



'ELEPAIO

Journal of the
Hawaii Audubon Society

For the Protection of
Hawaii's Native Wildlife

VOLUME 53, NUMBER 8

AUGUST 1993

Hawaii Audubon Society Is Still Flying High...!

by Stan Michaels

After 54 wonderful years the Hawaii Audubon Society is pleased to inform all of its members that we will be taking another giant step forward as we assume many of the responsibilities and management of the environmental, educational, and outreach programs that we had formerly shared with the Hawai'i state office of National Audubon. It will not be easy, and it will require some changes.

In their surprise decision last June to close their doors in Hawai'i, NAS inadvertently gave HAS a much broader agenda than it has ever undertaken, with a host of new work and additional concerns. We believe it is important to maintain as much of a presence as possible, at least until we can determine the direction our membership feels appropriate. We believe we are up to the challenge, especially considering the expertise, support, and the environmental conscience of that membership.

To that end it is important for all of us to understand just exactly what in the environmental arena is of most importance to our members. What brings the most joy to Hawaii Audubon members? What issues stand out as most important or pressing? What degree of activism, if any, is most appropriate for the Society? What activities or events would you like to see expanded or added to our schedule? Of the programs that we formerly shared with the National office, which should continue with our full support? What are some of those programs?

These are just a few of the questions that we feel are important. After all, Hawaii Audubon is the sum total of its members. For the past years we hope we have been supplying our membership with the atmosphere and activities of their choice. Now, however, we have some new challenges and choices. So, we need your help, because without your input it will be almost impossible to predict your desires, fulfill your goals, or address any of your specific concerns. We are not trying to make this so esoteric that it will require a social scientist and a zoologist to figure out

what you like! No, it is much simpler than that. We just believe that with your assistance and input we can go forward in the most appropriate manner.

So...in the ensuing months, we will be seeking information, a little help, and a few answers from all members.

In fact, the first opportunity you will have to help us is enclosed in this issue. You will note there are some dotted lines, a fold mark, and a couple of questions on page 57. We calculate, that it will take approximately four minutes for you to answer the brief questions, cut on the dotted lines, fold, seal, and find a stamp.

We want to reach out to our members in a manner and frequency that we have not attempted in the past. However, we also realize that all of you are very busy and don't have a lot of time to spare. With that in mind, we will try to design our questions and concerns in such a way that if you wish to respond, you will be able to do so very quickly and easily. This cut-out, fold-over is a good example.

Within the month we will be sending another piece your way. It will be very brief, and will include an update and list of the things on our current agenda. With your help, we will determine which, if any, of the items are most important to you.

For 54 years, the Hawaii Audubon Society has been the environmental conscience of the State of Hawai'i. We have an enormous amount of expertise and important knowledge. We also have a history as the protector of our native wildlife and habitat. Therefore, our biggest task in the months ahead is to (1) confirm the exact direction that HAS and its members wish to take, and (2) expand and diversify our revenue capability so as to maintain that leadership through our continued presence. To maintain that leadership, however, will require some new tactics to match the challenges and changes in our Society.

The tactics are simple. Supply information. A lot of information. You, the members of Audubon, because of your overall concern, awareness of your natural surroundings, and reading of the *'Elepaio* and other pertinent

materials, know and understand the impact your organization has had on Hawai'i. We are convinced, however, that the public is still confused as to what group does what. We don't wish to add to the public's confusion, but we do wish to get our name out and in the correct light.

We have instituted some market research and discovered that our expertise and products are underutilized. We hope to change that...in a big way. We want every Hawaii Audubon member to be proud that their organization is going to take an active role in helping to educate our children in particular, and the public in general, about Hawai'i and its magnificent native wildlife and habitat.

In fact, pride in Hawaii Audubon is the key. With your help, we hope to not only give you **reasons** to be proud, but **opportunities** to be proud. So please take the brief amount of time requested in the next few weeks to help us fix our direction and determine our place in the environmental community. We'll thank you in advance now. The children of Hawai'i and the world will thank you forever.

Hawaii Audubon is still flying high...!
And you are the wind beneath its wings...!

Candidates Needed

Joyce Stanney will chair the Nominating Committee for the 1993 elections. Other committee members are Lynne Matusow, Stan Michaels, Linda Paul, and Kevin Shaney.

Members are invited to submit nominations for first vice president, corresponding secretary, treasurer, and six directors. Most are two year terms.

Nominations should be sent to the Nominating Committee, Hawaii Audubon Society, 212 Merchant Street, Suite 320, Honolulu, HI 96813, by 31 August. For more information call Joyce Stanney at 533-0204 (H), or 543-0799 (W).

