



'ELEPAIO

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For the Protection of
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First Reported Sighting of Japanese Bush-warbler (*Cettia diphone*) on the island of Hawai'i

Jay T. Nelson and Andrew Vitz

The Japanese Bush-warbler (*Cettia diphone*) is common on O'ahu, Lanai, Moloka'i and Maui, and has been recently recorded on Kaua'i and Kaho'olawe, but has never been reported for the island of Hawai'i (HAS 1993, Pratt 1993). On 9 June 1997 while searching for Oma'o (*Myadestes obscurus*) released at Pu'u Wa'awa'a Wildlife Sanctuary on the north slope of Hualalai Volcano (19°44'N, 156°52'W), island of Hawai'i, we heard a loud song that we recognized as that of the Japanese Bush-warbler. The song consisted of a loud clear mid-range monotone note sustained for several seconds, followed by a rapid high-pitched down-slurred note. This song pattern was repeated several times with slightly different starting pitches. We saw the Bush-warbler with aid of binoculars at 15 to 40 m distance. The bird was smaller than an Oma'o, being approximately 15 cm long, and had a long thin tail. The breast was light grey and the back light brown. We observed no other obvious field marks. Movements of the bird were secretive and rapid as it flew between patches of cover, and it perched in a horizontal attitude. The small size, long thin tail, thin profile, secretive habit, frequent and rapid movements, horizontal perching posture, and distinctive song, confirmed the bird as a Japanese Bush-warbler. We sighted the Bush-warbler at 1,500 m elevation in an open canopy ohia (*Metrosideros polymorpha*) and koa (*Acacia koa*) forest with a mid-story dominated by pilo (*Coprosma sp.*) and mamaki (*Pipturus albidus*) and dense grass/*Dryopteris* fern ground cover. We confirmed only one Bush-warbler at Pu'u Wa'awa'a and do not know if this is a single individual recently arrived on the island of Hawai'i, or a member of an established breeding population.

Japanese Bush-warblers are largely in-

sectivorous but also take fruit and nectar (Berger 1981). Introduced to O'ahu in 1929, Bush-warblers are now common and widespread on O'ahu, Moloka'i (Scott et al. 1986) and East and West Maui (Pratt 1993). Possible impacts of Japanese Bush-warblers on native Hawaiian forest birds are unknown. Mountainspring and Scott (1985), however, found there was a significantly greater proportion of negative interspecific correlations for native/exotic avian associations than for either exotic/exotic or native/native associations. Furthermore, interactions between native/exotic primary potential competitors (those species that feed on similar foods) accounted for more negative associations than native/exotic associations where there was little dietary overlap (Scott et al. 1986). The highest level of competitive interaction was for the native species/Japanese White-eye (*Zosterops japonicus*) association, which the authors attributed to combined effects of the Japanese White-eye's omnivorous diet and rapid range expansion.

Although it is difficult to demonstrate interspecific competition or the magnitude of the effects of competitive interactions (Connell 1983), there appears to be sufficient evidence to indicate native/exotic avian associations in Hawai'i in many cases are detrimental to endemic Hawaiian avian fauna. In particular, the omnivorous Japanese Bush-warbler may follow a pattern similar to that of the Japanese White-eye by competing with native Hawaiian forest birds for food resources after its establishment and during a period of rapid population growth and range expansion. Efforts to eradicate introduced avian species after they have become established are likely to prove ineffective. However, should the Japanese Bush-warbler sighted at Pu'u Wa'awa'a be part of a small, isolated Bush-warbler popu-

lation, immediate efforts to eradicate these birds may be our best (and only) means for preventing interspecific competition between Bush-warblers and endemic forest birds, and protecting native forest birds of the island of Hawai'i from this potentially serious conservation threat.

We thank Greg Buppert, Emily Cohen, Mark Collins, Lisa Kummer, Jimmy Liao, Kristin Lucas, Paul Osterle, Jennifer Schramm, Justin Schuetz, Erik Tweed, and Bethany Woodworth for assistance with field work. We thank Jon Giffin and Miles Nakahara for logistical assistance and access to Pu'u Wa'awa'a Wildlife Sanctuary, and Steven Fancy, Thane Pratt, and Bethany Woodworth for reviewing the manuscript. Funding for much of the field work was provided by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

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- Send correspondence to: Jay T. Nelson
U.S.G.S. Biological Resources Division
Pacific Island Ecosystems Research Center
P.O. Box 44, Hawai'i National Park, HI, 96718
Ph: (808) 967-7396 FAX: (808) 976-8568
email: Jay_Nelson@usgs.gov

Results of 1997 Society Elections Announced

Mary Gaber, Director and Nominating Committee Chairperson, announced that the following people were elected in the recent HAS election:

for two-year terms beginning January 1998:
First Vice President John Harrison; Directors Reginald David, Elizabeth Kumabe, Daniel Sailer, Andrew Tomlinson. All were incumbents.

for a one-year term beginning January 1998 as Directors: Sharon Reilly, Ellyn Tong, and Debra Woodcock.

Continuing officers and directors are President, Linda Paul; Second Vice President, Wendy Johnson; Recording Secretary, Deetsie Chave; and Director Mary Gaber whose terms run to the end of December 1998.

Since the election, Reginald David has been appointed as Treasurer, and the Board reluctantly accepted the resignation of Director Eric Vanderwerf, noting Eric's many contributions during his service on the Board. These actions leave two Director positions open; a one-year term to December of 1998 and a two-year term to December of 1999.

