



'ELEPAIO

Journal of the
Hawaii Audubon Society

For the Protection of
Hawaii's Native Wildlife

VOLUME 52, NUMBER 4

APRIL 1992

HAS Supports State Department of Environmental Protection

by Marjorie Ziegler

The Hawaii Audubon Society joined approximately 30 other organizations and individuals in supporting the creation of a Department of Environmental Protection in Hawai'i. On 28 January, HAS presented testimony to the House Committees on Energy and Environmental Protection (Rep. Ken Hiraki), Health (Rep. Jim Shon), and Judiciary (Rep. Wayne Metcalf) on House Bill 2683, introduced by Reps. Hiraki and Shon, to create such a department.

A support statement for creating a Department of Environmental Protection, signed by HAS and several others, appears below:

We, the undersigned, support the creation of a Department of Environmental Protection. Such a department would result in better coordination of environmental protection programs. It would also result in increased funding of environmental programs and allow for environmental concerns to be articulated at the cabinet level. Environmental issues would no longer be subsumed by other priorities. The new department should also be equipped to better enforce our environmental laws, educate the public, address the concerns of citizens, and hire dedicated qualified personnel.

The Department of Environmental Protection should: control and prevent pollution, protect and enhance natural

resources, enforce environmental laws, and promote environmental awareness.

The Department of Environmental Protection should include: the Department of Health's pollution abatement activities, the Department of Agriculture's pesticide regulation and management activities and plant and animal quarantine program, the Office of Environmental Quality Control, the Office of State Planning's coastal zone management functions, and its land use management and review program, and the Office of Conservation Affairs functions that make recommendations on conservation district subzones and conservation district use applications.

The department also needs its own administrative services and personnel office, its own fully authorized attorney generals, an office of the public intervenor, a public outreach/education section, and a mechanism to ensure interdepartmental and intradepartmental coordination and communication.

In addition, the Legislature should create a governor's advisory council, composed of prominent citizens who have demonstrated a commitment to environmental protection. The council would be served by a professional staff. Its duties would include annual environmental audits of all state agencies and recommendations.

National Grant to Protect Hawaiian Species

by Marjorie Ziegler

In October 1991 the Conservation Council for Hawai'i received a generous grant from the Pew Memorial Trust, based in Philadelphia, to work with a consortium of local organizations, including the Hawaii Audubon Society, to protect rare and endangered Hawaiian species and their habitats. Specifically, the grant objectives are to obtain adequate designations of critical habitat for over 200 species of rare and endangered plants and animals and gather scientific documentation of native species in areas of high species diversity, whose condition warrants listing under the federal Endangered Species Act, and on their critical habitats. The goal is to obtain approximately 150 listings of endangered Hawaiian plant species over the next two years, with an emphasis on including areas of high species diversity in existing federal, state, and private reserves wherever feasible, and continuing on the ground monitoring of habitats critical to rare and endangered species to ensure that these habitats are being properly managed.

HAS is currently working with the Conservation Council for Hawai'i, National Audubon Society (NAS), Sierra Club, Sierra Club Legal Defense Fund, govern-
(Continued on page 26)

ALERT: Watch for Color Flagged Golden Plovers

We seek improved knowledge of the movements of Pacific Golden-Plovers within the Hawaiian Islands. Birds have been banded on Oahu. They will be wearing color flags on each leg. Please record the exact color combination if possible. Also note location, date and time of day.



SIGHTINGS SHOULD BE REPORTED:

BY TELEPHONE:
State Division of Forestry and Wildlife
Telephone 587-0166 FAX: 587-0160

OR IN WRITING:
Plover Project
Division of Forestry and Wildlife
1151 Punchbowl, Room 325
Honolulu, HI 96813-3089

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212 Merchant Street, Suite 320
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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 application forms send a self-addressed stamped envelope to Grants and Scholarships, Hawaii Audubon Society, 212 Merchant Street, Suite 320, Honolulu, HI 96813. For more information, call Phil Bruner, (808) 293-3820 (W).

