



# 'ELEPAIO

Journal of the  
Hawaii Audubon Society

For the Protection of  
Hawaii's Native Wildlife

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## Christmas Bird Count — 1995

### Regional Summary for Hawaii and Pacific Islands

by Robert L. Pyle

Christmas Bird Count activity in the Pacific dropped another notch in 1995, with only five counts conducted in Hawaii compared to seven last year. On other Pacific islands outside Hawaii the same four counts were taken again. One of the missing Hawaii counts is Volcano, a stalwart for the last twenty-five years and the champion Endangered Species count circle of the nation. The compiler, Larry Katahira, wrote that it had to be canceled because "the federal government shutdown prevented access to much of the lands that are within the Count Circle and prevented logistical assistance and coordination from state and federal agencies." Larry, a senior biologist at Hawaii Volcanoes National Park, has organized and compiled this count for most of the past twenty years.

#### Low party-hours

Low party-hours afield continues as the major problem with Hawaii counts. Party-hours were down this year from last year at all four main island counts, and the number of participants also decreased or showed little change. Honolulu, the dominant Hawaii count for fifty years, has been declining steadily, with party-hours this year down 40% from two years ago and the number of participants down more than 50%. This is reflected in total individuals down 50% below the past two years at Honolulu, and down 25-40% at the other three main island counts.

#### Numbers of species down

Numbers of species also were down 10% or more at all four main island counts, with the two O'ahu counts remaining highest at 43 for Honolulu and 40 for Waipio (Table 1). Species totals, however, reflect wintering shorebirds and ducks and depend more on available wetland habitat. Numbers of these fall and winter visiting species in the state have been down in recent years.

With Volcano not counting, Waimea on Kaua'i was tops in endemic landbird species with six, plus one more seen during count week. Total endemic forest birds found on the four main island counts was 345, compared to 830 last year and 528 the year before on the same counts.

It is clear that substantial increases in party-hours and participants are needed to reverse these various declines and to improve the value of count statistics for following trends in populations of the regular species.

#### Unexpected species

It was a banner year for Brant, a casual visitor to Hawaii. Two wintering at Nuupia Ponds and one in the surf off Kahala Beach were found for the Honolulu count, and three were at French Frigate Shoals for its count. Among other unexpected species were a Peregrine Falcon at Ulupau Head and a Spotted Sandpiper in Kane'ohu on the Honolulu count, and a Lesser Frigatebird at French Frigate. Thirty-seven Koloa at Kapa'a was a good count, and it was encouraging to have all seven endemic forest-birds found again at Waimea. Stray Cattle Egrets were found at both French Frigate Shoals and Johnston Atoll.

#### French Frigate Shoals, and Johnston Atoll

In the other Pacific islands, the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service continued their counts of seabird colonies at French Frigate Shoals in Hawaii, and at Johnston Atoll near but not in Hawaii (Table 2). At French Frigate the 2019 Red-footed Boobies was 50% above its previous high count, and the three

vagrant Brant wintering there were a remarkable addition. At Johnston Atoll, in its second year of counting, decreases in Great Frigatebirds and Red-footed Boobies accounted for most of the decrease in total individuals.

#### Guam and Saipan

In the two Guam counts the total of 22 native landbirds of two species, Guam Swiftlet and Micronesian Starling, is high for recent years. But the third native landbird, Marianas Crow, was missed this year for the first time in eleven years of counts. Is still another native species about to succumb on Guam? The count on Saipan, where, unlike Guam, there are no brown tree snakes, recorded 353 birds of its ten regular native landbird species, in line with totals in recent years. A major highlight on Saipan, however, was finding a pair of another native landbird, the rare Micronesian Megapode, a first for the count. Highlights among the rare visiting species were a Great Frigatebird, a Black Kite, and a small group of mixed Whiskered and White-winged Terns at Southern Guam; a Longtoed Stint at Dededo; and a first ever Long-billed Dowitcher at Saipan. The 917 Eurasian Tree Sparrows at Dededo may exceed the record high of that species for any North American count.

*Editor's note: Table 1 can be found on page 58. Table 2 appears on page 59. All bird nomenclatures follow the conventions of the American Ornithologist's Union.*

#### O'ahu 1996 Christmas Count

##### December 21, Saturday:

Honolulu Count: compiler David Smith.

