



First State Record of Long-tailed Jaeger, with a note on the occurrence of Arctic Terns in Hawaii

Reginald E. David

On 5 May 1985, while aboard the whale research vessel *Black Whale*, I saw and photographed a Long-tailed Jaeger (*Stercorarius longicaudus*), with a group of three Arctic Terns (*Sterna paradisaea*) approximately 3½ miles WNW of Keahole Point, off the coast of the Island of Hawaii (19°44'N, 156°07'W). Photographs of the terns and jaeger, taken with a 200 mm lens, have been deposited in the Hawaii Rare Bird Documentary Photographic File, maintained by the B.P. Bishop Museum and the Hawaii Audubon Society. Pictures in this file are designated by the prefix HRBP.

Dan McSweeney, Helen Granberry, Susan David, and I had spent the morning photographing whales for an ongoing whale research project. We had seen 5 Wedge-tailed Shearwaters (*Puffinus pacificus*) and 3 Bulwer's Petrels (*Bulweria bulwerii*) during the first hour. At approximately 1400 hours we came upon three whitish birds flying around and occasionally diving into the water. As we approached to within 15 m we were able to see that they were terns.

In the water close to the terns was a dark-backed bird that took off as we approached. It had the unmistakable profile of a jaeger, and as it passed by us at a range of 15 m we saw that its tail was much too long for the bird to be a Pomarine Jaeger (*Stercorarius pomarinus*), the usual jaeger found in Hawaiian waters. The two central rectrices were almost as long as the bird's body. The bird appeared lighter and more delicate than a Pomarine Jaeger. It had gray-brown upper wings, a small dark cap, white cheeks, and neck with a white collar circling the neck and blending into a light cream to white chest, which in turn blended into a light brown lower breast and belly. It did not have a dark breast band as does the Pomarine Jaeger (see Figs. 1 and 2). The Parasitic Jaeger (*Stercorarius parasiticus*) is usually described as having a dark breast band, however they often lack this breast band (R.B. Clapp pers. comm.). It also showed white flashes in the first two primaries. One of the slides (Fig. 3) of this bird shows that it had blue-gray legs with black feet; both Pomarine and Parasitic jaegers have dark brown to black legs and feet. According to Harrison (1983) and Farrand (1983), these marks identify the bird as a Long-tailed Jaeger.

This is the first documented sighting of a Long-tailed Jaeger in Hawaii. The Long-tailed Jaeger is considered to be circumpolar in the arctic (Harrison 1983) and to migrate "well off shore, rarely along the Pacific coast from southeastern Alaska to middle America" (AOU 1983). Harrison's (1983) range map shows the Hawaiian archipelago to be just within the migrating range of this bird from November through March.

The Arctic Terns were white on all ventral surfaces, with long, forked tails, rounded heads, and sharply defined black caps, extending down past the eyes to the bases of the dark red bills (Figs. 4 and 5). The legs and feet were also red. The mantle was light pearl-gray, so light as to appear almost white or silvery. The primaries also had marked dark trailing edges. The wings showed almost translucent windows when viewed from below. The tail was almost as long as the body and deeply forked.

Arctic Terns have a very distinctive general appearance which, for seabirds, can often be more diagnostic than the individual identification points. When the bird is in flight, the combination of a small head, narrow wings and long tail streamers give a distinctive appearance to its rear end (Harrison 1983, Fig. 6).

The Arctic Tern migrates as much as 22,000 miles each year, making the round trip from the arctic to the antarctic (Terres 1980). "It migrates primarily at sea, casually through the Hawaiian Islands," (AOU 1983) and is listed as an accidental straggler to Hawaii (Pyle 1983). King (1970) lists 45 observations of terns of this species, or possibly Common Terns (*Sterna hirundo*), at sea during April 1964, and April and May 1965, around and to the east and south of the Hawaiian Islands. Berger (1981) lists the Arctic Tern as a regular visitor as far west as Hawaii during April and May apparently based on King (1970).

Since 1891, there have been six other documented records of Arctic Terns occurring in the Hawaiian Islands. Four early records are of collected specimens, and two later sightings are supported by photographs. The first state record was a specimen recovered from a Hilo beach 9 May 1891 (Henshaw 1902). The second was taken from Kahuku, Oahu, 30 April 1902, and the third was a fragmentary specimen recovered from Kure Atoll, 29 July 1968. The last specimen was one taken from Keehi Lagoon, Oahu, 29 October 1966 (Clapp 1975). The other two documented sightings are of birds photographed by Peter Pyle on Oahu. The first was photographed 24 April 1983 at James Campbell National Wildlife Refuge (HRBP No. 231 et al). Several other observers saw at least one Arctic Tern between 24 April and 2 May 1983, here and in the adjoining Lowe Aquafarm (P. Donaldson, R.L. Pyle, D. Synder). The second bird was photographed at Lowe Aquafarm 22 October 1983 (HRBP No. 619-621).

I should like to thank Bob Pyle and the reviewers, Roger Clapp and Doug Pratt, for their many suggestions for improving this note.