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.

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)

Via first class mail **12.00**

(Hawai'i residents: there is no significant time difference between bulk and first class mail to addresses within the state of Hawai'i.)

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(Includes delivery of 'Elepaio and Audubon Magazine as bulk or 2nd class mail to U.S. zip codes. Renewal, \$30 annually.)

Mahalo Donors!

We wish to thank the following members and friends for their generous support. This list reflects contributions received from 2 February through 3 March.

Eve Anderson, Julie Balbach, Robert Barrell, Chuck Bell, Lillian Bloomfield, Mrs. E. Broadbent, Lisa and Ronald Carter, Virginia Crozier, Linda Cuddihy, Carolyn Davidson, Robert and Joan Dimler, John Engbring, Rachelle Enos, Lisa Erb, Elaine Fessenden, Kehaulani Fitzsimmons, Barbara Gibbons, Dr. Samuel Gon III, Donald and Ynez Graham, Cheryl Greene, Pat Hammon, Bryan Harry, W. Ray Helbig, Robert and Becky Kimball Hommon, Marbry Hopkins, Robert Husic, Pearl Johnson, Tom and Janet Kalus, Laura Krupp, Elizabeth Kumabe, Ken and Patricia Kupchak, Sheila Laffey, Thomas Lalakea, Douglas Lamerson, Katherine Leonard, Marsha Lo, and Linda Lowry.

Also, Sandra Machiels, Benjamin L. Marx, Jr., Jo Malmstrom-Okita, Monica McLaren, Toshio Minagawa, Craig Murata, Keith Nakayama, Deirdre Newton, Scott D. Nichols, Tina Northern, Lisa Nungesser, Maura O'Connor, Michael Ord, Masao Osaki, Warren Paige, Catherine and Ted Pettit, Charles Pietsch, Jr., Bob and Leilani Pyle, John Radovich, William and Virginia Richardson, John Rogde, Thomas Roland, Eileen Root, Stephanie Ross, Georgia Rush, Marianne Schultz, Karen Selph, Helen Sing, Ann Snyder, Randall and Sarah Stoddard, Tim Sutterfield, Ursula Thiele, Dr. Elizabeth Thomas, Steven Tom, Sharon Torgerson, Phyllis Turnbull, Michele Vail, Margaret Wahlman, Bernadette and Dave Wegher, Robert Weir, Bronwen Welch, Genie Wery, Jerry Wetherall, Dr. W. Wilkinson, and Michael Wood. 

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.

Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor:

Perhaps you can help me clarify the status of certain birds in Hawai'i.

In the January issue of *'Elepaio*, on page 5, there is a disturbing box, entitled "Hawai'i's Birds On the Brink." In this, the Nukupu'u is described as "probably extinct or very near extinction; last confirmed observation in 1988." Yet the 1989 edition of *Hawaii's Birds* makes the status sound a little better, "critically endangered in the mountain forests of Kaua'i... and Maui... Fewer than ten sightings in the last decade." Furthermore, the 1987 *The Birds of Hawaii and the Tropical Pacific* states that it has been "reported recently from Kohala Mt., Hawai'i." Is this species still surviving on the Big Island or elsewhere?

For the O'u you have a similar diagnosis, "probably extinct or very near extinction; last observed in 1989." The description in *Hawaii's Birds* sounds marginally better, "critically endangered, with spotty distribution in forests of windward slopes and 'Ola'a region of Hawai'i and in the Alaka'i Swamp of Kaua'i," with "fewer than 20 sightings in the last 20 years." My other source, the 1987 guide, speaks of 400 individuals in the Hamakua region and a few individuals in the remotest part of the Alaka'i Swamp, although it admits that the species is "noticeably declining on Hawai'i." Is it really gone?

Ever since some of the surprising finds on Maui, I have been hesitant about writing a species off as extinct. I think we should keep looking for them, and trying to find out how to keep them from going "over the brink."