##### December 29, Sunday:

Waipi'o Count: compiler David Bremer

Call David Bremer, 623-7613 for sign-up or more information on the Waipi'o count. For sign-up or more information on the Honolulu count, or to express interest in counts on other islands, contact Lynn Carey at 262-0254.

**Table 1: Christmas Bird Counts in the Main Hawaiian Islands — 1995**

Species	O'ahu				Kaua'i				Species	O'ahu				Kaua'i			
	Honolulu	Waipi'o	Waimea	Kapa'a	Honolulu	Waipi'o	Waimea	Kapa'a		Honolulu	Waipi'o	Waimea	Kapa'a	Honolulu	Waipi'o	Waimea	Kapa'a
Laysan Albatross	3	—	6	64	(O'ahu) 'Elepaio	6	—	—	—								
White-tailed Tropicbird	—	—	6	4	White-rumped Shama	50	34	1	6								
Red-tailed Tropicbird	—	—	—	1	Hwamei	—	2	1	4								
Red-footed Booby	1044	—	—	541	Red-billed Leiothrix	66	5	—	—								
Brown Booby	1	—	4	—	Northern Mockingbird	—	1	9	—								
Great Frigatebird	60	—	—	5	Common Myna	1265	316	117	78								
Cattle Egret	120	40	70	84	Japanese White-eye	300	220	26	21								
Black-crowned Night-Heron	37	6	13	16	Northern Cardinal	65	38	15	10								
Brant	3	—	—	—	Red-crested Cardinal	110	58	13	13								
Nene	—	—	—	4	Yellow-faced Grassquit	—	3	—	—								
Mallard	98	6	—	—	Saffron Finch	12	—	—	—								
Koloa (Hawaiian Duck)	—	27	11	37	Western Meadowlark	—	—	—	7								
Northern Pintail	—	—	—	28	House Finch	192	112	6	17								
Lesser Scaup	—	5	—	—	Kaua'i 'Amakihi	—	—	5	—								
Peregrine Falcon	1	—	—	—	O'ahu 'Amakihi	62	40	—	—								
Erckel Francolin	—	13	4	—	'Anianiau	—	—	11	—								
Red Junglefowl	—	—	188	—	'Akikiki	—	—	CW	—								
Ring-necked Pheasant	—	1	3	1	'Akeke'e	—	—	4	—								
Common (Hawaiian) Moorhen	2	6	12	37	'I'iwi	—	3	10	—								
Hawaiian Coot	37	91	9	17	'Apapane	105	47	36	—								
Pacific Golden-Plover	815	330	48	43	House Sparrow	349	101	187	10								
Black-necked (Hawaiian) Stilt	100	109	—	2	Orange-cheeked Waxbill	1	—	—	—								
Wandering Tattler	20	4	3	5	Common Waxbill	339	252	—	—								
Spotted Sandpiper	1	—	—	—	Red Avadavat	—	13	—	—								
Ruddy Turnstone	365	13	4	—	Chestnut Mannikin	—	130	79	29								
Sanderling	8	2	4	—	Nutmeg Mannikin	96	30	1	21								
Long-Billed Dowitcher	1	—	—	—	Java Sparrow	1096	139	—	67								
Sooty Tern	2	—	—	—	Individuals	10,220	3105	1156	1251								
Black (Hawaiian) Noddy	7	—	—	—	Species	43	40	36	30								
White Tern	5	—	—	—				+1 CW									
Rock Dove	86	15	—	—	Observers	25	10	21	21								
Spotted Dove	889	176	98	36	Party-hours	73	32.75	26	10.5								
Zebra Dove	1713	421	133	43													
Barn Owl	—	—	2	—	Count Date	Dec 17	Dec 19	Dec 31	Dec 27								
Short-eared (Hawaiian) Owl	—	—	1	—	Compilers:	Tony McCafferty (Honolulu)											
Sky Lark	—	9	—	—		David Bremer (Waipi'o)											
Red-vented Bulbul	582	222	—	—		Kate Reinard (Waimea)											
Red-whiskered Bulbul	85	4	—	—		Barbara Stuart (Kapa'a)											
Japanese Bush-Warbler	21	61	—	—		CW = seen during Count week but not on Count Day											
(Kaua'i) 'Elepaio	—	—	16	—													

# Third Annual Awards Dinner Honors Helpers of the Environment

by Susan Elliott Miller

At its third Annual Awards Dinner on September 12, 1996, the Hawaii Audubon Society presented its President's Award, given each year to a public servant whose actions have had a major effect on conservation in Hawai'i and the Tropical Pacific, to Member of Congress Patsy Mink. The Congresswoman has provided consistent support for the preservation and enhancement of state and regional environmental resources over the past two decades. Her husband John accepted the award for Mrs. Mink.

