

Rep. Hiraki Calls on Environmentalists to Do More

by Lynne Matusow

State Representative Kenneth T. Hiraki, Chairman of the House Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection, is surprised at the lack of cohesiveness and strong presence of environmentally conscious individuals and groups this past session. He is especially disappointed at their absence in legislative hearings concerning the Department of Environmental Protection. Various groups told him that they were not going to take a position. "I think that's dangerous. I think they should come out and say they are for, or with reservations, or against, or with reservations. I think they should at least have an opinion. I think being silent, not having an opinion, is very dangerous," he said in a recent interview.



Rep. Kenneth T. Hiraki

Hiraki noted that each group has its own interest, or specific issue. He complained that they testify on their specific issue and then he never sees them again. Hiraki believes it is in everyone's interest to work together. He believes that groups which are one issue oriented can be picked off. He warns that the opposition can slowly chip away at the environmentalists, picking off one group at a time, "until eventually it is going to be you, it's going to be your interest, and there won't be anyone else there to help you because you haven't helped anyone else. If indeed we are one world, Hawai'i environmentalists should be testifying on every environmental issue," he said. He asks why we should be concerned about endangered species if we are not concerned with reducing our dependence on fossil fuels.

Hiraki, a strong supporter of environ-

mental issues this session, was cited by Hawaii Audubon for his efforts to both strengthen and prevent the weakening of environmental laws in Hawai'i. The

Society is especially grateful for the positions he took on endangered species, hazardous waste management, and citizen suits.

Looking back on the past session, Hiraki thinks the high points were the natural area partnership, forest stewardship, and the way the superfund bill was handled. Regarding superfund, he said the key is that we have something on the books that will work

right now. He is also pleased that the endangered species act was not watered down. On the downside, he is disappointed with the governor's veto of the solar energy bill. This bill would have required state projects to incorporate solar energy.

Looking toward next year, Hiraki believes the big issues are going to be housing and the Department of Environmental Protection. He wants a strong department and needs advice from environmental groups on how it should be set up. He wants us to tell him what our concerns are so the department can be constructed in a way that will benefit the environment. He also wants environmentalists to work together, with a strong voice. He says that at times they are very quiet, and if he doesn't even hear a whisper, he can't second guess their intent.

Hiraki is also in favor of citizen suits.

Currently citizen suits are provided for in a law that empowers citizens to prevent development in violation of land use rules and the superfund and hazardous waste statutes. The House passed out a bill for constitutional citizen suits but it died in the Senate. Hiraki said there is a provision in the constitution that says citizens have the right to sue for a clean environment. However, it hasn't really been litigated. He believes that particular section of the constitution would be given greater weight if the legislature passes a bill giving it statutory effect.

Hiraki, who represents Downtown and Kaka'ako on O'ahu, is serving his third term. He became interested in the environment when he went to Tufts University, where he received his undergraduate degree in international relations, and Georgetown, where he received a law degree. It was during his time on the east coast that he realized what Hawai'i has to offer, and he didn't want to see toxic dumps, poor air quality, and beaches polluted with sewage and medical wastes in Hawai'i.



Grants and Scholarships

The Hawaii Audubon Society makes grants annually for research in Hawaiian or Pacific natural history. Awards generally do not exceed \$500 and are oriented toward small-scale projects within this state. HAS also awards a \$1,000 tuition scholarship to an undergraduate in an accredited university majoring in a field related to Hawaiian or Pacific Basin natural history.

The deadlines for receipt of grant applications are 1 April and 1 October; for scholarships, 1 May. For information and application forms, contact John Engbring, HAS Grants and Scholarships Chairman, P.O. Box 4443, Honolulu, HI 96812, Tel: (808) 541-2749 (days).

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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.

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.

HAS Dues for 1992

All amounts are in U.S. dollars.
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Life Membership **\$150.00**
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(Includes delivery of 'Elepaio and Audubon
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zip codes. Renewal, \$30 annually.)

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).

Mahalo Volunteers!

Hawaii Audubon exists because of its
volunteers. Because we have no paid staff,
we must rely on volunteers for all our
projects. Among them are four who have
unselfishly given their time for many years,
two of whom are now moving on to other
endeavors.

Peter Donaldson's latest endeavor is the
new guide for birding on O'ahu, mentioned
elsewhere in this issue. He researched,
organized, and wrote the two-page guide.

