



'ELEPAIO

Journal of the
Hawaii Audubon Society

For the Protection of
Hawaii's Native Wildlife

VOLUME 51, NUMBER 12

DECEMBER 1991

Scholarship and Research Grants Awarded

by John Engbring

Hawaii Audubon Society annually awards several small-scale grants for natural history research in Hawai'i and the Pacific, as well as a single \$1,000 tuition scholarship for an undergraduate student in natural history.

Raina Lei Takumi, a senior at Colorado State University, received the tuition scholarship. She has been active in programs to protect native wildlife in Hawai'i since she was 15 years old. At that time she was building feral animal control fences at Haleakala National Park as a part of the Youth Conservation Corps program. In the summertime she worked for the State Department of Land and Natural Resources maintaining fences, clearing trails, and controlling exotic vegetation. More recently she worked at Haleakala National Park on the endangered species projects for Nene and Dark-rumped Petrel. She has a keen interest in native insects and plans to enroll in a graduate program in the field of entomology. She wants to pursue a career in research entomology, studying the role of insects in the Hawaiian ecosystem.

Two research grants of \$500 each were awarded in October, one to Yvonne Ching for her study of avian malaria, and the other to Robert DeCandido for his study of fossil pollen.

Ms. Ching is a graduate student at the College of Veterinary Medicine at Washington State University. She plans to study avian malaria at Hakalau National Wildlife Refuge on the Big Island. Avian diseases have long been suspected as a major factor in the decline of native honeycreepers. However, there have been few studies conducted that clarify the role of these diseases. Ms. Ching plans to determine the prevalence and level of avian malaria in six native honeycreepers at Hakalau using both

Other Counts Need Your Help Too

Hawai'i Island

14 and 15 December, Saturday and Sunday, call Reggie David, 329-9141 (H).

28 December, Saturday, Kulani, participants must give their social security number and date of birth to Larry Katahira, 967-8226, by 10 December.

Kaua'i

Date to be announced, call Casey Jarman on O'ahu, 956-7489 (W).

Maui

21 December, Saturday, call Fern or Renate Gassmann-Duvall, 572-1584 (H).

Moloka'i

14 December, Saturday, call Lyman Perry on Moloka'i, 553-5236, or Casey Jarman on O'ahu, 956-7489 (W).

Waipi'o

28 December, Saturday, call David Bremer, 623-7613.

blood smear and diagnostic assays. She also plans to identify the type of malaria affecting native birds.

Mr. DeCandido, a graduate student at Fordham University in New York, plans to study fossil pollen at Haleakala National Park. By dating and studying fossil pollen, Mr. DeCandido expects to determine long-term changes in climate, pre-human disturbances such as volcanism, and the impact of Polynesians and Europeans on native vegetation. This information will benefit scientists from a variety of disciplines, including ecology, paleo-ornithology, and archaeology.

For information about the HAS awards program, contact John Engbring, Awards Committee, P.O. Box 4443, Honolulu, HI 96812, (808) 541-2749 (W).

Honolulu Christmas Bird Count Needs You

by Bruce D. Eilerts

Participants are needed to make the 48th Annual Honolulu Christmas Bird Count, as well as other counts statewide, a success. This is a sincere plea for help. Bird counters are needed statewide. You do not need to be an expert birdwatcher or ornithologist to participate.

This year the Honolulu Christmas Bird Count is scheduled for Saturday, 21 December. Areas to be counted include Kane'ohe (makai), Mokapu Peninsula, Kane'ohe Town, Kane'ohe (mauka), Ho'omaluhia Botanic Gardens, Kapa'a Quarry, Kawai Nui Marsh, Kailua, Lanikai-Keolu Hills, Waimanalo, Halawa Valley, 'Alewa Trail, 'Aiea, Tripler Ridge, Kalihi, Sand Island, Nu'uuanu Valley, Punchbowl-Lower Makiki, Makiki Valley, Tantalus, Round Top Drive, Ft. DeRussy, Magic Island, Diamond Head, Kapi'olani Park, Manoa Valley, Wa'ahila Ridge, Palolo Valley, Kahala, Wai'ala'e Iki, Kalani Valley, Niu Valley, and Kuli'ou'ou. Instructions, data sheets, checklists, and maps will be provided to all participants.

