

Hawai'i Is Being Invaded by Illegal Alien Animals and Plants

by Rae Alice Hall

Piranha, snakes, iguanas, cougars, alligators, and bats have something in common. They are all illegal in Hawai'i and in the past few years each and every one of them have been smuggled into the state.

The capture of an exotic animal makes amusing reading on the front page of the newspaper, but the smuggling of illegal animals and plants is no laughing matter. Alien species pose a serious threat to Hawai'i's economy, environment, and the health of its citizens.

Bats carry rabies, snakes eat the eggs of nesting birds, and piranha are not something you want swimming in your rivers and streams.

According to Carroll Cox of the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS), most smugglers of exotic animals and other creatures are collectors. Their methods of sneaking the animals into Hawai'i, he says, run the gamut. People send the creatures by express mail, hidden in luggage, or concealed in their clothing.

"One of the major problems with introduced species," Cox says, "is that they have no natural enemies here to check their growth." He feels that the best way to deal with this very serious situation is to increase fines and penalties for wrongdoers and to make Hawai'i's citizens more aware of the problem.

"We really need to depend on the public," Cox says. (A tip from a concerned citizen resulted in the recent confiscation of a cougar on Hawai'i Loa Ridge.) If someone knows of an illegal pet, all they have to do is contact the USFWS at 541-2681.

Larry Nakahara of the State's Plant Quarantine Inspection division says that they are

seeing much more animal smuggling now than 10 years ago. He believes a more affluent society may be part of the problem. Exotic pets are "in style." The Quarantine Inspection people use specially trained dogs to sniff out illegal animals and plants at the airport and at express mail centers.

This year the legislature passed a law setting the maximum fine for animal smuggling at \$10,000. Jail sentences are being considered.

Cougars, alligators, snakes, iguanas, and piranha are only the latest in a long line of unwelcome creatures that have been inflicted on our environment over the years. Axis deer have multiplied out of control and are causing serious damage on some of the neighbor islands, and wild pigs and goats are destroying the rain forests. The Red-vented Bulbul, a bird imported from India, thrives on commercially grown flowers and produce.

Illegal animals are not the only problem. Imported alien plants, along with the insects and diseases they bring with them, are a menace of gigantic proportions. The Hawai'i State Office of the National Audubon Society, through its Alien Species Alert Program (ASAP), has launched a war on alien species.

Some examples ASAP Coordinator Sheila Laffey lists are anthurium blight, banana bunchy top disease, the lesser cornstalk borer, fruit fly, mosquitos, and termites. Millions of dollars are spent in the state each year to deal with these infestations.

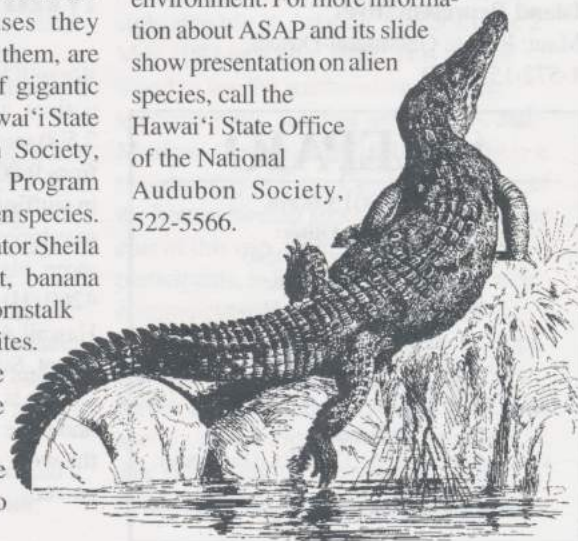
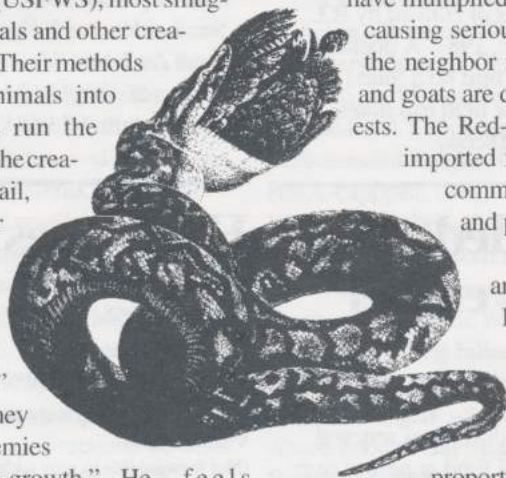
Undesirable alien plants include Koster's curse and banana poka, two

fast growing species that are destroying Hawai'i's native forests.

