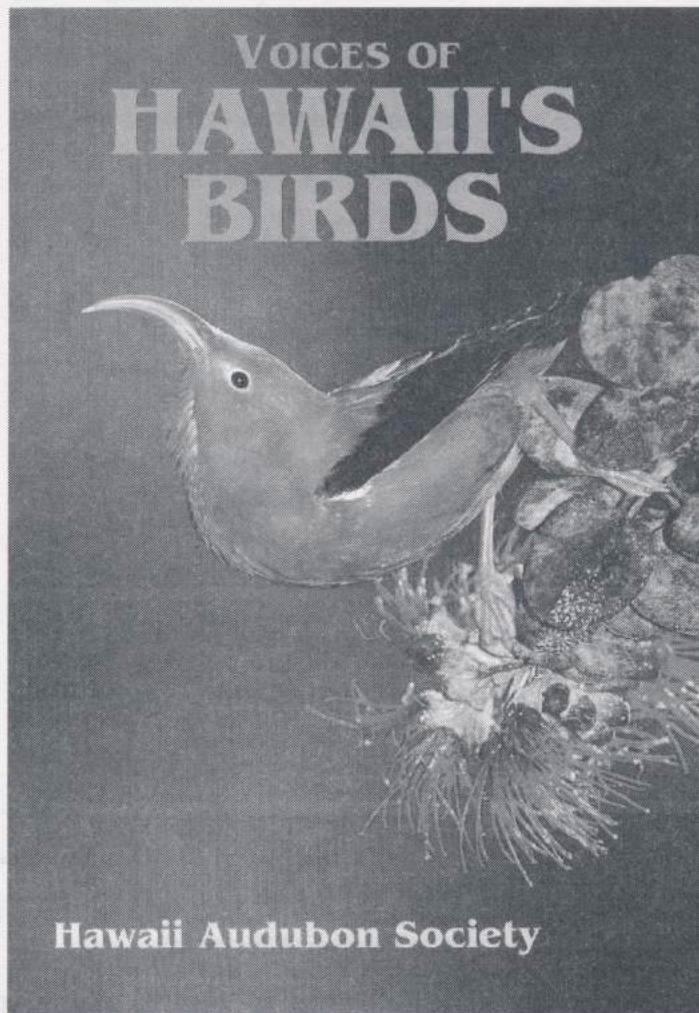




Voices of Hawaii's Birds, HAS's Newest Publication

by H. Douglas Pratt

The sounds birds make are among their most fascinating and endearing qualities. From earliest times, people have kept caged birds as often for their songs as for their beauty. Some Hawaiian native birds such as the 'o'u and Laysan finch were popular pets because of their fine songs, and many of the foreign birds introduced to Hawaii were brought first as caged singers. Despite such aesthetic interest, voices of some native birds were not well described until the 1970s and even today little is known about the function of voice in the biology of Hawaii's native birds. The collecting of recordings of Hawaiian birds began little more than three decades ago, and recordists have heretofore been concerned mainly with documenting the variety of vocalizations. As a result of these efforts, a nearly complete collection of vocalizations of Hawaii's birds, both native and introduced, now exists. The Hawaii Audubon Society, in collaboration with the Library of Natural Sounds (LNS) at the Cornell University Laboratory of Ornithology, has published a representative collection of recordings as a two-cassette companion to the society's ever-popular *Hawaii's Birds*. Cornell also plans a compact disk (CD) edition. These tapes are intended not only to educate birders and other naturalists but to support efforts to save endangered species and spur research. Because recordings bring a bird to life in a way even the best photographs or videos cannot, these tapes may help the world view the many endangered Hawaiian birds as something more than abstractions with funny-sounding names. Also, the recordings should pique the curiosity of students of avian vocal behavior. Because Hawaii has several world-class songsters ('apapane and 'i'iwi for example) that are still common and whose vocalizations seem to defy conventional wisdom about the role of bird song, the islands are fertile ground



The Hawaii Audubon Society, in collaboration with the Library of Natural Sounds at the Cornell University Laboratory of Ornithology, has published a representative collection of recordings as a two-cassette companion to the society's ever-popular *Hawaii's Birds*.

for such research. Sadly, for many native species, studies of vocal behavior must be done soon. Time ran out for the Kaua'i 'o'o; all we can do now is marvel at recordings of its haunting and evocative song.

