



## North Kona Christmas Count 1989

Reginald E. David

On 17 December under clear skies with almost no wind we held the second annual North Kona Christmas count. Four observers in 2 parties spend 13 hours, plus 1 hour owling; covering 128 miles, recorded 3066 birds, 419 more than last year's total; representing 43 species; down from last year's state record high of 51 species. Participation and coverage was down by almost 50% from last year. There were 12 species seen last year that were not counted this time, however 4 species not encountered last year were added to the count circle list bringing it to 55 species; Hawaiian Hawk (Io), Black-bellied Plover, Rose-ringed Parakeet and Red-billed Leiothrix.

With only two years' data to analyze, few conclusions can be drawn. The relatively small and late migration seen throughout the state this year was graphically illustrated in the waterfowl numbers tallied. We counted 104 ducks representing 5 species this year versus 180 from 10 species last year—a 50% drop in species and slightly more than 72% in numbers.

The most unusual bird this year was the Black-bellied Plover seen at Aimakapa reef. This species is regularly seen in small numbers on Maui at this time of the year, however this represents only the second sighting of this species in West Hawaii in the past 10 years.

Counters in the Kona Heights subdivision were treated to a wonderful display of 2 Hawaiian Hoary Bats feeding within feet of their heads at the end of the count day.



Juvenile Black-crowned Night-Heron.

Photo by Reginald E. David

### Sectors Covered:

- Kona Heights subdivision:** Reggie David, Susan David, Brien Meilleur
- Coastal area and shoreline ponds, Kailua dump:** Reggie David, Susan David, Brien Meilleur
- Pu'u Anahulu Flats:** Reggie David, Susan David, Brien Meilleur
- Urban areas:** Niles Moore
- Mount Hualalai:** Reggie David, Susan David, Brien Meilleur
- Grasslands along Highway 190:** Reggie David, Susan David, Brien Meilleur

Sector	1	2	3	4	5	6	Total
Pied-billed Grebe.		13					13
<i>Podilymbus podiceps</i>							
Black-crowned Night Heron.		3					3
<i>Nycticorax nycticorax hoactli</i>							
Eurasian Wigeon.		2					2
<i>Anas penelope</i>							
American Wigeon.		3					3
<i>Anas americana</i>							
Northern Pintail.		9					9
<i>Anas acuta</i>							
Blue-winged Teal.		2					2
<i>Anas discors</i>							
Northern Shoveler.		88					88
<i>Anas clypeata</i>							
Hawaiian Hawk (Io)					2	1	3
<i>Buteo solitarius</i>							
Black Francolin.		1				1	2
<i>Francolinus francolinus</i>							
Erckel's Francolin.		1					1
<i>Francolinus erckelii</i>							
Ring-necked Pheasant.		3					3
<i>Phasianus colchicus</i>							
Common Peafowl.		16			3		19
<i>Pavo cristatus</i>							
Hawaiian Coot.		93					93
<i>Fulica americana alai</i>							
Hawaiian Stilt.		28					28
<i>Himantopus mexicanus knudseni</i>							
Pacific Golden Plover.		2	11				13
<i>Pluvialis dominica</i>							