The brown tree snake situation in Guam is a good example of what an introduced species can do to an island ecosystem. According to Thomas Fritts of the USFWS, there are as many as 30,000 brown tree snakes per square mile in some areas of Guam.

In the last three years, the island has suffered 250 power outages because the snakes climb the utility poles. Several species of native birds are now extinct. Six brown tree snakes have been found on O'ahu so far. Fortunately, all have been destroyed. With the USFWS, Laffey has conducted brown tree snake workshops for Hawaiian Electric Company linesmen. Even a respected organization like the National Geographic Society is not above reproach. Linda Paul of the Hawai'i Audubon Society received a packet of wildflower seeds in the mail from National Geographic. The seeds were an advertising gimmick to promote a new nature study book. The seeds are not native to Hawai'i and could harbor insects or diseases that could be harmful. Paul feels that stricter laws could prevent this sort of thing.

Public awareness and public involvement are our best hope for protecting Hawai'i's environment. For more information about ASAP and its slide show presentation on alien species, call the Hawai'i State Office of the National Audubon Society, 522-5566.



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Hawaii's Birds by the Hawaii Audubon Society, 4th edition, 1989. Over 150 color photographs and illustrations. \$10.50 per copy (\$8.95 plus \$1.55 postage).

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Send orders, with check payable to the Hawaii Audubon Society, to Hawaii Audubon Society, 212 Merchant St., Suite 320, Honolulu, HI 96813. 

Help Needed for 23 November Mailing

We will be mailing ballots, dues renewal notices, and our annual fund appeal to over 2,500 members on Saturday, 23 November, from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. We need help in stuffing, addressing, and sealing envelopes. If you can give us an hour or more, please call Lynne Matusow, 531-4260 (H). The mailing party will be at the Hawaii Audubon office, 212 Merchant Street, Suite 320.

This is a great way to meet new people and have fun while helping Audubon get the work done. Refreshments will be served.

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Via bulk mail	6.00
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GREENPRINT

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AUDUBON AROUND THE GLOBE: 1991 CONVENTION

by Sheila A. Laffey

Eight hundred Auduboners and friends convened in Estes Park, Colorado, ducking the rains while scurrying in and out of over 50 workshops. Participants included Audubon chapter leaders from the US, Latin America and the Caribbean, Audubon sanctuary managers and Soviet and American Indian friends working with Audubon on various projects.

Once I had 6 blankets on my bed at night and had bought warm rain gear I happily settled in to participate. I learned more about the ways in which Audubon plays a major international role in protecting forests, wetlands and wildlife. Highlights of the convention included wetlands workshops led by regional wetlands coordinators, including Larry Thompson whose Southeast Regional office is responsible for much of the Everglades campaign. Other presentations included those on youth education in Costa Rica, television and computer software that leaps language barriers, ancient forest protection in the Northwest and the Alaska-Hawaii Regional office's work on Berengia in the Soviet Union.

The first workshop I attended was on the reauthorization of the Endangered Species Act which was led by Randy Snodgrass, Director of Audubon's Wildlife Program, and Jim Waitman, Wildlife Policy Specialist. Since 10% of endangered species receive 90% of the funding a proposed Endangered Ecosystem Act would have a more multi-species focus. The Hawaii State Office will closely coordinate with Audubon's Washington, DC office staff as the time to reauthorize the federal Endangered Species Act draws near. With more than 70% of all U.S. extinctions in the past 200 years, Hawaii must be at the forefront of the fight for stronger species protection.

Lutzenberger spoke with hope of the June, 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development to be held in Brazil. Representatives from 100-150 countries will participate in what will be the largest environmental meeting in history. He spoke eloquently of the type of thinking that leads to references to "developing countries." He noted that we expect such countries to "develop" along our lines. He criticized the Judeo-Christian plan in which mankind is viewed as the only species that matters and that has exclu-



from left to right: Alvaro Umana, Former Secretary of Environment & Mining of Costa Rica; Jose Lutzenberger, Environmental Minister of Brazil; Peter Berle, President of National Audubon Society

At dinner I met Chris Wille, Co-Director of the Tropical Conservation Newsbureau in Costa Rica. When I mentioned that he must have been relieved when the new Environmental Minister was appointed in Brazil he informed me that Jose Lutzenberger was flying in from Brazil and would be addressing the convention that very evening. I realized even more strongly than before the incredible outreach and clout that the Audubon network encompasses. Lutzenberger, one of my heroes, had been a chemical engineer before becoming an environmental activist in South America and recently was appointed to his new position.

sive rights. I was surprised to hear that the aluminum cans (which Americans may virtuously recycle) are actually causing whole mountains to be destroyed in Brazil for the sake of cheap aluminum. He exclaimed that man must transcend his anthropocentrism which views the world as a "heap of resources there for the taking."

