



HONOLULU CHRISTMAS COUNT — 1987

Robert L. Pyle

With mostly sunny weather, light winds and little rain, Christmas counters this year set a new record of just over 29,000 birds found on Honolulu's 44th annual Count taken 27 December 1987. Participation and coverage were up a bit from last year, with 71 observers in 30 parties spending 141 party-hours afield.

Nearly half the coverage was in parks and residential areas (46%), another quarter in lowland woods and scrub (26%), and 19% was in mountain forests. Last minute problems prevented coverage this year of two areas, Aiea Trail and Nuuanu Valley, both of which are prime areas that have been covered in virtually every Honolulu Count.

The total of 29,009 birds tallied is about 200 more than the previous high count of individuals in 1985. Fifty wild species were found this year, the same as last year. As usual, Zebra Doves were found in greatest numbers (5830, down 2000 from last year's record high total) closely followed by Common Mynas (5752). Other species with counts exceeding 1000 were, in order, Spotted Dove (2398), Red-vented Bulbul (2361), House Sparrow, Lesser Golden-Plover, Japanese White-eye, and Cattle Egret (1009). House Sparrows dropped from third place last year to fifth this year, but otherwise the order is unchanged from the past two years.

The 2361 Red-vented Bulebuls is a new record high for the species, confirming everyone's impression that these birds are continuing to increase and expand on Oahu. But Shammas are also increasing—the count of 468 this year was more than 100 higher than the previous highest count in 1985. Red-crested Cardinals, at 651, were 10% above the previous highest count in 1983. Orange-cheeked Waxbills are being reported in more different places on the windward side. The 31 tallied this year, all on the windward side, is only 2 below the highest previous count set in 1975 when the species was well established on the leeward side at Diamond Head. Java Sparrows also virtually equalled last year's record high count. Another species found in record numbers this year is the White Tern. A single bird in 1970 was the first for the Count, then none until 1978 when they began appearing regularly in small numbers. Last year a record high 12 were found, and this year the count nearly doubled to 22.

The most unusual species found on the Count this year was a Brant, which has been seen regularly this winter on Paakai Pond at the Kaneohe Marine Corps Air Station. Four Rose-ringed Parakeets found at Kapiolani Park were put on the official count list this year because the species has persisted on Oahu for many years and sightings have been increasing recently, including observations of them at tree cavities which could be potential nesting sites.

The Mallard duck was also included this year as a feral species well-established and breeding, much like the Rock Dove. The total of 115 found at various places in the Count circle included only the good plumaged birds, not those that clearly showed evidence of mixed ancestry with Muscovy Ducks or other species. Other feral birds recorded on Count day but not included in the Count totals were 102 Muscovy and other domestic ducks, 8 domestic peafowl, 3 Ringed Turtle-Doves, 2 *Amazona* parrots, and a few domestic geese and chickens.

SECTORS COVERED — 1987

- 1-A: **Halawa Ridge Trail:** Joseph Bussen, Frank Howarth, Frank Howarth, Jr., Elaine Nonaka
- 2-A: **Moanalua Valley:** Pauline Sato, Vince Mahoney, Criag Rowland, Maura O'Connor, Daniel Au
- B: **Tripler Ridge Trail, Tripler Hospital, Moanalua Park, Keehi Park, Sand Is., Ft. Shafter,** also offshore Sand Island (outside Count circle): David Bremer, David Cooper
- C: **Kalihi Valley:** Tim Sutterfield, Tom Harvey
- D: **Alewa Trail, Kamehameha Schools, Kamehameha Heights:** Chuck Burrows, Ryan Naone
- 3-A: **Makiki Valley Trail:** Faith Roelofs, Lorin Gill
- B: **Punchbowl:** George Campbell, Ed Coffin
- 4-A: **Ala Moana Park, Ft. DeRussy:** same party as 3-B
- B: **Tantalus Trails, Round Top Drive:** Allen Allison, Wayne Gagne, Martin Taylor
- C: **Manoa Valley:** Sheila Conant, Phyllis Turnbull, Helen Bryan (feeder)
- D: **Woodlawn Trail, Puu Pia:** Patrick Conant, Stephanie Nagata
- E: **Waahila Ridge Trail:** Tim Ohashi, Yukie Ohashi
- F: **Lyon Arboretum, Paradise Park:** Leilani Pyle
- 5-A: **Honolulu Zoo:** Peter Luscomb, Tom Higashino
- B: **Kapiolani Park, Na-Laau Arboretum, Diamond Head:** Mike Ord, Chris VanLonkhuyzen
- 6-A: **Kahala to Paiko Lagoon coastal, Niu Valley, Kuliouou Valley:** Andrew Engilis, Jr., Clyde Imada, Warren Wagner
- B: **Kahala to Kuliouou residential:** Mary Engilis, April Geiselman
- C: **Palolo Valley, Waialae-iki:** Beverly Lee, Galen Leong, Ed Nishimura, Judy Kearney
- D: **Kamilonui Valley, Hahaione Valley, Paiko Lagoon:** Jay Munns
- 7-A: **Old Waimanalo Rd., Bellows AFS, Waimanalo:** Robert Pyle, David Woodside