More Good News for the 'Alala

Six Hawaiian Crow Chicks Moved; Seventh Chick Hatches

The six 'Alala (Hawaiian Crow) chicks hatched in a temporary facility on the Big Island this spring have outgrown the facility and been moved to new homes. Five of the 'Alala chicks were relocated to the hacking facility on the Waiea tract in South Kona, from which they will eventually be released into the wild. The remaining chick was transferred to the State-administered Olinda Endangered Species Propagation Facility on Maui as an addition to its captive flock.

"All the chicks seemed to take their trip in stride," said Scott Johnston, U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) 'Alala recovery coordinator. "They immediately settled into their new homes and appear to be very happy to have more room!"

The first three chicks were moved by vehicle to the hacking facility on 7 June, with the assistance of personnel from the Zoological Society of San Diego, who operated the incubation and rearing facility. All three birds were females and hatched between 19 and 23 April. Two other birds, both males that hatched on 29 April and 1 May, joined the others on 17 June. The young birds were placed in a six-foot square box within a 50 by 110-foot aviary.

"Anytime there are only 12 individuals of a species remaining in the wild, recovery efforts are risky at best. In this instance, we are pleased to move forward with the release of the five young 'Alala into the aviary," said Peter Harranty of the Peregrine Fund. The hacking facility was constructed and is being operated by staff from the Peregrine Fund of Boise, Idaho.

"When some of the young 'Alala were first placed in their temporary hack box, some of the wild 'Alala approached and communicated with their future friends. One of the wild 'Alala, the male parent of the three female chicks, visits the facility regularly," Harranty added.

On 23 June, the female chicks were released into the aviary. At about nine weeks of age they are strong enough and have sufficient feathers to begin to flap their wings and try to fly. "We anticipate keeping them within the aviary through August or September, until they are able to care and fly for themselves," said Johnston.

The sixth chick was flown to Maui on 18 June. A female, she will be paired with the male chick hatched at Olinda in 1992. In addition to those two birds, eleven other 'Alala reside at the facility, including a chick that hatched at Olinda on 8 June. It is hoped the new female from the Big Island will provide some genetic diversity in the flock to reduce some of the inbreeding problems experienced at Olinda.

"Although we are extremely pleased with the progress the six captive-reared chicks are making, we have also experienced some setbacks with the re-nesting attempts by the three wild pairs," said Johnston. "We had hoped that the wild birds would successfully hatch a second clutch of eggs and raise them to maturity. Although all three pairs made a valiant attempt, none had succeeded by 29 June."

One wild pair hatched at least one and probably more eggs, and raised the chicks for approximately two weeks. When the parents began exhibiting unusual behavior at the nest, biologists investigated and found a dead chick at the base of the tree and an empty nest. The chick could have been dislodged by the parents or a predator, but showed no sign of predation and was apparently healthy before its death.

Another pair, known as the Kalahiki pair, hatched at least one and probably two eggs, but the hatchlings disappeared within a few days. The chicks may have been victims of predation or other factors, according to Johnston. An 'Io (Hawaiian Hawk), also an endangered species, a Pueo (Hawaiian Short-eared Owl), or a Barn Owl may have been the predator. At the end of June the pair was building a third nest.

Three eggs were removed from this nest on 30 June, after it became clear to the biologists monitoring the nest that the adults were not spending enough time incubating the eggs to ensure their survival. The eggs were cold and wet when removed from the nest. Two eggs were determined to be infertile, but the third egg was viable and hatched on 4 July. It is named Pomaika'i, which means fortunate, or lucky, in Hawaiian.

"We don't know for sure why the adults abandoned the nest," Johnston said. "The female incubates the eggs, while the male is responsible for bringing her food. He was becoming less and less attentive to her, and she probably was forced to leave the nest to search for her own food."

"We are very fortunate to have a seventh

chick this season," said Johnston. "This was our last chance of the season, and though we would have liked to have had a successful nest in the wild, we are very pleased with the number of healthy chicks produced this year."

Pomaika'i is scheduled to be transferred to the Olinda Endangered Species Propagation Facility to join the captive 'Alala flock located there. The 'Alala recovery team recommended the transfer to enhance the genetic diversity of the captive flock.

Breeding season in the wild is now over for the year, according to Johnston, so no additional chicks are expected. "We were somewhat surprised that the Kalahiki pair built three nests this year," he said. "Although they weren't successful in raising chicks in the wild, that one pair is responsible for four of the seven chicks hatched in captivity on the Big Island."

The new chick brings the total number of 'Alala to 31. "We're dealing with one of the most critically endangered bird species in the United States. Critics have questioned the cost of the program, but like every other native species here in Hawai'i, 'Alala are an important part of our ecosystem and one we certainly don't want to lose," said Johnston.