Martha D. McDaniel, who continues her many years of service responding to individuals and our house accounts who order *Hawaii's Birds* and other HAS publications, was the recipient of the Charles Dunn Lifetime Achievement Award. The Conservation Award was presented to Steven Lee Montgomery, Regional Representative to the National Wildlife Federation for Conservation Council for Hawaii whose effective advocacy for environmental causes has often been in partnership with HAS. The HAS office shows the many hours each week that Lynnea A. Overholt, recipient of the Volunteer Award, has put in each week for the past year.

Sylvianne C. Yee, who is beginning her second year as coordinator for Paradise Pursuits, was presented with the Program Award for her enthusiastic work which caused the program to grow to twenty-eight schools from around the state this year. The Educational Partnership Award was presented to Colleen Murakami for all the support she has brought to Paradise Pursuits from the Department of Education. Hawaiian Electric Company, was given the Corporate Education Award for their multi-year financial support of Paradise Pursuits. Corporate Education Sponsor Awards were given to Aloha Airlines and to Outrigger Hotels and Resorts in recognition of their providing air coupons and rooms, respectively, for the outer island teams who come to O'ahu for the semifinal and final Paradise Pursuits competitions.

BHP Hawaii Foundation, represented by Chris Jansen, was presented with the Corporate Conservation Award for providing support for the final year of the Oiled Wildlife Restoration and Rehabilitation Project.

Also receiving recognition for sustained effort on behalf of Paradise Pursuits were: Tina Xavier and Will Freeman, game personnel for two years; Renate Gassmann-Duvall, outstanding outer island coordinator; Dyron Ota and Ranceford Miyamoto, art teachers at Farrington High School whose students created the new sets for the televised finals; and Laura Sato and Linda Uyehara, Farrington home economics teachers whose students created the dozens of cookies which kept all the contestants going.

The Dinner, held in Emmalani Hale at Queen Emma Summer Palace, concluded with a talk and slide show by noted photographer David Boynton. Boynton, director of the Koke'e Discovery Center on Kaua'i, took the audience from the mountains to the sea and all around Kaua'i as he looked at the challenges of preserving the island's environmental and cultural heritage.

**Table 2: Christmas Bird Counts in the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands and Johnston Island**

Species	French Frigate Shoals	Johnston Atoll
Black-footed Albatross	1429	—
hybrid Black-Footed X Laysan Albatross	1	—
Laysan Albatross	2159	—
Bonin Petrel	2	—
Tristram Storm-Petrel	2	—
Red-tailed Tropicbird	2	225
Masked Booby	56	21
Red-footed Booby	2019	371
Great Frigatebird	931	454
Lesser Frigatebird	1	—
Cattle Egret	1	CW
Brant	3	—
Northern Pintail	—	2
Pacific Golden-Plover	84	331
Wandering Tattler	2	3
Bristle-thighed Curlew	2	3
Ruddy Turnstone	339	127
Sanderling	2	7
Laughing Gull	—	CW
Gray-backed Tern	2	—
Sooty Tern	63	2700
Brown Noddy	1032	275
Black Noddy	2521	30
White Tern	89	225
Short-eared Owl	—	CW
Individuals	10,743	5115
Species	21 + 1 hybrid	15+3 CW
Observers	3	4
Party-hours	16.5	10
Count Date	Jan 2, 1996	Dec 31
Compiler	Anthony Viggiano	Chris Depkin



*Colleen Murakami, Steven Lee Montgomery, Martha McDaniel, Chris Jansen (BHP Hawaii Foundation), Sylvianne Yee and Lynnea Overholt were among those recognized at the dinner.*

# More to "Crow" About

**A record-setting fifth  
'alala hatched recently  
at the Maui Bird  
Conservation Center.**

## Hawaii Audubon Society

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Susan Elliott Miller

The total number of new chicks for the 1996 breeding season is now six. All five of the Maui-born 'alala chicks are from the same captive pair, which laid four clutches of eggs this year. The Maui facility is owned by the State of Hawai'i and is managed by The Peregrine Fund.