Sector	1	2	3	4	5	6	Total
Black-bellied Plover. <i>Pluvialis squatorola</i>	1						1
Wandering Tattler. <i>Heteroscelus incanus</i>		6					6
Ruddy Turnstone. <i>Arenaria interpres</i>		29					29
Sanderling. <i>Calidris alba</i>		3					3
Dunlin. <i>Calidris alpina</i>		1					1
Rock Dove. <i>Columba livia</i>		60				6	66
Spotted Dove. <i>Streptopelia chinensis</i>	47	24	4		3	14	92
Zebra Dove. <i>Geopelia striata</i>	34	36	6	3	2	11	92
Rose-ringed Parakeet. <i>Psittacula krameri</i>	3						3
Barn Owl. <i>Tyto alba</i>	1						1
Skylark. <i>Alauda arvensis</i>						16	16
Red-billed Leiothrix <i>Leiothrix lutea</i>					6		6
Common Myna. <i>Acridotheres tristis</i>	56	308	190	4	10	36	604
House Finch. <i>Carpodacus mexicanus</i>	52	77	60		20		209
Yellow-fronted Canary. <i>Serinus mozambicus</i>		2	30		76	6	114
Saffron Finch. <i>Sicalis flaveola</i>	1	2	28				31
Yellow-billed Cardinal. <i>Paroaria capitata</i>	8	21					29
Cardinal. <i>Cardinalis cardinalis</i>	8	16	10		13	6	53
Japanese White-eye. <i>Zosterops japonicus</i>	37	26	64		78		205
House Sparrow. <i>Passer domesticus</i>	1	141				40	182
Common Amakihi. <i>Hemignathus virens virens</i>			30		199	3	232
I'iwi. <i>Vestiaria coccinea</i>					8		8
Apapane. <i>Himantopus mexicanus</i>					160		160
Lavender Waxbill. <i>Estrilda caerulea</i>	8	6	4				18
Red Avadavat. <i>Amandava amandava</i>			15				15
Warbling Silverbill. <i>Lonchura malabarica</i>		5	90				95
Nutmeg Mannikin. <i>Lonchura punctulata</i>	15	331	23		31		400
Java Sparrow. <i>Padda oryzivora</i>	99			14			113



Male and female Northern Pintail.

Photo by Reginald E. David

**Totals:**

Individuals	372	1339	589	25	613	149	3066
Species	15	28	18	3	13	12	43
Party Hours	1.5	1.75	3	3	2.25	1.5	13

Hawaiian Hoary Bat ( <i>Lasiurus cinereus semotus</i> )	2						2
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Puu Lani Ranch (outside count area): Nene  
(*Nesochen sandvicensis*) 6

Habitat coverage (party hours): Coastal areas and shoreline ponds 12%, residential 35%, mountain forest 18%, grasslands and pasture 35%.

P.O. Box 1371  
Kailua-Kona, Hawaii 96745

**NEW DIRECTOR APPOINTED**

At its April meeting, the Board of Directors appointed Synthia Tang to fill a vacancy. HAS welcomes Ms. Tang to the board.

**ENVIRONMENTAL DIRECTORY AVAILABLE**

The Hawaii Audubon Society recently published the *Hawai'i Green Pages*, a directory compiled in celebration of Earth Day 1990. The directory lists over 150 environmental efforts in Hawai'i. For a free copy, send a self-addressed stamped #10 envelope to Directory, Hawaii Audubon Society, 212 Merchant Street, Room 320, Honolulu, HI 96813.

## CONSERVATION NEWS

**Meetings:** M. Casey Jarman and Marjorie Ziegler for Hawaii Audubon Society, Dr. Steven Montgomery for Conservation Council for Hawai'i, Cyndi White for Natural Resources Defense Council Hawai'i Office, and Lola Mench for Sierra Club Hawai'i Chapter met with Bob Ruesink, chief of the Listing and Recovery Branch Region 1, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) on 5 April 1990. Ruesink was visiting Hawai'i to assess FWS field operations here, including staffing, availability of information on Hawaiian plants and animals, and listing and recovery procedures. HAS presented information on Hawai'i's endangered species situation and recommendations for implementing necessary conservation tasks. Specifically, HAS representatives discussed the possibility of increased FWS personnel in Hawai'i, expansion of the Hawai'i Cooperative Fisheries Research Unit to include a wildlife component, federal funding for listed-species recovery efforts, and Hawai'i Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) initiatives such as efforts to accommodate land uses while mitigating negative impacts to endangered plants (e.g., *Achyranthes* at Barber's Point, O'ahu, and *Mezoneuron* (uhi'uhi) at Kealakehe on the Big Island).

The second Aloha `Aina Congress convenes on Maui on Saturday and Sunday, 19 and 20 May 1990. Donna Wong, Hawai'i's Thousand Friends, 261-8292, has more information.

The Environmental Legislative Network, an informal group following environmental issues, is sponsoring a public workshop and meeting on the laws and rules regulating the State's Conservation District. The possibility of expanding the existing environmental network will also be discussed. The workshop/meeting is tentatively scheduled for Saturday, 2 June 1990 at the State Capitol. Call Susan Miller, 533-1075, for more information.