HONOLULU CHRISTMAS COUNT — 1987

SPECIES	SECTORS										TOTAL
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
Laysan Albatross	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
White-tailed Tropicbird	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	2
Brown Booby	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	2
Red-footed Booby	—	—	—	—	—	4	4	—	777	—	785
Great Frigatebird	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	13	—	15
Cattle Egret	—	—	—	—	—	—	55	752	138	64	1009
Black-crowned Night-Heron	—	—	—	—	—	2	2	8	57	1	70
Brant	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Mallard	—	—	—	—	—	22	—	89	—	4	115
Koloa	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	3	—	5
Northern Shoveler	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
duck, sp.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	2	5
Ring-necked Pheasant	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	1	—	4
Hawaiian Moorhen	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	11	—	—	11
Hawaiian Coot	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	9	—	1	10
Black-bellied Plover	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Lesser Golden-Plover	5	152	108	104	43	232	134	93	599	203	1673
Hawaiian Stilt	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	4	143	—	149
Wandering Tattler	—	—	—	—	—	8	1	—	15	4	28
Ruddy Turnstone	—	—	—	—	—	32	20	—	215	5	272
Sanderling	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	1	12	—	15
noddy, sp.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	—	5
White Tern	—	—	—	—	13	8	—	—	1	—	22
Rock Dove	—	—	—	89	—	114	20	119	9	18	369
Spotted Dove	3	268	21	230	140	344	262	701	236	193	2398
Zebra Dove	2	550	81	928	534	1019	1657	374	301	384	5830
Rose-ringed Parakeet	—	—	—	—	4	—	—	—	—	—	4
Common Barn-Owl	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Eurasian Skylark	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Red-vented Bulbul	47	357	249	224	104	409	187	153	150	481	2361
Red-whiskered Bulbul	4	8	304	201	8	48	—	—	—	—	573
Japanese Bush-Warbler	5	10	3	5	—	1	3	—	—	9	36
(Oahu) 'Elepaio	4	8	—	1	—	5	—	—	—	—	18
White-rumped Shama	10	36	23	80	2	62	12	7	1	235	468
Melodious Laughing-thrush	—	2	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	4
Red-billed Leiothrix	—	—	—	5	—	19	4	—	—	—	28
Northern Mockingbird	—	6	5	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	13
Common Myna	—	470	72	363	479	862	268	2265	550	423	5752
Japanese White-eye	28	180	222	310	94	253	29	33	37	269	1455
Northern Cardinal	5	66	22	41	8	77	15	18	8	51	311
Red-crested Cardinal	3	80	18	86	49	53	144	45	33	140	651
House Finch	8	69	3	106	70	104	41	27	15	23	466
Yellow-fronted Canary	—	—	—	—	16	6	1	—	—	—	23
(Oahu) 'Amakihi	20	37	12	78	—	8	—	—	—	—	155
'Apapane	45	11	—	17	—	6	—	—	—	—	79
House Sparrow	—	403	19	270	285	360	128	225	190	276	2156
Lavender Waxbill	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	3
Orange-cheeked Waxbill	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	29	2	31
Red Avadavat	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	2
Nutmeg Mannikin	5	26	27	20	16	133	8	30	151	452	868
Java Sparrow	—	100	37	79	119	219	—	109	51	38	752
Total Individuals	194	2840	1226	3239	1988	4416	3003	5079	3743	3281	29009
Species	15	21	17	22	19	32	25	24	30	26	50
Party-hours	11	23	7	18	6	31	9	10	11	15	141

Moku Manu (outside count circle): Masked Booby, 5; Red-footed Booby, 121; Brown Booby, 37; Great Frigatebird, 142; Sooty Tern, 700; Brown Noddy, 166.

Sand Island (outside count circle): Brown Booby, 1; unidentified seabird, 1.