Information collected during the count will be compiled and submitted for publication in *American Birds*, a magazine which includes the Christmas count volume and four other seasonal issues reporting bird observations throughout North America and Hawai'i. Participants' fees (\$5 per person) go entirely to help offset the cost of publishing the Christmas count issue.

Christmas Bird Counts in Hawai'i have been a long standing tradition and one of the Hawaii Audubon Society's favorite annual field and social events. Bird counting will be done in towns, suburbs, wetlands, sea cliffs, beaches, grasslands, (continued on page 76)

Hawaii Audubon Society

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Hawai'i's National Wildlife Refuges Need Your Help


At this moment the National Wildlife Refuges in Hawai'i are suffering from neglect because of a lack of support from local and regional administrators within the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). Several essential refuge manager and wildlife biologist positions have been vacant for almost a year. One hard working maintenance technician has been single handedly managing all of the wetland refuges on O'ahu and Moloka'i.

The remote island refuges are better staffed and appear to be faring better. However, intensive habitat management in Hawai'i's main island refuges appears to be suffering because of a shortage of competent land and wildlife managers while administrative staffing appears to be on the heavy side.

Questionable priorities have superceded hiring of non-administrative positions such as refuge managers needed for habitat management and enhancement on existing wildlife refuges within the main Hawaiian Islands. Such neglect has resulted in less intensive habitat enhancement, refuge maintenance, volunteer support, and a decrease in migratory shorebird, waterfowl, and endangered species productivity.

Professionals and non-professionals alike, who regularly monitor the condition and status of the main island refuges, have noticed a significant decline in habitat quality and numbers of migratory and endangered species.

Although refuge managers and biologists will be hired eventually, it should be noted that the USFWS administrative section region I, headquartered in Portland, Oregon, to which Hawai'i belongs, seems to be less than fully supportive of Hawai'i's wildlife management needs. In the past, million dollar structures and parking lots on Hawaiian refuges have been "pushed" by regional administrators as a high priority, while significant funding for habitat improvement and additional land and wildlife management personnel is shelved.

Bureaucratic roadblocking is nothing new. However, this time an easy solution may be at hand. You can bypass the local and regional USFWS offices and address your concerns directly to Mr. John Turner, Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Main Interior Building - 3012, 18th and C Streets, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20240, telephone (202) 208-4717. Every statement or inquiry will make a difference. 

HAS Dues for 1992

All amounts are in U.S. dollars.
Includes delivery of 'Elepaio.

Life Membership **\$150.00**
Payable in full or three equal installments.

Delivery to U.S. zip code addresses
Via bulk mail **6.00**
(Not forwardable to new address)
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(Hawai'i residents: there is no significant time difference between bulk and first class mail to addresses within the state of Hawai'i.)

Junior Membership (18 and under) **3.00**

Delivery to non-U.S. addresses:
Mexico (airmail only) **12.00**
Canada (airmail only) **13.00**
All other countries (surface mail) **14.00**
All other countries (airmail) **24.00**

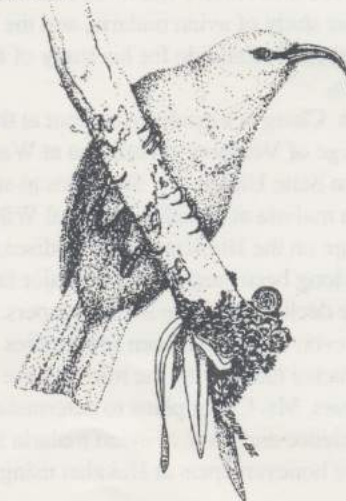
Introductory dues for National and Hawaii Societies: **20.00**
(Includes delivery of 'Elepaio and Audubon Magazine as bulk or 2nd class mail to U.S. zip codes. Renewal, \$30 annually.)

Christmas Bird Count

(Continued from page 75)

mountains, and forests. This is a great way for someone to get out and do/see something different.

Call Bruce Eilerts, 487-1806 (H), and leave a message on the answering machine if you want to sign up or desire more information.



Report From the British Research Vessel "Farnella"

by Captain John B. Nichols and Leda Beth Gray, Geologist, U.S. Geological Survey

Having been privileged to have a Peregrine Falcon visit our ship, we considered it to be of significant interest to warrant reporting the details to you.