**Legislative Update:** First, the good news: It looks as if jurisdiction over Kawai Nui Marsh on Windward O'ahu may finally be transferred from the City and County of Honolulu to the Hawai'i Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR). Hawaii and National Audubon Societies have supported this transfer in the past. DLNR will be managing and enhancing waterbird habitat, if the transfer occurs. HAS and NAS commend State Representative Ed Bybee and others for their efforts to get this legislation passed.

For the second time around, HAS and others, including DLNR, testified in favor of resolutions relating to recovery teams for endangered and threatened species. Representative Mark Andrews introduced, heard, and passed out of his committee (Planning, Energy, and Environmental Protection) House Concurrent Resolution 273 and House Resolution 283, which specifically request FWS to re-establish recovery teams to develop and implement recovery plans for Hawaiian listed species. A

similar resolution, Senate Concurrent Resolution 219, was passed out of Senator Donna Ikeda's Committee on Agriculture recently. Thirteen plans covering 31 of Hawai'i's 58 listed species have been prepared and approved by FWS to date; most of these plans were written in the early 1980s. Recovery teams for most of these species are non-existent, and recovery tasks identified as essential to the continued survival of the species have not been implemented in any organized and systematic way. HAS and NAS commend Representative Andrews and Senator Ikeda for introducing this legislation.

HAS testified in support of House Concurrent Resolution 330 and House Resolution 340, requesting a temporary slowdown of the 500-megawatt geothermal-cable project and that a panel of independent experts together with representatives of affected residents at the proposed sites, be convened with the Governor to review utility planning and technical, economic, environmental, and social issues relating to the project. The resolutions, introduced by Representative Michael O'Kieffe, were heard by Representative Andrews (standing room only) and were passed out of committee with amendments. At press time, the resolutions were scheduled to go next to the full House for a vote, crossover to the Senate if passed by the House, and, hopefully, heard and passed out of Senator Richard Matsuura's Energy and Natural Resources Committee and the full Senate.

On a less positive note, House Concurrent Resolution 202 and House Resolution 187, requesting FWS to designate critical habitat for endangered and threatened Hawaiian species were held in the House Committee on Planning, Energy, and Environmental Protection after conflicting testimony was presented. Conservation organizations, including Hawaii and National Audubon Societies, Hawai'i's Thousand Friends, and Conservation Council for Hawai'i, supported these resolutions, pointing to the importance of formally identifying and protecting habitat for endangered and threatened species. The Division of Forestry and Wildlife, DLNR, opposed the resolutions, suggesting that FWS would make a blanket designation for all Hawaiian species in a single action. FWS considers designation of critical habitat on a species-by-species basis. The federal Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended, requires FWS to consider designation of critical habitat for each species at the time of its listing, and to conduct an economic analysis for each designation, a taxon- and site-specific procedure. The act also allows for exceptions to designating critical habitat if it is not beneficial to the species to do so or if critical habitat is not determinable. FWS may also designate critical habitat for species previously listed for which critical habitat has not been designated. FWS has designated critical habitat for three taxa of Hawaiian plants, the Hawaiian Monk Seal (*Monachus schauinslandi*), and the Palila (*Loxioides bailleui*). Critical habitat has not been designated for the remaining 53 endangered and threatened Hawaiian species, including 29 taxa of birds.

HAS and others testified in support of House Bill 2217 H.D. 1, which would require a 30-day comment period for environmental assessments. The bill, however, was held in committee by Senator Ikeda. The bill is a preventive measure against lawsuits and other disputes over environmental assessments and subsequent negative declarations. Public input would be made available early in the planning and assessment process. Interestingly, the Hawaiian Electric Company also supported the bill, stating that the bill's objectives were in the company's best interest. Jim Morrow of the American Lung Association and Jacquelin Miller of the University of Hawaii Environmental Center provided Senator Ikeda with additional information in support of the bill. DLNR and the City and County of Honolulu Department of General Planning opposed the bill.