Lutzenberger next attacked countries' needs to have growing GNP's (Gross National Products) so that acquisitive behavior snowballs. He felt that the happiest people he ever met were aborigines. The monies Brazil earns for exports such as iron ore or aluminum are added as foreign currency for the GNP "but

(continued next page)

OBNOXIOUS NOXIOUS WEEDS

A government regulation which could protect Hawai'i's native species from harm is the State of Hawai'i's rules on noxious weeds. A plant listed as a noxious weed may not be brought into the state. If the weed is already present in Hawai'i the state is authorized to quarantine, control or eradicate it.

The existing rules on noxious weeds, including the list of 60 prohibited plants, were last revised a decade ago. The state is currently proposing to add 15 new weeds to the list. It is critical to the health of our native ecosystems that all existing and potential plant pests be listed.

Although commerce in propagative parts (shoots, seeds, etc.) of noxious weeds is illegal, it is difficult to monitor. An informed public will help to reduce the demand for pest plants. Of the 50 weed species in Hawai'i targeted for biocontrol approximately 40 were deliberately introduced, mostly as ornamental plants for local gardens.

The Department of Agriculture (DOA), which administers the noxious weed rules focuses largely on agricultural pests rather than forest weeds, even though weeds infesting forest areas may also naturalize in pasture lands. *Myrica faya*, or firetree is an example.

Some troublesome forest weeds not on the current list, such as *Miconia* and *Ilbouchingia*, are now proposed for listing by the DOA. Both are a particular problem on the Big Island, where they are used as ornamentals. These plants reproduce rapidly; each fruit is filled with tiny seeds which easily disperse.

A potential loophole in the noxious weed rules exempts some noxious weeds from control or eradication efforts if "the specific noxious weed is commercially cultivated as a crop for food, feed, or ornamental purposes." Australian tree fern, sold in Hawai'i as an ornamental plant is also a noxious weed in our national parks and on state conservation lands. And *Coccinea grandis* (ivy gourd), a vine in the cucumber family which strangles trees and other vegetation, is sometimes eaten by Southeast Asians in Hawai'i. In spite of its use as a food item, ivy gourd is now proposed for listing because of the extensive damage it has caused to native forests.

WHAT YOU CAN DO:

Public testimony will be accepted on the proposed additions to the noxious weed list. Audubon is preparing a list of noxious weeds which adds to the list of 15 weeds proposed by the Department of Agriculture. Call Dr. Sheila Laffey at 522-5566 to receive a copy of Audubon's recommendations.



ivy gourd flower

As Greenprint went to press the Department of Agriculture had not yet announced dates and times for public hearings. Call the DOA on your island for information. Written testimony may be submitted up to five days after the hearings are held. Address your comments to: Yukio Kitagawa, Chairman; Department of Agriculture; 1428 S. King Street; Honolulu, HI 96814.

Department of Agriculture:

O'ahu 973-9538; Maui 871-5656; Moloka'i 567-6150;
Kona 323-2608; Kaua'i 241-3413; Hilo 933-4447

Convention continued . . .

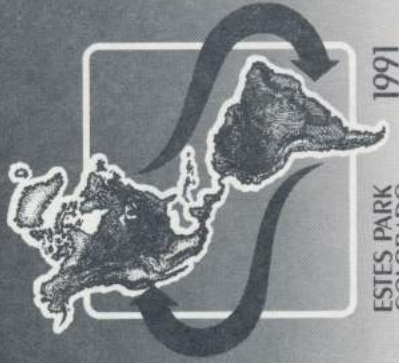
nowhere do we deduct the mountains lost." His other example involved Alaska and the state of Washington which showed only income from the sale of logs but nothing is deducted for "something that has no price." He decried the loss of 800 year old trees that are destroyed in 8 minutes. Lutzenberger exclaimed that the "symphony of organic evolution" is not present in our economic approach and that we must "integrate civilization with nature or we will not survive."

He observed that we need a "political critique of technology" since to-day science and technology are used synonymously. He argued that science involves ethical decisions and was a religion. He observed that the more the pure scientist sees the more he wants to preserve while theocrat uses tools and instruments to dominate. He spoke of the billions of tons of non-recyclable materials used in our cars as an egregious example. He felt that President Bush "wants more snow on the snowball," and that pressure must be exerted to change our priorities.

A rapt audience gave Lutzenberger a thunderous standing ovation. I walked out into the moist night air stunned by his talk and found myself walking behind him on the way back to my room. I couldn't resist telling him what a difference it makes knowing he is doing what he's doing. What a difference it could make if we heeded his messages.

