



'ELEPAIO

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Hawai'i Christmas Bird Counts--1992

by Robert L. Pyle¹

Christmas bird counts were taken at 10 localities in the Hawaiian Islands in the latter part of December 1992 through 1 January, 1993. Counts have been taken fairly regularly at all of these localities in past years, although two were missed in 1991. The Honolulu count has the longest continuous record, having started in its present count circle in 1944. Counts were taken at Volcano on Hawai'i Island for three years in the mid-1950s and then resumed in 1972. The three Kaua'i counts started in 1971, Waipi'o in central O'ahu started in 1977, and the remaining four counts started during the 1980s.

Continuing problems for the Hawai'i Christmas counts, particularly on the neighbor islands, are the relatively low number of observers available to participate and the low number of party-hours spent counting birds. Although participation on the Honolulu count jumped significantly to 91 party-hours from 1991's very low 53, the remaining eight main island counts continued a slow decline to an average of only 17 party-hours per count, which works out to 3 to 4 hours afield per party. There is ample room for improvement in the coverage of count circles in the main islands outside Honolulu.

Species counts and other statistics for the nine counts taken in the main Hawaiian Islands in 1992 are shown in Table 1. Data for the French Frigate Shoals count, taken by U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service personnel, are shown in Table 2.

Highest species totals for the state were, as usual, at Honolulu (48), North Kona (44), and Waipi'o (38). These count circles include good wetland habitats for migrants, and generally have more alien species than are present in other count circles.

The main island counts together listed 87 different species, and eight more species of seabirds were added at French Frigate Shoals. Lesser Golden-Plovers and six introduced species were found on all nine main island

counts. The usually ubiquitous Zebra Dove and several other species, including the native 'Amakihi and 'Apapane, were found on seven counts.

Ten species of endemic Hawaiian Drepanids were reported, and an eleventh was seen during count week (but not on count day) at Pu'u O Kaka'e on Maui. Adding the 'Io, 'Elepaio, and 'Oma'o brings the total to 14 endemic Hawaiian landbird species, plus five additional island subspecies forms that were recorded on the counts. Total numbers of individuals of native landbirds were well down from 1991 on Kaua'i, Maui, and Hawai'i, but were slightly up on Moloka'i and the two O'ahu counts. Six 'Elepaio were found on the Honolulu count in the same area where a similar number were found last year; good news for this bird which has crashed so badly on O'ahu in the past decade. The 141 'Apapane tallied at Kualapu'u was a good high count for Moloka'i.

Among the alien species, North Kona counters found seven species of Estrildids (which include the waxbills, mannikins, Silverbill, Java Sparrow, and Cordonbleu), while Honolulu recorded six species and Waipi'o had five. More of these species have established populations on Hawai'i and O'ahu than on the other main islands. Count totals for the more familiar alien species were mixed down or up, generally reflecting decreases or increases in party-hours afield. At Honolulu, the 64 Yellow-fronted Canaries and 323 Common Waxbills set new record high counts for those species in the Honolulu count circle. The eight Gray Swiftlets on the Honolulu count tied the record number found previously in 1990 and 1991.

It was a good year for counts of Nene, the endangered Hawaiian Goose. Thirteen were found at both Lihu'e, in the newly established population on Kaua'i, and at Volcano, which was a good high count for there. One was recorded at Pu'u O Kaka'e on Maui, and two at North Kona. Koloa, the endangered Hawaiian Duck, were found on all counts on Kaua'i and O'ahu (but nowhere else), including 64 at Waipi'o and 35 at Lihu'e. Migrant ducks and shorebirds generally made a poor showing everywhere except at North Kona.

Besides 87 Northern Shovelers, North Kona had one to four individuals each of five other species which included a Canvasback and a Greater Scaup, both rare visitors to the state. Elsewhere, a few Northern Pintails were found on three other counts, and an unusual Bufflehead turned up at Lihu'e. Three Long-billed Dowitchers at North Kona were the only uncommon shorebirds reported.

Seabirds are the specialty of the count at French Frigate Shoals in the mostly uninhabited Northwest Hawaiian Islands. Table 2 shows 1992's species totals for French Frigate Shoals, and also the totals for 1991 which were not published in *American Birds* magazine last year and thus are included here for the record. Totals for 1992 are considerably higher because in 1991 the counters could only cover Tern Island. In 1992 one party went by small boat to count at Whale-Skate and other islets in the atoll. About one-third of the party hours were spent on the other islets, one-fourth in the boat traveling between them, and the rest on Tern Island, all within the count circle. A stray Cattle Egret was the only unexpected bird found on this count.

