



'ELEPAIO

Journal of the
Hawaii Audubon Society

For the Protection of
Hawaii's Native Wildlife

VOLUME 56, NUMBER 2

MARCH 1996

State Of The Society For 1995 — President's Report

by Linda Paul

The Hawaii Audubon Society, established fifty five years ago by a small group of dedicated birders, is now a state wide conservation organization with a membership of over 2200. The Society offers monthly field trips and bimonthly programs for the public, supports a high school environmental education program, an oiled wildlife rehabilitation program, publishes scientific and educational materials, supports scientific research projects, and advocates wildlife protection and ecosystem conservation.

To date almost all of this effort has been accomplished by volunteers. However, as the Society has continued to grow it has become increasingly more difficult to coordinate these multiplying activities and maintain consistency without hiring some professional help. In the spring the Board of Directors hired a part time office person to answer phone messages, open and distribute mail, pay bills and deposit checks. It soon became apparent, however, that what the Society really needed was a administrative director with experience managing a conservation organization, coordinating volunteers, and developing additional sources of funding. On October 1, the Board hired Susan Miller, former head of the Natural Resources Defense Council's office in Honolulu, as a part time administrative director. Since the Society still needs additional funding to cover the additional costs of having a small professional staff until the Society's income base can be expanded, we are seeking additional funding to cover the transition period.

The Society has also had to contract out some services formerly done by retiring yet irreplaceable volunteers. In February a professional mailing service took over distribution of the *'Elepaio*. The number of issues of the *'Elepaio* were cut from twelve to nine to reduce costs, which were consuming a quarter of the Society's income.

Some of the Society's work continues to be done by independent contractors. Legislative Analyst, Bart Dame was contracted to

monitor environmental issues of concern to the Society during the 1995 Legislative session, and wrote and presented testimony in behalf of the Society. He was assisted in this effort with the help of members of the Society's Conservation Committee.

The Oiled Wildlife Recovery and Rehabilitation Program was and continues to be headed by another independent contractor, Linda Elliott, who completed the oil spill contingency planning process in 1995 and began developing a trained oil spill response team. Her work is supported by generous grants from the Chevron Companies and BHP - Hawaii Foundation.

The Paradise Pursuits Environmental Education Program continued to grow during the 1994-1995 school year under the guidance of independent contractor, Wendy Johnson, who successfully negotiated with KITV-4 to produce and broadcast the semi-final and final Paradise Pursuits team competitions. Major funding for this annual program was provided by Hawaiian Electric Company with additional assistance from Castle and Cooke, Aloha Airlines and Outrigger Hotels. In August, the Board hired Sylvianne Yee, a retired teacher, to coordinate the program during the 1995-1996 school year as a part time Society employee. Last fall, in cooperation with the Department of Education, Sylvianne also organized a much needed two day workshop to give teachers and coaches training in how to teach the environmental educational material tested in the competition.

Volunteers continue to play the largest and most important role in the Society's conservation and environmental education efforts, however. Society members participated in the work of the 'Alala Recovery Team, the Natural Area Working Group, and the O'ahu Pilot Study workshop held in conjunction with the Conservation District Review. In cooperation with the University of Hawaii they conducted a systematic search for the 'elepaio, whose population has de-

clined dramatically on O'ahu. Volunteers also manned a booth at the Earth Day celebration, and pulled mangrove keikis and picked up trash during two service field trips to wetlands. Volunteers continued to help monitor the Albatross Project on Kaohikaipu Island, contributing approximately six hundred hours of observation time between November 15, 1994, and April 30, 1995. A large group of volunteers also help with the Paradise Pursuits program both on O'ahu and the neighbor islands each year.