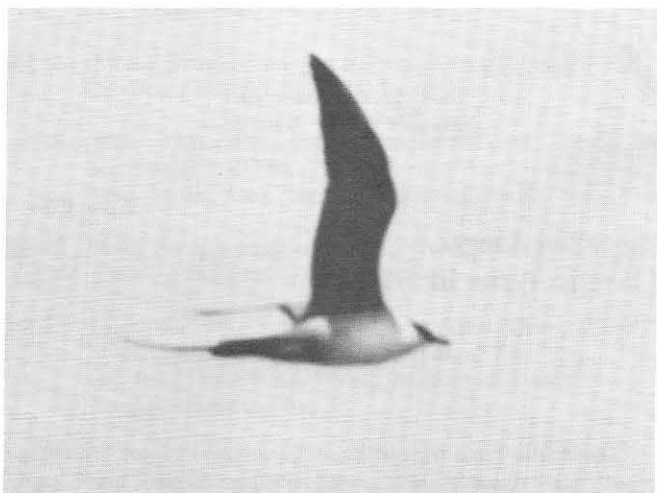


Figure 1. Long-tailed Jaeger off Kona coast, Hawaii, 5 May 1985. Note the extremely long retrices, and clear breast.

Photo by R. David (HRBP No. 446)



Figure 2. Long-tailed Jaeger. Note the long retrices and narrow wings.

Photo by R. David (HRBP No. 448)



Figure 3. Long-tailed Jaeger. Note small, dark cap, light-colored legs, and dark feet.

Photo by R. David (HRBP No. 447)

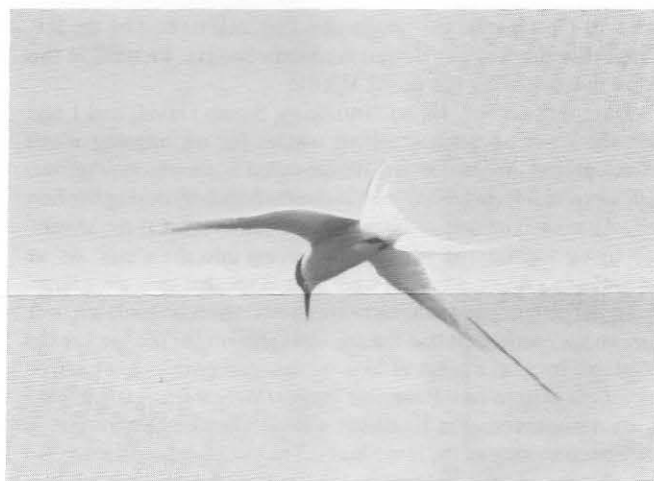


Figure 4. Arctic Tern.

Photo by R. David (HRBP No. 450)



Figure 5. Arctic Tern.

Photo by R. David (HRBP No. 449)



Figure 6. Arctic Tern off Kona coast, Hawaii, 5 May 1985. Short-necked, long-tailed, typical Arctic Tern appearance.

Photo by R. David (HRBP No. 719)

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Origins of a Ring-billed Gull (*Larus delawarensis*) Seen in Hawaii

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On 5 December 1987, I observed and photographed a Ring-billed Gull (*Larus delawarensis*) in first winter plumage on the reef just south of Aimakapa pond, located north of Kailua-Kona, the Island of Hawaii. The bird had a red plastic band on its left leg and a USFWS metal band on the right leg. Over the course of the next two days I was able to read the number on the USFWS band using a 40 power spotting scope. It was number 734-59731. Attached to this band was a piece of monofilament fishing line approximately 1 m long, with a small fish hook and a lead shot weight wrapped tightly around the lower tarsus. I later determined that the bird was banded as a nestling on 13 June 1987, at Lake Lahontan, Churchill County, Nevada.

I first saw this medium-sized whitish gull at 9:00 AM feeding on the remains of a Black Ulua (*Caranx sexfasciatus*, Hosaka 1972). The fish was lying just above the high water mark on the shoreline about halfway between Aimakapa pond and Honokohau harbor, 300 m to the south. The bird was identified as a first winter Ring-billed Gull in partial molt to first summer plumage. It was a medium sized light-colored bird with a gray back, brownish wings, very dark brown primaries and tail band, and white underparts spotted with brown on the breast and throat. It had a whitish head and neck streaked with light brown, yellowish eyes, a medium-sized, two-toned bill: the distal one-third was dark brown, and the proximal two-thirds were flesh-colored. The tip of the upper mandible was very pale; legs and feet were light flesh-colored with black nails.

Ring-billed Gulls attain their adult plumage in their third winter (Harrison 1983). Molt pattern is important in determining the age of gulls that require three or four years to reach adult plumage. The molt of the primary feathers is generally indicative of the progress of the molt. The molt begins with the shedding of the innermost primaries (numbers ten and nine) and progresses out the length of the wing to primary number one. On this bird the ninth and tenth primaries appeared very short (approximately 2 inches long), and the ends of the tail feathers were heavily abraded. The rate of primary renewal is quite slow, with usually only one or two adjacent feathers growing in at one time, as in the case of this bird. The rest of the body feather molt generally takes place during the time that it takes to replace all the primary feathers (Grant 1982). For a more detailed description of gull molt, see Harrison (1983) and Grant (1982).