Seabirds elsewhere included 60 Laysan Albatross in the flourishing nesting colonies in and near Kilauea Point National Wildlife Refuge in the Kapa'a circle. Seven Brown Boobies were counted along the Honolulu waterfront. White-tailed Tropicbirds were found on five counts, including inside Kilauea Crater in the Volcano count circle many miles from the sea.

A Peregrine Falcon, formerly considered a vagrant straggler to Hawai'i, was found on the Honolulu count for the second year in a row, this time at Ulupau Head. Another falcon, perhaps a Peregrine, was seen during December at Kualapu'u, and a definite Peregrine was found on the 1991 French Frigate Shoals count. Peregrines have been turning up in Hawai'i every winter in recent years, but seldom get recorded on Christmas Counts.

Anyone who has read this article all the way through to here is certainly interested enough in Christmas counts to be an active participant. Please take part in one or more of the counts this year.

Table 1: Christmas Bird Counts in the Main Hawaiian Islands - December 1992

	Kaua'i			O'ahu	Moloka'i	Maui	Hawaii'i		
	Waimea	Lihu'e	Kapa'a	Waipio	Hono.	Kuala-pu'u	Pu'u O Kaka'e	North Kona	Volcano
Pied-billed Grebe	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	-
Laysan Albatross	-	-	60	-	4	-	-	-	-
White-tailed Tropicbird	2	1	6	-	-	3	-	-	2
Brown Booby	-	-	-	-	8	-	-	-	-
Red-footed Booby	-	-	495	-	287	-	-	-	-
Great Frigatebird	-	-	6	-	50	-	-	-	-
Cattle Egret	42	262	35	125	202	61	-	8	-
Black-crowned Night-Heron	2	3	7	12	57	6	-	3	-
Nene (Hawaiian Goose)	-	13	-	-	-	-	1	2	13
Mallard	-	31	-	-	138	-	-	1	-
Koloa (Hawaiian Duck)	2	35	6	64	1	-	-	-	-
Northern Pintail	-	5	-	6	-	2	-	4	-
Northern Shoveler	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	87	-
American Wigeon	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Canvasback	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Greater Scaup	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Lesser Scaup	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	-
Bufflehead	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
'Io (Hawaiian Hawk)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	3
Peregrine Falcon	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
falcon sp?	-	-	-	-	-	[CW]*	-	-	-
Black Francolin	1	-	-	-	-	26	-	3	-
Erckel Francolin	2	-	-	4	-	-	-	15	-
Gray Francolin	-	-	-	-	1	46	1	-	-
Chukar	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Kalij Pheasant	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	22
Red Junglefowl	35	121	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ring-necked Pheasant	5	5	7	-	1	-	5	-	-
Common Peafowl	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	27	-
Wild Turkey	-	-	-	-	-	[CW]*	-	-	-
Common (Hawaiian) Moorhen	3	31	9	4	3	-	-	-	-
American (Hawaiian) Coot	-	23	32	62	10	2	-	39	-
Lesser Golden-Plover	50	184	32	375	1199	74	29	48	45
Black-necked (Hawaiian) Stilt	13	9	19	112	77	3	-	33	-
Wandering Tattler	-	1	7	7	16	1	-	10	-
Ruddy Turnstone	-	40	-	18	245	63	-	20	-
Sanderling	-	-	-	21	26	-	-	6	-
Long-billed Dowitcher	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-
White Tern	-	-	-	-	5	-	-	-	-
Rock Dove	1	6	-	54	299	-	19	16	-
Spotted Dove	53	198	29	289	1513	117	22	35	24
Zebra Dove	40	606	111	756	4112	138	-	125	-
Rose-ringed Parakeet	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
Barn Owl	-	-	-	-	[CW]*	2	-	1	-
Short-eared (Hawaiian) Owl	1	-	-	1	-	1	3	-	-
Gray Swiftlet	-	-	-	-	8	-	-	-	-
Eurasian Skylark	-	-	-	33	-	-	27	11	5
Red-vented Bulbul	-	-	-	207	1309	-	-	-	-
Red-whiskered Bulbul	-	-	-	2	131	-	-	-	-
Japanese Bush-Warbler	1	-	-	48	42	13	16	-	-
'Elepaio	9	-	-	-	6	-	-	-	48
White-rumped Shama	5	13	-	11	91	-	-	-	-
'Oma'o	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	216
Hwamei	6	10	4	-	2	-	9	-	3