Description of the tapes

Voices of Hawaii's Birds is arranged according to the groupings used in *Hawaii's Birds* (marine birds, wetland birds, urban birds, etc.) except that the second of the two cassettes is devoted entirely to native forest birds. That arrangement enables users to access the native species, which of course

were given more space in the collection, more easily. The set is housed in a plastic binder with slots for the cassettes and a pocket for a small booklet. As the main recordist, I had the privilege of editing and compiling the tapes. In addition to my own 132 cuts, the collection includes many contributed by other recordists including Timothy A. Burr (17), Sheila L. Conant (16), Robert J. Shallenberger (14), and William V. Ward (10), as well as single cuts by others from the LNS archives. I think most users will be surprised at the completeness of the collection, which includes record-

ings of at least two native birds that are now extinct.

A secondary function of the new tapes will be to educate the user in the proper pronunciation of Hawaiian bird names. The voice announcements were done by Sheila Conant who, with the generous help of Emily Hawkins of the Department of Hawaiian and Indo-Pacific Languages and Literature, University of Hawaii, researched and rehearsed the names so that we can state

with confidence that they are correctly pronounced. A side story is that with so much careful attention to the Hawaiian names, we overlooked an English name that is also frequently mispronounced. Unfortunately, we discovered the error too late to correct it on the master recording, so we are stuck with a pronunciation of "avadavat" that rhymes with abba-dabba. To be fair to Sheila, I should point out that most people who have not looked it up pronounce it that

way. The word is actually a corruption of *Amidavad*, which is in turn a corruption of *Ahmadavad*, the name of a city in western India from which the birds were first exported. "Avadavat" should be accented on the first and fourth syllables: *AH-va-dah-VAHT*. If this turns out to be the only mistake on the tapes, we will be lucky indeed.

History of Bird Recording in Hawaii

Many Hawaiian birds disappeared before their songs were even described, much less recorded. Even in the 1930s, when the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology began its pioneer work in the recording and archiving of bird sounds, tape recorders and microphones were so massive that they had to be mounted on truck beds, precluding their use in the remote mountain forests to which so many Hawaiian species had retreated. In the late 1950s, William V. Ward, a Hawaii resident, began recording birds in the islands. Though more portable than 1930s equipment, his gear still limited his work mostly to areas accessible by road. Nevertheless, he laid the groundwork for all future studies of the voices of Hawaiian birds, and many of his recordings, a few included herein, are still among the best. His paper "The Songs of the Apapane" (Ward 1964) was the first ever devoted to vocalizations of a native Hawaiian bird. In recognition of his pioneering work, *Voices of Hawaii's Birds* is dedicated to him.

The advent of small cassette recorders in the late 1960s revolutionized field recording. In 1968, the team of J. Richard Gauthey, Ian Atkinson, and Colin Huddleston took such a machine into the Koa'ie Stream area of the Alaka'i Swamp (Gauthey et al. 1968). With surprisingly simple equipment they obtained what turned out to be the only recordings yet made of the songs of the nearly extinct 'o'u and puaiohi, as well as long passages of the now-extinct Kaua'i 'o'o and probably extinct kamao. These historic recordings might have been overlooked or lost if they had not been mentioned in the above-cited article in *'Elepaio*. A reel-to-reel copy of the original cassettes was eventually deposited in the LNS archives through the efforts of later researchers.