After consulting my computerized bird file of requests for sightings of marked and banded birds, I contacted Mr. Hugh Judd in Sparks, Nevada. He confirmed that he and Alan Gubanich, with the Department of Biology at the University of Nevada in Reno, had placed USFWS band #734-59731 on a nestling Ring-billed Gull at Lake Lahontan, Churchill County, Nevada, on 13 June 1987. They are in the first year of a long-term study of the post-breeding dispersal, wintering locations and nest-sight fidelity of Ring-billed Gulls and California Gulls (*Larus californicus*). This Hawaii observation is the most distant sighting yet reported of a bird from their colony. The next furthest was seen on Santa Cruz Island, California, much closer to the nesting colony.

Many first-time visitors are surprised to find that there are no resident gulls in Hawaii. Gulls are predominantly birds of the shoreline and interior (Terres 1980) rather than of the open ocean. They are in fact not very good flyers (Storer 1948). They travel

mainly by soaring—catching updrafts from waves or the sides of ships, and by riding thermals over land—allowing the birds to reach great heights from which they can glide long distances (Storer 1948, Terres 1968).

Ring-billed Gulls breed in west-central Canada, the northwestern U.S., and in southeastern Canada from the Great Lakes to Newfoundland. They winter from southern British Columbia to the Yucatan, and on the Atlantic coast from the Gulf of St. Lawrence to Florida, the Bahamas and Greater Antilles (Grant 1982 and Harrison 1983). Although considered casual in the Hawaiian Islands (AOU 1983, Pyle 1983), Ring-billed Gulls are probably the most frequent gulls to reach the Hawaiian Islands. At least one sighting has been reported each year for the past ten years and in some years several more (*vide* R. David, P. Donaldson, P. Pyle, R. Pyle, field notes and slides). Numerous Ring-billed Gull occurrences in Hawaii are documented in the Hawaii Rare Bird Photographic File maintained by the Hawaii Audubon Society and the B.P. Bishop Museum. Photographs of this banded gull have been deposited in the file (HRBP nos. 717, 718).

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RECENT OBSERVATIONS AUGUST THROUGH NOVEMBER 1987

Continued from previous issue ('Elepaio 48:21).

(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.

SANDGROUSE, PARROTS, ETC. -- DP (14 Nov.) spotted two flocks of Chestnut-bellied Sandgrouse on the Hawaii Belt Road at the turn-off to Waikoloa, a site well south of their usual range on the Waimea plains, H.

Single Mourning Doves were seen at three localities between Puu Waawaa and Puu Anahulu, H. on 18 Aug. (AE).

Kii Ponds, JCNWR seems to be one of the few sites remaining where Pueo are regularly reported on Oahu; one was seen there on 19 Oct. (AE, RD), and 3 on 5 Nov. and 2 on 7 Nov. (GH).

A flock of Rose-ringed Parakeets was reported in Upper Makiki Valley, Honolulu, (in the vicinity of the nest site reported last March) with at least 23 counted on 5 Oct. and 21 on 3 Nov. (JL). The location where a flock of Red-crowned Parrots roosted above Pearl City was checked again this fall (10 and 18 Nov.), after the presumed breeding season: TP and TL counted between 27 and 30 of these amazons in the flock travelling at dusk towards their roost. A Blue-crowned Conure and a larger amazon, presumably Blue-crowned, in the flock indicated that this was the same group seen previously. Two more free flying cockatoos turned up this season: a Goffin Cockatoo on Oahu's Halawa Ridge Trail on 30 Aug. and a Greater Sulfur Crested Cockatoo in Heeia Marsh (where owners of the piggery reported that it stole food from their animals) on 15 Oct. (TP).

A strenuous hike to the known nesting cave of Gray Swiftlets in upper Halawa Valley, O. on 30 Aug. was rewarded with finding 17 fresh nests of which 9 contained eggs or chicks. About 7 adults were present (TP, DW).

NATIVE SONGBIRDS -- A female Palila observed feeding in naio near Puu Ahumoa on Mauna Kea at about 1800 m was a very low elevational sighting (JW). Low elevational records recently reported for 'Amakihi were at the Makiki Valley pumping station, O. on 5 Oct. (JL) and in lower Iao Valley, M. on 10 Nov. (DP). A huge mixed flock of mostly Hawai'i Creepers and Hawai'i Akepa was observed in the upper forests of Hakalau NWR on 16 Aug. (JL). Two days later 1-2 Kaua'i Creepers and 3-4 Kaua'i Akepa were encountered along Pihea and Kilohana Trails near the Alaka'i, K (JL). Large numbers of Apapane and Amakihi gathered in flowering eucalypts and paperbark trees along the Aiea Trail this fall (AE, TP).

ALIEN SONGBIRDS -- Red-billed Leiothrix appear to be making a modest comeback on Oahu, where they abounded 20 years ago, then nearly became extinct. This fall they were reported widely in southeast Oahu: Aiea Trail (AE), upper Halawa Ridge (TP), Makiki Valley (AE), Kuliouou Valley (8-12, BS) and Waimanalo (PD). The Honolulu Christmas Count total in late December was the highest in two decades. About 6 Greater Necklaced Laughing-thrushes were found along lower Anahola Valley Rd., K on 19 Nov. (DP). and again on 2 Dec. (PP).