Table 1: Christmas Bird Counts in the Main Hawaiian Islands -- December 1992

	<u>Kaua'i</u>		<u>O'ahu</u>		<u>Moloka'i</u>	<u>Maui</u>	<u>Hawai'i</u>		
	Waimea	Lihu'e	Kapa'a	Waipi'o	Hono.	Kuala-pu'u	Pu'u O Kaka'e	North Kona	Volcano
Red-billed Leiothrix	-	-	-	6	18	-	18	-	21
Northern Mockingbird	6	2	2	1	4	3	1	-	-
Common Myna	67	469	229	627	2698	126	13	142	59
Japanese White-eye	11	118	37	222	697	34	54	63	336
Northern Cardinal	16	67	16	37	154	18	4	16	39
Red-crested Cardinal	6	49	28	131	456	35	-	-	-
Yellow-billed Cardinal	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	35	-
Yellow-faced Grassquit	-	-	-	5	-	-	-	-	-
Saffron Finch	-	9	3	1	1	-	-	476	-
Western Meadowlark	1	10	15	-	-	-	-	-	-
House Finch	7	89	41	197	403	19	17	49	70
Yellow-fronted Canary	-	-	2	-	64	-	-	34	-
Common 'Amakihi	11	-	-	17	79	1	53	121	158
Anianiau	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
'Akiapola'au	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6
Kaua'i Creeper	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Hawai'i Creeper	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
Maui Creeper	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-
'Akeke'e (Kaua'i 'Akepa)	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
'Akepa	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5
green drepanid sp?	[13]	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
'I'iwi	7	-	-	-	-	-	8	-	172
'Akohekohe	-	-	-	-	-	-	[CW]*	-	-
'Apapane	46	-	-	96	57	141	163	30	1029
House Sparrow	16	182	1	226	776	8	19	107	5
Red-cheeked Cordonbleu	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Lavender Waxbill	-	-	-	-	4	-	-	49	-
Orange-cheeked Waxbill	-	-	-	-	17	-	-	-	-
Black-rumped Waxbill	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-
Common Waxbill	-	-	-	500	323	-	-	-	-
Red Avadavat	-	-	-	22	-	-	-	8	-
Warbling Silverbill	-	-	-	-	-	320	-	13	-
Nutmeg Mannikin	-	94	32	34	454	-	25	151	33
Chestnut Mannikin	30	262	-	114	27	-	-	-	-
Java Sparrow	-	34	58	399	2702	-	-	35	-
Species	34	33	28	38	48	26	23	44	23
Total Individuals	524	2983	1329	4846	18779	1263	510	1844	2317
Observers	9	11+3f*	12	12	52+2f*	5	5	13	24
Party Hours	11	26.5	8.5	31.5	91	18	7.5	13	19
Habitat Percentages	yes	no	no	yes	no	no	no	no	no
Count Date	26 Dec	19 Dec	27 Dec	19 Dec	20 Dec	1 Jan	19 Dec	20 Dec	19 Dec
Compiler	Mark Jeffers	Winona Sears	Barbara Stuart	David Brewer	Lance Tanino	Wesley Voth	Fern Duvall	Reggie David	Larry Katahira

[CW]* = Species seen in count circle during count week, but not seen day of the count.

f* - Feeder-watchers.

Honolulu Christmas Count--1992

by Lance Tanino¹

Although heavy rains greeted most parties in the early morning, the 49th annual Honolulu Christmas bird count on 20 December, 1992, eventually became a beautiful and prolific day with 18,779 birds counted. Despite being the lowest count in the last several years and with the weird weather we had been experiencing, this was a pretty good year. Participation and coverage was similar to 1991, with 52 observers in 21 parties spending 91 party-hours in the field, up from 53 party-hours in 1991. In addition, two people counted birds at their feeder.

The total tally included 48 species. Once again, the ever present Zebra Dove took the top spot in being the most seen species, with 4,112 individuals, 520 more than 1991.

This year's most unusual and exciting species was an immature Peregrine Falcon soaring over the Red-footed Booby colony at Ulupau Head, observed repeatedly diving on a flock of Java Sparrows, giving everyone a spectacular aerial display toward the end of their day. Four Lavender Waxbills, another unusual species, were seen at a Waiialae Iki feeder. And finally of note was an adult Ring-billed Gull at Nu'upia Ponds. Unfortunately it was found dead just inside the protected boundary fence, probably from exhaustion.

Seabirds on Moku Manu islet can be counted from Ulupau Head on the O'ahu mainland, but because Moku Manu lies just outside the count circle, the birds there are not included in the Honolulu count totals. Birds

on Moku Manu this year were: 6 Masked Boobies, 12 Brown Boobies, 31 Red-footed Boobies, and 48 Great Frigatebirds.