"We're very pleased to see the captive flock be so productive," said Michael Buck, administrator for the Department of Land and Natural Resources' Division of For-

estry and Wildlife. "The previous record for production from captive birds was set in 1994, when we successfully hatched and raised four chicks that were later released to the wild in South Kona. Although it's too early to make any guarantees, we certainly hope all five of these chicks also will thrive."

The five Maui-born chicks and a sixth chick resulting from an egg laid in the wild on the Big Island are being reared by staff from The Peregrine Fund. The older chicks currently are being raised at the new Keauhou Bird Conservation Center near Volcano. The newest chick probably will be transferred from Maui to the Big Island in the near future so it can socialize with the other young birds.

"Needless to say, we're elated as well as tired," said Alan Lieberman, The Peregrine Fund's Hawaii program director. "Caring for these chicks is a round-the-clock process, but it's also tremendously rewarding, especially when you consider how critically endangered this species is in the wild."

The five chicks from Maui are the offspring of the male Hoike, who was hatched at the State's facility in 1989, and the female Waalani, who was removed from the wild in 1983. A sixth chick, which would have been the first offspring of another captive pair, hatched in July but died a few days later of respiratory failure.

The wild Hookena pair's first chick continues to thrive at the Keauhou facility. Although the Hookena pair laid a total of five eggs during the breeding season, only one was fertile. The only other pair in the wild (known as the Kealia pair) appeared to be incubating eggs in April, but when biologists checked the nest, it was found to be empty.

The newest chick brings the total number of 'alala in captivity to 21 birds. Another 14 'alala are known to exist in the wild. Decisions on the number of 1996 chicks that will be returned to the wild will be made in the near future, based upon recommendations of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service-sponsored 'Alala Recovery Team.

The 'alala recovery program is being undertaken through a partnership between the private landowners at Kai Malino Ranch, Kealia Ranch, and McCandless Land and Cattle Company; the State of Hawaii; The Peregrine Fund; the National Biological Service; and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Source: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

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## Presenting Paradise Pursuits

by Sylvianne Yee

October was a fruitful month in getting the Paradise Pursuits message to more students and teachers. At the annual Sierra Club High School Hikers' Fall Workshop on October 5, I did four workshop sessions on Paradise Pursuits. By the end of the day I was pooped and hoarse, but the enthusiasm of the students and the fun they had learning about Paradise Pursuits and playing mini games made the time and effort worthwhile. The sessions were well attended, growing in number as word got out that it was fun to play an environmental quiz game. There were even a few repeat participants who forsook other sessions to play another round. Everyone received a prize of a poster or the ubiquitous Audubon Society's sun-catcher stained glass ornament of – what else? – a bird, of course! Environmental club advisors were “complaining” to me that their students were “bugging” them to form a Paradise Pursuits team. Hopefully, this will result in more schools coming on board to take the “Paradise Pursuits Challenge.”

Another October event was the Hawaii Environmental Education Association's Conference on Kaua'i on October 26 and 27. I was able to reserve a table at their “Share-a-Thon” to display both Hawaii Audubon Society and Paradise Pursuits materials. It was an excellent way to spread the word among representatives from government agencies and educational institutions. Everyone who visited the table was also encouraged to take a written Paradise Pursuits quiz with prizes for those scoring 80% or better. All in all, it was a most productive and fun two days.

### Notice

The HAS Board of Directors learned in mid-October that the National Audubon Society had contracted with U.S. Public Interest Research Group (PIRG) to canvass several locations, including Hawai'i. From October 1996 into May 1997, the local PIRG canvassers will be going door-to-door to raise awareness about local and national environmental issues and to raise support for NAS through membership and donations. They will also be carrying information about HAS.

## Analyst Sought Legislative Representative Needed

by Dan Sailer

For the fourth consecutive year, the Society is seeking a legislative analyst to advocate the Society's positions on bills affecting protection of native wildlife and its habitat. As the Society is one of only two environmental advocacy organizations with a paid analyst, the position provides a much needed voice for conservation interests. The position runs concurrent with the legislative session, January through May of 1997.

### Duties include:

- from the 3,000+ legislative bills and resolutions, extract those affecting matters of concern to the Society;
- in consultation with appropriate Society officers, develop testimony and present it at hearings;
- follow the bills and resolutions through the process;
- submit verbal reports at monthly Society Board meetings; and
- prepare a written summary of activity within two weeks of session's end.