A male and female Saffron Finch seen in the Makalapa housing area near Salt Lake, O. on 15 Sept. (BE) and an immature reported in Ala Moana Park on 26 Sept. (GH) may have been recent escapes, as no others have been reported in recent years.

A brilliant Yellow-crowned Bishop surprised AE near Walker Bay on Waipio Peninsula on 31 Oct.

Birders wishing to experience the estrildid faunas of Africa and Asia will find them more conveniently on the Big Island, in the savanna country around Puu Anahulu. Here Red Avadavats and Nutmeg Mannikins flock to the same watering holes as Warbling Silverbills, Lavender Waxbills and Red-cheeked Cordonbleu. Joining them recently has been a newly discovered population of Black-rumped Waxbills. JL first reported three on 8 Aug.; RD photographed 4 there on 10 Aug.; the number increased to 6 on 17 Aug. (JL), but only 4 appeared on 20 Aug. (AE). A high count of 20 Red-cheeked Cordonbleu were reported makai of Puu Anahulu on 18 Aug. (AE).

Orange-cheeked Waxbills appear to be spreading in Kaneohe, O., and vicinity, with the species reported again from Hoomaluhia Park (JL). A family of two adults feeding at least 3 fledglings may be the remnants of a population that once colonized the outer, southwest slopes of Diamond Head (MO). Red Avadavats, now established and increasing rapidly on the Big Island, have invaded Maui, where FD first observed well 2 males and 3 females on 19 Nov. at about 1800 ft. elevation on Olinda Rd.

PALMYRA ATOLL -- SF, a US Fish & Wildlife Service biologist, made a survey visit to Palmyra Atoll on 18-26 Sept. This uninhabited, rarely visited atoll is a U.S. possession in the Line Islands, some 1300 miles south of Honolulu and 150 miles northwest of Christmas Is. The 10 species of seabirds resident there, and 4 common migrant shorebirds, were found in numbers consistent with findings in the mid-1960's and earlier. Most numerous were the estimated 260,000 Sooty Terns in 3 colonies, 6500 Red-footed Boobies (largest colony in the central Pacific) and 3500 Black Noddies. The 201 Bristle-thighed Curlews far outnumbered other migrant species. Less common visitors found were three Sharp-tailed Sandpipers, 1 male Lesser Frigatebird and 1 Cattle Egret (a first record for Palmyra).

Thane K. Pratt

CONSERVATION NEWS

News from Kauai -- Dan Moriarty

Kawaie water bird sanctuary -- The Division of Forestry and Wildlife has been working on an innovative plan to convert 30 acres of state land into a water bird sanctuary near Mana, Kauai. The immediate plan would allow the DLNR to sell 15 acres of sand; the excavation of the sand would expose the water table, providing much needed habitat for Hawaiian Stilts and other waterbirds.

Opae Kaa wetland -- Opae Kaa is a marginally flooded, state owned wetland mauka of Coco Palms Resort in Wailua. The area, formerly in pastoral lease, has been overgrown with exotics, primarily *Pluchea* sp.

The area has a well-documented water bird population and attracts a number of winter migrants. Opae Kaa is centrally located in relation to Kauai's population centers, resorts and schools. The potential for an educational/recreational sanctuary should be investigated, especially in view of the area's present state of neglect.

Another concern expressed by Kauai's wildlife constituency is the loss of waterbird habitat on Kauai's plantations, the result of cutbacks in sugar production and new irrigation practices.

Kilauea Point NWR and Crater Hill-Mokolea Point -- March 8 culminated 7 years of negotiations between the owners of Crater Hill, Pali Moana Corp., County of Kauai, Kilauea Community Association and the USFWS, to secure this National Wildlife Refuge. The conservation group, Trust for Public Lands, facilitated the negotiations, contributing over 2 years of effort to secure the donation of 91 acres of spectacularly beautiful wildlife habitat into the public domain. The donation of the 91 acres of Crater Hill land and the purchase of the 38-acre Mokolea Point parcel secures this important seabird and educational site. U.S. Senator Daniel Inouye and Congressman Daniel Akaka were present at the ceremony attended by over 400 members of the community.

Mahaulepu -- Grove Farm Co. is proceeding with plans to develop the south shore of Kauai from Keoniloa Bay (Shipwrecks) to the present Grove Farm quarry. The development will include an 18-hole golf course. Within the proposed development are a Wedge-tailed Shearwater colony and White-tailed Tropicbird nesting sites. Intact coastal plant communities are also found throughout the proposed development area.

News from the Big Island -- Mae E. Mull

Eradication of feral and mouflon sheep on Mauna Kea The Hawaii Wildlife Conservancy, a group of state hunters, has mounted a publicity campaign in Honolulu and Big Island newspapers condemning the Palila vs. DLNR lawsuit and suggesting that the Sierra Club and Audubon Society may next target wild deer, wild pigs or game birds for extermination.