As recently as 1970 most Hawaiian forest birds had never been recorded and the vocalizations of even some common species such as the 'anianiau had not even been well described. A few scientists realized

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that, with so many Hawaiian birds in decline, systematic collection of vocalizations had to be done soon or the opportunity would be lost. Early in the decade, Robert J. Shallenberger, then with the Hawaii Division of Fish and Game, began collecting Hawaiian bird recordings with the goal of publishing a record album of them. In 1975, he was joined in this effort by H. Douglas Pratt who had begun an attempt to record all living species as part of his research on the systematics of Hawaiian endemic birds. These two sought out other recordings including the 1968 Gauthey-Atkinson-Huddleston Alaka'i tapes, a copy of which was fortuitously found in the possession of Huddleston's parents who were Shallenberger's neighbors in Kailua. Shallenberger and Pratt also urged other researchers to collect and archive Hawaiian sound specimens. Partly as a result, J. Michael Scott, C. Fred Zeillemaker, and Thane K. Pratt of the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), Timothy A. Burr of the Hawaii Division of Fish and Game, and Sheila Conant and her student Marie Morin of the University of Hawaii made valuable recordings in the late 1970s and early 1980s. Conant and Morin's tapes from the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands were particularly significant. A spin-off of the Shallenberger/Pratt collaboration was a series of training tapes for the landmark USFWS Hawaiian forest bird surveys conducted from 1976 to 1983 under Scott's direction.

The mid- to late 1980s saw something of a lapse in recording of Hawaiian birds. Shallenberger took a mainland USFWS position and eventually withdrew from the record project; Pratt was illustrating his own (Pratt et al. 1987) and other field guides; Burr left Hawaii for work in California, and Conant became immersed in teaching duties and research that did not involve vocalizations. In 1990, Pratt returned to the record project and began filling gaps in coverage such as the many introduced species ignored by previous recordists. In 1991, he was commissioned by the State of Hawaii Division of Forestry and Wildlife and USFWS Hawaii Research Station to prepare a new and expanded set of training tapes. *Voices of Hawaii's Birds* represents an edited version of those tapes augmented with recordings unavailable in 1991.

About Bird Recordings

"Why use a recording from Saipan for a Hawaiian bird? What is that roar in the

background? What are those bumps and low rumbles?" These are often-asked and appropriate questions. The answer to the first one is easy: some birds in Hawaii, such as black noddies that love wave-pounded sea cliffs, seem to vocalize only in places where good recording is impossible (see below). Also, some introduced species have simply been overlooked or given very low priority by recordists in Hawaii. In such cases, examples from elsewhere have been used if they sound the same as Hawaiian birds. Answers to the other questions are less obvious.

The most important factor in outdoor recording is obtaining a good signal to noise ratio, i.e. having the desired sound as loud as possible as compared to extraneous noise. Recordists use special microphones to improve the signal/noise ratio. The most common of these uses a parabolic reflector (often just called a parabola), a plastic device, usually hand-held, that works just like a small version of a satellite dish. One can think of it as binoculars for the ears. It is useful when a bird is far away or impossible to approach, such as one on the opposite side of a deep ravine. Most of the recordings on *Voices of Hawaii's Birds* were made with a parabola. Parabolic microphones and tape recorders react to environmental conditions quite differently from our ears. Sounds such as rushing streams and ocean waves that we tend to naturally "filter out" become loud distractions. Wind that one would usually not even notice can produce thunder-like rumbles in a microphone. (Remember the last time you heard someone blow into a microphone to test it on stage?) Other low rumbles, pops, and cracks on tapes result from movement of the recordist's hand on the microphone handle as he or she moves the device about to locate the bird. Likewise, a light rain can sound like hail on a tin roof when it strikes a parabola, and a falling leaf or twig can sound like a rifle shot. Flies that are unheard in the field become zooming bombers on the tape. The bird recordist always wishes for a totally calm day away from streams, ocean waves, or highways, but the real world is rarely so cooperative. Fortunately, modern technology can remove or reduce many of the unwanted noises. Technicians at the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology have done a masterful job of cleaning up the recordings used for the new tapes. However, some background sounds, such as wind in leaves, flowing water, or surf, cover

the entire sound spectrum and are impossible to remove entirely by current techniques. Frequencies above and below the bird sound can be filtered out electronically, but background noise within the bird's frequency range remains. Future digital technology may solve this problem.