Knowledgeable Society members and the Administrative Director will provide a consultation pool for the analyst.

The contractual position is compensated at \$4,000 for the period. Past experience with Hawaii's legislative process is a plus.

To apply, please send a letter of interest, resume, and short writing sample to President, Hawai'i Audubon Society **for receipt by December 15, 1996.**

## Office Corner

**Members of the HAS Board continue to work on negotiations for a NEW NEST for the Society.**

by Susan Elliott Miller

We look forward to showing off the new location at our December open offices. Feel free to call ahead for the latest scoop at 528-1432 (there will be no change in the telephone number).

## Volunteers Needed Laysan Albatross Project in Fourth Season

by Lynnea Overholt

For the past three years, Society members have volunteered their time as observers for a project to encourage Laysan albatross to breed on Kaohikaipu Island, near Manana Island and Sea Life Park. Decoys and a sound system will once again 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 intent is to draw the birds away from areas such as Dillingham Field, Kahuku, and the Marine Corps Base Hawaii at Kaneohe, where there are a number of potential conflicts with human uses, as well as danger to the albatross.

In the three previous seasons, albatross have been attracted to the island, although breeding has not occurred. To keep track of what is happening out there, volunteers are needed to observe activity on Kaohikaipu Island through a spotting scope from Sea Life Park and record data for ongoing scientific projects connected to this effort. Gail Kaaialii, who will coordinate the project again this year, said, “Auduboners make the best watchers, of course!” Call her at 735-4807(w) or 528-4241(h) to indicate your interest and get more information.

Observers not only have a chance to participate in interesting scientific and conservation work, but also to spend three hours every week or two enjoying great views of the windward O'ahu coast, many seabird species, and humpback whales which frequent the area in winter. Orientation is provided, followed by individual training sessions at the observing site.

### Holiday Gifts Available at “Open Offices”

**On Saturday, November 16, 23, & 30**, the HAS office will be open from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. — come pick up *Hawaii's Birds, Voices of Hawaii's Birds* (tapes), and HAS T-shirts for family and friends. Open offices will also be held **December 7 & 14** — details on location will be in the December-January 'Elepaio.

# Captive Propagation Aids Hawaiian Forest Birds

Seven native Hawaiian forest birds — including the critically endangered 'alala or Hawaiian crow — have taken a step toward recovery this year with the help of many non-feathered friends. Through a cooperative partnership of federal, state, and private entities, more than eighty chicks have hatched and are being raised in Hawai'i's captive propagation facilities on Maui and the Big Island.

Three of the forest birds — palila, puaiohi, and 'alala — are endangered species. The other four — 'oma'ō, 'amakihi, 'i'iwi, and 'elepaio — are more common but important native residents in Hawai'i's rainforests. They also are serving as important surrogate species, helping to develop and improve incubation, rearing, and release techniques for use with endangered species.

The young birds are being raised in the new Keauhou Bird Conservation Center on the Big Island and in the Maui Bird Conservation Center, both operated by The Peregrine Fund with support from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) and the State of Hawaii. The Peregrine Fund has been working with Hawaiian forest birds since 1993, with initial efforts targeted toward the 'alala.

"The success we have had these past twelve months has provided us the opportunity to assemble the tools, knowledge, and experience necessary to recover species. We look forward to the challenge of reversing the current trend toward extinction," said Alan Lieberman, program director for The Peregrine Fund in Hawai'i.

Current efforts to recover the wild 'alala population began in 1992 and have been based on recommendations provided by the National Academy of Sciences' National Research Council. Only fourteen 'alala are known to exist in the wild, making the species one of the most critically endangered birds in the world. This past year, a new recovery project began on Kaua'i for the puaiohi, whose total population is estimated to number no more than 100 birds.

"It has been wonderful to see so many individuals, organizations, and government

agencies pull together to prevent additional forest bird extinctions," said Robert P. Smith, the Service's Pacific Islands manager. "The private landowners in South Kona have been crucial partners with the service (FWS), State of Hawaii, Peregrine Fund, and National Biological Service in 'alala recovery efforts. The state and National Biological Service also have been leaders in the palila recovery efforts and 'oma'ō work on the Big Island, and the puaiohi work on Kaua'i."