Mike Hall was our correspondent
extraordinaire, answering the many
requests we receive for information on
where to find birds. In the interest of
furthering his education, he has exchanged
Hawai'i's balmy air for the crisp coolness
of Montana.

Martha McDaniel acts as distributor of
our many publications. She tirelessly fills
all orders for *Hawai'i's Birds* (which run
into the hundreds annually), checklists,
field cards, and posters.

Susan Schenck maintains the local
membership list. Each month she processes
new memberships, address changes,
prepares the 'Elepaio mailing labels, and
sends out membership cards and renewal
forms. She has relinquished this position as
of September. Mahalo nui loa to all. 🙏

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.

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 new phone tree, call David Hill at 943-2784. 



Thank You!!

This illustration of an Akohekohe (Crested honeycreeper, *Palmeria dolei*) first appeared in the July issue of 'Elepaio. We are grateful to Nancy Sidaris the artist and Hawaii Natural History Association by whose permission it appeared. The designer of this newsletter would be extremely grateful for the use of illustrations of other NATIVE 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.

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.



Your Bequest Can Help

A bequest to the Hawaii Audubon Society is an excellent way to help in our conservation efforts. George C. Munro, enthusiastic and tireless field ornithologist and naturalist, provided for a fund to be used exclusively for the protection of native dry forests. Today, the George C. Munro Fund provides money for research projects on such forests.

Although an attorney should be consulted in the drafting of your will, a model clause for bequests is set forth below.


"I hereby give, devise, and bequeath to the Hawaii Audubon Society, Honolulu, Hawai'i, the sum of _____ dollars (or set forth a description of property), to be used for the general purpose of said organization."

For more information and assistance, contact the Hawaii Audubon Society, 212 Merchant Street, Suite 320, Honolulu, HI 96813, (808) 528-1432.

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. 

Hawaiian Wildlife Information

Do you need information regarding recent rare or unusual wildlife observations within the main Hawaiian Islands? Call Bruce Eilerts at 487-1806. He will advise you on rare bird sightings and offer tips on where to best observe native flora and fauna. Please leave your questions and messages on his answering machine.

Environmental Directory Available

In celebration of Earth Day 1990, the Hawaii Audubon Society published the *Hawai'i Green Pages*. 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, Suite 320, Honolulu, HI 96813.

HAS Publications

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).

Checklist of the Birds of the Mariana Islands by James D. Reichel and Philip O. Glass, 1991. Lists all taxa naturally occurring in the Marianas and introduced species that have established viable populations. \$2.00 postpaid.

Checklist of the Birds of Hawaii—1988 by R.L. Pyle. Lists all taxa naturally occurring in Hawai'i and introduced species that have established viable populations. Also includes all changes from the 1983 checklist. \$2.00 postpaid.

Checklist of the Birds of Micronesia by P. Pyle and J. Engbring, 1985. Lists all taxa naturally occurring in Micronesia and introduced species that have established viable populations. \$2.00 postpaid.

Field Card of the Birds of Hawaii by R.L. Pyle and A. Engilis, Jr., 1987. A pocket-sized field card listing bird taxa found in Hawai'i, with space for field trip notes. \$.25 postpaid, ten or more, \$.10/copy.

Endangered Waterbirds of the Hawaiian Islands by R.J. Shallenberger, 1978. Hawaiian Stilt, Coot, Gallinule (Moorhen), and Duck, each described in two pages of photographs and text. \$1.00 postpaid.

Posters, 43 x 56 cm., \$1.00 each, postpaid.

Our Homes are Hawaii's Wetlands, 1984. Native wildlife of a Hawaiian marshland.

Hawaiian Forests Are More Than Trees, 1988. Hawaiian forest plants, invertebrates, birds, and the Hawaiian hoary bat. Booklet included.

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

*All back issues of *'Elepaio* are at above cost plus applicable postage.

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

Waipi'o, O'ahu Christmas Bird Counts — 1989 and 1990

by David A. Bremer

Decreasing numbers of participants in the Waipi'o (Honolulu) Christmas Bird Count in recent years have resulted in sparse and inconsistent coverage of the area. The Pearl Harbor wetland habitat has been surveyed each year with a declining number of shorebirds and ducks reflecting the diminishing use of the Waipi'o peninsula for canefield runoff.