The Use of Bird Tapes

Bird recordings have a variety of uses. The most common is to help an observer develop a "search image" before a birding trip. Afterward, you can use the tapes to identify unknown sounds you may have heard. Unlike visual field guides, recordings can take an active role in bird observation. Playing a recording in the field may be the most efficient, if not the most ecologically sound, way to get a look at some species. Japanese bush-warblers are an example, often heard and rarely seen, but easily lured into view by playback of their songs. Such a "trick" can sometimes confirm the identification of an unknown song, but should not be a substitute for patience.

Playback of tapes in the field poses some practical as well as ethical problems for the birder. The following comments are taken almost verbatim from the accompanying text of *Voices of Hawaii's Birds*: Use playback as little as possible especially when native birds are involved. No Hawaiian native bird is such a skulker that playback is necessary to draw it into view, and repeated playing can drive a bird off its territory and cause nest failure. For some severely endangered species, including many native forest birds, every successful nest may be critical to the species' survival. Hawaiian birds have very extended breeding seasons, so no time of year is really "safe." Hawaiian honeycreepers also have an unusual system of territoriality wherein, before the nest is built, the male defends a territory around the female as she moves about. Distracting either bird from his or her mate at this stage could negatively affect the pair-bond. Playing of tapes in the territory of an endangered species is considered harassment and may violate the Endangered Species Act. Unfortunately, one cannot always know when the territory of an endangered species may be nearby, so a person should always be careful when birding in native forests. Following a few guidelines will lessen the impact of using tapes in the field:

1. When breeding, birds are remarkably "tuned in" to the songs of their own species. Loud amplification is counterpro-

ductive because it can drive away birds within normal auditory range (Why challenge an obviously superior rival?).

2. Playing a tape sporadically rather than continuously is more effective. Give the bird time to respond and be alert. If a bird leaves its territory to investigate, it will usually check you out quickly and return to its duties. You can relocate males by listening for their songs. Females and juveniles attracted in this way usually appear briefly and disappear. Repeated playback may actually make them *harder* to find as they become "wise" to the tape.

3. If you even *suspect* that you are actually in a bird's territory (usually evidenced by close approach and vigorous singing), *cease playback immediately*. An active nest may be nearby.

4. Do not approach or examine a nest. For reasons that are not yet understood, *Hawaiian forest birds are hypersensitive to such disturbance and readily abandon their nests*. View from afar. If a rare bird is involved, report your discovery to wildlife authorities or local ornithologists.

Acknowledgments

Rob Shallenberger's early support of and contributions to this project were seminal. Pratt's recording work in Hawaii was assisted by Phillip L. and Andrea Bruner, Tonnie L. C. Casey, Sheila Conant, Reginald E. and Susan David, James D. Jacobi, Robert L. Pyle, C. John and Carol Ralph, J. Michael Scott, Robert J. and Annarie Shallenberger, the late John L. Sincock, David W. Woodside, and C. Fred Zeilemaker. The above mentioned recordists generously contributed their tapes to the project. The staff of the Laboratory of Ornithology archived most of the tapes included in the collection. J. William Hardy made Sheila Conant's tapes from the collection at the Florida Museum of Natural History (formerly Florida State Museum) available as well. Finally and importantly, Reginald E. David, then President of the Hawaii Audubon Society, and Greg Budney of LNS shepherded the whole project through to publication.

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See the order form on page 39 with a special offer for 'Elepaio readers on Voices of Hawaii's Birds.

Students Track Shorebirds Using Cyberspace

by Connie Barclay and Susan Saul

Each year, millions of northbound, migrating shorebirds journey from wintering grounds in South America to breeding grounds in Alaska. During International Migratory Bird Week May 4 - 2, students and other wildlife enthusiasts tracked these northbound birds, in cyberspace, with the help of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

The Shorebird Sister Schools Program, web site (<http://www.fws.gov/~r7enved/sssp.html>) enables students to help biologists and other participants by reporting shorebird sightings in their communities.