Source: USFWS

'Elepaio Indices Available

The 'Elepaio index for volume 50 (1990) is now available. It has been sent to all library and institutional subscribers and exchanges. Current individual members and subscribers may receive one without charge upon written request.

Also available, for \$3.00 a copy (including postage), is the 5-year index for volumes 46-50. Orders for the 5-year index should be sent to the Hawaii Audubon Society, 212 Merchant Street, Suite 320, Honolulu, HI 96813.

The Society thanks Susan Schenck and Joel Simasko for undertaking, respectively, the index entry designation and the computer entry and printing for each index.

Seen Ailing Owls? Please Report Sightings

State and Federal biologists engaged in a study of owl mortality on O'ahu are asking the public to report any sick or dead owls they find to the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) at 541-2749 between 7:30 a.m. and 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. Information about where and when the owl was found will be needed, as well as the condition of the bird. The scientists are investigating possible causes for an apparent increase in mortality statewide in Pueo (Hawaiian Short-eared Owl) and Barn Owl populations.

"Several theories as to the cause of owl deaths have been identified, including pesticide poisoning, disease, habitat loss, and starvation," said Jon Hale, project coordinator for the USFWS. "We need significantly more information about these owls to narrow the range of alternatives."

On O'ahu the Pueo is listed as an endangered species by the State of Hawai'i. State and Federal laws prohibit the possession of owls.

The sick owl syndrome study is sponsored by the USFWS and the Hawai'i Department of Land and Natural Resources, with of field work being conducted by the University

of Hawai'i-Manoa. The goal of the investigation is to determine whether or not pesticides are an influencing factor in the deaths.

Source: USFWS

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.

Environmental Directory

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.

Two Share Munro Award

by Lynne Matusow

Normand Lezy and Neil Murakami are the joint winners of the George C. Munro Award for Environmental Law. Both will be third year students at the Richardson School of Law at the University of Hawai'i-Manoa (UH). The Hawaii Audubon Society established the annual award to recognize outstanding students in environmental law at the school. The award carries a cash prize of \$250.

Lezy, who attended both the Coast Guard Academy and UH as an undergraduate, worked for the Environmental Law Center of Thailand in 1992. This summer he is working at a downtown law firm specializing in cases involving oil pollution act litigation. He hopes to practice overseas with an international non-governmental organization in the field of ocean environmental law.

Murakami, who did his undergraduate work at UH, has been concentrating on corporate law and litigation. He seeks a well rounded educational background and believes that environmental law will be increasingly important in the future.

Cut out on dotted lines

Just a couple of questions...ok...?

- √ Did you watch the HAS/NAS environmental quiz show *Paradise Pursuits* on TV?.....Yes___No___
- √ If yes...Do you think HAS should continue to coordinate this program?.....Yes___No___
- √ Did you know that HAS/NAS helped coordinate the Oiled Wildlife Rescue Training?.....Yes___No___
- √ Did you take the training to learn how to clean oiled wildlife?.....Yes___No___
- √ If you missed the training, would you like to take it now or in the future with HAS?.....Yes___No___
- √ What is your favorite activity as an Audubon member? (Mark as many times as you wish)
 - Reading the 'Elepaio_____, Audubon Magazine____? Birdwatching____?
 - Volunteering to help at events____? Attending lectures and slide programs____?
 - Participating in hikes and walks____? Just knowing that my little bit helps____?
- √ Would you like to participate in additional or more frequent HAS events?.....Yes___No___
- √ How long have you been a member of Audubon? _____ years.
- √ Which did you join first, Hawaii Audubon_____or National Audubon_____or did you join them concurrently? Yes___

*Name, address, and/or phone number (Optional) _____

Phone _____

Thank you very much. Now please cut me out on dotted lines, fold in half, tape shut, and affix postage.

Three Receive Scholarships

by Phil Bruner

Joby Rohrer and Lance Tanino have each been awarded the Rose Schuster Taylor Scholarship, which is made available by the Yao Shen Trust in honor of Rose Schuster Taylor. This tuition scholarship carries a stipend of \$1,340.

Rohrer, a student at the University of Hawai'i-Manoa, is majoring in biology. We trust that she will make important contributions in both research and conservation as she proceeds with her educational goals.

Tanino, a student at Windward Community College, has served HAS as a director and is currently chair of the field activities committee. We feel confident Tanino will be an important force in the area of conservation of Hawai'i's natural resources.

Gene Ross Kanekawailoa Davis of Moloka'i was awarded the Clara Grenville Hatch Scholarship. This stipend is for \$1,000. Davis is a junior majoring in biology at BYU-Hawai'i. He has a lifelong interest in wildlife and has conducted original research on skull characteristics as a mechanism of differenti-

ating male and female small Indian mongooses (*Herpestes auropunctatus*). In June he participated in a major research study on mate and site fidelity of breeding Pacific Golden Plover (*Pluvialis fulva*), American Golden Plover (*Pluvialis dominica*), and Black-bellied Plover (*Pluvialis squatarola*) in Nome, Alaska. Davis hopes to pursue a career in wildlife management and would like to work on Moloka'i.