Makalawena and Opaepa Pond, North Kona -- The Hawaii County Planning Commission voted 7-2 on 12 January to recommend favorable consideration of a Bishop Estate resort development at Makalawena, North Kona. The resort plan was then required to seek County Council and State Land Use Commission approval. On 25 January, I wrote to all nine County Council members and to State Representatives Andrew Levin and Virginia Isabell saying that "a resort at Kakalawena is incompatible with a secure refuge for endangered Hawaiian waterbirds at Opaepa Pond." I asked that Conservation-Open land use be retained and that the State and the landowner be encouraged to agree on a land exchange.

Facing considerable public opposition and certain defeat in the Planning Committee of the Hawaii County Council, Bishop Estate withdrew their request for Urban-Resort Zoning at Makalawena on 22 February. A land exchange with the State and designation of Opaepa as a wildlife refuge are needed in the long term.

Proposed 11,000-acre spaceport for Palima Point, Kauai State and County officials and U.S. Senator D. Inouye are rushing to endorse the project in advance of a State paid EIS that has yet to start. The spaceport appears to be immediately adjacent to, and to possibly encompass, the 2,052-acre parcel called Tracts 26 & 27 that are authorized for acquisition by Hawaii Volcanoes National Park. These tracts contain the seaward-end of the geological feature known as The Great Crack and house native dryland shrubs and grasses and shoreline biota. At two meetings held hastily by officials, local residents strenuously objected to the site which is within 3 miles east of Pahala. They cited noise, accident hazards and interference with fishing.

Volcanoes National Park requests Society help -- Superintendent Huntzinger asked the Society to write the Congressional delegation requesting that the \$250,000 appropriation for feral pig control to Volcanoes Nat. Park and separately to Haleakala Nat. Park be restored as an annual baseline item for both parks, as was the intention of Congress. Instead, the Reagan administration Office of Management and Budget has allowed these funds only for the present fiscal year. Feral pig control is top priority for both national parks.

News from Congress

Endangered Species Act Reauthorization -- This year, the U.S. Congress is considering a five-year reauthorization for the Endangered Species Act, passed originally in 1973. The House passed its version, HR 1467, on 17 December 1987, by a vote of 399 to 16. The Senate will probably consider its bill (S675) soon, although at this time several holds on the bill prevent it from moving to the Senate floor. Both bills contain several amendments to improve conservation of endangered wildlife: requiring monitoring to avoid extinctions among those species that the Secretary has determined to be rare enough to warrant listing but has not yet been able to list, aiding private landowners who want to protect their endangered plants against poaching, and increasing fines for intentional violations to account for inflation since 1973. Both bills provide increases in authorized appropriations to carry out the provisions of the Act, including substantial increases in Federal Aid funding for endangered species in Hawaii.

NATURAL AREA RESERVE SYSTEM NEEDS HELP

My name is Michael Buck, and I am currently working as the Natural Area Reserves System (NARS) coordinator for the Hawaii Department of Land & Natural Resources (DLNR). I'd like to give you some background information on the NARS and ask for your help in preserving Hawaii's natural areas.

The mission of the NARS is to protect and preserve unique and representative examples of Hawaii's native ecosystems and geologic formations. Since the establishment of the reserve system in 1970, 18 reserves on five islands totaling over 108,000 acres have been dedicated. However, this legal protection has not been accompanied by management programs to arrest damage caused by public misuse and by nonnative plants and animals. In 1987, Governor Waihee and the State legislature provided funds for the development and implementation of reserve management programs.

To expedite progress in fulfilling these mandates, the DLNR, with agreement from the NARS Commission, decided to utilize existing staff and support services within Division of Forestry & Wildlife (DOFAW) to develop plans and implement management work during the current 1987-89 biennium. It was also agreed to contract as much work as possible to established agencies, private organizations, and individuals.

Three major goals are targeted: 1) addressing urgent nonnative species threats to the most pristine reserves, 2) developing public support for NARS through education programs, volunteer cooperation, and interagency agreements, and 3) completing detailed operational plans for all reserves. Total costs for the 1987-89 biennium are \$676,000, including \$121,250 in matching private funds from the Nature Conservancy of Hawaii's Heritage Program, which is assisting development of management inventories and data base.

Our plans are to have concerned community groups participate in NARS management work involving noxious weed control or trail building and maintenance. We will provide equipment, training, and logistical support. Public involvement not only cuts down the expense of these costly management activities, but allows the people of Hawaii to experience their natural area reserves and help in their preservation.

The NARS units we currently need help with are Mt. Kaala NAR on Oahu and Manuka NAR on Hawaii. The Kaala work will be focused in the montane bog area. The first order of business, which has already started, is constructing a boardwalk in the bog to prevent further widening and damage to the existing bog trail. It will also provide access for subsequent noxious weed removal of blackberry (*Rubus penetrans*).

The work at Manuka NAR will involve trail clearing, maintenance, and development as well as noxious weed control. The Hawaii Service Trip Program has already participated in a very successful trail clearing project at Manuka. Other natural areas will need volunteer support in the future. We are planning projects in Kuia NAR on Kauai, and at Kaena Point and Pahole NAR on Oahu. There are additional ongoing projects using DOFAW staff on West Maui and Olokui NAR on Molokai as well.

The projects you can help with will be announced in your newsletter. With your support, we can get the Natural Area Reserves System off to a good start. I personally feel it is essential to get community involvement and support to successfully manage the NARS. If you have any questions about the NARS initiatives, please do not hesitate to call me at 548-8950. Thank you very much.