Senator Ikeda asked about the status of the review and assessment of Hawai'i's environmental assessment law (Hawaii Revised Statutes Chapter 343), which was to be conducted by the Environmental Center. Funding appropriated for the review and assessment in 1989 is still being processed by the Hawai'i Department of Health Office of Environmental Quality Control. Senator Ikeda stated that she would look into the funding situation so that the review and assessment could begin as soon as possible. Perhaps this important piece of legislation will be passed next session when more information on the environmental assessment process is available to our elected officials, the City and County of Honolulu, and DLNR.

As of mid-April, Senate Concurrent Resolution 70 and Senate Resolution 61 requesting the Hawai'i Department of Transportation to prepare an environmental impact statement for the spraying of herbicides along Hawai'i's roadsides and to notify the public before, during, and after spraying had not been scheduled for public hearing by Senator Donna Ikeda. The HAS Conservation Committee has noted broad community opposition to the spraying and lack of public notification. There are also alternatives to spraying, such as no spraying, landscaping with low-maintenance plants, and manual and mechanical removal of weeds.

**Hawai'i Water Plan:** HAS submitted comments to the Hawai'i Commission on Water Resource Management on the draft Hawaii Water Resources Protection Plan, one component of the Hawaii Water Plan required by the State Water Code (Hawaii Revised Statutes Chapter 174). HAS made the following points with regard to the draft protection plan:

1) Instream uses such as habitat for native stream fauna and endangered waterbirds, as well as recreation and scenic areas, have not been assessed and are not adequately discussed in the plan.

2) The plan is seriously deficient by not providing a framework or specific recommendations for the protection and management of streams (e.g., identification of key habitat streams and means of determining minimum conservation stream flows for native stream fauna).

3) The plan does not adequately discuss and incorporate existing assessments, inventories, and surveys of streams and native stream fauna such as the Hawaii Stream Assessment, Na Pali Coast Kaua'i stream surveys, and The Nature Conservancy of Hawaii Heritage Program's data base on rare native species and natural communities.

Possibly, the Commission will approve the Hawaii Water Plan by 1 July 1990 (required by the State Water Code) in the form of a "first cut," and the Commission's staff will continue to work with the public on the plan so that Hawai'i's water resources will be protected and properly managed for their various uses and benefits.

\* \* \* \* \*

For information on conservation items call Marjorie Ziegler, HAS Conservation Committee, 528-1432. The Conservation Committee meets on the second Monday of the month in the HAS office at 6:00 P.M. before the HAS Board Meeting. If you plan to attend either meeting, please call in advance so that we can make arrangements to let you in the building.

## FILING CABINET NEEDED

Once again we are looking for a new or used four-drawer filing cabinet. Please call the office, 528-1432, and leave a message if you can donate one. All contributions are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.

## ART SHOW JUDGES NAMED

Elaine Murphy, Coordinator of the Mayor's Office of Culture and the Arts, Bruce D. Eilerts, wildlife photographer and former President of the Hawaii Audubon Society, and Norman Nagai, first place winner of the 1989 wildlife art contest have been named judges for this year's event.

This year the opening reception and auction will be on Saturday, 16 June, from 5 to 9 P.M. at Pacific Island Arts Gallery, North Shore Marketplace, 66-250 Kamehameha Highway, Hale'iwa, HI. The HAS will retain a portion of the auction proceeds. Members and their friends are invited to attend the opening night festivities. For information on participating in the show, see the following call for entries.

**ATTENTION ARTISTS AND PHOTOGRAPHERS--CALL FOR ENTRIES**

Plans are underway for the Hawaii Audubon Society's Annual Wildlife Art Exposition, contest, and sale. Once again, the event will be hosted by Pacific Island Arts Gallery in Hale'iwa in June 1990. The opening night festivities, auction, and awards ceremony will be on Saturday, 16 June, 5:00 P.M. to 9:00 P.M. Subject matter is limited to any species of mammal, bird, fish, invertebrate, or plant residing in the Pacific region, extending from northernmost Hawai'i, east to the Galapagos, and all of Polynesia and Micronesia. To receive an entry form, send a self-addressed, stamped envelope to Wildlife Art Exposition, Hawaii Audubon Society, 212 Merchant Street, Room 320, Honolulu, HI 96813.

**MAHALO DONORS!**

The Hawaii Audubon Society thanks the following members and friends for their generous contributions. This list reflects donations received from 24 February, 1990 through 14 April, 1990.