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.

HAS Members Welcome at Birding Group's Meeting

by Bruce Eilerts

Auduboners interested in birdwatching, bird research, publications, art, photography, and birdwatching equipment are invited to the first annual membership meeting of the American Birding Association (ABA) Hawai'i Area on Thursday, 26 August, at 7:00 p.m. at the Crosspointe Recreation Center, 249 Mananai Place, O'ahu.

The ABA is an international association of recreational birdwatchers. There will be a slide show featuring the best birdwatching spots in Hawai'i. Tips for finding birds and rare bird alert networking will also be provided.

For more information call Bruce Eilerts, 487-1806 (H) or Bob Pyle, 262-4046 (H), on O'ahu, or Reginald David, 329-9141 (W) on Hawai'i.

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533-0308 (FAX)

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Education: Emily Gardner (as above)
Field Activities: Lance Tanino, 247-5965 (H),
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'ELEPAIO

ISSN 0013-6069

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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 1994

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

Regular Member

Delivery to U.S. zip code addresses

Via bulk mail \$ 10.00

(Not forwardable to new address)

Via first class mail 16.00

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

Junior Member (18 and under) 5.00

Contributing Member 30.00

Sustaining Member 100.00

Life Member (one-time payment) 250.00

(three annual payments) 100.00, 100.00, 50.00

Benefactor (one-time payment) 500.00

Patron (one-time payment) 1,000.00

Delivery to non-U.S. addresses:

Mexico (airmail only) 16.00

Canada (airmail only) 17.00

All other countries (surface mail) 18.00

All other countries (airmail) 28.00

Introductory dues for

National and Hawaii Societies: 20.00

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

Three Awarded Research Grants

by Phil Bruner

The Hawaii Audubon Society announces the awarding of funds to Renee Moulun, Lisa Stratton, and Randall Kosaki, all associated with the University of Hawai'i-Manoa.

Moulun received \$527 to support her investigation into the transport of heavy metals and nutrients into Kawai Nui Marsh from two streams draining from the Kapa'a landfill. HAS has long had an interest in this wetland and is eager to encourage any work that could help in an improved understanding and the conservation and upgrading of this wildlife resource.

Stratton was awarded \$500 to aid in her study of the ecology and distribution of the pestivorous Himalayan yellow raspberry (*Rubus ellipticus*). Originally she had planned on investigating another potential plant pest, the tropical ash (*Fraxinus uhdei*). Logistical problems necessitated a change of plans. We trust, however, that her work on the Himalayan yellow raspberry will provide valuable knowledge into its control and hopefully subsequent eradication. Hawai'i's forests are constantly threatened by introduced noxious plants.

Kosaki also received \$500. He studies behavioral ecology and is currently working on behavioral mechanisms that permit co-existence of sympatric coral-feeding butterfly fishes of the family Chaetodontidae. This research will help to broaden our understanding of the intricate relationships that exist on tropical reefs. His excellent work has been applauded by other researchers.

The Hawaii Audubon Society is proud to support research that improves our knowledge of Hawaiian natural history and conservation of our precious resources. We encourage all who feel their studies qualify in this area to apply. To receive an application form send a self-addressed stamped envelope to Phil Bruner, Chair, HAS Grants and Scholarships Committee, Box 1775, Biology Department, BYU-Hawai'i, La'ie, HI 96762.

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.

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 are welcome. Note: because of vacation schedules there will be no meeting in August.

August 9, Monday

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

August 15, Sunday

Half-day hike of Aiea Loop Trail to see native rainforest and native forest birds. Bring water, binoculars, hiking shoes, sunscreen, and snacks. Led by Eric Vanderwerf. Meet at the State Library at 7:30 a.m. or the entrance to the park at 8:30 a.m. Suggested donation, \$2.00.

August 16, Monday

General membership meeting, Paki Conference Room, Bishop Museum, 7:30 p.m. Peggy Hickok Hodge, kama'aina writer and traveler, will give a slide show on her recent trip to the Galapagos. The talk will include pictures of the marine iguanas, tortoises, Blue-faced Boobies, flightless cormorants, nesting frigatebirds, flamingoes, red crabs, and sea lions on different islands. Refreshments will be served.

September 19, Sunday

Field trip to Nu'upia Ponds. 20 person limit. To register call Lance Tanino at 247-5965 (H) or 247-7878 (W) after August 12. Suggested donation: \$2.00.

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