In September the Society held its annual awards dinner at the Waioli Tea Room to honor volunteers, corporate sponsors, and public servants who made significant contributions to the Society and its conservation and education efforts during 1995. The Society also presented grants, awards and scholarships over the course of the year to students and investigators doing significant research in natural history. In the spring the Society presented awards to the best junior and senior research projects in Hawaiian natural history at the 38th Hawaii State Science and Engineering Fair. In August, the Society awarded the Rose Schuster Taylor scholarship to Lance Tanino, who is studying ornithology at the University of Hawaii. In the fall the Society presented the George C. Munro award to Blake Oshiro, the law student earning the highest grade in the 1994 Environmental Law class at the W. S. Richardson School of Law at the University of Hawaii. Research grants were awarded to Scott Fretz for study of the relationship between the distribution and abundance of endangered Hawaiian forest birds and their insect prey, and to Kazue Asoh (see "Research Award" in this issue).

During the course of the year a Birders Network was also formed, with the Society office maintaining a list of birders interested in informal trips with other members. In December, the Society held its annual Christmas bird counts on O'ahu, Kaua'i, and Hawai'i.

Your Bequest Can Help

A bequest to the Hawaii Audubon Society is an excellent way to help in our conservation efforts. For example, George C. Munro, enthusiastic and tireless field ornithologist and naturalist, provided for a fund to be used exclusively for the protection of native dry forests.

Although an attorney should be consulted

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in the drafting of your will, a model clause for bequests is set forth below:

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

For more information and assistance, contact the Hawaii Audubon Society, 1088 Bishop Street, Suite 808, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813, (808) 528-1432.

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The Year In Conservation 1995

Conservation Committee Annual Report

by David Hill, Outgoing Chairperson

Last year the Society's Conservation Committee took on a number of issues. The Committee worked in a variety of forums: the state legislature, agency hearings, grassroots appeals, roundtable discussions, issue-specific working groups, and workshops.

Legislative action

For the second year in a row we committed the bulk of our budget to providing for a legislative analyst who would represent the Society's interests at the state level. Bart Dame, who has a background in political, environmental, and social activism, wrote and presented testimony for HAS.

Legislation limiting roadside spraying of pesticides was one of a very few good environmental bills to make it through the tortuous circuit of committees in both House and Senate in 1995. We were quite disappointed, then, when Governor Cayetano vetoed this positive legislation. Stay tuned in 1996 for a roadside spraying bill which addresses the Governor's objections.

The state passed up a chance to receive \$1.3 million in matching federal funds for Non-point Source Pollution programs. In a move which many considered to be "pennywise and pound foolish," Senate Ways and Means Chairperson, Donna Ikeda, provided only \$60,000 for these programs. HAS and others advocated strenuously for these programs, which affect fishing, coral reefs, tourism, stream quality, and public health.

Several "right to sue" bills were introduced in 1995. When faced with the threat of lawsuits, government agencies that might have been willing to overlook environmental law violations can be prodded into doing their job. Corporate lobbyists and most state and county agencies are opposed to the concept. Because of this opposition, no hearings were held on the bills.

Appointments supported

The appointment of environmental attorney, Michael Wilson to head the Department of Land and Natural Resources was heartily

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supported by HAS and other non-profit public interest groups. Likewise, the appointment of Gary Gill to head the Office of Environmental Quality Control was good news in 1995.

'Alala issue

On the 'alala issue, HAS continued to work with landowners, government agencies, and private organizations for the recovery of this highly endangered species. We joined in advocating for the establishment of a National Wildlife Refuge in the one area where an extremely small and at-risk wild population still exists. HAS will continue to vigorously work to protect the 'alala and its habitat. HAS is represented on the Federal Recovery Team by Immediate Past President Reginald David. The Recovery Team is actively working to develop protocols for the recovery of this species.

Critical habitat designation for endangered plant species continued to be the focus of a coalition of which HAS is a part. Our greatest concern is for plant species with extremely small populations which are subject to possible destruction by live bombing and fires associated with military training.

President Linda Paul followed closely proposed changes to the State Endangered Species Act (ESA) for HAS. She attended "roundtable" type meetings in late 1994 which attempted to find consensus between divergent interests. The bills which made it to the 1995 legislature were flawed from our point of view, and fortunately did not make it out of the State House. HAS would have considered the inclusion of incidental take provisions along the lines of the federal ESA, as long as safeguard provisions similar to the federal act were also included. In the end the various parties did not agree and the measure was tabled for the 1995 session.