3 October: The bird was first sighted at 1615 hours, while the ship was conducting oceanic research survey work for the U.S. Geological Survey in a position latitude 29 degrees zero minutes north and longitude 174 degrees 3 minutes west, some 115 miles northeast of Pearl and Hermes Atolls. The vessel was proceeding in a westerly direction at 8.5 knots. The weather conditions were winds E.S.E. at 15 knots.

The bird landed on an upper mast fitting and was observed to be a juvenile of the North American variety (identified by use of *The Birds of Hawaii and the Tropical Pacific*, by Pratt, Bruner, and Berrett). It spent some time preening itself and made several short flights around the ship, each time returning to the ship's mast to perch. That night it roosted on one of the mast's upper fittings.

4 October: It was observed that the falcon had a silver colored band on its right leg. The beak and cere were visibly gray-blue, indicating a juvenile bird, but the legs and feet were yellow.

0855 hours: The falcon took its first short flight of the day and returned to perch on the mast, maintaining an apparent casual lookout.

0940 hours: The falcon made an attempt to take an unidentified bird in flight, but after approximately three to four minutes gave up the chase.

1130 hours: The falcon caught a White Tern in flight. The tern's partner harassed the falcon as if trying to get the Peregrine to release the captive tern. The falcon retaliated by chasing the second tern while still clutching the first. The second tern flew off and the falcon returned to the ship to eat lunch. It first ripped open the throat of its prey, next ate the eyes, and then concentrated on the head before changing perch and eating part of the carcass. After eating, the falcon held on to the carcass remnants for part of the afternoon.

1600 hours: The falcon caught another tern which it ate at a different site about the ship. It made no further sorties and roosted

for the night on the mast where it had eaten the second bird.

5 October: The ship was heading east, latitude 28 degrees 30 minutes north, longitude 173 degrees 20 minutes west.

0955 hours: The falcon took a 35 minute flight.

1430 hours: It caught a Storm-Petrel, after failing to take a White Tern in flight, and ate while perched on the mast platform.

1930 hours: With daylight almost gone, the falcon took a second bird, identified as a shearwater, and ate it in the glow from a mast navigation light. It then roosted overnight on the mast.

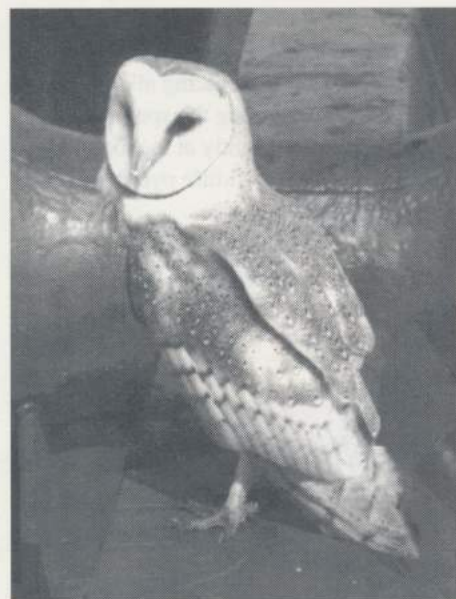
6 October: 0820 hours: The falcon took its first flight of the day and returned after a failed catching attempt.

0920 hours: At latitude 27 degrees 43 minutes north, longitude 170 degrees 42 minutes west (125 miles northeast of Laysan Island), the falcon left the ship and did not return. Its departure position was measured as 205 miles east from where it first joined us. 🦅

Peregrine leftovers...



Peregrine Falcon eating White Tern on board the Farnella. Photos by Capt. John B. Nichols.



Barn Owl On Board the Research Vessel "Farnella." Photo and comments by Capt. John B. Nichols.

21 September: The ship had sailed from Honolulu and six hours later was conducting oceanic tests when the bird was first sighted. The vessel was 20 miles south of Moloka'i. The weather was calm with good visibility. The Barn Owl flew around the ship, landing at various vantage points and stayed with us for several hours before flying off towards the land. Though we cannot rule out the possibility that it had only just arrived on board when it was first sighted, we preferred to believe it had been sleeping in the ship's rigging when the vessel sailed from Honolulu and had become an innocent stowaway.