'Alala recovery efforts in the wild are focused in the South Kona area on Kai Malino Ranch, Kealia Ranch, and McCandless Land and Cattle Company lands. With the cooperation of the landowners, an egg produced by a relatively young pair — known as the Hookena pair — was collected and successfully hatched at the Keauhou facility this breeding season. It is the pair's first known successful reproduction, which is particularly important since two of the three older wild 'alala pairs responsible for the twelve chicks produced on the Big Island in 1993 are missing and presumed dead.

The Keauhou Bird Conservation Center, built on land provided by Kamehameha Schools Bishop Estate, opened its first phase in March 1996. Construction of phase two is underway and will be completed early in 1997. The State of Hawaii asked The Peregrine Fund to assume management and direction of its captive propagation facility at Olinda, which became the Maui Bird Conservation Center, in March 1996.

"We're pleased with the work The Peregrine Fund has accomplished at the facility in just a few short months," said Michael Buck, Division of Forestry and Wildlife administrator in Hawaii's Department of Land and Natural Resources. "It demonstrates the benefits of a public/private partnership for conservation in Hawaii. We've equaled our best year ever for the Maui captive flock, resulting in four alala chicks. And one pair is laying another clutch of eggs, so there is a potential for more."

With the exception of the Maui-born 'alala chicks, all of the young forest birds produced from the two facilities resulted from eggs removed from nests in the wild. The technique, called "double-clutching," calls for the removal of the first clutches of eggs laid by the parent birds for artificial incubation and rearing. The wild birds then re-nest and lay a second clutch of eggs. Most of the birds raised in captivity are later

released into the wild with a good "head start" at survival.

"We recognize the unique contributions of each of our partners in the endeavor — and of the zoological community here in Honolulu and on the mainland, which recently succeeded in hatching the first 'apapane, 'amakihi, 'i'iwi, and 'oma'ō chicks in captivity. Preventing extinctions is not an easy job, but I'm confident with the continued cooperation we've shared to date, we can conserve a vital part of Hawaii's natural heritage," said Smith.

The problem with Hawaii's endemic species is widespread. When Captain Cook arrived in Hawaii in the 1770s, seventy-one bird species were endemic to the Hawaiian Islands. Half of those species are presumed to be extinct now, and nearly twenty of the remaining species are in critical jeopardy.

By virtue of their geographic isolation, unique forms of plant and animal life have evolved in the Hawaiian islands. However, during recent years, the continuing decline of many native species has reached the critical point. Hawaii has become the "endangered species capital of the nation" and is home to one-third of the endangered birds and plants in the United States.

The decline of Hawaiian plant and animal life probably has resulted from a variety of complex factors, including habitat modification by humans, alien plants and predators, and avian disease. Progress has been made toward preserving and managing endangered forest bird habitat on federal, state, and privately owned land, and critically needed research on limiting factors such as avian disease is underway. In spite of these efforts, some species continue to decline.

"Captive propagation provides an important tool in the recovery toolbox," said Lieberman. "For some of these birds, this intervention by humans may provide the only defense against extinction."

*Source: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Pacific Islands Ecoregion*

## 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.

## Fallen Shearwaters Need Your Help

**It's that time of year again when Newell's shearwaters fall out of the sky onto highways, ball fields and residential areas.**

by Thomas C. Telfer

The State Department of Land and Natural Resources has again set up shearwater aid stations at various locations around Kaua'i, and is asking the public to assist in the collection of these fallen sea birds.

(Fallen shearwaters can occasionally also be found on O'ahu. Help for shearwaters is provided there by Sea Life Park. Fallen birds may be taken to the entrance of the park between 9 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. For more information on the Sea Life Park assistance, call Ms. Marlee Breese, Curator of Mammals and Birds.)

During the months of October and November, Newell's shearwater fledglings (pigeon sized black and white seabirds) will be leaving their mountain nesting burrows for the first time. They only do so after dark. They are headed for the open ocean and will remain there for the first year or two of life. The young fledgling birds are inexperienced, and must fly across brightly lit urban areas while enroute to the sea. Bright lights attract them and cause temporary night blindness, which result in their flying into utility wires, buildings or other unseen objects. They flutter to the ground, confused, exhausted and stunned.

Because Newell's shearwaters are seabirds with webbed feet placed well aft on their bodies, they are adept at taking off from the ocean's surface, but have difficulty taking off from confined spaces on land. They will often crawl off into a dark corner to gain strength and rest. Sometimes they sustain injuries from their fall or are hit by cars, or are mauled by dogs and cats. In past years however, concerned citizens have come to their aid. Over 92 percent of the birds that fall each year have been safely returned to the wild.