The slide presentation by Dorie Boize, Director of Audubon's Wildlife Trade Program, was of particular interest to me because of the Honolulu office's work on alien pest species. It is largely through her program's efforts that airlines such as Lufthansa and Northwest have decided not to ship any more endangered birds. The program also focuses on consumer education since less consumer demand for such products and wildlife pets results in less loss of endangered species. Since the US is the world's biggest importer of birds caught in the wild (3.5 million birds between 1984 and 1987 alone) we can make the biggest impact on saving them. The program is also working for passage of the Exotic Bird Conservation Act. Dorie's advice: "If in doubt, don't buy."

AUDUBON
IN THE
AMERICAS



ESTES PARK
COLORADO

1991

When cattle ranch interests launched a nationwide boycott of the sponsors of the most recent Audubon special, The New Range Wars, Ford dropped its advertising from the June TBS broadcasts. General Electric has continued its support so far in spite of cattle industry pressure.

Turner's sense of humor pervaded even his bleakest insights. He is replacing the cattle he inherited when he bought 105,000 acres with buffalo which he says are "more benign to riparian zones and better looking" than cattle. He noted that on his land there are "no pesticides, no farming and not much income, I might add." He noted that "the most endangered species or as endangered as anything is ourselves." Citing Lester Brown's World Watch Institute Reports Turner noted that solutions to many environmental problems already exist.

The Hawaii state office actively participated in the convention by our Alien Species Alert Program (ASAP) slide show presented, appropriately enough, in the Rainbow Room and by the presence of the ASAP display.

In addition to all the astounding amount of information and extensive support networking which the Convention offered, I was also treated to the great Rocky Mountain outdoors. The sight of my first golden eagle sighted through a telescope on a raptors' hike inspired the beginnings of my life list which now includes the Western tanager, Mountain bluebird and three hummingbird species (callope, broadtail and rufous). The convention had come full circle for me; the glories of the natural world of Colorado, while not as astounding as the lushness of native Hawaii, were nonetheless breathtaking. I realized that it is such "symphonies of organic evolution", as Lutzenberger would say, that makes all the work worthwhile.

WHAT YOU CAN DO:

- Support is needed for reauthorization of the Endangered Species Act which faces enormous opposition from miners, loggers, shrimpers and developers. Please call the Hawai'i State Office of National Audubon Society at 522-5566 to see how you can help.
- Support is also needed for National Audubon Specials. Send a note encouraging General Electric to continue underwriting the Audubon TV Specials to: John F. Welch, Jr.

Communicator extraordinaire, Ted Turner, accompanied by Jane Fonda, was, like Lutzenberger, another show stopper. National Audubon Specials are co-produced with Turner Broadcasting.

Chairman of the Board
General Electric
3135 Easton Turnpike
Fairfield, Connecticut 06431

National Board Flocks to Hawai'i

For the first time, the National Audubon Society Board of Directors held its quarterly meeting in Honolulu. "It has been a marvelous opportunity to showcase our Audubon chapter's work in the islands protecting native wildlife and their habitats for 52 years," said Hawai'i State Office Director Dana Kokubun. "Because of an excellent turnout of local Audubon members and friends to the board meeting and the associated field trips and activities, many new links were established between the national organization and Hawai'i."

One of the highlights of the three-day meeting was a day long field trip to Kaula'i. The board participated in dedicating a wetlands restoration project at Hanalei National Wildlife Refuge. The first of its kind in the islands under a federal joint venture program initiated by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (FWS), the restoration of an 18 acre parcel was cosponsored by Fish & Wildlife, National Audubon, and Ducks Unlimited.

Audubon President Peter Berle, State Office Director Kokubun and representatives from the FWS and Ducks Unlimited donned hard hats and symbolically broke ground with golden spades. The FWS hopes to have the cleared site filled with water and endangered waterbirds by next summer. Ironically, permit approval from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act is the only remaining paper "hurdle" to the project. The 404 permit process is generally known as the battlefield for wetland conservationists seeking to stop development projects which would destroy wetlands.

Following the dedication ceremony, the 75 member Audubon group was treated to a mouth-watering display of taro products, courtesy of the farmers that still plant and harvest taro on the refuge lands. By cooperative agreement several active taro farms which co-exist with the managed refuge wetlands and their feathered inhabitants.

Back in Waikiki the same evening, the Audubon board hosted a reception for members and friends at the Sheraton Moana Surfside. Among those in attendance were State Representative Jackie Young, State Senators Mary George and Anthony Chang, and Councilmember Steve Holmes.



from left to right: John Doebel & Richard Voss, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service; Andy Engills, Ducks Unlimited; Dana Kokubun & Peter Berle, National Audubon

Richard Chamberlain, an ardent conservationist and longtime friend of Audubon, made a few impromptu remarks on his commitment to host a new Audubon television special on Hawai'i.