"The Shorebird Sister Schools Program gives young people a chance to become actively involved in biology — learning about wildlife migration as it actually happens, contributing their own observations, and using computers on the Internet, a medium they enjoy," says Dave Allen, the Service's Alaska regional director."

Students who live near shorebird habitat learn about shorebirds by watching not only for flocks of shorebirds but also for individually tagged shorebirds. Biologists in various study areas attach color-coded leg bands to shorebirds, such as dunlins, sand-erlings, and plovers, with small metal flags representing where the bird was banded. A student who observes a flag-banded bird checks the country code indicated on the band against information on the Internet web site, and sends a message to the banding laboratory. This information helps biologists determine the migration patterns of the Arctic nesting shorebirds.

According to Johnson, the students learn about shorebird ecology, wetlands, and research techniques, while developing computer skills. So far, she has received letters and computer messages sent from around the country by excited teachers, students, scout leaders, and other agencies interested in setting up similar programs or joining the Service's Shorebird Sister Schools Program.

Programs like the Shorebird Sister Schools Program enable biologists to engage students in a partnership that strives to gain a better understanding of how to help all kinds of bird species and the ecosystems on which they and humans depend.

Source: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Would You Like to Help With a Treasure?

by Susan Elliott Miller

The Society has a good treasury — but the Society does not have a treasurer at this point and both it and the administrative director need one!

The Board appreciates the service of Wendell Lee, a CPA with Coopers & Lybrand, as treasurer for more than a year and regrets that he cannot continue. Now the nominating committee is looking for someone to serve on the Board as treasurer for a term which expires at the end of 1997.

The Society's day-to-day financial transactions and upkeep of the computerized records, as well as report preparation, are the responsibility of the administrative director.

Are you

- a Society member with accounting experience?
- willing to provide oversight for a full range of normal business financial activities and to advise the Board on financial decisions?
- able to devote up to ten hours/month assisting your Society?

If so, please contact Wendy Johnson, a member of the Board Nominating Committee, at 261-5957.

Donors in Paradise

by Sylvianne Yee

The Paradise Pursuits program continues to be blessed with generous donors. Two more have stepped forward to help us continue the "Paradise Pursuits Challenge." They are **Crazy Shirts, Inc.** with Rick Ralston at the helm and the **State Department of Land and Natural Resources** headed by Michael Wilson. And, once again, a big round of applause for **Hawaiian Electric Company**, Paradise Pursuits' major sponsor, for underwriting the program. The commitment of these companies to help preserve Hawaii's precious natural resources through environmental education of Hawaii's high school students is much appreciated. Thank you for believing in us and our program.

Paradise Pursuits — Another Successful Year

Fifth season is now completed

by Sylvianne Yee

Kahuku, 1996 Paradise Pursuits Champs



Standing: Anne Zellinger, Paula Akana, Charles Freeman, Jared Lau. Seated: Christian Palmer, Jed Aplaca, Jesse Palmer

by Sylvianne Yee

If you tuned in to KITV-4 on Saturday, June 1, you were fortunate to see a very exciting match pitting the "Pa'imalau" of Kahuku High School against the "Kohola" of Lahainaluna High School. Emerging as our 1996 Paradise Pursuits Champions were Kahuku's team of Jed Aplaca, Jesse Palmer, Christian Palmer, and Jared Lau. Ably coached by Kahuku teacher Anne Zellinger, the Pa'imalau never lost sight of their goal.

This was this team's third and last year of competition as students can only compete three of their four years in high school. Having come so close in previous years, the Kahuku team was not willing to let this one slip away. The Kohola put up a spirited battle but the Pa'imalau were not to be denied, proving that perseverance and hours of studying have their rewards.