- 8-A: **Lanikai, Keolu Hills:** Carl McIntosh, Clarence McIntosh
 B: **Kaelepulu Canal (lower) and Kawainui Canal to Kailua Road:** Helen Sing, Marlene Lemke (by canoe)
 C: **Kaelepulu Canal (upper) and Kaelepulu Pond:** Lynn Carey, Robert Grossman (by kayak)
 D: **Kawainui Canal and Dyke, Kailua:** Don Huddleston, Doris Huddleston, Colin Huddleston, Adam Benham
 E: **Kawainui Marsh, Quarry Rd., Kapaa and Kalaheo Landfills:** Tino Aguon, Alicia Aguon
 9-A: **Mokapu Peninsula, Kaneohe makai,** also Moku Manu (outside Count circle): Ronald Walker, Lance Tanino, John Wintersteen, Diane Drigot, Lee Halverson, June Williams, Rod Williams (2 parties)
 10-A: **Hoomaluhia Park:** Martha McDaniel, Patrick Ching
 B: **Heeia Marsh, Windward Community College to Old Pali Rd.:** Marie Morin, Joel Simasko, John O'Brien
 C: **Haiku Valley, Kaneohe mauka, Kahaluu, Heeia:** Peter Donaldson, Eugene Donaldson, Rita Donaldson

Seventy-one observers in 29 parties plus 1 observer at feeder, plus 1 additional participant. Total party-hours: 141 (95 on foot, 41 by car, 3 by canoe and kayak, 2 on horseback). Total party-miles: 419 (82.5 on foot, 330 by car, 4.5 by canoe and kayak, 2 on horseback).

Habitat coverage (% of party-hours): parks and residential 46%, lowlands woods and scrub 25%, mountain forest 19%, marshes, ponds and canals 6%, beach and ocean 3%.

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RECENT OBSERVATIONS AUGUST THROUGH NOVEMBER 1987

(Editors' note: This article is excerpted from Bob Pyle'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 Nat. Wildl. Ref. on Oahu; PHNWR = Pearl Harbor Nat. Wildl. Ref. of Oahu; HRBP = Hawaii Rare Bird Documentary Photograph.

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WEATHER: Warm weather dominated the late summer season, with many new daily high temperature records set and the all-time high temperature of 94° F at Honolulu Airport equalled once and approached several times. Precipitation continued light through the summer but picked up in late September to reach near normal amounts for the remainder of the season. Resulting vegetation

growth probably encouraged landbird nesting activity through the fall, but cumulative precipitation for the year remained below normal on Kauai, Oahu and leeward Hawaii.

SEABIRDS: The first Laysan Albatross returned 10 Nov. to the newly fenced nesting site at Kilauea Point Nat. Wildl. Ref. K. Several more arrived and began courting, with at least 10 counted on the 26th (DM). Across the island at Pacific Missile Range, Barking Sands, albatross arrived at about the same time, with 4 counted on 17 Nov. (fide DM). On Oahu, the first albatross turned up resting on the lawn at Kahuku High School on 19 Nov. (PB).

This year's autumnal fallout of young procellariids originating from nesting colonies in mountains of the main islands included 9 (Hawaiian) Dark-rumped Petrels recovered on Kauai (TT) and a high number of 10 on Maui. Pick-ups on Maui occurred during two weeks in mid-October, mostly in the upper settled slopes around Makawao, Pukalani and Kula; the Maui birds nest in Haleakala Crater (FD). Nest sites on Kauai remain undiscovered.

Band-rumped Storm-Petrels are occasionally turned in to the Kauai aid stations; this year two were picked up and released (TT).

Wedge-tailed Shearwaters also grounded in greater numbers this year, with 42 turned in to Kauai aid stations (TT), and 85 were brought to Sea Life Park on Oahu between 2 Oct. and 3 Dec. where most of the birds were banded and released (IS). The remains of 18 roadkills were found on the morning of 24 Nov. on Pali Highway within 200 m leeward of the tunnel through the Koolau Mts (TP). About a dozen Wedge-taileds were also reported grounded on Maui this November (MU).

Newell's Shearwaters flooded Kauai aid stations this fall: 2,095 were checked or treated for injuries and released, while 175 were either dead on arrival or perished from fatal injuries shortly after. The grand total of 2,270 Newell's turned in is one of the highest fallouts ever and underscores the need for this valuable recovery program. A few Newell's were also brought to Sea Life Park on Oahu.