Reginald David, President of the Hawai'i Audubon Society spoke about the commitment of the local chapter and the national organization to common goals. He then presented a gift of \$1000 to President Berle for the Hawai'i State Office's Alien Species Alert Program (ASAP).

Hawaiian Electric Industries Charitable Foundation, represented by Scott Shirai, was acknowledged for their recent generous support of an educational quiz show for Hawai'i's high school students. Paradise Pursuits will focus on testing students knowledge of Hawaiian natural history in a competitive game show format. Discussion with a local television station is now underway regarding broadcast of the finals next spring or fall.


Proposed Constitutional Amendment

The following proposed change to the Hawaii Audubon Society's constitution was approved by the Board of Directors at its September meeting. The Board recommends a yes vote. Ballots will be sent in late November to all members entitled to vote on the changes. Ballots must be returned by noon, Monday, 16 December. The amendment will take effect upon ratification.

The proposed amendment follows. Bracketed items indicate deleted language; underlined items indicate new language.

ARTICLE II PURPOSE

Section 2. The aims of the SOCIETY are: (1) to arouse public appreciation of the beauty and economic value of wildlife and to stimulate action to preserve and protect it; (2) to preserve an adequate breeding stock of all native wildlife for the enjoyment and material benefit of mankind; (3) to preserve environmental conditions of ample food, water and cover on the maintenance of which all wildlife is dependent for survival; (4) to foster public education and research on Hawaii's native wildlife; (5) to fix guardianship responsibilities on Federal, State or competent private agencies for safeguarding all species threatened with extinction [.] ; (6) to protect the interests of its members as beneficiaries of Hawaii's public land trusts.

Rationale for change: This change will avoid any challenge to Hawaii Audubon Society's standing to contest mismanagement of Hawaii's public trust lands that wastes trust assets but that doesn't have direct adverse environmental effects. 

Mahalo Donors

The Hawaii Audubon Society thanks the following members and friends for their generous donations:


Carter Atkinson, Joseph Bussen, Dr. Robert Fleischer, Betsy Gagne, Sibyl Heide, Patrick Ikeda, J. H. Johansson, Nadine Lockitch, Cathy Paxton, Robert Petersen, Mark Wimer, and Beth Workman.

Comments on the Proposed Constitutional Amendment

by Carl Christensen

The major part of the State of Hawai'i's public lands are held in two public land trusts: the Ceded Lands Trust, established in Section 5(f) of the Hawai'i Admission Act, and the Hawaiian Home Lands Trust, established in the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act of 1920 (HHCA). The HHCA is intended to benefit native Hawaiians (defined as "any descendent of not less than one-half part of the blood of the races inhabiting the Hawaiian Islands previous to 1778"). All citizens of the State of Hawai'i are beneficiaries of the Ceded Lands Trust established in the Hawai'i Admission Act. Under the terms of Section 5(f) of the Admission Act, the federal government returned certain lands to state control and set them aside "for the support of the public schools and other public educational institutions, for the betterment of the conditions of native Hawaiians, as defined in the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act, 1920, as amended, for the development of farm and home ownership on as widespread a basis as possible for the making of public improvements, and for the provision of lands for public use." Accordingly, all HAS members who are Hawai'i residents are beneficiaries of one or both of these land trusts and have an

interest in their proper management.

The state's management of the Section 5(f) and HHCA trusts has been controversial. Many believe the state has improperly allowed trust lands to be used for unauthorized purposes or to be made available to private interests for low rental rates that do not reflect the true value of the land. Often these improper management practices, while not in direct violation of federal or state environmental laws, permit environmentally destructive activities to take place on ecologically sensitive public lands, subsidize economic activities that adversely impact native plants and animals, or impose restrictions on public access to public lands having high recreational value. The proposed amendment will strengthen HAS' claim to have legal "standing" to challenge state land management practices where the environmental harm is not the result of violations of laws traditionally regarded as having "environmental protection" as their primary intent but is instead caused by actions that breach the state's duties as trustee of the public land trusts. (For more information on standing see the article on citizen suit provisions, 'Elepaio, July 1991, 51:7, page 43.) 

Join Our Phone Tree

The Hawaii Audubon Society is growing a phone tree—a chain of people who can make calls to decision-makers on environmental issues. This allows the environmental community to respond very quickly with public pressure on important issues. In the last legislative session our budding phone tree helped raise grass root support for the Superfund Bill and the effort to keep unagi eels out of Hawai'i.