— and what a year it was! 1995-96 saw a record number of teams from 28 high schools statewide competing for the title of Paradise Pursuits Champs. Despite a downturn in the economy, many TV ad sponsors and donors opened their hearts and their pocketbooks to support Paradise Pursuits. We progressed from using an antiquated buzzer system to one with a sophisticated lockout feature. A first-ever teacher workshop featuring Paradise Pursuits coaching tips and strategies was held in the fall. We watched as a team that had tried to reach the top for three years finally made it. A unique partnership with the Department of Education proved to be fruitful, challenging and enlightening. Friendships were made and renewed. Students and coaches laughed, cried, critiqued, and praised. All came away winners.

The winners received a team trophy, all expenses paid service trips to an outer island, Honolulu Zoo family memberships, and shopping center gift certificates. The runners-up also received a team trophy, an Atlantis Submarine excursion plus air transportation and hotel accommodations on O'ahu, thanks to the generosity of Aloha Airlines and Outrigger Hotels.

In the Pursuit of Paradise

by Jesse Palmer

We sat there amid bright oranges and greens. A cardboard backdrop depicting ostentatiously colored endemic fauna hung behind us. The proctor asked in a cheerful voice,

"This tree introduced by the native Hawaiians, had many uses, the most notable was its use for light in houses. Its light green leaves resemble those of the maple. What is this tree?"

Easy, I thought, and reached for the buzzer. Halfway there I heard it go off and Paula Akana, the proctor, recognized the other team.

"The kukui," they answered with confidence.

That's the thing about Paradise Pursuits, even if you know the answer you still have to hit the buzzer first. That's a lesson I've learned well over the three years I've par-

ticipated in Paradise Pursuits. I've also learned more of the answers. Each year preparing for the contest has taught me more and more about the native environment, its inhabitants, and its problems. This year we asked Dr. Bruner of BYU-H to help us study. In addition to the extra incentive to prepare for weekly study session, we learned a lot more than what a book can teach. He had up to date information, and often simple questions would expand into protracted discussions about species identification or the bush wallaby. When we were hiking, we noticed things we hadn't before. The cacophony of birdcalls separated into the individual twittering of the shama thrush and Japanese white-eye. Plants were scrutinized, and we tried to figure out the difference between the Philippine and bamboo orchid. We began to fantasize about com-

ing across an O'ahu o'o (Yes, I know that no one has seen one for thirty years, but they might still exist).

The questioning continued and both teams did admirably. Our involvement with the game opened our minds to a whole new area of study. Eventually, our team, consisting of Jed Aplaca, Jared Lau, Christian Palmer and I, won the game. One of the prizes we received was a trip to Wailau Valley on Molokai to work clearing trails. We are enthusiastic about the opportunity. As we've participated in Paradise Pursuits over the years, our appreciation of the native environment has deepened. Each of us has gained a greater commitment to the environment as we've realized how precious and fragile it is. The T-shirts, trophies, \$25 Ala Moana gift certificates and trip to Wailau are just icing on the cake.

1996 Birdathon: The Mauka- Makai Connection Needs You!

by Dan Sailer

On Sunday, June 23 from 8:30 to 11:30 a.m., the HAS will once again participate in this nationwide fund-raising event. Birdathon participants will meet at the Pali Lookout and go for a short hike along a portion of the Maunawili Demonstration Trail. We will then proceed by vehicle to the Enchanted Lakes Mitigation Area to visit our endangered waterbirds and other introduced residents.

How does the Birdathon work? Birdathoners collect pledges from donors in either fixed amounts (e.g. \$10) or donors are asked to pledge a specific amount per species identified (we will probably spot anywhere from 10-15 species). Every penny collected by our Birdathon efforts will fund Audubon's local and national efforts to protect wildlife and the habitats where they live. This year's proceeds from the Birdathon will go toward a comprehensive state-by-state documentation of Important Bird Areas (IBA) by the National Audubon Society. The goal of IBA designation is to enhance the management and protection of designated habitats for the benefit of the birds and wildlife that depend on those areas.