— Dex Hinckley
Alexandria, VA

The article in the 'Elepaio was taken from a joint report based on the Nature Conservancy's Heritage Program data bank of reports and sightings. This might not have all the recent unconfirmed sightings, and the report may be purposely on the pessimistic side. The problem is that comprehensive surveys can hardly be thorough enough to demonstrate that no individuals remain. Thus, there is little hard

evidence and judgments must be subjective. In the box on page 5 of the 'Elepaio, I would have phrased the current status somewhat differently for the following species:

'Alauahio (O'ahu Creeper): The 1985 observation of two juveniles by five skilled observers was in the same general area where other sightings have been reported in recent decades. That area has had very limited coverage since then. The state forestry & wildlife survey in Spring 1991 failed to find any creepers. I would phrase this one as in critically low numbers, near extinction.

Nukupu'u: Several good sightings were reported in the mid-1980s in the Hanawi area of Maui, but that area has since been severely impacted by pigs. Have the birds died out or merely moved elsewhere? There have been a few unconfirmed sighting reports on Kaua'i in the past decade. Who knows? The literature report of one bird on Kohala Mt., on Hawai'i, more than a decade ago is the only one I know of from that island. I would phrase it as in critically low numbers, near extinction.


Oloma'o: Very near extinction.

O'u: Near extinction.

Kama'o: Several good sightings in the past dozen years, and one good audio report within the past year. Critically low numbers, probably near extinction.

These are my own subjective judgments, and others will have other subjective perceptions of the best way to describe the status of these species. In the past 35 years, a number of species have been found which were unreported for several decades and were thought to have been extinct. Extinction is final and irreversible; the term should be used conservatively.

— Robert Pyle

The *'Elepaio* welcomes expressions of opinion from readers on matters that are germane to the concerns of the Hawaii Audubon Society. You must include your name, address, and telephone number. Letters may be edited for length. 

Hawaii Audubon Society 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).

Please add \$1.00 for postage and handling for orders on the following:

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.

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.

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.

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; five or more, \$.20/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.

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

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. 1-51) — \$400. 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.

John L. Sincock 1929-1991

by Craig S. Harrison, J. Michael Scott, and Tom C. Telfer

It is with deep regret that we note the passing of John L. Sincock, who died suddenly of a heart attack at his home in Markleysburg, PA on 20 December 1991.

A native of Uniontown, PA, John received his undergraduate and M.S. degrees in wildlife biology at Pennsylvania State University in 1952 and 1953 respectively. Starting his career with the U.S. Public Health Service in the Dept. of Mosquito Research in 1952, he took short-term positions with the Kentucky Dept. of Wildlife Resources (1953-1954) and the Florida Dept. of Fish and Game (1954-1957). John began his career with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in 1957 as a wildlife research biologist-pilot, and was appointed chief of wetlands ecology from 1962-1967, at which time he moved to Kaua'i as endangered species program biologist, Kaua'i Field Station (a branch of Patuxent Wildlife Research Center, Patuxent, MD). He retired to Pennsylvania in 1984.

John accomplished much in his career. He was an author of *Federal Water Standards for Wildlife in the United States*, a contributor to the book *Wildlife Tomorrow*, published by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and published several scientific papers. He was a member of The Wilderness Society, Hawai'i Chapter of the Wildlife Society, and United States Refuge Evaluation Committee. He was selected for the Outstanding Author Award by the S.W. Section of the Wildlife Society for his paper "An Ecological Study of Waterfowl Areas in Central Florida."

In Hawai'i John will be remembered for his pioneer work on endangered forest birds, particularly on Kaua'i where he often worked alone for weeks in the remote Alaka'i Wilderness Preserve, having located and studied the critically rare Kaua'i 'O'o'a'a, 'O'u, Kama'o, Puaiohi, and Nukupu'u and 'Akialoa. John also rediscovered the nesting grounds of the Newell's Shearwater in the Anahola Mountains of Kaua'i and participated in research to mitigate the loss of these threatened seabirds caused by light attraction in urban areas. John was co-organizer of the 1976-1981 Hawaiian forest bird survey and participated in endangered

bird survey work on all the major Hawaiian Islands, as well as the Leeward Hawaiian Islands National Wildlife Refuge. He served as a member of several endangered species recovery teams.