The phone tree is quite simple. When we need some public support of, or opposition to, a particular piece of legislation, we start calling phone tree members. As a participant, you will get a call explaining the issue and the pertinent names and phone numbers of key committee members. (Don't worry about having to know every

detail of the issue. The aide you will be talking to mainly needs to know if you support or oppose the legislation, what the bill or resolution number is, and your name and phone number.)

The beauty of this tree is that it requires no money. There is no mailing involved. Also, it can move very rapidly, applying pressure where it is needed in a matter of days. But, the best thing is that it involves citizens by providing an opportunity to be heard.

To join our phone tree, call David Hill at 943-2784.

BOOK REVIEWS by Bruce D. Eilerts

Shorebirds: An Identification Guide

John Marchant and Tony Prater, illustrated by Peter Hayman, 412 pages, including 88 color plates, 213 range maps, and line drawings. Paperback edition 1991, \$24.95, Houghton Mifflin Company, 215 Park Avenue South, New York, NY 10003.

Birders and naturalists alike who frequent the world's wetlands, especially along continental coasts and oceanic islands, will find *Shorebirds: An Identification Guide* extremely useful and informative. The book is a complete reference which covers every shorebird species in the world. The book is available in cloth, and more recently, paperback. The cloth version is 6" x 9-1/2" and makes a hardy and handsome reference to one's natural history library. The paperback version is more compact and flexible, allowing for more convenient use while traveling or in the field.

The book's color plates are well organized and have been arranged for easy species comparison, an identification strategy much appreciated by anyone comparing, for example, two similar looking species such as Western and Semipalmated Sandpipers. The difficulty involved with identifying shorebirds varying in age and plumage is ad-

ressed successfully by the authors through accurate color depictions and text descriptions. The fact that the book's range maps are placed immediately opposite the color plates makes shorebird identification and distributional information immediately available for quick reference. Brief life histories precede species descriptions as the reader peruses the various families of shorebirds, arranged in proper taxonomic sequence.

It is well known that shorebirds range worldwide in a variety of habitats and are regularly encountered while venturing into the field. This book has been observed in the hands and libraries of friends and colleagues in North America, Hawai'i, Micronesia, Australia, and Papua New Guinea, attesting to its popularity amongst birders, naturalists, and professional biologists. It is an excellent reference and is highly recommended.

Seabirds: An Identification Guide, Revised Edition

Peter Harrison, 448 pages, including 88 color plates, 324 range maps, and line drawings. Paperback edition 1991, \$24.95, Houghton Mifflin Company, 215 Park Avenue South, New York, NY 10003.

Seabirds: An Identification Guide is still considered the best available seabird guide by ornithologists and naturalists alike. The American Birding Association (ABA) called this comprehensive book an "unparalleled achievement" and states that the guide "sets the standard of excellence...." The book is available in hardcover and paperback, the latter better suited for use in the field. The guide contains 312 species accounts.

Being located in the center of the Pacific Ocean, Hawai'i is host to many species of breeding and transient seabirds. A reference such as Harrison's guide is an invaluable aid to identifying and appreciating seabirds in resident breeding colonies, flying just offshore of the islands, in transit through Hawai'i's deep sea channels, or far out at sea. Because this book addresses most of the existing seabirds of the world, it can be used in a wide variety of habitats and on any continent or ocean.

The guide's color plates are arranged for

close comparison of similar species, and species descriptions are immediately opposite the plates. Some of the color plates do not accurately depict the true plumage or appearance of certain species. However, short of actual photographs, exact replication of various sub-specific plumages, molting birds, or flight patterns or "impressions" of seabirds, often observed in marginal conditions such as bad weather and rough seas, is no easy task. Detailed text discussing species' life histories, habits, morphology, distribution, and similarity to other species follows immediately after the color plates arranged at the beginning of the book. Range maps follow the text and are well numbered, organized, and easy to interpret. The book also contains a complete bibliography.

Harrison's guide is highly recommended to all those interested in birds or the marine environment in general. This book is an informative and fascinating reference.

Bird Rehabilitation

by Niki Lauren

Bird rehabilitation involves caring for orphaned birds as well as tending to sick or injured birds before returning them to the wild. Some of the more familiar types of rehabilitated birds on O'ahu include doves, pigeons, sparrows, cardinals, Japanese White-eyes (also called Mejiros), White Terns (also called Fairy Terns), and Common Mynas. Most seabirds are taken to Sea Life Park for care.

Dorothy Babineau, known as the "Bird Lady of Hawai'i," has cared for owls, swans, Hawaiian Stilts, Cattle Egrets, Black-crowned Night-Herons, a Pacific Golden Plover, and a Nene for the Honolulu Zoo. In addition to the more familiar types of birds seen about town, she has also cared for Red-tailed Tropicbirds, Wedge-tailed Shearwaters, both Noddy and Sooty Terns, and several types of boobies.