Shearwater Aid Stations, (banks of cages) are provided at each County fire station, the Hanalei Liquor Store, and the North Shore Clinic in Kilauea. Please note that only one aid station will be available in the Koloa-Poipu area, at the new county fire station located at the junction of Kukuiula and Poipu Roads.

If you find fallen shearwaters, please bring them to the nearest aid station and put the birds directly into an empty cage. Please record the location where you picked up the bird on the plastic sign board attached to the cages. This information is important for assessing the most critical fallout areas, and may provide information that will help alleviate the problem in the future. Please do not ask firemen to take the birds. They have their own jobs to do. Put only one bird in each cage. The birds are picked up by wildlife officials each day, examined for injuries, banded, and then released from a special pen designed to allow them to fly out to sea when they are ready. Please do not toss birds into the air because they may have unseen internal injuries and could become more seriously injured.

Shearwaters are generally docile and easy to handle, but they occasionally bite. The easiest way to handle a shearwater is to grasp its folded wing tips, tail and feet in one hand well back from the head (like an ice cream cone), and place it in a small cardboard box with ventilation holes cut in it or, if you have an old towel handy, just toss it over the bird and pick it up for transfer to the box. Take it immediately to the nearest aid station.

Shearwaters feed on small fish and squid. They can go a long time without food because they have a built-in fat reserve, and will drink only seawater. The best thing for them is to get them to an aid station as soon as possible, where they will be examined for injuries, and released promptly.

Residents and businesses can help by turning off unnecessary lights, especially bright floodlights that attract these birds. The heaviest fallout periods occur during the new moon.

Source: *Department of Land & Natural Resources  
Division of Forestry and Wildlife*

## Hawaii Audubon Society Awarded \$4,800 Grant by EPA

by Ivory White

Hawaii Audubon Society, Honolulu, will partner with the State Department of Education to offer workshops to 600 middle and high school science teachers on programs that address native Hawaiian environmental issues. The outcome of the workshops will be to supply teachers with the tools they need to motivate students to question, examine, and explore such issues as the extinction of endangered native species, the transition from agrarian to urban development, water rights, and Hawaiian sovereignty.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) recently awarded a total of \$279,682 to fifteen California, Arizona, and Hawaii public interest groups and other organizations, as part of the agency's environmental justice small grants program.

"The grants will help these groups work in their communities to ensure that the benefits of environmental protection are shared by everyone," said Felicia Marcus, administrator of U.S. EPA's western regional office. "The aim of our environmental justice program is to achieve equal environmental protection, regardless of race, ethnicity, culture, or income."

The grants are part of \$3 million awarded by U.S. EPA to 152 community-based organizations, tribal governments and academic institutions to address environmental justice issues and concerns in communities throughout the United States.

Source: *U.S. EPA — San Francisco Office*

## Errata

Please note the following error in the October issue page 54, second paragraph, "Waiiau Oil Spill Response:" (Waiawa and Honolulu Units) should read (Waiawa and Honouliuli Units).

The editor regrets the error.

# Calendar of Events

## Monday, November 4

Regular first Monday of the month meeting of the **Conservation Committee**, 6 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, November 7

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

## Monday, November 11

**HAS Board meeting**, (always open to all members) 6:30 p.m. at the office.

## Saturday, November 16

**Field trip** to Ho'omaluhia Botanic Garden — 400 acres of lower Ko'olau mountain slopes in Kane'ohe. Join long-time docent Mary Gaber for a morning walk from 9-11:30ish; bring lunch, wear good shoes, mosquito repellent, and sunscreen.

Drive to the end of Luluku Road and wend your way through the garden to meet at the Administration Building parking lot. Limit 20 people; please sign up with Mary by leaving your name and telephone number at 247-0104. If the group is lucky, they'll see 'alae ke'oke'o (Hawaiian coot), which have been in the Loko Wai (lake) on and off this past year.

## Saturdays, November 16, 23, 30 December 7 & 14

Pick up holiday gifts at the HAS office — open from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. — see article earlier in this issue.

## Sunday, November 17

It's time once again to send out the HAS ballot and annual appeal. Your help is needed in stuffing envelopes — many hands will make it light work! from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the HAS office. Please leave your name and telephone number for Susan Miller (528-1432) if you can help.

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