***Balancing on the Brink of Extinction:
The Endangered Species Act & Lessons for the Future***

Edited by Kathryn A. Kohm, Cloth, \$34.95; Paperback, \$22.95, 1991, Island Press, 1718 Connecticut Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20009.

Balancing on the Brink of Extinction is of special interest and import to members of Hawaii Audubon Society. It deals with the Endangered Species Act, and the Hawaiian Islands hold more specimens than any other part of the United States. Many theories and programs are being put forth now on ways to manipulate our environment with its dwindling resources. This book pulls together history and facts, and will be a valuable reference for anyone who is involved with our natural resources or is interested in them.

This book is the history of the first 17 years of the extraordinary piece of legislation known as the federal Endangered Species Act of 1973. The intent is to explore two fundamental questions: what have we learned about endangered species since the passage of the Act and, based on our experiences to date, where should we direct future conservation efforts?

The book is a series of 21 essays which fall into four categories. Part I is an overview of our experience with the federal endangered species program. The essays discuss the legal,

political, and philosophical ramifications of the Act. The essays in Part II focus on particular components of the Act, reflecting on strengths, weaknesses, potential problems, and remedies. Part III considers particularly challenging areas: water rights, invertebrate conservation, predator protection, and pesticide regulation. Part IV explores these issues as they relate to the future of the endangered species program.

A theme constantly reiterated throughout the book is as controversial as the problems of endangered species protection. To cope with the ever increasing number of endangered species we must move from the current species by species approach to conservation to a broader strategy of protection of ecosystems and conserving biodiversity.

Each of the 21 essays is a mixture of reporting and reflection. They are written from different perspectives. Contributors are well-respected authorities associated with many national programs and organizations such as the Environmental Defense Fund's Wildlife Program, National Resources Defense Fund, National Wildlife Federation, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, and state departments of fish and game.

Balancing on the Brink of Extinction should be read by any citizen concerned about the problems facing all wildlife, including the species currently at the top of the wildlife pyramid.

T-shirts for Sale

The Hawaii Audubon Society has a new stock of T-shirts designed to spread the Audubon message. Not only are they attractive personal apparel, but they make excellent presents as well.

T-shirts bearing the Society's 'Elepaio logo are available in aqua, navy, white, and beige. In addition, the "hot" new Kolea (Pacific Golden Plover) T-shirts are also available. This T-shirt is white with a four-color design of the Kolea and native hibiscus. Proceeds from the Kolea T-shirt go to help HAS fund research on shorebirds in Hawai'i and elsewhere in the Pacific region.

T-shirts are \$12 each, plus \$2.00 per shirt for postage. They are available in medium, large, and extra large adult sizes only. These handsome T-shirts can also be picked up at the regular meetings of the Hawaii Audubon Society. When ordering T-shirts by mail, be sure to list color preference and size. To order shirts by mail write to: Andrea Bruner, Box 1775, BYU-H, La'ie, HI 96762. Don't forget to add \$2.00 per shirt for postage. Insufficient postage will delay your order until the proper amount is remitted. T-shirts are not available at the HAS office.