Draft hammered out

The Natural Area Working Group, which was established to work out differences between various interests surrounding the Natural Area Reserve System, hammered out a draft of about forty actions, eight resolutions, and several budget items. Suzanne Marinelli and Reginald David represented HAS in these extensive and often heated meetings. We would have hoped for stronger protections; but, given the very divergent views with which Working Group members began the discussions, in the end some pretty creative solutions were arrived at which offer hope for the future of these rare habitats.

Avian botulism

Avian botulism is a very serious threat which HAS and others addressed in a workshop. This series of meetings included many agencies, and looked at the strategies for responding to botulism outbreaks at the federal, state, and local levels. This disease has potentially devastating consequences for native birds. For example, at Aimakapa pond in Kona, at least 90% of the native waterfowl perished within two weeks. Reginald David will continue to pursue this for HAS.

Priorities presented

The Environmental Legislative Network held a meeting to provide a list of environmental priorities to the Cayetano administration. Interim Chairperson David Hill represented HAS and brought forth several proposals, some of which were included in the final consensus report. Our proposals included shifting state priorities away from game management towards native species management; increasing enforcement of existing laws; increasing research funding for alien species control; stopping the harvest of native species with habitat value on state lands; addressing overfishing; testing for water contamination; and increasing educational efforts to support compliance with existing environmental laws.

Federal legislative action

On the federal level, David Hill represented HAS in a meeting with the staff of Senator Akaka on the issue of opening the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to oil drilling. We also worked to generate grassroots support against this legislation, which has been a rallying point for groups nationwide. The Gwich'in tribe of Alaska addressed the HAS Board of Directors and presented a strong case why this oil development would be potentially disastrous to the most important calving grounds of the caribou, and therefore to the culture and sustainability of the Gwich'in people. Uncharacteristically, Hawaii's senators are the only Democratic senators to join the bulk of the majority Republicans on this issue, and are considered swing votes for the drilling.

Banding project

A project to band 'elepaio on O'ahu was worked on by Andy Cowell and Vaughn Sherwood of HAS and others. The project will look at the connection between avian malaria and plummeting 'elepaio population levels. Sherwood has petitioned the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for listing of the O'ahu 'elepaio as an endangered or threatened species.

Mahalo

We were sorry to see Conservation Chairman Andy Cowell leave for the mainland in the spring of 1995. We thank him for his many efforts on behalf of HAS and wish him well in his new home. David Hill returned as Interim Chairperson, and by the end of 1995 found an energetic and able replacement in Dan Sailer. Sailer is an environmental educator and has worked for two sessions as an aide in the Hawaii State Legislature.

The committee in 1995 included the following members who deserve acknowledgment: Andy Cowell, Reginald David, John Harrison, David Hill, Suzanne Marinelli, and Linda Paul. Please see the President's report for several other conservation related projects which HAS has undertaken outside of this committee.

We ended the year with a search for a legislative analyst for 1996. HAS is fortunate to have found Ms. Katherine Puana, a graduate of the Richardson School of Law with a strong interest in environmental issues.

Publications Committee Activities for 1995

by Reginald David, Chairperson

The Publication Committee's major project in 1995 was the completion of the audio tapes entitled "Voices of Hawaii's Birds," a boxed set of two cassettes featuring the calls of most of the birds found in Hawaii. The committee is happy to announce that we expect to have "Voices of Hawaii's Birds" in hand by the end of April. This set of tapes has been designed as a companion to the Society's most successful publication, "Hawaii's Birds."

The Committee has also revised the "Field Check-List of Birds of Hawaii," and it is now in press. In addition, the committee has been exploring new products. We are happy to report that we have two very promising projects in the initial stages of development. One is a series of natural history maps of the state, and the other is a line of books expanding on "Hawaii's Birds."