Michael G. Buck

H.A.S. FIELD ACTIVITIES FOR 1987: THE YEAR IN REVIEW

During the past year, the Field Activities Committee has offered a wide variety of field trips to various types of plant and animal communities and natural areas.

The HAS trip to Makapuu Point in March provided members with the opportunity of viewing native seabirds, sea turtles, humpback whales, porpoises, and native coastal vegetation. A Peregrine Falcon sighting and the discovery of a Red-tailed Tropicbird nest were highlights of this trip.

On a hike to Kaena Point in April participants observed native endangered plants, courting Laysan Albatrosses and other seabirds, migratory shorebirds, and a remnant sand dune ecosystem. Humpback whales were also observed off-shore.

Although the "fish shocking" device used to catch native O'opu and Opa malfunctioned during the June trip to Sacred Falls, all participants were treated to an educational discussion and tour



Hawaii Audubon field trip to Palikea, May 1987

Photo by Bruce D. Eilerts

exploring the natural history of Hawaii's streamlife by U.S. Fish and Wildlife biologist Andy Yuen.

A large group of hikers turned out for a hike to Palikea (Waianae Mountains) led by Mark Merlin in May. Highlights of the trip were sightings of endangered tree snails, native forestbirds, and a Pueo (Hawaiian Short-eared Owl). Several unique and rare plants were also encountered during the walk through the native rain forest. The views during this outing were spectacular.

A July hike along Aiea Ridge offered participants an opportunity to see the native Apapane and Amakihi at home in a relatively intact native rain forest.

During the driest month of August, HAS experienced its wettest field trip. Steve Perlman led hikers along Tantalus, where many participants were treated to a favorite sport of local youngsters: mud sliding. Aside from the flowing trail, unique native and introduced plants were encountered and everyone was treated to a noisy scolding by four Red-billed Leothrix that came within 10 feet of the group.

Patrick Ching hosted the September field trip to Moanalua Valley and led participants on a cultural and natural history tour of the area. Native and introduced birds were seen, along with historic housing sites, petroglyphs, streamlife and a mixed forest of native and introduced species. Patrick also gave away signed posters of his artwork portraying Hawaii's native plants and animals.

The October field trip to James Campbell National Wildlife Refuge provided participants with close-up views of all the native endangered waterbirds that occur in Hawaii, along with sightings of seabirds, migratory shorebirds and waterfowl, and various introduced species. Steve Berendzen, Refuge Manager, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, was also on hand as guide and interpreter of Hawaiian wetlands.

One of the highlights of last year's array of field trips was a November nighttime reef walk along a Koko Head lava beach, dotted with tidal pools. More than 53 people joined in the outing. The marine life was everywhere to be found: octopus, reef fishes, moray eels, colorful shells, nudibranchs, sea urchins, and various crabs and shrimps were just a few of the many organisms encountered during the outing.

The December hike planned for Wiliwili Nui Ridge in the east Koolau's was cancelled due to heavy rain.

The 1988 schedule of field activities began with a January tour of Ho'omaluhia Park, located against the windward slopes of the Koolau Mts. Patrick Ching led participants through the botanical gardens, showing off the lush greenery, streams, and resident birdlife.

Field trips such as these will continue through 1988 and everyone planning on joining these outings will be treated to beautiful and educational experiences. Inquiries regarding future field activities should be made to Robin Eilerts, Chair of Field Activities Committee, at 941-5974.

See you all in the field.

Bruce D. Eilerts

1988 H.A.S. FIELD TRIP CALENDAR

April 24, Sunday

Ewa karst sinkholes

Short walk to sinkholes to dig for fossil bones.

Leader: Alan Ziegler

May (date to be announced)

Tentatively scheduled for Kaneohe Marine Corps Air Station.

Short walk to Booby colony to observe nesting Red-footed Boobies.

Leader: Robin Eilerts

June (date and destination to be announced)

July 17, Sunday

Sacred Falls

Moderate trail hike to see plants, birds and native stream life.

August 21, Sunday

Waialae Iki

Moderate to difficult trail hike to observe native plants and birds.

Leader: Bruce Eilerts

September 17, Saturday (evening)

Koko Head tide pools

Easy walking to observe marine reef life.

October 15, Saturday

James Campbell National Wildlife Refuge

This is a good time of year for migratory shorebirds passing through and there is also a good possibility of seeing Bristle-thighed Curlew (Kioea).

November 20, Sunday

James Campbell National Wildlife Refuge

Asian and North American waterfowl wintering and migrating through the Hawaiian Islands. Native waterbirds can be observed on both trips.

December

Christmas Bird Counts

Does anyone have any ideas for the June field trip? If so give me a call. I am interested in new but popular activities. Call Robin at 941-5974.

MARCH 1988 PROGRAM "YOU CAN GROW KOA"

Dr. Wayne Gagne, entomologist with the B. P. Bishop Museum and HAS Conservation Committee Chair, presented a slide show entitled, "You Can Grow Koa." It was narrated by Scott Shirai.