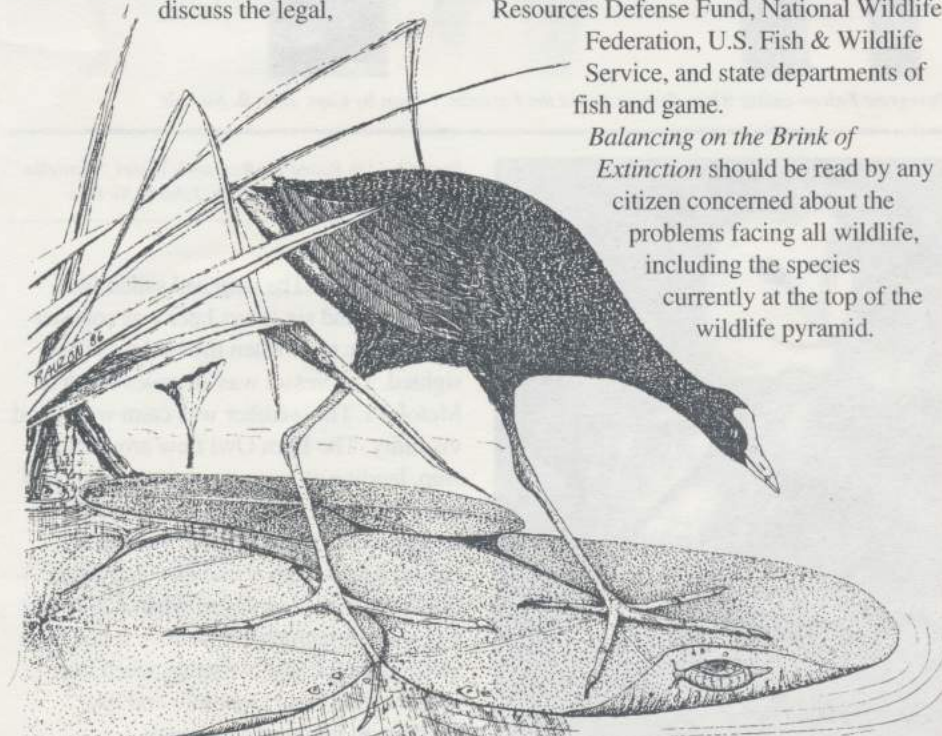
Notice to Authors

'Elepaio invites submission of scientific articles on the natural history of Hawai'i and the Pacific. Such articles are subject to peer review.

Scientific articles should be typewritten and double-spaced. Four copies must be submitted. In addition, authors are asked to submit the article on a computer diskette, with clear indication of the word processing program used.

Photographs may be either color or black-and-white prints, 3.5 by 5 inches or larger. Cropping lines (if needed) should be indicated. The originals of figures, maps, graphs, etc. should be clean and clear, with lettering large enough to remain legible after reduction to fit journal format. Submit two good-quality xerographic copies along with each original illustration.

Manuscripts should be sent to:
'Elepaio
Hawaii Audubon Society
212 Merchant Street, Suite 320
Honolulu, HI 96813.



Maui Field Trip

by Joan Lajala

Casey Jarman, field trip leader, could not have ordered a more beautiful day. On Sunday, 15 September, the sky was clear, a light breeze blew, and even Waikamoi was clear and warm. Our O'ahu group was met by Maui folks who took us to Kanaha pond for a walk in an area usually not open to the public.

As we wandered along the path beside the pond we spotted many of our native wetland birds as well as a number of other species: Koloa (Hawaiian Duck), Ae'o (Hawaiian Stilt), Hawaiian Coot, 'Ulili (Wandering Tattler), Black-crowned Night-Heron, Kolea (Pacific Golden Plover), and Hunakai (Sanderling). This was my favorite way of "hiking," a leisurely stroll along attractive paths, with people knowledgeable about flora and fauna and plenty of time to point, exclaim, and ask questions. Fern Duvall, director of the state's captive bird program at Olinda; Phil Bruner; Mike Perry, Lahaina Postmaster and active volunteer for environmental causes; Mary Evanson, Maui environmental lobbyist; and Brenda Becker, Hawaiian monk seal researcher, patiently answered many questions, identified birds and plants, and discussed Maui environmental politics.

As we crossed a bridge that spans a huge culvert built as a drainage canal for flood control, we could see that although the water level was low, there appeared to be springs bubbling up from below. Our Maui hosts report that there is concern the water level of Kanaha pond is falling and they fear that these protected wetlands are being drained by the canal that empties into the sea.

From Kanaha we drove to Hosmer Grove for lunch. Seeking shade from the hot sun, we were entertained by a cheeky 'Amakihi that hopped about looking for handouts. I thought of the hours I have spent sitting perfectly still in order to see these elusive birds flitting about the forest trees on the Big Island, and here was one perfectly willing to be stalked and photographed on the ground!

From the lookout near Hosmer Grove we spotted a few 'Apapane and 'I'iwi in the distance, then started on our way through the non-native forest down to the helicopter pad in the midst of Waikamoi Nature Conservancy Preserve. It is a fair distance to where the native forest begins, and we saw only a few birds along the way, mainly Maui Creeper. The clearing that was our destination looks out upon the canopy of the native forest. It's a perfect location for seeing birds that prefer the tops of trees. We were told to watch particularly for the 'Akohekohe (Crested Honeycreeper), a beautiful multicolored native. The day would have been perfect for spotting them, but there were few birds of any kind to be seen or heard. Fern Duvall thought it was probably so hot that most of them were napping. As most of us chatted or dozed, bemused by the loveliness of the day and place, Lance Tanino gazed vigilantly through his binoculars and finally announced that there was a "Crested" in a nearby tree.