Two skilled observers (PP, LSP) aboard a research vessel taking standardized observational counts provided some rarely obtained data on bird occurrence in the deep pelagic water near Hawaii. The full-day trip on 7 Oct. extended from 40 mi. SW of Maui to 75 mi. SSE of South Point, H. Most seabirds were counted in early morning and late afternoon, though the observers maintained their vigil throughout the day. Noteworthy species recorded mostly during the morning (Maui to Keahole, H.) included 6 Dark-rumped Petrels, 2 Juan Fernandez Petrels, 43 Black-winged Petrels, 1 Bulwer's Petrel, and 4 Newell's Shearwaters. Late afternoon species were 26 Mottled Petrels, 1 Cook Petrel, 2 Sooty Shearwaters, and 1 South Polar Skua. The skua is the first record confirmed for any skua species in Hawaiian waters; two sightings of skuas near Hawaii in the mid-1960's were not identified to species. Throughout the day, the observers recorded 24 Wedge-tailed Shearwaters.

A Flesh-footed Shearwater was reported 4 mi. off Kailua-Kona, H., 20 Nov. (RD).

An adult male Lesser Frigatebird was reported again (8 Sept., KM) at Tern Is., FFS, where the species has appeared several times in recent years.

WATERBIRDS -- Pied-billed Grebes continue to maintain a colony at Aimakapa Pond, H. with at least 10 individuals present through the fall and 3 nests active at November's end (RD).

Extensive efforts to reduce the Cattle Egret population near Hilo Airport, H. has resulted in a marked decrease in the species' numbers. Fewer than 10 were reported at their traditional roost in

Lokoaka Pond near Hilo; and no more than 5 were found on the Kona side at Aimakapa Pond (RD). A **Green-backed Heron**, of which fewer than 5 valid records are known for Hawaii, was flushed, seen well, and its call heard at Olomana Golf Course near Waimanalo, O. on 2 Oct. (AE). **Great Blue Herons** staged a remarkable invasion of the islands this fall. A fine adult was found at Kii Pond, JCNWR 10 Sept. (PB) and seen subsequently through the fall. Also on Oahu at Waiawa Unit, PHNWR, 2 were seen together 12 Oct. (BE) and again 27 Nov. (SB). The Kii bird was also seen 12 Oct., suggesting that 3 separate birds were involved on Oahu. Meanwhile, 2 first year Great Blues were discovered at Kanaha pond, M. on 3 Oct (RD), and were seen there again 11, 27, and 29 Nov. (DP, GH, PP). Also during this period a Great Blue Heron was seen three times during the week of 12 Oct. at Lokoaka and adjoining small ponds near Hilo, H. (RW). Barring some active inter-island commuting, at least 5 and perhaps 6 Great Blues reached Hawaii this fall, equalling if not surpassing the total number previously recorded for the state!

The 5-year-old colony of Fulvous Whistling-Ducks at the north end of Oahu continues to grow, with 18 seen at Kii Ponds, JCNWR on 22 Oct. (RLP) and with 2 adults escorting at least 5 ducklings at adjoining Amorient Aquafarm on 7 Nov. (RLP).

The northern flanks of Hualalai, H., in the vicinity of Puu Waawaa and Puu Anahulu, has from earliest times been a traditional site for Nene; here, a very small surviving original flock has over the years been supplemented by captive birds released by the State on the south side of the mountain and, more recently, by ranchers on the north side. The birds have been recently seen at Puu Anahulu where they frequent the grassy road verges of a subdivision; 3-5 pairs were reported there on 19 Nov. (JL). Two were seen at Kulani Correctional Facility, H. on 23 Nov. (PP). In addition to the (Taverner) Canada Goose present for 2 years at Amorient Aquafarm, O., another small to medium-sized Canada turned up at adjacent Kii Ponds, JCNWR on 7 Nov. (GH) and was seen occasionally there until it was found dead on 1 Dec. (PP).

Laysan Ducks endured a severe drought on Laysan Is. this year. When rains failed to replenish the hypersaline lake in the center of the island, swarms of brine flies, a staple food for the duck, did not materialize, and as a result no ducklings were observed to survive this year's breeding season (AM *fide* KM). A pair of Koloa spotted on Kanaha Pond by RD on 3 Oct. was a rare sighting from Maui. A beautiful male Wood Duck at Heeia Marsh, O. on 15 Oct. was presumably an escapee (TP).