All sponsors will receive a unique gift item from HAS and everyone will also be eligible to win an eight night Caribbean cruise and tour for two with airfare provided from Miami, Baltimore, Newark or Tampa. HAS will also present individual prizes to Birdathoners for the most species seen and the most money raised. This event is open to the general public so nonmembers and first-time birders are especially welcome!

Please join us by phoning Dan Sailer at 455-2311 or the HAS office at 528-1432 to leave your name and address. We'll send out your pledge sheets and further information on what's sure to be a fun walk in the woods and wetlands of windward O'ahu.

Round-the-Marsh Tour

by Dana Kokubun, president of Kawai Nui Heritage Foundation

"Kawainui Marsh is a thousand acre expanse at the base of the Ko'olau Mountains where time and nature has created what is today the largest remaining wetland in the State of Hawaii. Over the past decade, and more recently through the preparation of this plan, the marsh has been found to contain resources valued beyond the open vistas it affords between sea and mountain. It is also the habitat for four endangered Hawaiian waterbird species, the site of early Hawaiian fishponds and wetland agriculture, and numerous archaeological remains. It serves as a flood basin for protecting Kailua Town and provides recreational and educational potential for the people of O'ahu and the state.

from the preface to "Resource Management Plan for Kawainui Marsh"

Leaders from the Kawai Nui Heritage Foundation and the Hawaii Audubon Society joined forces to present a 'round-the-marsh tour on a sunny April day to brief the president of the National Audubon Society, John Flicker, on the possible development of a Kawai Nui Education Center in Kailua, O'ahu.

The purpose of Flicker's island visit was to investigate potential joint ventures that would fulfill National Audubon's strategy of empowering local environmental constituencies to achieve conservation goals.

Flicker and the director of Audubon's national field office, Glenn Olsen, were also here to meet with foundation officials and explore funding opportunities for Hawaii conservation projects.

The purpose of the Kawai Nui marsh tour was to stimulate discussion of the creation of a Kawai Nui Marsh Education Center. Hawaii Audubon Society President Linda Paul and administrative director Susan Miller (formerly president of the Kawai Nui Heritage Foundation) presented a proposal to Flicker and Olsen.

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. Today, the George C. Munro Fund provides money for research projects on such forests.

Although still in the planning stages, the initial vision includes a covered interpretive kiosk, similar to the one at the James Campbell National Wildlife Refuge in Kahuku. The kiosk could serve as a staging area for docent-led tours of the marsh, which would highlight the area's rich cultural, archaeological, and ecological history.

Some possible sites being considered for the location of the kiosk include the makai corner of Quarry Road and Kalaniana'ole Highway, across from the old Kailua drive-in-site, the ITT property near the entrance to Kailua Town, and Mokulana, near the present Knott Ranch.

During the course of the marsh tour, Flicker and Olsen met with representatives from the Corps of Engineers, Department of Land and Natural Resources, and U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, as well as the Kailua Hawaiian Civic Club, who described their respective stewardship roles at Kawai Nui.

A great deal of discussion centered around the Corps/DLNR Section 1135 ecological restoration project, a state federal cost-sharing program which will restore degraded waterbird habitat. The 1135 project is well on its way — both Hawaii Audubon and the Foundation lobbied hard this year for the required state matching funds — and construction is scheduled to begin within two years. When completed, the habitat improvements will add a vital wildlife component to the Kawai Nui Education Center tours for students, residents and visitors alike.

Although an attorney should be consulted 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, HI 96813, (808) 528-1432.

Some Changes in Hawaiian Bird Names

by Robert L. Pyle

The Committee on Classification and nomenclature of the American Ornithologists' Union (A.O.U.) has issued a new amendment to its *Check-List of North American Birds* which makes some changes in names for a few of our Hawaiian birds. The check-list provides a vernacular name and a scientific name for each species of bird that occurs in North America and Hawaii. It is considered the authoritative standard for nomenclature of North American and Hawaiian birds, and its names are used in virtually all scientific articles and publications dealing with these birds.