In 1989, only one party focused on the suburban and lowland areas with four parties hiking on mountain trails. Even then the Schofield-Waikane Trail, for which an access permit had been obtained, was untouched due to insufficient birder-power. Furthermore, a dearth of skilled observers limited the precision of the forest bird count. For example, I hiked up the Poamoho trail with a Mainland biologist. Although I have adequate visual recognition of the common native birds when they pose cooperatively, I am not able to make a certain identification in flight or by call.

A different game plan in 1990 produced more consistent lowland tallies, but the mountain coverage was sporadic with sampling of 'Apapane at the trailheads of Poamoho and Kipapa, without hiking up the trails.

If the count is to provide reliable data in the future, a more consistent turnout of knowledgeable birders will be needed.

Nevertheless, the Waipi'o CBC continues to serve as a benchmark for monitoring the changing distributions of the avian population.

A flock of Red-billed Leiothrix was observed in 1989 on the Manana Trail. Red-whiskered Bulbul were recorded in two locations in 1989. An explosion of finches has been documented, coinciding with conversion from agriculture to grasslands in anticipation of urban development.

On the downside, no observations of Common (Hawaiian) Moorhen have been made since the draining of breeding site reservoirs in the Waikele housing area, although these elusive birds are likely to continue to be present in the Waipi'o peninsula.

But the truly endangered species is the Knobby-kneed Binocular CBCer (*Audubonius committeda*). Some people have commented that scheduling the Waipi'o and Honolulu counts on the same weekend produces an overload of hiking. The Waipi'o CBC, therefore, is being planned after Christmas this year, on Saturday, 28 December. Mark your calendars now and call me at 623-7613 for an early reservation on the trail of your choice.

Hawaii Audubon Birding Tours

The Hawaii Audubon Society is sponsoring two birding tours in 1992. On the first trip, we will explore **Costa Rica** from 18 February to 28 February. We will traverse various ecological zones, including dry and cloud forests, lowlands, and marshlands. We expect to see numerous species of birds and mammals.

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.

Former Hawaii Audubon Society President and prize winning wildlife photographer Bruce Eilerts will lead an eight-day trip to **Arizona**, from 2 May to 9 May. This tour is timed to see the south-eastern Arizona specialty birds, resident desert birds, and Mexican species. 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.



**Waipi'o, O'ahu Christmas Bird Count
15 December 1990**

Weather:
Mostly clear in lowlands, cloudy and some rain in mountains, variable winds 0 - 30 mph.

Participants:
Eleven observers in six parties.

Party Hours:
23 on foot, 13 by car, 5.25 on bike, 41.25 total.

Party Miles:
23.75 on foot, 121 by car, 15.75 on bike, 160.5 total.

Habitat Hours:
Mountain, forests, 14.5; lowland woods, scrub, 12; agricultural, 6.25; parks, residential, 5.75; marshes, ponds, shoreline, 2.75.

Parties/Sectors	Observers
Party A:	
1A Waipi'o Peninsula	W. Michael Ord
1B Honouliuli National Wildlife Refuge (NWR)	
1C Waiawa NWR	
Party B:	
2A Pearl City	David Cooper,
3A Manana Trail	John O'Brien
Party C:	
2C Waipi'o Gentry	David & Leah
4A Waiawa	Bremer
4C Mililani	
Party D:	
4C Wahiawa	Michael Moyer
4D Poamoho Access	
5A Schofield, Wheeler AFB	
5B/C Kolekole Pass	
6A Kunia Road	
Party E:	
3E Waikane Trail	Patrick Conant, Iain Waugh,
Party F:	
7A Palikea Trail	M.Y. Floyd, John Hall, Luther Raechal