Over the last 15 years Marge Champa, the "Bird Lady of Waikiki," has found and nursed stray Parakeets, Cockatiels, and Homing Pigeons before returning them to their owners through ads in the newspaper. Pam Dillingham, a rehabilitator for 7 years, cares for many types of birds but specializes in Japanese White-eyes.

Bird rehabilitation usually involves raising orphaned young until they are able to fend for themselves. This is time consuming. The rehabilitators agreed that there are more orphans found in spring and in windy weather. Sometimes external factors are responsible for mass injuries. For example, Shearwaters are blinded by street lights at night and crash into power lines. Other familiar injuries of birds include cat bites and b.b. gun wounds. Babineau remembers a few horrific incidents such as a pigeon with a chopstick pushed through its crop and a Pacific Golden Plover whose legs had been cut with scissors by a child. Veterinarian Dr. K.Y. Chang works closely with Sea Life Park in rehabilitating birds. He sees many seabirds with cases of trauma from broken wings or embedded fishhooks.

Bird rehabilitation takes knowledge, time, and money. Babineau says she spends \$20 every two weeks to feed rehabilitating birds. Dillingham estimates her costs to be \$40 to \$50 a month for food. She buys

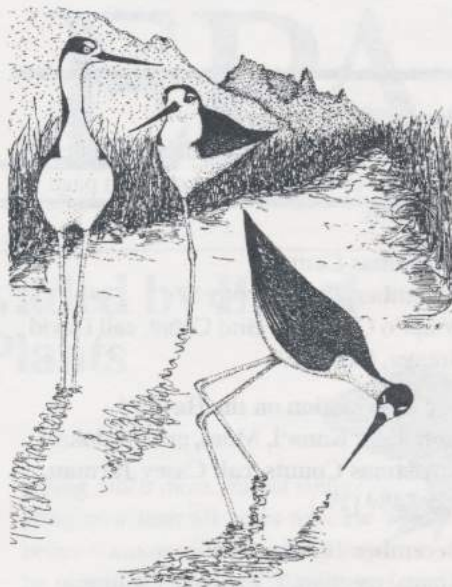
fresh apples, papayas, bananas, greens, shrimp, squid, and veal baby formula. Veterinarians give Dillingham eyedroppers and antibiotics. All the rehabilitators send seriously injured birds to professionals if they are not able to handle the treatment.

How did these rehabilitators first get involved? Babineau was given a bird for which to care. That was her beginning. She estimates that she has rehabilitated thousands of birds in 29 years. Years ago, before there were any books on bird care or vets around, she learned how to treat birds herself. She was given supplies and instruments, then went on to learn how to splint fractures and operate on impacted crops. She refers to birds as "jewels of the sky." Champa got her start at the beach when she noticed human hairs wrapped around the toes and legs of doves. She captured them and took the hairs off. She soon started carrying manicure scissors. Dillingham remembers her children bringing home a bird. That got her started. She enjoys caring for young birds and says she couldn't leave a baby bird out on the street.

The rehabilitators stressed the importance of returning found baby birds to their nests if possible. Just because the bird is on the ground, it may not be abandoned, they said. The rehabilitators regard as myth the tale that once a baby bird is touched by humans, the scent will repel its parents. Most birds do not have a sense of smell.

If there is no nest in sight, Babineau suggests taking an empty margarine container or similar size bowl and filling it with leaves, grass, etc. before setting the bird in it. If you plan to contact a rehabilitator, they advise you to call before dropping off the bird, so directions on what to do immediately can be given. With seabirds, Dr. Chang advises extreme care and caution. He recommends using a large towel or box when handling one. (For more information on what to do when you find an abandoned or injured bird see 'Elepaio, August 1991, 51:8, page 49.)

One last piece of advice is to obtain a permit before rehabilitating birds. It is illegal to care for them without one. To rehabilitate birds in Hawai'i, a state permit is needed. To care for federally protected birds, a federal permit is needed in addition



Artwork courtesy of Mark Rauzon, HAS member.

to the state permit. To find out whether a bird is under federal protection, you can obtain the "50 CFR 10," a code of federal regulations which lists federally protected birds.

Although no written test is given, persons wishing to obtain permits must show some knowledge and expertise with birds via a resume. Ralph Saito of the State Division of Forestry and Wildlife claims their policy is to limit the number of permits issued since many people, although they may have the knowledge and skill to rehabilitate birds, become attached to them and don't want to return them to the wild where they belong.