Counts of migrant ducks were somewhat higher this fall than the poor numbers recorded in recent years. Ample rainfall and improved habitat at Kii Ponds presumably helped attract waterfowl. High counts other than at JCNWR included for Northern Shovelers: 150-250 at Kealia Pond, M. on 27 Nov. (PP, GH), 29 at Kanaha Pond, M. on 27 Nov. (GH), 50+ at Aimakapa Pond, H. by 30 Nov. (RD), 30 at Waipio, O. on 31 Oct. (AE), and 15 at Waiawa Unit, PHNWR on 12 Oct. (BE). Counts of Northern Pintail included 40-50 at Kealia on 27 Nov. (PP, GH) and 20 at Aimakapa by 30 Nov. (RD). Regular but scarcer migrant ducks recorded at one or more of the main wetlands this fall included Green-winged Teal, American and Eurasian Wigeons, Ring-necked Ducks, Lesser and Greater Scaup, and Bufflehead. Species more rarely recorded included an eclipse male Cinnamon Teal with 2 Blue-winged Teal at Aimakapa Pond, H. 18-30 Sept. (RD) and an eclipse male Garganey (24 and 29 Oct.) and a Canvasback (5-7 Nov.), both reported at Amorient Aquafarm, O. (GH). A female Common Merganser found at Kealia Pond, M. on 4 Oct. (RD) and still there on 10 Nov. (DP), was the second state record preceded only by a female at the same locality two winters ago (though some question the validity of the older record, which may have been a misidentified female Red-breasted Merganser which resided on the pond at that time and was positively identified on several occasions by a number of observers).

SHOREBIRDS AND OTHER MIGRANTS -- Good habitat conditions at the primary wetlands resulted in fine shorebird observing this fall, though the common species seemed to be no more abundant than usual. Some unusually high counts of less common but regular species included 3 Semipalmated Plovers at Kealia Pond, M. on 4 Oct. (RD), 7 Lesser Yellowlegs at Waipio, O. on 4 Sept. (AE, RLP), and 3 Least and up to 20 Pectoral Sandpipers at Waipio during mid-Oct. (PD, AE). Single Black-bellied Plovers and Western Sandpipers were reported at numerous locations (JL, GH, RD, KN).

Bristle-thighed Curlews passed through the islands in good numbers this fall. One was spotted at Waipio, O. on 12 Sept. (PD). Another was seen well in flight over Kaalualu on the coast east of South Point, H. on 14 Sept (LSt), where at total of 5 in two groups was found there on 20 Sept. (MK). At Kii ponds and on the beach nearby, 4 were seen on 12 Oct., and 10 together on 19 Oct. (AE, RLP), exceptionally high counts for so late in the season. A (Eurasian) Whimbrel at Tern Is., FFS in mid-Sept. (KM, KN) was seen well, heard calling and photographed closely (HRBP #'s 696 *et al.*) with Bristle-thighed Curlews for ready comparison. A Spotted Sandpiper was at Waipio on 4 Sept. (AE, RLP) and 15 Sept. (PD), but could not be found 18 Sept. or thereafter. A Common Snipe was reported at Amorient Aquafarm on 29 Oct. (GH), and a juvenile Baird Sandpiper was at Waipio on 12, 13 August (PD) and on 4 Sept. (AE, RLP). A Rufous-necked Stint well-studied at Waipio on 4 Sept. (AE, RLP) was the 4th state record. Also seen repeatedly at Waipio (PD, AE, RLP) were a Ruff (4-29 Sept.) and a Buff-breasted Sandpiper (9-19 Oct.; fewer than six state records).

A reddish-brown harrier seen near Punamano Unit, JCNWR on 20 Sept. and a few times thereafter (JK, SB) was not confidently identified to species.

A Belted Kingfisher was seen well at Kahuwai Bay on the west coast of Hawaii on 20 Sept. (DE). Presumably the same bird was seen 20 km to the south at Aimakapa Pond in the morning of 26 Sept. (BM), but could not be relocated thereafter.

To be continued next month.

Thane K. Pratt

Dr. Otto Degener, 1899-1988, Botanist and Conservationist

Dr. Otto Degener, a charter member of the Hawaii Audubon Society, died on 16 January 1988 at his Oahu home in Mokuieia at the age of 88. He had been acclaimed locally and internationally for his great contribution to Hawaiian botany and to conservation of native biota over a span of six decades. Native plants of the Hawaiian archipelago gained a devoted friend and persistent defender when botanist Degener settled in the islands in the mid-1920s. He attended the Hawaii Audubon Society founding meeting in Honolulu in 1939 and occasionally contributed articles to the *'Elepaio*.