Thomas Aitken, Andrew Amuro, Marda Barthuli, Cynthia Bennett, Z. W. Brown, Jr., Barbara J. Carr, Henry Chapin, Patrick Ching, Donald Crossley, Carolyn Damon, Alicia Davies, Bruce D. Eilerts, Mary Evanson, Mark Gillett, Estella Grantham, Vikki Greive, Rick and Lisa Hand, Suzan Harada, Esmeralda Head, Steven Hodges, Susan Hower, Judith Kearney, Mary Louise Kekuewa, Eda Kinnear, Vernon Knight, Irma Lai, Amy Lannan, Alan Littau, Arnold Lum, and Robert Lupton.

Also, Sandra Machiels, Nina Maxwell, Brian McKnight, Brien Meilleur, Sherree Moore, Marie Morin and Joel Simasko, Patricia Moriyasu, Jerome Muller, Grace Omura, Margaret Person, James Place, C.E. Probst, Jr., Dean Rendina, Stephanie Ross, Norene Sato, Lyn Scanlon, Denis Simpson, Jim Snyder, Sharon Snyder, F.N. Souza-Tavares, Thomas Stevens, Scott Stewart, Patricia Swartz, Carol Tenopir, Alexa and Ronald Vaught, Corrine Waterhouse, Howard Wiig, Helen Wooley, and Marjorie Ziegler.

**AND MAHALO TO VOLUNTEERS!**

Special thanks to Earl Fox, Lynne Matusow, Beverly McGaha, Christy Moore, Lucia ten Have-Kurata, Jean Tilton, Patricia Tummons, and Marjorie Ziegler for their help in preparing the by-laws amendment mailing.

**MAY PROGRAM: NORTHWESTERN HAWAIIAN ISLANDS WILDLIFE**

William Gilmartin, Marine Mammals and Endangered Species Coordinator for the National Marine Fisheries Service in Honolulu, will discuss the wildlife of the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands at the Hawaii Audubon Society General Meeting on Monday, 21 May. The

meeting will be held in the Atherton Halau at the Bishop Museum and begins at 7:30 P.M. All are welcome, and refreshments will be served.

**MAY FIELD TRIP: MOKAPU WALK**

The Hawaii Audubon Society will conduct a 1-mile walk (2-3 hours) on Mokapu Peninsula, Windward O'ahu, on Sunday, 20 May. Reservations are required; this trip is limited to 25 people. Glenys Owen Miller will lead the walk, which features a Red-footed Booby nesting colony and other seabirds; possibly, marine mammals and sea turtles; and spectacular views of Windward O'ahu. Hiking shoes, a hat, sunscreen, binoculars, camera, and water are recommended. Meet in front of the State Library on Punchbowl Street at 7:30 A.M. or at the Kane'ohē Marine Corps Air Station H-3 gate parking lot at 8:30 A.M. Contact Glenys Owen Miller, 261-0558.

**HAWAII AUDUBON SOCIETY**

212 Merchant Street, Room 320  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813  
(808) 528-1432

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### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- May 14 (Mon.) Conservation Committee Meeting at the HAS office at 6:00 P.M. Call Marjorie Ziegler for details, 528-1432.
- May 14 (Mon.) Board Meeting at the HAS office at 7:00 P.M. Call M. Casey Jarman for details, 948-9789 (wk), 263-4070 (hm).
- May 20 (Sun.) Mokapu Peninsula walk. Details Page 45.
- May 21 (Mon.) General Meeting in the Atherton Hall at the Bishop Museum, 7:30 P.M. Program: Wildlife of the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands, by William Gilmartin. See Page 45.

#### Coming in June:

- June 16 (Sat.) Wildlife Art Exposition and Sale and Opening Night Gala, 5:00 to 9:00 P.M., Pacific Island Arts Gallery, North Shore Marketplace 66-250 Kamehameha Highway, Hale'iwa.

HAWAII AUDUBON SOCIETY  
 212 MERCHANT STREET, ROOM 320  
 HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

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### TABLE OF CONTENTS

North Kona Christmas Count 1989  
 Reginald E. David.....41

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