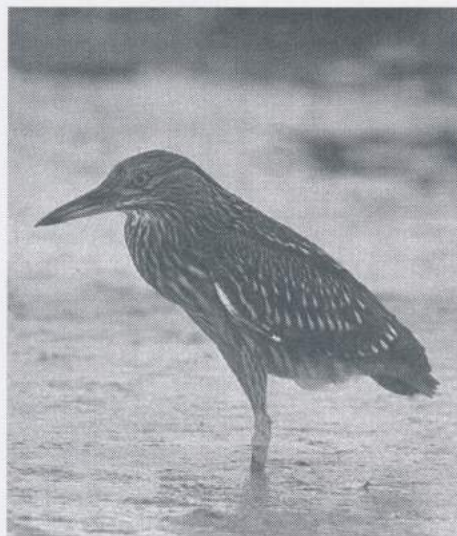


Christmas Bird Counts Need Your Help



Hawaii'i 'Amakihi (left) and Black-crowned Night-Heron (right). Photos © Reginald E. David.

Participants are needed to make the annual statewide Christmas counts a success. This is a sincere plea for help. You do not need to be an expert birdwatcher or ornithologist to participate. The general meeting on 5 December (see Calendar on page 72) will discuss the history and importance of the Christmas bird counts.

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

Christmas bird counts in Hawaii have been a longstanding tradition and one of the Hawaii Audubon Society's favorite annual field and social events. Bird counting will be done in towns, suburbs, wetlands, sea cliffs, beaches, grasslands, mountains, and forest.

Following are a list of the counts and the person to contact for more information and to sign up. With the exception of North Kona and Waimea, as of press time dates had not been set up.

Hawaii'i Island

North Kona. Saturday, 17 December. Contact: Reginald David, 329-9141 (W).

Volcano. Contact: Larry Katahira, 967-8226. Participants wishing to go with the party to Kulani Correctional Facility must get their social security number and birthdate to Larry Katahira no later than 30 November.

Kaua'i

Kapa'a. Contact: Barbara Stuart, 826-9233 (H).

Waimea. Sunday, 2 January. Contact: Kate Reinard, 335-9975 (W).

Maui

Pu'u O Kaka'e. Contact: Fern Duvall, 572-1584 (H).

Moloka'i

Kualapu'u. Contact: Nature Conservancy on Moloka'i, 553-5236, or Lynn Carey on O'ahu, 262-0254 (H).

O'ahu

Honolulu. Contact: Lance Tanino, 247-5965 (H), Monday and Thursday evening.

Waipi'o. Contact: David Bremer, 623-7613 (H).

Akaka, Chevron, and Hawaiian Electric Honored

by Andy Cowell

Hawaii Audubon's First Annual Awards Dinner was held at the Waikiki Aquarium on 30 September. About 50 people were treated to a free look at the newly-reopened aquarium's exhibits and a great Italian dinner catered by Alouette's. Everyone seemed to agree that the evening was a great success.

Honorees included Senator Daniel Akaka for his work in Congress on behalf of Hawaii and the Pacific (President's Award), Hawaiian Electric Companies, for their financial support of HAS's Paradise Pursuits program (Corporate Education Award), and Chevron Oil, for their sponsorship of the oiled birds project (Corporate Conservation Award).

Also honored were Charles Dunn, a founder of Hawaii Audubon in 1939 who received the appropriately named Charles Dunn Lifetime Achievement Award, Marjorie Ziegler (Conservation Award), George Campbell and Susan Schenck, who received the Volunteer Award for their tireless efforts, and Emily Gardner, Alyssa Miller, Jason Johnson, and Kersten Johnson (Program Award) for their efforts in founding the hugely successful Paradise Pursuits program.

The awards program was followed by an update on the status of the 'Alala, courtesy of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Seven birds were to be released into the wild on the Big Island last month, including the first ever wild releases produced by the Olinda Captive Breeding Facility on Maui. Over the last two years, the wild population has doubled, thanks in part to the efforts of HAS! The interesting update included videotape of baby birds being raised by hand as well as young ones on site in Kona. Let's hope there will soon be enough that we won't have to get all our sightings via video.