Degener's enduring *Plants of Hawaii National Parks*, first published in 1930, continues to meet the need for a substantial illustrated book on Hawaiian plants with useful information on natural history, ethnobotany and conservation woven into the accounts of dozens of Hawaiian plants. His masterpiece as a taxonomist is the seven-volume *Flora Hawaiiensis*, started in 1930, which contains a separately-published description and illustration of each plant species included. His botanist wife, Dr. Isa Degener, has been coauthor of their joint publications since 1956.

It was sixty years ago when Dr. Degener first began to speak out on the need to conserve native flora and fauna. In 1927 he addressed the First Pan-Pacific Conference in Honolulu, convened by

President Calvin Coolidge and sponsored by the U.S. Department of the Interior, saying:

"The entire Hawaiian Islands should be protected against the introduction of harmful exotic plants and animals. Within our archipelago different plants and animals are found on different islands. It is also true that the natural communities of plants and animals differ greatly even in different valleys on the same island . . . If we could only make the public realize the fascinating things to be found in our own plants which are peculiar to Hawaii, they would pay more attention to the disturbance of natural conditions . . . Many Hawaiian plants are becoming exceedingly rare and are now to be found only in limited areas . . . In a few years many of our native plants will be extinct."

Throughout his highly productive career, Degener was well-known for his pointed "letters to the editors" of Hawaii's newspapers, educating the public on the values of Hawaii's unique plants and wildlife. He warned repeatedly of damage to native habitats from axis deer, feral sheep, aggressive alien weeds, forest bulldozing, hapuu logging, and foreign tree plantations. Over the years, Degener always found time to encourage students of Hawaiian botany of all ages, with a voluminous correspondence on conservation action and generous distribution of his publications. His good spirits, his witty comments on the human condition, his keen recollection of humorous happenings, and his ever-present optimism endeared him to many Island residents.

Of the many awards and honors he received in his later years, the most recent was especially pleasing to him. On 25 April 1987, at the Honolulu Academy of Arts in the presence of Prince Philip of Great Britain, Dr. Thomas E. Lovejoy bestowed upon Dr. Otto Degener the World Wildlife Fund Award of Honor. The award contains these words of recognition and appreciation: "You, together with Isa, could have been content merely to fill your botanist's *vasculum* and the world's herbaria with specimens of the floral splendor from the Hawaiian and other Pacific islands. But in significant addition, your persistent calls for conservation have aided in the efforts to safeguard these Pacific treasures."

Mae E. Mull
Island of Hawaii Representative

CONSERVATION NEWS

SENATE ACTION NEEDED ON ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT IN 1988

Your help is urgently needed to ensure Senate passage of the Endangered Species Act (ESA) in 1988. We must persuade Senate Majority Leader Robert Byrd (D-WV) to immediately schedule a Senate floor vote on S. 675. Further, strong grassroots support is needed to block potential weakening amendments to the ESA such as any proposal to allow sport hunting and trapping of the threatened wolf and grizzly bear.

In December, the House of Representatives voted overwhelmingly, 399 to 16, to reauthorize the Endangered Species Act. Thanks to a strong grassroots effort by environmental groups, the House defeated a series of weakening amendments including one to delay implementation of new government regulations to protect endangered sea turtles. As approved by the House, the bill contained several strengthening provisions including:

- Increased monitoring of candidate species;
- Increased protection of endangered plants against theft and destruction; and
- Increased civil and criminal penalties for violators of the ESA.

What Can You Do?

With only months remaining in this session of Congress, the Senate must act to reauthorize the Endangered Species Act. Write or telephone Senators Inouye or Matsunaga and urge them to:

- Ask Senator Byrd to immediately schedule a vote on S. 675;
 - Co-sponsor S. 675 as reported by the Senate Environment Committee; and
 - Oppose weakening amendments such as any proposal to increase hunting of threatened wolves and grizzly bears.
- Additionally, contact Majority Leader Byrd directly and tell him that you want the Senate to act now to reauthorize the Endangered Species Act.

Letters to Senators can be sent to:

The Honorable _____
U.S. Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Phone: Capitol Switchboard, (202) 224-3121. Senator Byrd's office can be reached by telephone (202) 224-3954.

Thanks for your help!

Wayne C. Gagne
Chair, Conservation Committee

Makala-Wena: Resort or Wildlife Refuge?

On 12 January 1988 the Makala-wena resort proposal finally passed the Hawaii County Planning Commission by a vote of 7-2. The recommendation for a General Plan amendment to allow the resort then moved on to the Hawaii County Council for the next approval. Essential waterbird habitat at Opae-ula Pond would be threatened by resort development there.