HAS Education Committee Annual Report

by Emily Gardner,
Outgoing Chairperson

1995 was a busy and successful year for the Hawaii Audubon Society's Education Committee. Committee members provided vital support for Paradise Pursuits, an environmental quiz show for Hawaii's high school students, as they assisted program coordinator Wendy Johnson with program planning, development, and team competitions.

Eighteen teams representing schools from across the state participated in the 1994-95 season. Four schools remained after neighbor island preliminary competitions to battle it out in the finals which were taped at KITV Channel 4 on Saturday April 8, 1995. Teams participating in the final rounds of competition were: Parker School on the island of Hawaii; Lahainaluna High School on Maui; Kaua'i High School from the Garden Island; and, Kamehameha School from O'ahu.

After two semi-final rounds and one final round of spirited competition, Kamehameha School was declared the Paradise Pursuits State Champion for the third consecutive year.

Approximately 50,000 people were estimated to have viewed the competitions when they were broadcast statewide on April 15, 1995, suggesting that many of Hawaii's residents, as well as high school students, learned a thing or two about the unique environment of our islands. While education committee members were happy to work with Wendy Johnson during the 1994-95 Paradise Pursuits season, they are equally pleased to be working with Sylvianne Yee who is serving as the program coordinator for the 1995-96 season.

Sylvianne, a former high school teacher, took over the program reins in September and didn't waste much time settling into her new role as coordinator. During October and November she conducted two training workshops for coaches and teachers and has already enlisted 34 schools to participate in the program during the coming season. She would welcome assistance from committee members for this year's competitions.

In addition to providing support for Paradise Pursuits, a number of HAS education committee members also served as judges for the Hawaii State Science and Engineering Fair which was held April 4-8 at the Neil Blaisdell Exhibition Hall. HAS presented awards to the best junior and senior research projects in the special category of Hawaiian natural history. Award winners were Johnathan Eveland, an eighth grader from Mid-Pacific Institute, who completed a project evaluating the differences of sand on several O'ahu beaches in relation to geological and oceanographic factors, and, Jenny Sakuoka, a ninth grader from Leilehua High School, whose project identified subspecies of acacia koa through growth morphology.

Research Award

Hawaii Audubon Society recently announced an award of \$500.00 granted to Kazue Asoh to support her research titled, "Female primacy in gonadal development and social control of primary sex determination in a Hawaiian damselfish, *Dascyllus albisella*."

In announcing the award, HAS Grants and Scholarship Chair, Phil Bruner noted, "Kazue's proposal and the excellent letters of recommendation suggest that her work will be both instructive and exciting."

The grants, which are offered for research in Hawaiian or Pacific natural history, generally do not exceed \$500 and are oriented toward small-scale projects within Hawaii. Special considerations are given to those applicants studying 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, 1088 Bishop Street, Suite 808, Honolulu, Hawaii 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.

Lowland Releases May Be The Answer For Saving The Nene

The results of a gosling mortality study¹ in Haleakala National Park during the 1994/1995 breeding season conducted by Drs. Helen and Paul Baker indicates that higher elevations are perhaps, and most likely have always been, unsuitable nesting habitat for nene because of the lack of water, quality food, and poor weather conditions during the breeding season. The Bakers' research revealed the major factors of gosling mortality to be starvation and dehydration (68.9%), while predation accounted for a maximum loss of 10.3%. Only 3.5% of the eggs produced fledged goslings.

It is speculated that nene once nested in lowland habitats where there is an abundance of winter grasses, and migrated as the dry summer began and after the goslings fledged, to mid-elevations where rains produced a new food supply. It is thought that over time human habitation forced the nene out of suitable habitats into the higher elevations where the population gradually declined from hunting, the introduction of predators, a lack of water and plants providing quality nutrition, and weather extremes — freezing temperatures, periods of excessive rain, then drought ... conditions affecting goslings, in particular.