Field Trip Reports

Volunteers Needed for Albatross Project

Kuli'ou'ou Valley, August

by Tony McCafferty

The August field trip was held at Kuli'ou'ou Valley Trail for a hike into the valley with hopes of seeing 'Elepaio. We had overcast skies, light trades, medium humidity, and, oh yes, mosquitos.

Alvin Yoshinaga was kind enough to point out native plants as we headed into the valley. We had a few glimpses of White-rumped Shama Thrush, Japanese White-eye, and heard a Red-billed Leiothrix.

The highlights of the day would be the spectacular views, calls, and songs of two 'Elepaio, an adult and an immature found at different locations along the trail. At times we found ourselves unable to focus our binoculars that close.

James Campbell, September

by Lance Tanino

Led by refuge manager Johnny Beall, 26 people participated in a morning of birding at the Kii unit of the James Campbell National Wildlife Refuge (JCNWR).

The first sign of exciting birding was a lone Red-tailed Tropicbird flying over the refuge and heading out to sea. The last pond we checked turned out to be the best. It contained mudflats with some interesting shorebirds such as Wilson's Phalarope (1), Semipalmated Plover (2), Pectoral Sandpiper (2), Sharp-tailed Sandpiper (1), and dowitcher spp (2, one of which could possibly have been the rarer Short-billed Dowitcher). Finally, what has to be one of the most unusual occurrences on an HAS filed trip to JCNWR was observing a Pectoral Sandpiper in a feeding frenzy. We did not observe this shorebird through our field scope or through our binoculars because it was too close to use them. This sandpiper was feeding not more than five feet away! This might have been a very hungry sandpiper and/or it probably was making its first migration and had never seen humans before.

Other birds seen were Great Frigatebirds, Cattle Egrets, Black-crowned Night-Herons, Northern Shovelers, Hawaiian Moorhens, Hawaiian Coots, Pacific Golden-Plovers, Hawaiian Stilts, Wandering Tattlers, Ruddy Turnstones, Sanderlings, Spotted Doves, Common Waxbills, and Nutmeg Mannikins.

by Andy Cowell

The effort which began last year to encourage Laysan Albatross to breed on Kaohikaipu Island, near Manana Island and Sea Life Park, will continue this year. Once again, decoys and a sound system will be set up on the island to simulate an albatross colony, in hopes of attracting the colonial-nesting birds to begin using the island to breed. The hope is that this will draw the birds away from areas such as Dillingham Field, Kahuku, and Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Kane'oh'e Bay, where there are a number of potential conflicts with human uses, as well as danger to the albatross.

The project got off to a good start in 1993, attracting several albatross to the island for extended periods of time, though no breeding occurred. This year, the decoys should be in place earlier—by mid-November—so we hope to attract more returning birds. Once again, volunteers will be needed to observe activity on the island through a spotting scope from Sea Life Park and record data for ongoing scientific projects connected to the effort. Both veterans of last year and new recruits are welcome.

Andy Cowell will be running the project this year. If you are interested, you should contact him at 944-6421 (H). There will be a meeting to orient volunteer observers, followed by individual training sessions on site. The dates, times and places for these events have not yet been set, and will depend on how many people we hear from, so please get in touch.

This is a chance not only to participate in interesting scientific and conservation work, but also to spend three hours every week or two enjoying great views of the windward coast and the many other seabird species and humpback whales which frequent the area in the winter.

Finally, a special request: we would like to know if any HAS member has a boat which they might be willing to offer in case an emergency need arises to reach the island. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will take care of decoy set-up, but should there be problems with the sound system it would be expensive to use the limited project funds to rent transportation. If you would be willing to provide transportation in such an emergency, please let us know.

Paradise Pursuits Seeks Resource Materials on Human Impact and Wetlands

by Wendy Johnson

Paradise Pursuits, Hawaii Audubon Society's unique contribution to the arena of local environmental education, is always on the lookout for new resources to update and enhance the existing list of recommended reading for high school students participating in the program. Each fall, teachers who function as coaches for their school's Paradise Pursuits team are provided with a bibliography covering the following four question categories: native species, alien species' threats to Hawaii's environment, natural history of Hawaii, and human impact on the environment. The bibliography currently includes books and pamphlets as well as posters and videotapes, all relating to Hawaii's ecosystems and the need to protect them. Over the years, Hawaii Audubon Society has also forwarded to participating high schools most of the specific materials which are considered primary sources for the Paradise Pursuits game questions, so that each team is now building quite an impressive collection

of reference material. We have been fortunate enough to receive donations of many excellent resources which assuredly are put to productive use, since they are necessary study tools for the spring competitions held throughout the state.