**1990 Waipi'o Christmas Bird Count
Party Totals**

Species	A	B	C	D	E	F	Total
Cattle Egret	83	8	18	38	-	-	147
Black-crowned Night-Heron	11	-	-	-	-	-	11
Green-winged (Am.) Teal	18	-	-	-	-	-	18
Mallard	4	-	-	-	-	-	4
Hawaiian Duck (Koloa)	16	-	-	-	-	-	16
Northern Pintail	42	-	-	-	-	-	42
Blue-winged Teal	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
Northern Shoveler	10	-	-	-	-	-	10
Lesser Scaup	2	-	-	-	-	-	2
Garganey	2	-	-	-	-	-	2
Bufflehead	3	-	-	-	-	-	3
duck, sp.	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
Osprey	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
Erckel's Francolin	-	-	-	3	-	-	3
American (Haw'n.) Coot	77	-	-	-	-	-	77
Lesser Golden-Plover	202	77	109	155	-	-	543
Black-necked (Haw'n.) Stilt	64	4	-	-	-	-	68
Wandering Tattler	-	2	-	-	-	-	2
Ruddy Turnstone	20	-	-	-	-	-	20
Sanderling	6	-	-	-	-	-	6
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
Rock Dove	-	-	15	-	-	-	15
Spotted Dove	110	96	184	108	-	7	505
Zebra Dove	240	49	607	66	-	2	964
Eurasian Skylark	13	-	8	100	-	-	121
Red-vented Bulbul	7	28	92	110	20	-	257
Japanese Bush Warbler	-	2	34	3	2	6	47
White-rumped Shama	3	1	20	-	2	-	26
Red-billed Leiothrix	-	6	-	-	-	-	6
Northern Mockingbird	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
Common Myna	38	44	243	177	-	-	502
Japanese White-eye	18	14	74	75	33	12	226
Northern Cardinal	5	7	5	-	1	5	23
Red-crested Cardinal	18	6	55	15	-	1	95
House Finch	4	20	14	49	-	-	87
Common (O'ahu) 'Amakihi	-	-	-	-	1	2	3
'Apapane	-	1	10	21	56	9	97
House Sparrow	10	18	136	159	-	-	323
Common Waxbill	202	-	186	40	-	-	428
Red Avadavat	20	-	39	50	-	-	109
Nutmeg Mannikin	10	16	29	-	-	-	55
Chestnut Mannikin	23	13	248	41	-	-	325
Java Sparrow	9	14	95	4	-	-	122
Yellow-faced Grassquit	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Total Individuals	1294	426	2222	1214	116	44	5316
Total Species	35	20	22	18	8	8	44

Waipi'o, O'ahu Christmas Bird Counts

(Continued)

Waipi'o, O'ahu Christmas Bird Count 16 December 1989

Weather:

Mostly clear, light variable wind 0 - 10 mph.

Participants:

Fifteen observers in six parties.

Party Hours:

28.25 on foot, 9.5 by car, 37.75 total.

Party Miles:

27 on foot, 65 by car, 92 total.

Habitat Hours:

Mountain, forests, 22.25; lowland woods, scrub 3.25; agricultural, 4.25; parks, residential, 2.75; marshes, ponds, shoreline, 5.25.

Parties/Sectors

Observers

Party A:

1A Waipi'o Peninsula W. Michael Ord,
4C Wahiawa Robert Pyle
National Wildlife Refuge (NWR)
1C Waiawa NWR

Party B:

3A Manana Trail Peter Donaldson

Party C:

3C Poamoho Trail David Bremer,
4D Poamoho Access Peter Colverson

Party D:

2A Blaisdell Park David Cooper,
4C Wahiawa John & W.M. Frank
4D Whitmore, agricultural
4E Leilehua Golf Course
5A Schofield, Wheeler AFB
5B Kolekole Pass
6A Kunia Road

Party E:

4A Waiawa John O'Brien,
Linda Gufano
3B Kipapa Trail Robert Loften

Party F:

7A Palikea Trail Jeff Burgett,
Gigi Glover,
Norbert Larsen,
Maura O'Connor

1989 Waipio Christmas Bird Count Party Totals

Species	A	B	C	D	E	F	Total
Cattle Egret	140	-	-	18	4	-	162
Black-crowned Night-Heron	11	-	-	-	-	-	11
Brant	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
Green-winged (Am.) Teal	6	-	-	-	-	-	6
Mallard	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
Hawaiian Duck (Koloa)	13	-	-	-	-	-	13
Northern Pintail	40	-	-	-	-	-	40
Northern Shoveler	65	-	-	-	-	-	65
Gadwall	8	-	-	-	-	-	8
Eurasian Wigeon	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
American Wigeon	4	-	-	-	-	-	4
Lesser Scaup	4	-	-	-	-	-	4
Garganey	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
Bufflehead	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
Erckel's Francolin	-	-	-	7	-	9	16
Ring-necked Pheasant	2	-	-	-	-	-	2
American (Haw'n.) Coot	156	-	-	-	-	-	156
Lesser Golden-Plover	107	-	8	191	13	-	319
Black-necked (Haw'n.) Stilt	86	-	-	-	-	-	86
Lesser Yellowlegs	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
Wandering Tattler	8	-	-	1	-	-	9
Ruddy Turnstone	24	-	-	-	-	-	24
Sanderling	42	-	-	-	-	-	42
Long-billed Dowitcher	4	-	-	-	-	-	4
Rock Dove	3	-	-	21	-	-	24
Spotted Dove	102	8	4	87	11	6	218
Zebra Dove	211	4	-	261	32	10	518
Eurasian Skylark	10	-	-	35	1	-	46
Red-vented Bulbul	106	87	61	60	11	7	332
Japanese Bush Warbler	-	16	5	29	12	24	86
(O'ahu) 'Elepaio	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
White-rumped Shama	5	8	14	12	8	5	52
Northern Mockingbird	2	-	-	6	2	-	10
Common Myna	48	-	7	319	54	-	428
Japanese White-eye	22	71	141	21	50	49	354
Northern Cardinal	17	13	2	14	2	6	54
Red-crested Cardinal	17	3	10	50	23	3	106
House Finch	23	57	10	34	2	4	130
Common (O'ahu) 'Amakihi	-	5	5	-	5	18	33
'Apapane	-	14	32	-	7	17	70
House Sparrow	48	-	2	182	24	-	256
Common Waxbill	202	-	12	15	2	-	231
Red Avadavat	84	-	-	1	-	-	85
Nutmeg Mannikin	33	37	-	40	40	-	150
Chestnut Mannikin	100	-	8	143	6	-	257
Java Sparrow	5	-	-	6	-	-	11
Yellow-faced Grassquit	-	16	-	-	-	-	16
Total Individuals	1764	339	321	1553	309	159	4445
Total Species	41	13	15	23	20	13	47

BOOK REVIEW

by Alan C. Ziegler

Descriptions of Thirty-two New Species of Birds from the Hawaiian Islands: Part I. Non-Passeriformes

Storrs L. Olson and Helen F. James, Ornithological Monographs No. 45, 88 pp.+29 figs., (7 June) 1991; and

Part II. Passeriformes

Helen F. James and Storrs L. Olson, Ornithological Monographs No. 46, 88 pp.+35 figs., (7 June) 1991. Available bound together only, paper cover, US\$25.00 (US\$22.50 to A.O.U. members) plus \$2.00 handling and shipping, prepaid, payable to American Ornithologists' Union. Order from Assistant to Treasurer A.O.U. Max C. Thompson, Department of Biology, Southwestern College, 100 College Street, Winfield, Kansas 67156 U.S.A.

Prior to the appearance of these monographs, only three prehistorically extinct bird species, all non-passeriforms, had been described from the Hawaiian Islands: a goose or goose-like bird of still-undetermined affinity from Hawai'i Island (Wetmore 1943), and a large goose-like duck along with an ibis from Moloka'i (Olson and Wetmore 1976), at least the last two avian types flightless.

All of the birds described as new in the present works are also prehistorically extinct ("fossil") species, and are based primarily on material obtained through the end of 1988. The studied bone material dates from within the Holocene (10,000 or fewer years before the present) and, although no new specific radiometric or other dates are discussed (see Olson and James 1982 and James et al. 1987 for some previous determinations), the authors apparently consider that most or all of these birds disappeared during the 1,500 or so years between the first landing of Polynesians in the Islands and the appearance of Europeans a little over two centuries ago. Most of these prehistoric extinctions are thought to be primarily the indirect result of habitat change by expanding populations of pre-Cook Hawaiians, with direct predation by these early humans and their introduced animals constituting a secondary cause, especially in the case of the non-passeriforms.

None of the new species is deemed obviously ancestral to historically known forms and, although an occasional passing reference is made to Late Pleistocene fossils greater than 120,000 years old (which might conceivably include one or

more ancestral forms) from Ulupa'u Crater sediments on Windward O'ahu, these older bones are still under study by the authors (for a preliminary account see James 1987).

Descriptions of the Holocene fossil bird sites, along with a preliminary informal analysis of the varied array of extinct species recovered from them, were given in an earlier introductory work (Olson and James 1982; reviewed in *'Elepaio*: Ziegler 1983). A brief recapitulation of these localities is given in the first of the present monographs, with the subsequently discovered extremely important Maui lava tube sites described in some detail.