Now that we were all fired up and peering in all directions looking for more birds, it was time to begin the long hike back to the cars.



Come Bird With Us in Arizona

Former Hawaii Audubon Society President and award-winning wildlife photographer Bruce D. Eilerts will lead a spring birding tour from 2 May to 9 May, 1992. This tour is timed to see the southeastern Arizona specialty birds, resident desert birds, and Mexican species. We will visit both the low and high desert for incomparable birding. Tucson is our starting point for an introduction to desert birds, including Roadrunner, Costa's Hummingbird, Cactus Wren, and Gambel's Quail. We will then spend the next three days stopping in Madera Canyon, Patagonia, Huachuca Mountains, and Ramsey Canyon Preserve. The terrain will change from dry scrub and mesquite of the low desert to lush, high desert canyons lined with sycamore.

The highlight of our trip is a stay at Cave Creek Canyon at the base of the Chiricahua Mountains. With its 337 bird species, the mountains are considered one of the hottest birding spots in the nation. Here we will look for Elegant Trogon, Olive and Red-Faced Warbler, Sulphur Bellied Flycatcher, and Montezuma Quail, as well as Mexican species.

Other species we expect to see are Gilded Flicker, Gila and Ladder-backed Woodpecker, Vermilion Flycatcher, Great-tailed Grackle, Inca and White-winged Dove, Harris' Hawk, Gnatcatcher, Rufous, Black-chinned and Broad-billed Hummingbird, Cassin's and Botteri's sparrow, and Abert's Towhee.

The cost of this trip, which is limited to 13 participants, is \$1,290 per person, double occupancy, round-trip from Tucson.

For a complete itinerary write to Trips, Hawaii Audubon Society, 212 Merchant Street, Suite 320, Honolulu, HI 96813. The cost includes a \$100 donation to the Hawaii Audubon Society.

Help Us Revise Hawaii's Birds

The Publications Committee is revising *Hawaii's Birds*. This will be a minor revision and will involve correcting typographical and factual errors that appeared in the fourth edition. If you have any comments, please address them to the committee at the HAS office. We would also like to hear from anyone with better photographs than those used in the present edition, especially of native forest birds.

Birding on O'ahu

A two-page guide listing areas on O'ahu where interesting birds may be found and where access is not a problem is now available. Written by Peter Donaldson, it offers important information for birders unfamiliar with Hawai'i. The guide is not designed to give detailed directions or information on bird identification. For a free copy, send a self-addressed stamped envelope to O'ahu Birding Guide, Hawaii Audubon Society, 212 Merchant Street, Suite 320, Honolulu, HI 96813.

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.

December 9, 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.

December 9, Monday

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

Office Help Needed

Volunteers are needed to be at the Hawaii Audubon Society office one day a month to answer the telephone, process mail, and do other office-related tasks. Please call George Campbell, 941-1356 (H), for more information.

December 14, 15, 21, and 28

Christmas Bird Counts, see page 75.

December 16, Monday

Annual meeting, 7:30 p.m., Atherton Halau, B.P. Bishop Museum. Election of officers and directors. First public showing of the Ohia Project's video "CoastalZone," made to foster awareness of Hawai'i's coastal environment and to encourage students to alter their activities toward preserving and protecting this area. Perfect for children and adults of all ages. Refreshments will be served.

January 18, Saturday

Field trip to James Campbell National Wildlife Refuge. Meet at the State Library on Punchbowl Street at 7:45 a.m. or the Kahuku Sugar Mill Parking Lot at 9:00 a.m. Bring binoculars, hat, sunscreen, water, and lunch. We will see the endangered Hawaiian Stilt, Coot, Gallinule, and Duck as well as other waterbirds and migratory ducks. Suggested donation: \$2.00. For more information call Casey Jarman, 956-7489 (W).

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Attention Writers and Editors

Do you like to write? Come up with story ideas? Edit copy? Would you like to help produce a quality publication? The 'Elepaio committee is expanding and could use your help. For more information call Lynne Matusow, 531-4260 (H).

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