For the 1994-'95 Paradise Pursuits season, we would like to expand the bibliography in the areas of human impact and wetland species and ecosystems. Searches are underway for free and available materials covering these areas. More emphasis will also be placed on awareness of current events affecting Hawaii's natural heritage by listing the Sunday newspaper and Susan Scott's weekly "Ocean Watch" columns in the *Honolulu Star-Bulletin* as primary sources on this year's bibliography. Donations and suggestions are always welcome: please contact Wendy Johnson, Paradise Pursuits coordinator, 528-1432.

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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 blue spruce and mountain rose with a black design. We also have a few in ash (gray). 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, 1957 Alai Place, 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 1995

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

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

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.)

Help Needed for 20 November Mailing

We will be mailing ballots, dues renewal notices, and our annual fundraising appeal to over 2,500 members on Sunday, 20 November, from 12:00 noon to 5:00 p.m. We need help stuffing, addressing, and stamping the mailing. If you can give us an hour or more, please call Lynne Matusow, 531-4260 (H). The mailing party will be at our office, 1088 Bishop Street, Suite 808.

This is a great way to meet new people and have fun while helping Audubon get the work done. Refreshments will be served.

Request for Owl Pellets

by Carolyn Mostello

Recently, people have looked for cases of Barn Owl and Pueo population fluctuations in the Hawaiian Islands. Suggested causes of owl mortality include pesticide poisoning, diseases, competition for food, or simply the result of collisions of owls with cars. As a graduate student at UH-Manoa, I am studying owl diets to examine the possibility of competition between owl species, or between owls and other predators such as mongooses. One of the best ways of determining what owls eat is by examining "owl pellets"—indigestible items that they periodically regurgitate.

I would like to obtain as many pellets as possible, and would appreciate donations of Barn Owl or Pueo pellets from any of the islands.

Pellets that are found should simply be placed in a ziploc bag, or any other small plastic bag, along with information on the date of collection, location (as exact as possible), which species of owl (if known), and the collector's name and phone number. Care should be taken not to crush pellets, as they are fragile. You may send them directly to me at UH-Manoa; or call or write for further information: Carolyn Mostello, Department of Zoology, UH-Manoa, 2538 The Mall, Honolulu, HI, 96822, phone: 956-8617 or 956-4715.

'ELEPAIO

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The 'Elepaio is printed on recycled paper.

Calendar of Events

First Thursday of Every Month

Monthly meeting of the Education Committee, 7:30 p.m., at the Coffee Line, 1820 University Avenue (in the YWCA). To join or for more information call Emily Gardner, 734-3921 (H). The Committee is actively seeking new members to work on the 1994-'95 Paradise Pursuits Program. All are welcome.

Monday, November 7

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

Sunday, November 20

Mailing party, 12:00 noon to 5:00 p.m. For details see article on page 71.

Saturday, November 26

Field trip to Kii Unit, James Campbell National Wildlife Refuge, led by Lance Tanino. This is your opportunity to see native waterbirds as well as migratory shorebirds and waterfowl. Meet at the State Library on Punchbowl Street at 7:30 a.m. or at 8:45 a.m. in the parking lot next to First Hawaiian Bank at the Kahuku Sugar Mill shopping center. Bring binoculars,

spotting scopes, water, and sunscreen. Call Lance Tanino, Monday or Thursday evening at 247-5965 (H) to sign up. Suggested donation: \$2.00.

December, various dates

Annual Christmas Count, see story on page 69.

Monday, December 5

General meeting on Hawaii Christmas Bird Counts. Learn how you can participate and see slides of interesting species. Paki Conference Room, Bishop Museum, 7:30 p.m. Refreshments will be served.

Publications Available

The Hawaii Audubon Society publishes books, checklists, and field cards relating to birds of Hawaii and the Pacific. For a complete price list send a self-addressed stamped envelope to Publications List, Hawaii Audubon Society, 1088 Bishop Street, Suite 808, Honolulu, HI 96813.

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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.

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