Last Call for Costa Rica Birding Trip

Hawaii Audubon Society members and friends will explore Costa Rica from 18 February to 28 February, 1992. This birding trip will traverse various ecological zones, including dry and cloud forests, lowlands, and marshlands.

Black and Crested Guan, White-ruffed Manakin, Cinnamon Woodpecker, Snowcap, Fiery-throated, Cerise-throated, Volcano, and Black-bellied Hummingbirds, Emerald and Yellow-eared Toucanets, Lattice-tailed Trogon, Green Violet-ear, Black-capped, Long-tailed Silky, and Black-and-Yellow Silky Flycatchers, Sooty Robin, Black-cheeked and Flame-throated Warblers, Sooty-faced and Yellow-thighed Finches, Timberline Wren, Buffy Tuftedcheek, Peg-billed Finch, Volcano Junco, Slaty Flower-piercer, Three-wattled Bellbird, Magenta-throated Woodstar, Azure-hooded and Magpie Jays, Collared Redstart, Spangled-cheeked Tanager, Elegant Trogon, Roadside Hawk, Thicket Tinamou, Orange-chinned Parakeet, Muscovy and Black-bellied Whistling Ducks, Wood Stork, White Ibis, Roseate Spoonbill, Boat-billed Heron, Scarlet Macaw, Yellow-billed Cotinga, Black-hooded Antshrike, Baird's Trogon, Collared Aracari, Golden-naped Woodpecker and, of course, the Resplendent Quetzal, are some of the species we expect to see.

We should also encounter two-toed and three-toed sloths, anteaters, coatimundi,

armadillo, crocodile, and squirrel and white-faced capuchin monkeys.

Our guide is naturalist Rafael Campos, former assistant curator for the University of Costa Rica and field assistant to Gary Stiles, author of *A Guide to the Birds of Costa Rica*. This trip is limited to 20 participants. The per person, double occupancy round-trip cost is \$2,595 from Honolulu, \$1,945 from Dallas, and \$1,895 from Miami. This trip will be cancelled unless a minimum of 10 participants are registered by 15 November.

Come Bird With Us in Arizona

Former Hawaii Audubon Society President and prize winning wildlife photographer Bruce Eilerts will lead an eight-day trip to Arizona, scheduled for 2 May 1992 to 9 May 1992. This tour is timed to see the southeastern Arizona specialty birds, resident desert birds, and Mexican species. Highlight of the trip is a two-day stay at Cave Creek Ranch, one of the hottest birding spots in the nation. The cost of this trip, which is limited to 13 participants, is \$1,290 per person, double occupancy, round-trip from Tuscon.

For a complete itinerary write to Trips, Hawaii Audubon Society, 212 Merchant Street, Suite 320, Honolulu, HI 96813, and specify which trip(s) you are interested in. The cost of each trip includes a \$100 donation to the Hawaii Audubon Society.

Calendar of Events

1st Wednesday of Every Month

Education Committee Meeting, Hale Manoa, East-West Center, 7:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Call Kersten Johnson, 247-7011, for details and directions.

November 11, Monday

Conservation Committee Meeting, Croissanterie Restaurant, 222 Merchant Street, 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Call Carl Christensen, 239-5136 (H), for details.

November 11, Monday

Board meeting, HAS office, 7:00 p.m. Call Reggie David on Hawai'i, 329-9141 (W), for details.

November 16, Saturday

Do you want to improve your skills photographing birds? If so, don't miss this field trip. Two wildlife photographers will be on hand to offer guidance and answer your questions. Meet at University of Hawai'i-Manoa, William S. Richardson School of Law, 2515 Dole Street, Classroom 5, 9:00 a.m. to 12 noon. For more information call Casey Jarman, 956-7489 (W). Suggested donation: \$2.00.

November 23, Saturday

Mailing Party, Hawaii Audubon Office, 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., see story on page 70 for details.

Christmas Counts

December 28, Saturday

Waipi'o Christmas Bird Count, call David Bremer, 623-7613.

For information on the Hawai'i, Honolulu, Kaua'i, Maui, and Moloka'i Christmas Counts, call Casey Jarman, 956-7489 (W.)

December 16, Monday

Annual meeting, 7:30 p.m., Atherton Halau, B.P. Bishop Museum. Election of officers and directors. See December 'Elepaio for more information.

Moving?

Please allow four weeks for processing address changes. Because our records are kept in order by zip code, we need both old and new addresses.

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Much Mahalos

The designer of this newsletter is overwhelmed by the talent and generosity of two HAS members who have donated artwork of native species for use in 'Elepaio: Bill Mathews of Sunnyvale, California and Mark Rauzon of Berkeley, California. One of Mark's drawings appears in this issue on page 73. Look for other work from these two talented gentlemen in future issues.

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