Excellent comparative bone photos portray presently named holotype (or name-bearer) specimens along with some paratype (or referred) material and corresponding elements of any similar historic species. No artist conceptions of the extinct birds or other bird illustrations are included. The normal lists of bone measurements are included with the scientific descriptions, and some such sets of mensural data have been treated by various statistical methods. In order to aid in more objectively defining a few of the other new species, however, a more extensive use of statistics would have been desirable, even if largely limited to such elementary techniques as determination of means with standard deviations and application of Student's *t*-test.

Although not formally required in such technical papers providing scientific names for new species, the inclusion of suggested common or vernacular names of the authors' own choosing is often most helpful to other interested people, especially as many of the latter may not be fully conver-

sant with the purely scientific nomenclature. Unfortunately, the present monographs offer only one, generalized, common name. The authors, to avoid a necessarily long and awkward non-Hawaiian appellation for species of the three genera of extinct large flightless goose-like ducks, propose the term "moa-nalo." The word "nalo" is Hawaiian for lost, vanished, or forgotten and, while "moa" is historically recorded as signifying only the Red Junglefowl or Chicken (*Gallus gallus*) in Hawai'i, in other parts of Polynesia it may be used for at least one other avian type (giant extinct flightless birds of New Zealand) and even for larger fruit bats (*Pteropus* spp., "moa-kirikiri" or "leather-fowl" in southern Polynesian), eaten in areas of occurrence by several southern and western Pacific island peoples), the word evidently carrying a connotation of normal dietary use.

In this review, at the risk of incurring the displeasure of the monographs' authors, additional vernacular names mostly suggested by their present formal descriptions or earlier informal designations of extinct Hawaiian birds are used (with quotation marks) when required, just as some such common-name variations will undoubtedly continue to be used for many of these birds by non-specialists.

Part I of the present monograph pair names 16 extinct non-passeriform species: a small gadfly petrel, another flightless ibis, three more moa-nalos and a "true" goose, five flightless rails, one hawk, and four owls. Two of the new moa-nalos each represent a new genus, and the four closely related owls another one. Additionally, at a minimum, a third non-volant ibis, up to as many as five geese and/or goose-like species, and several more flightless rails, are suggested by various lots of material considered still too incomplete for satisfactory scientific description.

Only a sample of the authors' fascinating findings and tentative conclusions regarding the new fossil non-passeriforms can be listed here. In contrast to the flightless moa-nalos and rails whose volant ancestors obviously reached most or all of the main Hawaiian Islands before evolving flightlessness on each, the ibises of the

forest floor were apparently restricted to ancient Maui Nui (comprising the present-day islands of Maui, Moloka'i, and Lana'i), and may well have subsisted on native land snails. Moa-nalos were derived from ducks—probably either Mallard-like birds (tribe Anatini) or, much less likely, shelduck (tribe Tadornini) stock—as seemingly indicated by occurrence in the moa-nalos of an ossified syringeal bulla (a bony expansion of the windpipe), within the family Anatidae present in ducks but not in true geese. These large extinct birds were, nevertheless, rather goose-like in general appearance and terrestrial habit, and were quite likely ecological equivalents of large herbivorous tortoises on certain other oceanic islands of the world. Among true geese, along with the Hawaiian Goose or Nene (*Branta sandvicensis*) on certain islands was a second species of the genus, a “forest Nene,” whose populations apparently exhibited the gamut of adequate to negligible flight ability.

Bones of the extinct Hawaiian eagle are not presently distinguishable from those of the closely related American Bald Eagle and Eurasian White-tailed Eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus* and *H. albicilla*). The small short-winged hawk morphologically so similar to *Accipiter* (goshawks and allied forms), and so unlike the living Hawaiian Hawk (*Buteo solitarius*), was in reality a “wood harrier,” a highly evolved member of the typically long-winged open-country Marsh Hawk or Harrier genus *Circus*. Its specialty was small bird-catching, as was also that of the extinct “long-legged owls,” which were not closely related to the more-recently arriving Hawaiian race of the Short-eared Owl or Pueo (*Asio flammeus*), or historically introduced Common Barn-Owl (*Tyto alba*).