The A.O.U. updates its *Check-List* with amendments published in its journal, *The Auk*, in the July issue of alternate years. The "Check-List of the Birds of Hawaii — 1992" (*'Elepaio*, August 1992 pages 53–62) uses names in the A.O.U. *Check-List* as updated through the 1991 amendment. Further updates in the 1993 amendment that affected Hawaiian birds were summarized in the *'Elepaio*, February 1994 page 10. The 1995 amendment, which arrived early this year, contains the following changes to the names of Hawaiian birds.

Common 'amakihi

(*Hemignathus virens*). This has long been treated as one species with different subspecies on Kaua'i, O'ahu, Maui Nui, and Hawai'i. The 1995 amendment splits common 'amakihi into three separate species, with names as follows:

Kaua'i 'amakihi: *Hemignathus kauaiensis*, Kaua'i Island,

O'ahu 'amakihi: *Hemignathus chloris*, O'ahu Island,

Hawai'i amakihi: *Hemignathus virens*, Maui Nui and Hawai'i Island. Although not mentioned in the amendment the 'amakihi on Maui Nui (Maui, Moloka'i, and Lana'i Islands) will continue to be subspecies *wilsoni*, and those on Hawai'i will continue to be subspecies *virens*. The split was based on recent genetic and mitochondrial DNA studies.

Great egret

(*Casmerodius alba*): change scientific name to *Ardea alba*. The genus *Casmerodius* is deleted, and great egret is merged into the much larger genus *Ardea*.

Rufous-necked stint

(*Calidris ruficollis*): change vernacular name to red-necked stint, following British usage.

Common black-headed gull

(*Larus ridibundus*): change vernacular name to black-headed gull, following British usage.

Uniform swiftlet

(*Aerodramus vanikorensis*): change vernacular and scientific names to Guam swiftlet (*Collocalia bartschi*), based on a recent study of these swiftlets in Micronesia which merged the genus *Aerodramus* into *Collocalia*, and recognized the Guam swiftlet as a separate species. This swiftlet is an alien species introduced to O'ahu and now established in very small numbers in the Ko'olau Mountains.

Eurasian skylark

(*Alauda arvensis*): change vernacular name to sky lark, following British usage.

Olive tree-pipit

(*Anthus hodgsoni*): change vernacular name to olive-backed pipit, following British usage.

These name changes will be included in the next updated version of the *Checklist of the Birds of Hawaii*. When the long-awaited revised seventh edition of the A.O.U. *Check-List* finally appears, it probably will have more changes in names and sequencing of Hawaiian birds.

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Calendar of Events

Monday, June 3 & July 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, June 6 & Tuesday July 2

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

Monday, June 10 & July 8

HAS Board meeting, 6:30 p.m. at the office.

Sunday, June 16

Fathers' Day **Field Trip** to the booby colony at Kaneohe Marine Base. We will visit the boobies at Ulupau Head. Wear comfortable clothing, sun screen, a hat, and bring water, snacks, binoculars and a camera. To pre-register and for more information call Adaline Kam at 641-1601 by June 12. Leave your name and number and she will get back to you. Suggested donation \$2.00.

Monday, June 17

Large birds — albatross, to be exact — will be the subject of the next **bimonthly program**. Gail Grabowski-Kaaialii, coordinator for the 1995-1996 season of the Laysan Albatross Recolonization Project, will summarize this season's results and compare them with past years. She will also compare this project to another albatross recolonization activity in Japan and other seabird recolonization efforts.

Bring your friends, join your fellow HAS members (some of whom are observers in the project) and Gail in a slide-illustrated lecture at Paki Hall Conference Room, Bishop Museum, 7:30 p.m. Refreshments provided: Society books, T-shirts, and tapes available for purchase.

Sunday July 21

Excursion to Mo'omomi Nature Conservancy Preserve. Naturalist Joan Aidem will lead this. Preregister by calling Adaline Kam 641-1601 and leave your name and number by July 5. Suggested donation HAS \$2.00, member Nature Conservancy additional \$5.00, nonmember additional \$15.00. The hike is limited to eight people.

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