only in these islands are rapidly disappearing as the native forests have been converted to other uses over the last 200 years. The introduction of aggressive alien animals and plants continues to have destructive impacts on the forests that were not intentionally cleared.

"Marijuana is the most recent alien introduction that cripples ohia forests. This illegal farming is highly destructive. It robs native organisms of their living space. It brings in alien weeds to native areas. It steals a unique natural heritage from the people of Hawaii. It cannot be tolerated under the law. State forest reserves and natural area reserves were set aside to protect what is left of Hawaii's unique natural resources. Hawaii cannot allow these special resources to be squandered by illegal farming.

"The Society agrees that a combination of efforts are needed to eradicate marijuana on Conservation lands. The coordinated program should tie together (1) intensified enforcement, (2) stiffer penalties, (3) search for specialized biological control agents, and eradication (4) by hand and (5) by application of Weed Oil as a herbicide. The potential problem of spray drift can be controlled if field operations are strictly conducted on sunny days with low winds and Weed Oil application is specifically focused in large droplets onto marijuana plants from knapsack or helicopter hoses at appropriate selected sites. The short-term disturbance to native habitats by eradication actions can be justified only if the crop

value is effectively reduced to zero in every case. Without profit, farming in the forest will cease immediately.

"The unacceptable alternative is no action or ineffective action, because that encourages expansion of high-profit illegal farming and consequent long-term degradation of native forest habitats. Forest ecosystems cannot survive such reckless abuse.

"The Conservation District Use Permit for Weed Oil herbicide should enumerate the specific conditions, mitigation measures, and detailed operations plans that are outlined in the final environmental impact statement for the project. Their permit should also identify the State officers and supervisors responsible for each part of the project. Periodic reports to the Board of Land and Natural Resources on results of the eradication program in different Conservation areas should be made available to the public."

HAWAII AUDUBON SALUTES DAVID AMES

The Hawaii Audubon Society expresses its appreciation and bids a fond farewell to David Ames, who for the last eight years has been superintendent of Hawaii Volcanoes National Park and who now becomes associate director of the Alaska Region of the National Park System.

During his time in Hawaii, he waged environmental battles against feral goats, feral pigs, and alien plants in the park; he campaigned successfully against marijuana growing in the park; and he firmly defended park habitats from the threat of geothermal development on the park's borders.

For all this and other achievements, HAS offers Dave Ames our Mahalo and Aloha!

APRIL PROGRAM

Our April meeting speaker, introduced by Allen Allison, was horticulturalist Keith Woolliams of the Waimea Arboretum and Lyon Arboretum. Mr. Woolliams formerly ran the Lae Arboretum in Papua New Guinea and spent several years in Japan.

Woolliams administers the Waimea Arboretum and Botanical Gardens, owned by the Bishop Corporation. Although Waimea charges admission fees and is usually thought of as a tourist attraction, it also includes a tax exempt foundation for research and education. It is presently the new home of six lemurs, an endangered primate from Madagascar.

With 24 full-time employees, Waimea's top priority, expensive and time consuming, is the preservation of ecosystems. Help in this area has recently come to Hawaii from the Nature Conservancy, and Waimea has received financial support, as well as donations of endangered plant species, from the Center for Plant Conservation in Boston.

The Center also produced Mr. Woolliams' narrated slide show, entitled "Garlands of Generations." It includes slides of unusual flowers and trees, and of many endangered species. Mr. Woolliams discussed recent developments in the field of plant conservation, and said that the integration of various disciplines has become the approach used nationwide in conservation. This issue is particularly important in Hawaii, which has more endangered species than any other state, and which also has the worst record for losing plants, insects, and birds.

In response to questions, he said he was not very optimistic that the present administration would add more of Hawaii's species

to the nation's endangered species list. Although October may be named Hawaii Endangered Species Month, money limitations cause conservation to be assigned a low priority. Interestingly enough, he said that the Japanese are considering landscaping some of their Hawaiian acquisitions with native Hawaiian plants.

All in all, Mr. Woolliams' presentation offered sober reflections on conservation and the protection of endangered species.

Betty Johnson

APRIL FIELD TRIP REPORT KAENA POINT NATURAL AREA RESERVE

Because of heavy rains and a washed out road, the 26 April 1987 Audubon field trip to Waianae Kai was diverted to Kaena Point Natural Area Reserve. Nine participants attending the outing were rewarded with close-up views of native flora and fauna.