John was an amicable, hospitable fellow biologist. He will be missed sorely by colleagues and friends who shared his love for the natural environment, especially those who suffered the rain-soaked meager existence of forest bird field work in the windblown tents of the Alaka'i, arduous beach landings in the Leewards, and slippery wet nights with headlamps in shearwater colonies.

John is survived by his wife Renate, daughter Cindy, three stepsons, and one stepdaughter.

A memorial fund in John's name has been established for work furthering the conservation of Hawaiian flora and fauna. Contributions to the fund can be made to the Hawai'i Chapter of the Nature Conservancy, 1116 Smith Street, Honolulu, HI 96817.

National Grant

(Continued from page 23)

ment agencies, and others on projects involving wetlands, essential habitat for endangered species, dry forests, and streams.

HAS is involved in the development and implementation of a long-term management plan for Kanaha Pond on Maui, one of only two essential habitats on Maui. HAS is also a founding member of Friends of Kanaha Pond.

Last year, HAS worked with NAS and the Sierra Club Legal Defense Fund to protect essential habitat for the endangered Nene and its newborn at Kapapala, on Hawai'i. The Hawai'i Department of Land and Natural Resources initiated a hunting program three years ago in this area, and dogs and human activity may be harming the Nene. Our objective is to obtain long-term protection for this area.

HAS is one of four participants in a petition, under the federal Endangered Species Act, to designate critical habitat for 17 taxa of endangered Hawaiian forest

T-shirts for Sale

The Hawaii Audubon Society has a 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 ash (gray) with a black design. We also have a few in aqua, navy, white, and beige. In addition, the "hot" Kolea (Pacific Golden Plover) T-shirts are also available. This T-shirt is white with a three-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. When ordering T-shirts, be sure to list size and first, second, and third choice of color. To order T-shirts send your check, payable to the Hawaii Audubon Society, to Yvonne Izu, 2069 California Avenue, #20B, Wahiawa, HI 96786. 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.

birds on the islands of Kaua'i, Moloka'i, Maui, and Hawai'i, including the endangered 'Alala. Other initiatives under the Pew grant include petitioning to designate critical habitat for many of Hawai'i's endangered plants, which are being proposed for listing at an unprecedented rate of 50 a year. In addition, we will continue focusing on dryland forest protection at Pu'u Wa'awa'a, Kohala, and Pohakuloa on Hawai'i.

We will also continue to fight for the protection of ecologically significant stream ecosystems in Hawai'i, including the establishment of a statewide stream protection program and monitoring the implementation of the State Water Code. Finally, we hope to work with NAS and others on identifying significant marine ecosystems and resources that are in need of protection.



Left: Martha McDaniel, avid equestrian and HAS Volunteer

Volunteer Corner

by Rae Alice Hall

"We must continue to make the public aware of the fragility of our island ecosystem and teach the public to preserve the environment."

Volunteer Martha McDaniel feels that Hawaii Audubon Society's program of public education is vital to the future of the state.

Martha has been sales director of the Hawaii Audubon Society since 1984. Her volunteer job includes the sales and marketing of HAS's printed literature. This includes *Hawaii's Birds*, *Hawaii Guide to Birding*, field cards, posters, and checklists on birds of Micronesia, the Marianas, and Hawai'i.

"We get a lot of large orders from local organizations like Bishop Museum, the Zoo, the Aquarium, and Hawai'i Nature Center," she says. "They sell our merchandise in their gift shops. We also get many individual orders from mainland tourists who are interested in birding in Hawai'i. Occasionally," she adds, "we get some international orders."

Martha was born and raised in Hawai'i and has been interested in birds and ecology all her life. "It was a family thing," she says. "We were taught to appreciate the beauty of the islands and to respect the environment."