Endemic to Hawaii, Koa, or Hawaiian mahogany, is a member of the Acacia family and may reach a height of more than 100 ft. It is "worth its weight in gold," and is now valued at \$6.00 a board foot. In Hawaiian "koa" means "bold, brave and fearless." Koa wood was used by the early Hawaiians for canoes, ceremonial bowls and weapons. Although the islands were once heavily forested with koa, only a pitiful remnant of koa forests remains today.

Koa forests of old provided an ecosystem rich in native birds, other vertebrates and insects, and their loss resulted in diminished numbers and even extinction of many endemic birds, invertebrates and plants. Among the species that survive but are endangered are: 'Alala (Hawaiian Crow), 'Akepa, Akiapola'au, and the long-horned beetles. The 'Apapane, 'Tiwi, 'Amakihi, 'Elepaio, 'Io (Hawaiian Hawk), and Pueo (Short-eared Owl) were also pictured in the slides. All of these are native Hawaiian species and dependent on koa.

There are several causes for the decline of koa forests. Pasture clearing and cattle grazing damaged roots and destroyed seedlings, preventing regeneration. In addition, there has been heavy commercial logging. The introduced Banana Poka vine damages trees by thickly covering the canopy, preventing photosynthesis and breaking limbs.

At present, there are insufficient profit and tax incentives to encourage commercial growing of koa forests. This could be brought about by changing the land tax rates which now favor pasture land over undeveloped forest. Koa trees reach commercial size in 40 to 70 years, and, considering the rising cost of this wood, income from koa may compare to ranching. Many land owners are already planting koa; building a legacy for their heirs and preserving our priceless Hawaiian ecosystem.

Betty Johnson

ALOHA TO NEW MEMBERS

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

NEW LOCAL MEMBERS: Marie Bruegmann, Honolulu, HI; Ed Caswell, Honolulu, HI; Anne Curtin, Honolulu, HI; Philip Curtin, Honolulu, HI; Kehaulani E. Fitzsimmons, Honolulu, HI; Robert W. Gardner, Honolulu, HI; Marcia Gresser, Newport Beach, CA; Basil Hansen, Kalaheo, HI; John D. Henderson, Palo Alto, CA; Sandra Hoff, Nevada City, CA; Marbry Hopkins, Kernersville, NC; Pearl Johnson, Honolulu, HI; Robert Lautenslager, Fairport, NY; Wilhelmina Markiewicz, Volcano, HI; Genevieve McAleney, Hackettstown, NJ; John T. McBride, Jr., Shreveport, LA; Rita McWhorter, Wilmington, DE; Sherry Mossbarger, Mililani, HI; Dudley Munns, Princeville, HI; Edward F. Neilson, Waimanalo, HI; Susan Olivier, Honolulu, HI; Mark Scheffel, Honolulu, HI; Charles W. Sherry, Honolulu, HI; Nancy B. Thurston, Honolulu, HI; Barbara B. Titus, Princeville, HI; O. Daniel Van Zyle, Honolulu, HI; Genie Wery, Mililani, HI.

AWARD GRANTED

Michael Reveal, a third-year law student at the William S. Richardson School of Law, has received the first George C. Munro Award for Environmental Law. The Hawaii Audubon Society established the annual award to recognize the outstanding student in environmental law. George C. Munro's pioneering work to protect Hawaii's native wildlife serves as an example to all who wish to preserve its unique flora and fauna.

ANNUAL TREASURER'S REPORT 1987

Prepared by Joel Simasko

Approved on 5 March 1988 by the Auditing committee: Audrey Newman, Tim Sutterfield, Joel Simasko, and Marie Morin.

Hawaii Audubon Society

Statement of income for the year ending 31 December 1987.

1987 Revenue:

Hawaii's Birds (gross profit)	22231.75
Other publications	279.97
Postcards	150.50
T-shirts	172.00
Dues - local regular	3750.00
local life	900.00
joint	7078.50
dues forwarded	(178.00)
Donations	1116.11
Scholarships	2080.00
Postage	216.18
Interest	8695.66
'Elepaio fund	1194.00
Miscellaneous	165.55
Refunds	(32.00)
Total Revenue	47820.22

1987 Operating Expenses

General Operations	
Office expenses	1551.42
Travel	3757.65
Equipment	7658.46
Insurance	1046.80
Taxes, License, Fees	461.59
'Elepaio	
Paper and printing	13668.24
Labels and postage	2349.99
Supplies	130.55
Other	24.96
Special Projects	
Assistance grants	3832.73
Postcards	28.69
Other publications	247.42
Committees	
Adopt-A-Refuge	0.00
Conservation	667.30
Research grants	2750.00
Scholarships	2500.00
Other committees	38.81
Miscellaneous	722.37
Undepositable checks	191.55
Total Operating Expenses	41628.53

Net Income for 1988 **6191.69**

Balance Sheet 31 December 1987

Assets

Checking Account	12394.30
Saving Accounts-general	18979.11
book reserve	34474.30
funds	9705.44
life	11824.46
Inventory-Hawaii's Birds	31184.00
Pacific Birds	10266.97
Total	128828.58

Equity

Retained Earnings from 1986	122636.89
Net Income from 1987	6191.69
Total	128828.58

APRIL FIELD TRIP

Sunday, April 24
Ewa Limestone Sinkholes
Leader: Dr. Alan Ziegler

The April 24th HAS field trip will be to the limestone sinkholes in Ewa to look for fossil bird bones. It is a short walk to the sinkholes where Alan Ziegler will talk to the group about the sinkholes and fabulous fauna of extinct fossil birds. He will also give people a chance to sift sediments through screens to try their luck at finding fossil bones. This trip is being held later in the month so that it will give everyone a chance to see Alan's slide show on fossils, April 18. Participants should pack a lunch, hat and sunscreen. Meet in front of the State Library on Punchbowl Street at 7:30 a.m. or at 8:30 a.m. at the main entrance to Campbell Estate Industrial Park. For more information call Robin Eilerts at 941-5974.