Nene are productive at lower elevations. A few captive nene accidentally released from a toppled pen on Kaua'i during hurricane Iwa in 1982 have multiplied to over 125 birds, the nene collection at the Honolulu Zoo on O'ahu has consistently produced fertile eggs since the 1930's, and it is well known that the Herbert Shipman Estate at Keaau, Hawai'i maintained a small, but stable, flock for many years, and is again doing so.

At these sea level locations the most limiting factor is mongooses (except Kaua'i, which has none), whereas grass for grazing, and water for drinking and bathing are plentiful. Nene are often seen on golf courses on Kaua'i and the Big island.

The evidence pointing to success at lower elevations prompted state officials to begin lowland releases in 1991 on Kaua'i, in 1995 on the mid-elevation slopes of the West Maui mountains, and in the near future for Nene O Moloka'i to breed, reintroduce, and monitor

nene on the island of Moloka'i. There, the east end of the island, with a variety of habitats, holds the greatest potential of sustaining a wild nene population.

While captive propagation and release has proven to help to recover this endangered species through increasing numbers, it has only recently addressed the ability for those released birds to survive in the wild or to be recruited into the wild breeding population. The highly social behavior of nene in the wild allows goslings to stay with their parents over their entire first year, or more, of life. For goslings, this interaction and the shared foraging experience with adult geese may, in fact, be essential for their learning to survive in the wild.

In an effort to produce nene that will initiate a breeding wild population, Nene O Moloka'i will create a fenced predator-free, self-sustaining, wild environment planted with native Hawaiian and introduced edible vegetation. The nene will roam freely within the enclosure, choose mates, create territories, and naturally incubate eggs and hatch goslings. In effect, the goslings will be raised under wild conditions, and potentially be "educated" by the adults for their release into the wild.

Baker, P.E. & Baker, H. 1995. Egg and gosling mortality of the Nene (*Branta sandvicensis*), in Haleakala National Park, Maui, Hawai'i. Report to DOFAW

The above article appeared in *Nene News*, January 1996. *Nene News* is a publication of Nene O Moloka'i, P.O. Box 306, Kula, Hawai'i 96790

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.

Paradise Pursuits Salutes Donors

by Sylvianne Yee

So many companies and individuals have come forward this year to donate prizes, transportation, meals, and services. We are grateful to each and every one of them for helping to reinforce the idea that every player is a winner in Paradise Pursuits! We hope you will give extra consideration to the companies mentioned when you are in need of their products or services.

Donations ranged from t-shirts, guided hikes or tours, books, and mugs to dining and gift certificates. Certainly this is a win-win situa-

tion for all of us. The donors have helped by supporting a popular environmental educational program and the Hawaii Audubon Society is able to continue to challenge high school students to learn more about Hawaii's unique ecosystems and the need to protect them. Please watch the semi-final and final rounds to be aired on Saturday, June 1 on KITV 4, not April 20 as mentioned in a previous *'Elepaio* article.

Listed below are the individuals and companies who were so generous:

Bess Press
Charles Bigelow & Kris Holmes
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Historic Hawaii Foundation
Honolulu Zoological Society
Hookipa Haven Vacation Services, Maui
Hula Halau Wehiwehi O Leilehua, Maui
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National Tropical Botanical Garden
Native Hawaiian Plant Society
The Nature Conservancy of Hawaii
Nautilus II Semi Submersible, Kona
'Olelo, The Corporation for Community Television
Pacific Whale Foundation
Paths in Paradise - Ecocultural Hikes, Maui
Phyllis Lee
Sierra Club, Hawaii Chapter
Sierra Club Hawaii Service Trip Program
State Division of Forestry & Wildlife
State DOE Environmental Education Branch
Susan Scott
Times Supermarket
Trophies Hawaii
Waikiki Aquarium
Waikiki Lau Yee Chai
The Wildlife Society, Hawaii Chapter
Waimea Falls Park
Wallace Theater Corporation
Zippy's

The Hawaii Audubon Society also donated a Hawaii Audubon t-shirt to each participant.

A warm thank you to all of the donors for their support!