The weather was mostly overcast and windy, with some passing showers. The group started the walk at Yokohama Bay and immediately sighted two Humpback Whales just off shore. Bird sightings along the trail to Kaena Point included Red-crested Cardinals, Common Mynas, Japanese White-eyes, Spotted Doves, Zebra Doves, House Finches, Lesser Golden-Plovers, a Wandering Tattler, and a Northern Mockingbird.

Along the way, trip leader Steve Perlman pointed out various native plants, such as ilima, morning glory, and naupaka. The hauole koa in the area was dying back from insect infestation, exposing several native plants, including the endangered Hawaiian cotton (*Gossypium tomentosum*), which was in bloom. Also revealed were the endangered *Achyranthes splendens* and a native sandalwood, *Santalum ellipticum*. The *Achyranthes splendens* was thought to be extinct in the Kaena Point area until it was rediscovered by Steve last January.

The group reached Kaena Point around 1100 hr and observed at least six patches of the endangered ohai (*Sesbania tomentosa*), which is found nowhere else. All of the plants were in bloom and looked fairly healthy.

Several Laysan Albatrosses were seen flying low over the sand dunes and coastline, and at least four birds were observed on the ground courting. Offshore, several fishing boats were working an area where a large number of seabirds were flying and feeding, including Wedge-tailed Shearwaters, Laysan Albatrosses, Red-footed Boobies, Brown Boobies, and Brown Noddies. Two Black-footed Albatrosses, an uncommon sight off the main islands, were also observed following the fishing boats. To everyone's delight, a large Humpback Whale breached at least seven times just beyond the flotilla of fishing vessels.

The field party left Kaena around 1245 hr and arrived back at Yokohama Bay around 1400 hr.

Before closing, I would like to comment on the condition of the reserve. The entire area within the reserve was badly scarred by the tracks of off-road vehicles, and our group counted at least ten trucks, motorcycles, and ATV's. A group of people firing a .22 rifle in the direction of flying Laysan Albatrosses was confronted by members of our party and informed of the preservation status of the area and the albatrosses. Since Kaena is a State Natural Area Reserve, let us hope that some day the State will protect and manage this area in a responsible manner.

Bruce Eilerts

JUNE 21ST FIELD TRIP TO SACRED FALLS

The June 21st Audubon field trip will be an easy hike to Kaluanui (Sacred Falls). Andy Yuen, a wildlife biologist with the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, will lead the group in search of native Hawaiian streamlife. Andy will discuss stream ecology using Kaluanui Stream as an outdoor classroom. Kaluanui is one of the few streams left on Oahu still retaining much of its original native animal life. Be sure to pack a lunch, sunscreen, insect repellent, and a sweat shirt or jacket. Binoculars and swim suits are optional. Meet in front of the State Library on Punchbowl St. at 7:30 AM. For more information call Bruce or Robin Eilerts at 941-5974.

NOTICE SOMETHING NEW?

This, the June issue of the 'Elepaio, was "type set" on Hawaii Audubon's new Apple McIntosh Plus Computer and Laser Writer II. Actually, our printer, Valenti Bros. Graphics, did type set the two lead articles, a practice we intend to continue, to preserve the high quality in appearance of the scientific articles. But the rest was done on the Mac, much to our satisfaction, as it makes the 'Elepaio easier to produce and, we believe, improves the appearance of the journal. For the meantime, we've maintained the old format of the journal while we experiment with new formats using a program called *PageMaker*. Readers who would like to contribute ideas on improving the 'Elepaio are invited to write to the editors at 1022 Prospect St., Apt. 1103, Honolulu, HI 96822, or phone T. Pratt (548-8850, work) or S. Conant (948-8241, work). Many thanks to readers who donated towards the purchase of the computer and laserwriter!

The 'Elepaio Committee

NOTICE TO CONTRIBUTORS

The 'ELEPAIO, Journal of the Hawaii Audubon Society, 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 THE MONTH to be considered for publication in the next month's issue.

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, 20 June, at 1:00 PM. Phone Thane Pratt at 524-8464. Many thanks to Bob Pyle and Joel Simasko for helping with the preparation of this month's issue!

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-----'ELEPAIO-----

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- June 8 (Mon.) Board Meeting at Bishop Museum at 7:00 PM. Call Pete Luscomb, 923-4772 (wk).
- June 15 (Mon.) General Meeting at McCully-Moiliili Library at 7:30 PM. Program: "Living Treasures of Haleakala -- Their Active Conservation and Management," by Betsy Harrison-Gagne.
- June 20 (Sat.) 'Elepaio paste-up at Thane Pratt's house at 1:00 PM. Call 524-8464.
- June 21 (Sun.) Field trip to Sacred Falls. Meet at the State Library on Punchbowl St. at 7:30 AM. Announcement on page 71.

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