Sectors

- 1-A: Aiea Trail: Eric Vanderwerf
 1-B: Halawa Valley: David Woodside, Craig Rowland, Karen Evans, Nannete Seto, Phylis Ha, Beth Flint
 2-A: Tripler Ridge Trail, Tripler Hospital: David Bremer, David Cooper, John O'Brien
 2-B: Alewa Trail, Kamehameha Schools Campus: Chuck Burrows, Gerry Johnston, Mike Quon, Haili Camarillo, Mark Silva, Karen Victor, Matt Gabriel, Rosanna Alegado
 2-C: Nu'uuanu Valley: Paul Conry
 3-A: Round Top and Tantalus Drives, Pu'u-uualaka'a Park, Pu'u 'Ohi'a Trail: Donna and John de Haan
 3-B: Punchbowl, Lower Makiki: George Campbell, Susan Schenck
 4-A: Magic Island, Ft. DeRussy: George Campbell, Susan Schenck
 4-B: Manoa Valley (res.), University of Hawai'i: Arlene Bucholz, Steve Novak
 5-A: Honolulu Zoo: Peter Luscomb
 5-B: Kapiolani Park, Diamond Head: Mike Ord
 6-A: Palolo Valley: Keith Leber, Carol Lubbers
 6-B: Kahala to Waiialae Nui: Clyde Imada, George Staples
 6-C: Kalani Valley, Waiialae Iki: Bruce and Brenda Eilerts, Clyde Imada, George Staples
 6-D: Aina Haina, Niu Valley, Kuli'ou'ou Valley, Paiko Lagoon: Regina Kawamoto, Loyal Mehrhoff
 7: Waimanalo: Not covered
 8-A: Lanikai: Peggy Hodge, Lee Hickok
 8-B: Kailua: Glenn and Matt Bauer, Roy and Betty Hughes (feeder)
 8-C: Kawainui Canal and Dike: Don, Doris, and Colin Huddleston
 8-D: Kawainui Marsh, Quarry Road, Kapaa and Kalaheo Landfills: Don, Doris, and Colin Huddleston
 8-E: Kailua to Hawai'i Memorial Cemetery (Kane'ohe): Robert Pyle
 9: Mokapu Peninsula, Kane'ohe Makai, Moku Manu: Lance Tanino, Diane Drigot, Peter Donaldson, Thierry Work, Allison Boale, Ryan Lingle, Dan Moriarty
 10-A: Ho'omaluhia Botanical Garden: Martha McDaniel
 10-B: Haiku Road, He'eia Marsh, Waihe'e Wetland: Dana Kokubun, Brian Worth

Table 2: Christmas Bird Counts At French Frigate Shoals--1991-1992

	<u>1992</u>	<u>1991</u>
Black-footed Albatross	5517	1147
Laysan Albatross	3408	1995
hybrid Black-footed X Laysan Albatross	[2]	[1]
Bonin Petrel	8	63
Red-tailed Tropicbird	1	3
Masked Booby	183	33
Brown Booby	41	2
Red-footed Booby	278	255
Great Frigatebird	424	352
Cattle Egret	1	-
Peregrine Falcon	-	1
Lesser Golden-Plover	71	62
Wandering Tattler	5	5
Bristle-thighed Curlew	3	2
Ruddy Turnstone	635	698
Sanderling	6	-
Sooty Tern	1296	109
Brown Noddy	1604	307
Black Noddy	3146	2027
White Tern	<u>60</u>	<u>35</u>
Species	18	17
Total Individuals	16689	7097
Observers	4	4
Party Hours	12.5	3.5
Count Date	22 Dec	25 Dec
Compiler	Beth Flint	Jennifer Megyesi

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Volunteers Flock to Oiled Wildlife Workshops

by Barbara Maxfield

We came in all shapes and sizes, young people, senior citizens, experts and novices, but all with one interest in common: the desire to help birds and animals survive a potentially disastrous oil spill off the coast of the Hawaiian Islands.

During twelve oiled wildlife rescue and rehabilitation workshops held throughout the islands in mid-February, a total of 319 people were trained in basic techniques that could save the lives of seabirds, turtles and other visitors to our shorelines. The workshops were conducted by Jay Holcomb and Mark Russell of the International Bird Rescue Research Center of Berkeley, California.

Sponsors for the workshop were the Clean Islands Council,

Hyatt Resorts Hawaii, the National Audubon Society, and the Oceania Regional Response Team, with the cooperation of the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Sea Life Park, the Honolulu Zoo, and the Hawaii Sea Grant Program.