Duck Stamp First Pushed By Cartoonist

by Michael Smith
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service,

While the reality of the Federal Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp — commonly called the "Duck Stamp" — has been a fixture of waterfowling since 1934, the wetlands conservation initiatives behind the stamp reach back decades earlier.

Much of the credit for promoting the Duck Stamp goes to J.N. "Ding" Darling, an award-winning editorial cartoonist who penned the illustration for the first Duck Stamp while he was director of the Bureau of Biological Survey (the forerunner agency of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service).

Federal Junior Duck Stamp Contest Arrives In Hawaii

by Barbara Maxfield
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

For the first time ever, Hawaii's schoolchildren are being invited to join in the fun of competing in the Federal Junior Duck Stamp Conservation and Design Program. Sponsored by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Pacific Islands Ecoregion, the contest is designed to teach young artists about wetlands and waterfowl through their artwork.

"We're pleased to bring this program to Hawaii and hope to have a great response from teachers and students alike," said Robert P. Smith, Pacific Islands Ecoregion manager. "This is an excellent opportunity for students from kindergarten through high school to learn about the important role wetlands play in Hawaii, as well as about the birds that depend upon them."

Although entries in the Federal Junior Duck Stamp contest previously were limited to north American ducks, geese, or swans, Hawaii's participation in the program has added two local native species to the list of eligible entries: the kola and Laysan duck. Because the focus of the program is on wetland species, entries depicting nene are not eligible for competition beyond the state level.

Entries will be judged in four age groups, and State Best of Show will be selected from among the top three designs in each group. The first place winners in each grade group, their families, and their art teachers will receive a special guided tour of a national Wildlife Refuge on their island. One hundred

first place, second place, third place, and honorable mention ribbons will be distributed within Hawaii, and all students entering the contest will receive a certificate of participation.

The State Best of Show design will be forwarded to the national contest, and the national first place winning design will be used on the 1996 Federal Junior Duck Stamp. The national winner also receives a \$2,500 cash award, and the national first, second, and third place winners, their art teachers, and one of their parents will receive a free trip to Washington, DC, in the fall to attend the adult Federal Duck Stamp Contest.

All entries to Hawaii's Federal Junior Duck Stamp design contest must be post-marked by March 15, 1996. For information about entry rules and requirements, please contact Fish and Wildlife Service representatives Barbara Maxfield at 541-2749 or Ann Hudgins at 541-1201.

State Junior Duck Stamp design contests are modeled after the Federal Duck Stamp Art Contest held annually by the Fish and Wildlife Service to choose the design for the Federal Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp (commonly called the Duck Stamp). Duck Stamps are a required annual purchase on the mainland for waterfowl hunters sixteen years of age and older. Junior Duck Stamps are sold for \$5 each, with proceeds supporting the conservation education aspects of the program.

Oiled Wildlife Recovery and Rehabilitation Program

Thanks to the participation of many in public and private industries, government agencies, and the support of The Chevron Companies, significant progress was made in 1995 toward providing a realistic and professional local oiled wildlife response capability.

Goals

Efforts of the Program have been directed toward identifying interim and permanent wildlife care facilities, developing two first response kits and training a resident response team. To that end, training sessions were held in October 1995 which resulted in fifty volunteers being added to the expanding list of local resources.

Training

A one-day session covering all aspects of oiled wildlife response through slides, lectures and discussions provided participants from industry and government with information crucial to facilitating a response effort.

In a two-day advanced training session wildlife professionals gained additional expertise in such skills as physical exams, temperature taking, blood drawing and basic analysis, broken bone setting, tube feeding, capture and restraint, and washing and rinsing, all of which will enable them to participate as first response volunteers.

The goals for 1996 include further efforts to identify temporary and permanent wildlife response facilities, develop a water treatment trailer, provide additional training to wildlife volunteers, and obtain renewal of the State permit for oiled wildlife response activities.

The addition of BHP Hawaii to Chevron's founding and continuing support will ensure the continuation and quality of the program.