In elementary school, Martha was a member of the Hui Manu bird organization, and in college she majored in wildlife biology.

Audubon isn't her only interest. Martha is program coordinator of Ho'omaluhia, the City & County Botanical Garden in Kane'ohe. She also is a member of Friends of Foster Gardens and the Kawai Nui Heritage Foundation.

But that's not all. Martha is an avid equestrian and a member of the Hawai'i Combined Training Association. She takes part in horse shows and trials all over the island.

Sometimes all Martha's many interests come together at one time. She has taken part in Hawaii Audubon's Christmas Bird Count for the last 10 years. She does her count at Ho'omaluhia, often making her rounds on horseback.

Volunteers Needed! Please Sign Up

Hawaii Audubon Society desperately needs help in the following areas:

Phone Tree Coordinator:

You will be responsible for maintaining the list of persons participating in the telephone tree and giving information to phone tree participants when calls need to be made. We need a self starter who is a good communicator and who can devote four to eight hours a month for a minimum of a year. This work can be done from home. Some knowledge of environmental issues and legislators is a plus. To volunteer call David Hill, 943-2784 (H).

Phone Tree Callers:

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

Testimony Presenters:

Here we need self-starters who can tactfully and effectively present testimony at the legislature, county councils, and hearings of governmental boards and agencies, usually on weekdays during daytime hours. If you can't write the testimony, we will have someone else do it. A knowledge of Hawai'i, including issues, politicians, and who the players are is a big plus. A minimum of four hours a month is required. To volunteer call David Hill, 943-2784 (H).

Recordkeeper:

This position, which requires you to spend one morning or afternoon a week at the

office, entails integrating our membership records with our fund-raising records and locating telephone numbers for all new members. The work is done manually. To volunteer call Lynne Matusow, 531-4260.

Volunteer Coordinator:

This hardworking, gregarious individual will match volunteers with available jobs, see that volunteers are trained, and maintain contact with volunteers to see if they are happy or have suggestions for improving things, and plan volunteer recognition events. This job will take two hours or more weekly. To volunteer call Lynne Matusow, 531-4260 (H).

Office Staff:

We would like to have our office open five days a week. People are needed for morning or afternoon shifts Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday. Among the duties are answering the telephone, distributing the mail, referring problems to the appropriate officer or committee chair, filing, and responding to routine correspondence. To volunteer call Lynne Matusow, 531-4260 (H).

Writers and Editors for 'Elepaio.

If you can write stories, edit copy, and come up with story ideas call Lynne Matusow, 531-4260 (H).

The above is only a partial list. If you have a particular skill or interest, call Lynne Matusow, 531-4260 (H). Who knows, maybe we have the right opening but haven't publicized it yet.

Calendar of Events

First Monday of Every Month

Monthly meeting of the Conservation Committee, 6:00 p.m., HAS office. To join or for more information call David Hill, 943-2784 (H).

April 5, Sunday

Family hike in Tantalus Crater from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Kids, bring your parents. There are many native plants in this lush forest above town. Bring water, lunch, and sturdy shoes. No slippers, please. Everyone is to meet at the State Library on Punchbowl Street at 8:30 a.m. For more information call David Hill, 943-2784, evenings. Suggested donation: \$2.00.

April 13, Monday

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

April 20, Monday

General Meeting, 7:30 p.m., Paki Conference Room, B.P. Bishop Museum. Peggy Hickok Hodge, Kama'aina author and journalist, will show slides of her 18 day trip to Antarctica and the Falkland Islands and talk about landing in Punta Arenas, Chile, in the middle of a hurricane. Featured will be slides of penguins, cormorants, seals, and shells collected on the trip. Refreshments will be served. (Note: the meeting location has been changed from the Atherton Halau to the Paki Conference Room.)

May 16, Saturday

Hakalau Wildlife Refuge, Big Island. For information call Casey Jarman, 956-7489 (W). Suggested donation: \$2.00.

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