Using lectures, slides, and video tapes, Jay and Mark gave us an introduction to rescuing and treating oiled birds, since generally about 90 percent of the animals affected are bird species. Spilled oil sticks to the bird's feathers, destroying their ability to waterproof and insulate the bird's body. As the bird tries to clean itself, it actually ingests the oil, causing additional damage to the internal organs. And the bird can get so involved in trying to clean its feathers that it

doesn't eat or evade predators as it normally would.

"The hardest lesson to learn is that you can't save them all," Jay told us. "You always run out of time, and even after treatment, 50 percent is a good survival rate."

The obvious first step, and perhaps the trickiest, in rescuing a

bird is to hold its beak between two fingers, with the rest of the hand over its head and covering its eyes. At the stabilization site, the birds are made as comfortable as possible, given fluids orally, and warmed if necessary. They are then transported in ventilated and temperature controlled boxes to the rescue and



Artwork by Diane Poché

Jay stressed that the facilities should be thought of as hospitals, not as zoos. He reviewed requirements for space, ventilation, water, equipment, pens, and supplies.

Imagine the logistics of setting up a rescue center — just the thought of providing 1,500 gallons of warm water per hour for days at a time is mind-boggling!

Admittance procedures at the center include a basic physical examination to look for broken bones or other gross abnormalities,

that from the bird's perspective, we're always a predator, and each species will react differently to the perceived threat. Some will try to fly away, some will run, and some will try to hide. He stressed safety precautions for the rescuers, including the need for working in teams and wearing proper safety equipment.

Once the bird is caught, we learned to hold it securely against our bodies at about hip level and maintain control of its head. The



Photo Courtesy of IBRRC

More of Audubon's Priorities in the 103rd Congress

This is the second of a three part series on Audubon's priorities by Dana Kokubun.

* * *

The National Audubon Society will be at the forefront on several important environmental issues coming before the new Congress and the Clinton Administration, including: Wetlands, Endangered Species, the

Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, and Ancient Forests.

In this issue we will look at the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.

ISSUE:

The coastal plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge is one of our last pristine wilderness areas, and home to

the 185,000-member Porcupine caribou herd. Congress must decide if it is to be sacrificed for 100 days worth of oil, or preserved for future generations.

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Congress should move quickly to designate the coastal plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge as a wilderness area.

CURRENT LAW

Under the Arctic



File Photo

National Interest Lands Conservation Act, enacted in 1980, most of the refuge is designated as "wilderness." because of the possibility of oil underlying the coastal

plain, however, Congress left open the question of protecting its 1.5 million acres. it directed the U.S. Department of Interior to conduct a study of oil

Continued on page 2

Arctic National Wildlife Refuge Protection

Continued from page 1

potential and wildlife/wilderness values and make a recommendation back to Congress. The Department of the Interior recommended in 1987 that the entire 1.5 million-acre coastal plain be leased for oil exploration and development, alleging that there could be a one in five chance of finding oil there.

RECENT ACTION

Since the Interior report recommending oil exploration, there have been several bills in Congress — primarily in the Senate — to open the coastal plain to oil

development. all have failed. Legislation has also been introduced to protect the coastal plain as wilderness (S 39, HR 39 and HJR 239.

YOUR OPINION COUNTS

The 103rd Congress is bringing tremendous change to the environment and to the way we live our lives. It is important that citizens participate to determine whether those changes will be positive or negative. If you can, please write or meet with your congressperson and voice your opinion!



File Photo

Dana Kokubun has been the Director of the Hawaii State Office since its opening four years ago. Her professionalism, diligence and spirit have established the National Audubon Society as a major force in the conservation community in Hawaii.

She has forged a vast web of working relationships across the state, on the American continent, and in the Pacific with the Audubon chapter in Guam. She has embraced controversy to push the process, when needed. The wide range of her skills covers the gamut for administrative and fundraising areas of grass roots activism and lobbying as well as writing and editing several environmental pieces. The list goes on and on.

Dana plans on spending some well-deserved time at home with her husband and two children who will be the happy recipients of her energy and gourmet meals. Good luck, Dana. You will be greatly missed.



“The hardest lesson to learn is that you can’t save them all.”

Jay Holcomb
IBRRC



Photo Courtesy of IBRRC

weighing the bird, taking its temperature, and drawing blood for evaluation. Individual medical records are kept on all birds. Once the bird has been stabilized (which may take a day or two), it is ready for washing.

Birds are washed in a solution of one percent Dawn dishwashing

detergent and 106 to 110 degree water. One person holds the bird's head while another holds its body in one hand and gently washes the bird in the other. The bird should be submerged in the soapy solution up to its head, and the body gently massaged all the way to the skin. A Waterpik and a soft toothbrush are



Jay Holcomb

Photo Courtesy of IBRRC



File Photo

Dana Kokubun, Scott Shirai, and Sheila Laffey with giant HECO check.