[The preceding information was synopsisized from quarterly reports by Linda S. Elliott, OWRRP Coordinator.]

1995 Field Trips And Hikes

January 23: Ka'ena Point Natural Area Reserve field trip led by Betsy Harrison-Gagne, Executive Secretary of the Natural Area Reserves System.

February 20: Makapu'u Lighthouse hike led by Tony McCafferty.

March 13: Manoa Cliffs Trail field trip led by John and Donna de Haan.

March 27: Kawai Nui Marsh half day hike led by Ronald Walker.

May 7: Field trip to red-footed booby colony at Ulupau Head, Kane'ohe Marine Corps Air Station led by Lance Tanino.

June 12: Manoa Cliffs Trail field trip led by John and Donna de Haan.

June 19: A marine biology/tide pooling trip to Shark's Cove on the North Shore led by Kerry Meyers of Naturalists of Hawaii.

July 17: Field trip to Ewa Plains limestone sinkholes at Barbers' Point led by Dr. Alan Ziegler.

August 21: Field trip to Kuli'ou'ou Trail led by Lance Tanino.

September 18: Field trip to Kii Unit, James Campbell National Wildlife Refuge, led by Johnny Beall, refuge manager.

November 26: Field trip to Kii Unit, James Campbell National Wildlife Refuge, led by Lance Tanino.

National Audubon Society News

by David J. Miller, NAS Strategic Plan Coordinator

Audubon Strategic Plan implementation is off to a great start. Ten implementation committees were created last fall with Chapter, Staff and Board representatives. Of those committees, three finalized action plans which were approved by the Board at the December 9, 1995 meeting. These action plans reflect not only the exceptional work by their committee members, but also include important comments submitted by chapter leaders from across the country.

The first of the approved action plans is from the Campaign Implementation Committee. Your chapter will be asked to help select National Audubon's priority campaigns in the months to come. A selection process has been designed which involves the input of chapters, councils, staff and NAS Board. Audubon campaigns will have a bird, wild-life and habitat focus. The criteria established emphasizes this core focus as well as organizational expertise, leadership, impact on issue, fundability and scientific basis of campaign. A Campaign Coordinating Committee has been created to manage the nomination and selection process for Audubon priority campaigns with pilot selections to be completed by the National Convention in June. Audubon's Policy Division Director, Eric Draper will oversee this effort.

The second action plan approved is from the Grassroots Implementation Committee. The two major components of the plan revolve around:

Developing an Audubon Leadership Training Program for Audubon's volunteer network and;

Developing a broader base of Audubon Advocates through creation of a pyramid structure with Grassroots Advocates, Volunteer Leaders and Staff Recruiters. The plan will bring more communication mechanisms to the field and campaign efforts of Audubon as well as investment in skills-enhancement activities across the volunteer network of Audubon.

In the Human Resources Action Plan approved by the Board, a Human Resources Task Force was established to explore/develop ongoing personnel strategies.

The plan also highlighted a comprehensive training and professional development

program at Audubon as well as orientation process for staff and board. Other activities include implementing a new Performance Planning and Appraisal System (PPAS), and expanding staff and board involvement in local Audubon activities, especially through chapters. The Human Resources Action Plan will ensure that Audubon becomes an even more rewarding organization in which to work.

Tracking, monitoring, updating and the servicing of future program committees in relation to these action plans will be the responsibility of the respective departments of Audubon. Copies of these completed action plans are available upon request by contacting David Miller at Audubon's Strategic Plan Coordination Office, 1789 Western Ave., Albany, NY 12203. Call 518-869-9731 or fax at 1-800-636-4443.

Bidens cuneata Delisted

by Barbara Maxfield
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has determined that *Bidens cuneata*, an herb found along the slopes of Diamond head crater on O'ahu, should no longer be protected under the Endangered Species Act. The decision was made based on recent taxonomic studies that show the plant is an outlying population of *Bidens molokaiensis*, a common species found along the windward cliffs of Molokai.