At the Council's Planning Committee meeting on 8 February the Bishop Estate landowner surprised the packed Council room audience by requesting the panel to defer action on resort zoning. The estate spokesman said discussions with the State Planning Office were underway about a possible land exchange with the State.

On many occasions over the last year, the Society has urged that protection of Makala-wena pond habitat be given first priority. Les Barclay, Waimea member and Society spokesman at the 20 October 1987 hearing in Kona, raised these points:

"Alternatives to resort development need to be explored further. These include exchange of Bishop Estate lands with acceptable state property which is not nearly so environmentally sensitive. Educational use by Kamehameha Schools as a natural heritage laboratory for its Hawaiian students deserves more thought. Also, acquisition by a private non-profit conservation organization such as The Nature Conservancy may be possible. All of these options would be precluded if you grant the rezoning request."

At the Hilo hearing on 17 November 1987, Island of Hawaii Representative Mae Mull focused testimony on the decline of Big Island wetland habitat and the extirpation of the Hawaiian Gallinule from the Big Island in this century. On 8 February 1988 Mull testified before the Council Planning Committee:

"A resort at Makala-wena is incompatible with a secure refuge for endangered Hawaiian waterbirds at Opae-ula Pond and the fifty-plus adjacent smaller ponds. The Hawaiian Stilt was once common on wetlands all around the Big Island. Now it survives only at Makala-wena and Honokohau in North Kona. The endangered Stilt will not breed and nest successfully in close proximity to human disturbance. If a major resort is constructed

at Makala-wena, it is almost certain that stilt reproduction will cease and the birds will eventually disappear from the Big Island."

Public pressure gives Bishop Estate and the State incentives to agree on a suitable land exchange.

Mae E. Mull

NEWS FROM THE PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE

HAWAII'S BIRDS REVISION -- The first major revision in four years of *Hawaii's Birds* has begun. The upcoming edition will be expanded to allow for more species accounts. Also, many of the photos in the book will be changed. As a result, the editorial committee is searching for photographs of many species. Most important is to find photos for the new species accounts. These include: Fulvous Whistling-Duck, Semipalmated Plover, Lesser Yellowlegs, Pectoral Sandpiper, Least Sandpiper, Dunlin, Long-billed Dowitcher, Nihoa Finch (male and female), Laysan Finch (male and female), Wild Turkey, Common Peafowl, Chestnut-bellied Sandgrouse, Kauai 'Elepaio, Oahu 'Elepaio, Kama'o, Olomao, Puaiohi, 'O'u, Pafila, Oahu 'Amakihi (juv and adult male), Nukupu'u, Kauai Creeper, Oahu Creeper, Maui Creeper, Hawaii Creeper, Kauai 'Akepa, Hawaii 'Akepa, Crested Honeycreeper, Kauai 'O'o, Kalij Pheasant, Red Junglefowl, Rose-ringed Parakeet, Mourning Dove, Java Sparrow, Red Avadavat, Common Waxbill, Lavender Waxbill, and Orange-cheeked Waxbill. Also desired are various species of freshwater, forest, and introduced birds.

If you have photos of the above species or of others and would like to submit them for consideration, please call or write to Andrew Engilis, Jr. Our tentative deadline for these photos is 15 April 1988.

HAWAII'S BIRDS COVER PHOTO--It will be hard to surpass the dramatic cover photo (Laysan Albatross in flight) on the past two revisions of *Hawaii's Birds*, but a new cover photo will be selected for the upcoming new edition. We are looking for an excellent photograph of Hawaii Audubon's emblem, the 'Elepaio. If you have one, or would like to try and photograph one for our consideration, please contact Andrew Engilis, Jr., editorial chairperson, by 15 April 1988.

NEW FIELD CARD--A brand new field card of birds of Hawaii is now available. The card treats 157 species that regularly occur in the state and provides space for documentation of birds on field trips. It is printed on durable manila-colored paper which reduces glare and makes for easy reading while in bright sun. Look for it at the upcoming general meeting.

Andrew Engilis, Jr.

Editorial Chairperson, Hawaii's Birds
1330 Wilder Ave. #118, Honolulu, HI 96822
(808) 545-2993

HAWAIIAN WILDLIFE PHOTO/ART EXHIBIT

The Hawaii Audubon Society is sponsoring its second annual Hawaiian Wildlife Photo/Art Exhibit which will run from 14 to 24 March at Honolulu Hale and from 31 March to 21 April at Hoomaluhia Botanic Garden in Kaneohe. The opening reception will be held in the courtyard at Honolulu Hale on

Monday, March 14th from 5:00 PM to 7:00 PM. The public is invited and refreshments will be served.