**APRIL PROGRAM:
PREHISTORIC HAWAIIAN BIRDS**

At the 18 April 1988 general meeting of the Hawaii Audubon Society, Dr. Alan Ziegler will be giving a slide presentation on Prehistoric Hawaiian Birds.

Our knowledge of prehistoric birds has been based on the study of avian fossil remains. In 1971, Joan Aidem found the fossil skeleton of an extinct flightless goose in the sand dunes of Molokai. This discovery stimulated a number of researchers to search aggressively for additional fossil sites. Since 1971, many new endemic species have been discovered including a flightless ibis, a flightless rail, a hawk, an owl, as well as many passerines.

This presentation will serve as an introduction to the April field trip which Dr. Ziegler will be leading (see field trip announcement for details). The program will be held at the Atherton Halau, Bishop Museum at 7:30 p.m. Refreshments will be served.

JOB ANNOUNCEMENT

Resource Management Technician (6 Positions) -- Cooperative Park Studies Unit, University of Hawaii, full-time, federal funds, RCUH non-civil service, to begin March 7, 1988 through September 30, 1988. Extension of employment will depend upon satisfactory performance. Minimum \$7.25 per hour; position located at Hawaii Volcanoes National Park, Hawaii.

Incumbent will perform feral pig and alien plant control work; control pigs by hunting with dogs, snares and traps; conduct pig necropsy; construct fences; control plants using herbicides; record and evaluate field data.

Send resume to Division Chief, Resource Management, Hawaii Volcanoes National Park, P.O. Box 52, Hawaii National Park, HI 96718, phone 967-8133. Closing date March 4, 1988.

WANTED

40 small bird nests to be used in educational kits. Please do not disturb bird nests with eggs or babies. Contact Faith Roelofs at the Makiki Nature Center at 973-0103.

PUBLICATIONS OF THE SOCIETY

HAWAII'S BIRDS by H.A.S. (1984, revised 1987). An excellent, pocket-sized fieldguide to all native and well-established introduced birds. \$4.95 plus \$0.89 surface mail or \$1.07 air mail. Hawaii residents add \$0.20 State excise tax.

FIELD CHECKLIST OF BIRDS OF HAWAII by R. L. Pyle and A. Engilis, Jr. (1987). Pocket-sized card listing 125 species, with space for field notes. Post paid. \$0.25 or \$0.10 for 10 or more. (NEW!)

GUIDE TO HAWAIIAN BIRDING by H.A.S. and C. J. Ralph, ed. (1977). Where to go, what to see. All regularly visited islands. Post paid. \$1.50.

CHECKLIST TO THE BIRDS OF HAWAII by R. L. Pyle (1983). Our reference for avian nomenclature in Hawaii. All naturally occurring birds, plus introduced species well-established. Post paid. \$2.00.

CHECKLIST TO THE BIRDS OF MICRONESIA by P. Pyle and J. Engbring (1985). Similar to preceding but covers Micronesia. Post paid. \$2.00.

BACK ISSUES OF 'ELEPAIO and INDICES TO 'ELEPAIO:

Vol. 1-40 -- \$1.00 per issue, \$10.00 per volume

Vol. 41 to present -- \$0.50 per issue, \$5.00 per volume

Complete set (Vols. 1-43) -- \$350

INDEX Vols. 36-40 -- \$2.50

INDEX Vols. 41-45 -- \$2.50

Overseas orders cost more. Contact the Society for added cost.

FREE ICE CREAM

Ice cream will be served again to those volunteering for paste-up of the 'Elepaio at Thane Pratt's house on Saturday, 23 April, beginning at 1:00 PM. Thanks to Sheila Conant, Lynn Matusow, Marie Morin, Susan Schenck, Joel Simasko, and Leann Syrotuck for helping with the paste-up of the current issue! For more information, call me at 524-8464.

Thane K. Pratt

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- April 11 (Mon.) Board Meeting at Bishop Museum at 7:00 PM. Call Bruce Eilerts (941-5974) for details.
- April 18 (Mon.) General Meeting at Atherton Halau, Bishop Museum at 7:30 PM. Program: "Prehistoric Hawaiian Birds" by Dr. Alan Zeigler. Announcement on page 35.
- April 23 (Sat.) 'Elepaio paste-up at Thane Pratt's house, 1:PM.. Call 524-8464 for more information.
- April 24 (Sun) Field trip to Ewa to look for fossil birds. Meet at the State Library on Punchbowl St. at 7:30 AM. Call Robin Eilerts (941-5974) for more information. Announcement on page 35.

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