To turn to the passeriforms (perching or songbirds), Part II names 16 extinct species: two crows and the remainder all members of the endemic Hawaiian finch and honeycreeper group (considered merely a tribe of subfamily Carduelinae in the finch family Fringillidae by the authors but a full subfamily Drepanidinae by some other recent workers, e.g., Pratt et al. 1987). No passeriform families other than those



A scientist examines one of the formerly numerous O'ahu Barbers Point sink holes, important fossil birdbone sites. Photo by Bruce D. Eilerts.

known historically in the islands have been found among the fossil material.

The two raven-sized crows apparently occurred together on southwestern O'ahu, with one of them also inhabiting lowland Moloka'i. Additional unstudied crow material is on hand from lava tubes on Maui and Hawai'i, as well as from O'ahu sink holes (pers. obs.), at least part of which quite possibly represents the historically extant Hawaiian Crow (*Corvus hawaiiensis*).

Four new drepanidine genera are established to include a finch-billed species of uncharacteristically high elevation, and two somewhat “shovel-billed” birds of unknown feeding habits. Also, two “cone-billed” species and three medium- to long-billed “gapers” (birds that feed by inserting and opening the bill to expose food items in various substrates, such as the European Starling, *Sturnus vulgaris*, and meadow-larks, *Sturnella* spp.), both of these latter new drepanidine genera represented on either three or four main Islands.

Other prehistorically extinct birds are named in three existing genera: *Telespiza*, formerly including only the Nihoa and

Laysan Finches (*T. ultima* and *T. cantans*, now recorded as fossil on Moloka'i and/or O'ahu), is enlarged by a pair of new species from, collectively, four main islands, while a “sickle-billed” or “hoopoe-beaked” bird of Kaua'i and O'ahu is grouped with the 'akialoa-like *Hemignathus* forms, and another *Ciridops* from at least Kaua'i joins the historically extirpated 'Ula-'ai-hawane (*C. anna*) of Hawai'i. Up to eight more fossil drepanidine taxa, mostly finch-billed, are suggested by the authors' material but are left unnamed pending recovery of more complete remains.

Although no other passeriform families are discussed in significant detail, the authors do mention that their fossil material of 'elepaio (*Myiagruidae*) and thrushes (*Muscicapidae*) does not thus far seem to include any new species but that at least two previously unknown members of the family Meliphagidae, to which belong the several historically extinct 'o'os and the Kioea, are apparently present, but need further study before naming.

A table of the island distribution of all named fossil and historic Hawaiian passeriform species is provided in Part II,

and contains a number of undiscussed records of fossil remains of historically extant taxa from islands in addition to those already known to be occupied: for example, previously unpublished fossil documentation of an 'o'o, 'akiialoa, and Black Mamo (*Drepanis funerea*) from Maui.

This tabulation and a similar one for non-passeriforms in Part I reveal that a number of additional extinct avian species are to be expected for the Hawaiian Islands. For instance, there are approximately 43 land bird species (at least 30 of them known only as fossils) recorded as occurring on Maui, but only about 32 (just 4 of them fossil) on Hawai'i, although the latter quite possibly had a prehistoric avifauna at least equal to that of the former island. Also, prospecting for bird fossils on Kaho'olawe, Ni'ihau, and most of the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands has not yet been possible, and on Lana'i only a few possibly archaeologically related bones of the there-extinct Hawaiian Goose are thus far known. These tables also serve to point out the sometimes overlooked fact that probably most or even all of the historically known Hawaiian species coexisted with the newly named fossil forms in the Holocene and, possibly, Late Pleistocene.

As an unexpected bonus, especially to nomenclators of living Hawaiian birds, the authors have also included in Part I a table of the original scientific names of the 55 (maximum; only about 40 if "lumped") historically recognized non-fossil endemic Hawaiian land and freshwater bird species, arranged in chronological order of initial description, with synonyms and subspecific names indicated.

On a somewhat different aspect of the work, the authors' choice of Greek, Latin, and Hawaiian names for some of their new genera and species may provide an interesting and sometimes amusing diversion, especially to lexicophiles. The moa-nalo that apparently so often blundered into the open skylights of lava tube ceilings is the basis of the genus *Ptaiochen* or "stumble-goose," with the equally appropriate Hawaiian specific name *pau* or "finished" given its sole, now-extinct,

species. A true mouthful of compounded alliteration characterizes the generic name of the bizarre-beaked "Turtle-jawed Moa-nalo" *Chelychelynechen*. The world's smallest known rail species now bears the appellation *menehune*, the mythical Hawaiian elfin folk. Still another of their particularly apt names is *dossenus*, "jester or clown," for the new bird-catching hawk of the genus *Circus*, not only because the bird's remarkable morphological convergence with *Accipiter* at first fooled the authors as to its true relationship but also because, to paraphrase them, what's a circus without a clown?