This exhibit, which features artwork and photographs of plants, animals, and people in the Hawaiian wilderness, is in conjunction with National Wildlife Week (20 to 26 March) and Hawaiian Wildlife Awareness Month (1 to 31 March).

Awards will be sponsored by the Hawaii Audubon Society, Light Incorporated, Frame Shack Galleries, and Hawaiian Graphics.

For more information about entry guidelines, dates and times, contact Bruce Eilerts at 941-5974 (eves.).

BIRD WALK AT HOOMALUHIA PARK

A birdwalk will be conducted at Hoomaluhia Botanical Gardens on Sunday, March 20th. Observe and learn about birds at Hoomaluhia on a two-hour staff-guided walk. Binoculars, walking shoes and insect repellent are recommended. The birdwalk commences at 9:30 AM from the Visitor Center and is preceded by a slide show about the birds at Hoomaluhia at 9:15. The walk is free of charge. Reservations are required. Please call 235-6636 for reservations and information on how to find Hoomaluhia in Kaneohe.

MARCH FIELD TRIP TO KAENA POINT

Sunday, 20 March 1988

Kaena Point

Leaders: Joel Lau and Bruce Eilerts

The March 20th Audubon field trip will be an easy hike to Kaena Point. Joel Lau, a botanist with the Nature Conservancy, and Bruce Eilerts, a biologist with the Navy, will lead the group in search of Laysan Albatross and unique plants. Kaena Point offers a chance to learn about coastal plants of Hawaii and to observe many seabirds, whales and dolphins. Participants should pack a lunch and bring binoculars, a hat and sunscreen. Spotting scopes would be great to have if available. Meet in front of the State Library on Punchbowl St. at 7:30 AM or at the Waianae McDonald's at 8:30 AM. For more information call Robin Eilerts at 941-5974.

MARCH PROGRAM: YOU CAN GROW KOA

At the 21 March 1988 general meeting of Hawaii Audubon, Dr. Wayne Gagne from the Bishop Museum will be showing a slide presentation on the future of Koa (*Acacia koa*). This tree is the dominant species in a number of different vegetation types between 1500 to 6000 feet elevation on most of the main islands in Hawaii. Koa is the most valuable timber species in the islands, but most of the good timber stands have been logged and converted to pasture. This loss of koa has put the survival of dependent native biota in jeopardy. The program will be held at the Atherton Halau, Bishop Museum at 7:30 PM. Refreshments will be served.

HAWAII AUDUBON SOCIETY

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

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Editorial Committee:	Marie Morin, Bob Pyle, Leann Syrotuck	
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All local memberships and subscriptions are for the calendar year.

NOTICE TO AUTHORS

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.

SCIENTIFIC ARTICLES should be typewritten and double-spaced scientific, and three copies should be submitted. Any photographs should be submitted as photographic prints, in color or black and white (they will appear in black and white). The prints should be 3.5 X 5 inches, or larger, and should be adequately cropped if cropping is required. Original copies of figures (e.g., maps, graphs) should be clear and clean, with lettering large enough to remain legible upon reduction to fit the newsletter format. Authors are advised to design their illustrations with the 'ELEPAIO's columnar format and size in mind (please look at a copy of the journal).

FREE ICE CREAM!

Ice cream will again be served to those volunteering for paste up of the 'Elepaio at Thane Pratt's house on Saturday, 26 March, beginning at 1:00 PM. Thanks to Sheila Conant, Lynne Matusow, Cappy Summers, and Leann Syrotuck for helping with the paste up of the current issue! For more information, call me at 524-8464.

TKP

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Mar. 14 (Mon.) Board Meeting at Bishop Museum at 7:00 PM.
Call Bruce Eilerts for details.
- Mar. 15 (Tues.) Reception for HAS Art Contest at Honolulu
Hale at 5:00 PM. Exhibit extends from March to
April, but see announcement on page 24.
- Mar. 20 (Sun.) Field trip to Kaena Point. Meet at State Library
on Punchbowl St. at 7:30 AM. Announcement on
page 24.
- Mar. 21 (Mon.) General Meeting at Atherton Halau, Bishop
Museum at 7:30 PM. Program: You Can Grow Koa,
by Wayne Gagne. Announcement on page 24.
- Mar. 26 (Sat.) 'Elepaio paste-up at Thane Pratt's house, 1:00
PM. Call 524-8464.

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