The plant is a two to three foot long herb related to the Spanish needle, with small yellow daisy-like flowers. It is found on northern Molokai between sea level and five hundred feet in elevation from Hoolehua to Kaonihu, a distance of about twenty three miles or two-thirds the length of the island.

A proposal to delist the species was published in the Federal Register on July 7, 1993. No public comments were received, and the Fish and Wildlife Service has finalized its proposal. Since *Bidens cuneata* does not represent a valid taxonomic entity, the plant no longer meets the definition of "species." It was first listed as an endangered species in 1984.

The final rule delisting the species was published in the *Federal Register* on February 6, 1996, and took effect on that date. The action removes both federal and state protection for the plant.

Office Corner

by Susan Elliott Miller

Mahalo To Phoners and Donors!

Our thanks go out to all those who responded positively to the appeals of Phil Bruner, Emily Gardner, John Harrison, David Hill, Wendy Johnson, Linda Paul, and Kim Welch when they called you during the Society's annual phonathon to raise funds for conservation activities.

Hurray! ... Recycling Pickup Arrives at HAS Office

Word was just received from our landlord at Executive Center that they will start providing weekly in-house pickup of white and colored paper and newsprint for recycling in response to the ordinance recently passed by the City Council which requires recycling programs in buildings with 20,000 square feet or more of office space. We'd been recycling but had to take the accumulated materials to outlying pickup stations...this is mo' bettah!

Ron Welton: A Welcome New Face

by Susan Elliott Miller

To our good fortune, the Society's need for a new *'Elepaio* editor coincided with the interest of member, Ron Welton in contributing his expertise.

Beginning with this issue, Ron will be the journal's Managing Editor. He has been a teacher of English for thirty years, the last three at St. Francis School. He is also director of the school's year book program. He knows PageMaker (the desktop publishing program used to produce this journal) and is learning the ins-and-outs of our computer, printer and publishing process.

Aloha to Ron: we appreciate his enthusiasm and look forward to his contributions.

Calendar of Events

Monday, March 4 & April 1

Regular first Monday of the month meeting of the **Conservation Committee**, 6:00 P.M., at the U. H. Environmental Center (Crawford Hall, Room 317, 2550 Campus Road). All are welcome. For more information call chairperson Dan Sailer, 455-2311 (evenings).

Thursday, March 7 & April 4

Monthly meeting of the **Education Committee**, 7:00 P.M., Bale Sandwich Shop in Manoa Marketplace, near Safeway. All are welcome. For more information call chairperson Wendy Johnson, 261-5957 (W).

Monday, March 11

HAS Board meeting, 6:30 P.M., at the office.

Saturday, March 16

Diamond Head Afternoon Cruise — Join us for a leisurely afternoon hike to the top of Diamond head. Experience beautiful O'ahu panoramic views bathed in the glow of a late afternoon sunset. We may observe sea birds as well as many urban dwelling feathered friends. Wear sturdy shoes, comfortable clothing and bring water, sunscreen, and binoculars. Also include a flashlight as this hike will

ascend through several darkened areas including a stairwell. Meet at grassy field just in front of the Diamond head Crater parking lot at 3:00 P.M. (See your yellow pages for a map.) For more information call Adaline Kam, 529-6268 (W). Suggested donation \$2.00.

Monday, April 15

Mark your calendar now for the next bi-monthly program meeting, when Eric VanderWerf will speak on "Distribution, abundance, and plumage variation of O'ahu 'elepaio." Eric, a U.H. Manoa graduate student, will be sharing information about how to distinguish the sexes and ages of 'elepaio by plumage, as well as their distribution and abundance. Paki Hall conference room, Bishop Museum, 7:30 P.M. Refreshments will be served: Society t-shirts and the new field cards will be available for purchase.

Saturday, April 20

Kolea (golden plover) Bird Watch — Phil Bruner will describe how birds are caught and banded out in the field. A half day trip to Punchbowl and Bellows. More details to come in April's *'Elepaio*.

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