Among passeriforms, the new truly massive-billed *Chloridops* species, or popularly alleged "King Kong Finch," is dutifully labeled *regiskongi*. The novel generic name *Aidemia* for a group of gapers is a palindrome most deservedly honoring the long-continued work of Moloka'i's Joan Aidem in collecting Hawaiian bird fossils, but in the case of one of its species appropriately named *lutetiae*, ancient Latin for the present French capital, this reviewer will leave it to the reader to determine the pertinent analogy between these birds that spent their life in gaperly and the permanent residents of that city.

The monographs do contain short discussion sections and offer a few interesting observations such as the fact that prehistoric raptorial birds became extinct on all islands except Hawai'i, with the distinct possibility that most were ground nesters making them highly susceptible to fatal predation by early Polynesians and accompanying introduced mammals; or that finch-billed forms comprise the majority of extinct drepanidines, with the historical preponderance of largely nectarivorous species representing the group apparently being simply a result of this differential extirpation.

Some students may feel that the relatively limited discussions fail to do justice to the total information on the past history of Hawaiian birds potentially obtainable from the present fossil investigations. For example, what are the phylogenetic relationships of the newly named drepanidine genera, and why did this entire

group evolutionarily radiate so dramatically, while most of the relatively few other passeriform families present here showed no such tendency? How was it possible for both an owl and a hawk to evolve into a highly specialized bird-catching niche in the rather limited geographic extent of the islands without one's ecological success preventing development of the same modifications in the other? Was the obvious move towards flightlessness in the true goose line here an example of neoteny like that in the moa-nalos (see James and Olson 1983) or the result of a different process?

In answer to any such possible criticism, however, it is clearly noted by the authors—and certainly endorsed by this reviewer—that their monographs are offered simply as the initial step in research on a relatively vast and previously essentially unknown prehistoric Hawaiian avifauna: a step necessary to allow such study to move out of the purely descriptive stage and on to various subsequent subjects such as evolution, extinction, biogeography, and ecology of the various avian taxa now described.

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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, 735-3669, for details and directions.

September 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.

September 9, Monday

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

September 13 - 15

National Audubon Society Board of Directors Meeting, call 522-5566 for information.

September 15, Sunday

This birdwatching field trip on Maui will take us from a coastal wetland to an upland forest. We will meet at the main gate at Kanaha Pond at 9:00 a.m. Bring rain gear, a sweater or sweatshirt, hiking boots or sturdy-soled shoes, long pants, lunch, and

extra water for on the trail. The proposed itinerary is as follows: Kanaha Pond, 1 1/2 hours for viewing Ae'o (Hawaiian Stilt), 'Alae ke'oke'o (Hawaiian Coot), Black-crowned Night Heron, 'Akekeke (Ruddy Turnstone), 'Ulili (Wandering Tattler), Kolea (Pacific Golden Plover), Hunakai (Sanderling), and migratory waterfowl; 1-hour drive to Hosmer's Grove on the slope of Haleakala; 1 hour for lunch, talking story, and short wandering on the trail for those interested at Hosmer's Grove; 2 1/2- to 3-hour guided hike at Waikamoi Falls Nature Conservancy Preserve to see forest birds including 'I'iwi, 'Amakihi, 'Apapane, and Maui Creeper. For more information, if you live on Maui call Renate Gassmann-Duvall at 572-1584 (H). If you live elsewhere in the state call Casey Jarman on O'ahu, 956-7489 (W). Suggested donation: \$2.00.

October 5, Saturday

This trip is for beach lovers who are tired of sunbathing among man-made beach debris. We will take part in the national marine debris clean-up drive, organized in Hawai'i by the state Litter Control Office. For more information call Casey Jarman, 956-7489 (W).

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October 21, Monday
General meeting, 7:30 p.m., Atherton Halau, B.P. Bishop Museum. See October 'Elepaio for more information.

November 16, Saturday
Have you been wanting to improve your skills photographing birds? If so, don't miss this field trip. Watch future 'Elepaio issues for more details.

December 28, Saturday
Waipi'o Christmas Bird Count, call David Bremer, 623-7613. See related story on page 58.

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