HECO Renews Paradise Pursuits Grant

Mahalo to Hawaiian Electric Company for its continued support of Paradise Pursuits, Audubon's environmental quiz show for high school students. HECO's grant enables National Audubon to offer the competitions to students statewide. This year high school teams can sign up and start preparing in the fall for spring competitions. HECO's Scott Shirai says that "Paradise Pursuits is a nice (blend) of the company's two main gift giving focuses: education and environment." Teachers may call 522-5566 for more information.

Clear eye drops are administered and the legs are rubbed with a water-based gel to prevent cracking. The animal is released in the pen, which is kept at between 80-90 degrees. Drying time varies between species; it may take only 30 minutes, or it could be 3 hours. From the drying room, the bird is placed in another pen and closely monitored.

When the bird is clean and waterproof, is within a normal weight range, has normal blood chemistries and is feeding itself, and is exhibiting normal active behavior, it is ready for banding and release back into the wild. This may take several days for some birds, while others will be ready much sooner.

Obviously, the process is not a simple one, and those of us in the class would hardly deem ourselves "experts" after the four-hour class. But it was an important beginning, and I'm sure most of us appreciate having the opportunity to learn the basics of oiled wildlife rescue and rehabilitation, just in case the unthinkable happens here in Hawaii!

Barbara is the information and education specialist at USFWS.

used to clean the head. The process is repeated in several basins until the bird is clean and the water is clear.

At the rinsing station, a high pressured nozzle is used to gently rinse the bird with warm water. A circular motion is used from head to tail, then on the wings, chest, and stomach. This process may need to be repeated. The feathers' natural waterproofing returns as they are cleaned and rinsed, and in essence, you are "drying" them with water. When rinsing is complete, the bird is wrapped in a towel (but not rubbed or patted!) and taken to the drying room.

49th Annual Honolulu Christmas Count -- 1992

Species:	Sectors										Total
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
Laysan Albatross	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	-	4
Brown Booby	-	-	-	7	-	-	-	-	1	-	8
Red-footed Booby	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	281	-	287
Great Frigatebird	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	3	13	33	50
Cattle Egret	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	47	155	-	202
Black-crowned Night-Heron	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	5	47	3	57
Mallard	-	-	-	-	-	19	-	104	8	7	138
Koloa	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Peregrine Falcon	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Gray Francolin	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
Ring-necked Pheasant	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Hawaiian Moorhen	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	-	3
Hawaiian Coot	-	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	4	10
Pacific Golden-Plover	5	99	73	79	38	199	-	105	537	64	1199
Hawaiian Stilt	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	76	-	77
Wandering Tattler	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	3	11	-	16
Ruddy Turnstone	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	242	-	245
Sanderling	-	-	-	-	-	16	-	-	10	-	26
White Tern	-	4	-	[CW]*	1	-	-	-	-	-	5
Rock Dove	-	16	-	38	-	44	-	190	11	-	299
Spotted Dove	32	183	75	171	98	380	-	226	306	42	1513
Zebra Dove	3	441	175	487	798	1513	-	448	206	41	4112
Rose-ringed Parakeet	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Barn Owl	-	-	[CW]*	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Gray Swiftlet	8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8
Red-vented Bulbul	98	225	129	63	118	316	-	132	156	72	1309
Red-whiskered Bulbul	26	41	37	12	1	3	-	-	-	11	131
Japanese Bush-Warbler	21	7	7	-	-	1	-	2	2	2	42
(O'ahu) 'Elepaio	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6
White-rumped Shama	42	3	11	1	3	6	-	4	1	20	91
Hwamei	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Red-billed Leiothrix	10	8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	18
Northern Mockingbird	-	-	2	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	4
Common Myna	1	75	212	223	324	774	-	540	502	47	2698
Japanese White-eye	206	104	96	13	39	125	-	15	57	42	697
Northern Cardinal	30	14	22	-	9	37	-	14	20	8	154
Red-crested Cardinal	8	19	15	49	31	174	-	75	65	20	456
Saffron Finch	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
House Finch	10	36	5	41	81	208	-	4	18	-	403
Yellow-fronted Canary	5	-	-	-	30	29	-	-	-	-	64
O'ahu 'Amakihi	54	14	11	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	79
'Apapane	49	8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	57
House Sparrow	-	81	18	39	182	281	-	60	109	6	776
Lavender Waxbill	-	-	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	4
Orange-cheeked Waxbill	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	11	6	17
Common Waxbill	24	-	-	-	17	24	-	98	146	14	323
Nutmeg Mannikin	5	12	-	2	33	53	-	80	239	30	454
Chestnut Mannikin	-	-	-	-	-	8	-	-	12	7	27
Java Sparrow	2	315	87	116	286	1130	-	383	351	32	2702

Species	21	23	17	15	20	25	-	24	33	22	48
Total Individuals	645	1713	976	1341	2094	5350	-	2546	3602	512	18779
Party Hours	13	13	10	5	8	19	-	9	11	3	91

[CW]*=Species seen in count circle during count week, but not seen day of count

Oil Spill Mars Hawaiian National Wildlife Refuge

Someone forgot to think, and now portions of Laysan Island—part of the Hawaiian Islands National Wildlife Refuge—are marred by tar balls and clumps of oil. Worse, 15 endangered Hawaiian monk seals are matted with oil, five of them heavily.

"This shouldn't have happened," said Ken McDermond, Refuge Manager for the Pacific Remote Islands Refuges. "Oil spills like this one can be prevented if people will only stop to think about the consequences of their actions. In addition to the impacts on the wildlife and the natural environment, oil spills can significantly impact a company's or individual's pocketbook, if we can track down the perpetrator," he added. A Coast Guard aircraft flew over the area but did not locate a possible source of the oil. The Coast Guard can impose civil fines of up to \$25,000.

The oil first began washing up on the shores of Laysan Island on Friday, 26 March. Two U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) biologists stationed on the remote island at a primitive field camp reported the spill by radio the next day. About five miles of the seven-mile coastline were affected by tar balls and odd-sized clumps of oil. Heavy surf over the weekend concentrated the oil along the 350 feet of the southeastern shoreline. The USFWS initiated cleanup of the heavily oiled shoreline. Tar balls were manually raked and gathered into sand-lined pits, for future burning. The cleanup effort, which was completed in early April, eliminated the most significant hazards to the island's wildlife.

"We're very fortunate only 15 monk seals have been affected," McDermond said. "Usually, the oil heavily impacts the birds, but we haven't found any oiled birds to date." Laysan Island is home to more than 2 million breeding seabirds, endangered Laysan Ducks and Laysan Finches, more than 250 Hawaiian monk seals, and green sea turtles, a threatened species.

Because handling monk seals is highly stressful to the animals, National Marine Fisheries Service experts recommended against cleaning them, according to McDermond. Biologists are closely monitoring the animals and the effects of the oil on them.

Laysan Island is located 850 miles northwest of Honolulu in the northwestern portion of the Hawaiian Archipelago. The remoteness of the islands makes them particularly vulnerable to oil spills. "We just happened to have biologists on Laysan Island who could immediately respond to the problem," said

McDermond. "Otherwise, it may have been weeks before we even knew an oil spill had occurred, and several more days before we could clean it up," he added. A larger oil spill could have affected large numbers of migratory birds, critically endangered species, and important terrestrial and marine habitats.

Sight Record of a Merlin (*Falco columbarius*) on Kaua'i

by David Stirling¹

While on a birding trip to the Hawaiian Islands in March 1993, I visited Kilauea Lighthouse several times (the refuge was closed due to hurricane damage but good viewing could be had from outside the gate). On one of my visits, from 4:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. on 4 March, I noticed a brownish bird with pointed wings dart down the cliff. My first response was, "another Lesser Golden-Plover." The updraft carried the bird up near the lighthouse and then directly over my head at about 100 feet. It circled low two or three times before disappearing, wind assisted, in a southerly direction. It was a small falcon. The under parts were evenly finely streaked. A faint facial stripe was seen when the bird peered down from close overhead. The most noticeable field mark was the strongly barred tail. Size seemed to indicate a male, although I did not get a clear view of the back. General coloration seemed to indicate that it was an individual of the *columbarius* race, not the Black Merlin of the northwest coast of North America.

The Merlin is not listed on the field check card of the Hawaii Audubon Society, 1987. It is not mentioned in Pratt D. *et al*, *A Field Guide to the Birds of Hawaii and the Tropical Pacific*, 1987. Pyle, Robert L. 1992, "Checklist of the Birds of Hawai'i," lists the Merlin in the appendix on the basis of a sighting of one bird on Midway, 1991.

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Manoa Cliffs Trail Field Trip

by Donna de Haan

Ten eager birders gathered at the lower starting point of the Manoa Cliffs Trail on Round Top Drive (4000 block) to find the weather sunny and warm. Light rain of the previous day left the trail with some muddy areas in low lying spots, but once out on the "cliffs" it was clear hiking, even though the summit of the Ko'olaus was shrouded in moisture threatening clouds. It made for beautiful light shadows playing on the valley walls of Manoa. As soon as we came out on the "cliffs," we spotted a small flock of Red-billed Leiothrix moving up the trail ahead of us. The two Mainlanders in the group were enchanted by the songs and sightings of Shama Thrushes who were in full song and readily answered our calls. A White-tailed Tropicbird was briefly visible floating on the thermals in Nu'uuanu Valley. Japanese Bush-Warblers and Northern Cardinals were heard, and Common 'Amakihis were seen and heard. Mejiros, Red-vented and Red-whiskered Bulbuls were in abundance, and one of the group sighted a lone Java Sparrow sitting on the trail.

Rainfall has been under normal this year to date. Plants along the trail showed some stress. It is sad to see how much koa has died due to a disease (?) not yet identified. 'Ie'ie was a spectacular sight wrapped around 'ohi'a-lehua and koa (a true Hawaiian plantscape). Other natives sighted were kopiko, 'ahakea, 'alaha'e, hala-pepe, uluhe, pala'a, lehua-'ahihi, mamaki, and koki'o-ke'oke'o to name a few. We had a fine view of kolea-lau-nui with full ripe purple fruit attracting birds, in this case Mejiros feeding.

About half way through our leisurely walk, we were surprised by two breathless people who had missed the group at both meeting spots and dashed up the trail until they found us. Congratulations to the two Stephanies—game souls!

We ended the hike by coming out Pu'u Ohi'a Trail and walking down Round Top Drive to our cars. It was agreed that the day was fine and the hike gratifying.

Moving?

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

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The 'Elepaio is printed on recycled paper.

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.

HAS Dues for 1993

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

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National and Hawaii Societies: 20.00

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Research Grants

The Hawaii Audubon Society makes grants for research in Hawaiian or Pacific natural history. Awards generally do not exceed \$500 and are oriented toward small-scale projects within Hawai'i. Special consideration will be given to those applicants studying the Northwest Hawaiian Islands, dryland forests, and aeolian systems on Hawai'i.

The deadlines for receipt of grant applications are 1 April and 1 October. For an application form send a self-addressed stamped envelope to Grants, Hawaii Audubon Society, 212 Merchant Street, Suite 320, Honolulu, HI 96813. For more information, call Phil Bruner, (808) 293-3820 (W).

Also, the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service is looking for project proposals that could be financed with \$100,000 in Hawai'i Biodiversity Joint Venture Initiative funding for fiscal year 1994. Projects must promote the conservation of biological diversity in the Hawaiian Islands.

Priority will be given to projects implementing management or research actions that contribute to the recovery of multiple endangered, threatened, candidate, or rare species; projects that benefit rare or unique ecosystems or habitats, and projects that address key threats to native ecosystems or habitats.

Proposals should be submitted by 13 May to Pacific Islands Land Protection Coordinator, Hawaiian and Pacific Islands National Wildlife Refuge Complex, U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, P. O. Box 50167, Honolulu, HI 96850. For more information call Andrew Yuen, (808) 541-1314.

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

First Monday of Every Month

Monthly meeting of the Conservation Committee, 6:30 p.m., at the Coffeeline, 1820 University Avenue (in the YWCA). To join or for more information call David Hill, 988-7460 (H).

First Wednesday of Every Month

Monthly meeting of the Education Committee, 7:00 p.m., at the Coffeeline, 1820 University Avenue (in the YWCA). To join or for more information call Emily Gardner, 734-3921 (H), 254-2866 (W). The Committee is actively seeking new members, all welcome.

May 10, Monday

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

May 16, Sunday

See seabirds at the Makapu'u Lighthouse. Meet at the State Library on Punchbowl Street at 7:45 a.m. or in the parking area at the side of the road by the lighthouse at 8:45 a.m. Bring, water, sunscreen, binoculars, and/or

spotting scopes. For more information call Lance Tanino, 247-5965 (H). Suggested donation: \$2.00.

June 21, Monday

General membership meeting, Paki Conference Room, Bishop Museum, 7:30 p.m. Bill Gilmartin of the National Marine Fisheries Service will discuss population monitoring and protection of the Hawaiian Monk Seal throughout the island chain. Refreshments will be served.

Publications Available

The Hawaii Audubon Society publishes books, checklists, and field cards relating to birds of Hawai'i and the Pacific. For a complete price list send a self-addressed stamped envelope to Publications List, Hawaii Audubon Society, 212 Merchant Street, Suite 320, Honolulu, HI 96813.

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