If you are interested in serving in either of these positions, please contact President Linda Paul at 262-6859 or leave a message at the office, 528-1432.

In addition, the amendments to the HAS Constitution and Bylaws were approved by a majority of those voting. Updated copies of the document are available from the office.

Hawaii Audubon Society

850 Richards Street, Suite 505
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813-4709
Telephone (808) 528-1432
FAX (808) 537-5294

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Field Activities: Mary Gaber (as above)
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1-573-0094 (W)

Administrative Director

Susan Elliott Miller

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'Elepaio Still Without Managing Editor

by Susan Elliott Miller

Who is out there, within or outside the Society, who would like to become the volunteer Managing Editor of what HAS Board member John Harrison points out is "the only peer-reviewed scientific journal he knows of that's put out by a conservation organization"?

Writing and editing experience are important, as is some desktop publishing background. The Society is willing to support upgrading "Pagemaker" skills but would like to find someone with a basic knowledge of Pagemaker 5.0 or 6.0. I will share what I know about the scheduling (nine issues/year), working with the printer and mailer, and authors. Ron Welton, our former Managing Editor, estimated he spent 15-20 hours a month during months when issues are going to the printer.

If you're interested, please call the office (528-1432 M,W,F) or President Linda Paul at 262-6859 other days.

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.

Undergraduate Scholarships Available for 1998-'99

Through a trust set up memory of Rose Schuster Taylor, Hawaii Audubon Society is offering a full tuition scholarship to an undergraduate student in the University of Hawaii system for the 1998-1999 school year.

Students must be or plan to be majoring in a field related to Hawaiian or Pacific natural history. Applications are available by calling or FAXing the HAS office (see page 2); completed applications must be received by **May 1, 1998**.

Besides providing transcript(s) and three letters of recommendation, applicants are asked to respond to the following questions:

How does your academic major relate to Hawaiian or Pacific natural history?

How do you plan to apply your academic degree to further study or work experience in Hawaiian or Pacific natural history (for example, graduate study, career plans)?

How might your course of study enable you to contribute to the better protection of native Hawaiian or Pacific wildlife, a major purpose of the trust?

Have you already made contributions to the study of Hawaiian or Pacific natural history, especially anything that might contribute to the protection of native wildlife?

Scholarships will be administered through the University of Hawaii Financial Aid offices.

Your Bequest

A bequest to the Hawaii Audubon Society is an excellent way to help in our conservation efforts. Although an attorney should be consulted in the drafting of your will, below is a model clause for bequests.

"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, 850 Richards St., Suite 505, Honolulu, HI 96813, (808) 528-1432.

An Invitation from Paradise Pursuits

By Sylvianne Yee

Who will be the next Paradise Pursuits champ? For six years many of you have watched as the finalists put their knowledge of Hawaii's environment to the test. But very few of you have actually seen the excitement and suspense of the preliminary games leading to the finals. Here's your chance to come out and cheer on your favorite team!

The preliminary games will be held on the following dates at the listed sites.

O'ahu: February 21 at 'Olelo, The Corporation for Community Television

Kaua'i: February 28 at National Tropical Botanical Garden

Maui: March 7 at Hawaii Nature Center

Hawai'i: March 14 at Hilo Union School

Please call Sylvianne Yee at 373-3062 (O'ahu) for specific times and more details. Don't miss out on this opportunity to support our youth and broaden your knowledge.

Black Point Cleanup and Burrow Repair

by Dan Sailer

On Saturday March 21, from 9 am-1 pm, the Society along with the Citizen Action Project will be cleaning the shoreline and (surf permitting) the near shore area of Black Point on Oahu. Trash has accumulated at the Doris Duke saltwater pool area and fishing tackle has also accumulated off the Point. One of the main goals of the cleanup will be the repair of artificial shearwater nesting burrows installed several years ago by the State Division of Forestry and Wildlife. Some of the artificial burrows (actually PVC piping) need to be repainted and re-set into place and artificial rocks also need to be set to secure and help camouflage the burrows.

Also, we may be out planting a few native coastal plants (ilima and kului) to

provide additional nesting cover. Nesting success has fallen off dramatically over the last few seasons probably due to increased predation. Educational efforts to prevent predation by residential cats are ongoing.

If you have any appropriate native coastal plants you would like to donate (they need to be hardened off to coastal life first) or have the time to assist in the above efforts please call me at 955-0100. We will be meeting at the corner of Papu Circle and Kaikoo Place. Look for the orange signs along Kahala and Diamond Head Avenues to make the turn onto Papu Circle. Please bring gloves, water, food, sunscreen, and covered shoes or diving gear if you plan to be one of the finned folk. Tabis could also prove helpful in some areas. See you then!

April 1 Deadline to Apply for Research Grants in Hawaiian or Pacific Natural History

by Susan Elliott Miller

The Hawaii Audubon Society offers grants for research in Hawaiian or Pacific natural history. Awards are oriented toward small-scale projects and generally do not exceed \$500. Special considerations are given to those applicants studying dry-land forests or aeolian systems in Hawai'i. Applicants are encouraged to solicit grants from other organizations to fund research which cannot be funded entirely by the Society.

Grant recipients are expected to submit a 2-3 paragraph progress report, suit-

able for publication in the Society's journal *'Elepaio*, within 6 months of the termination date specified. The recipients are also encouraged to draft a more detailed 2-3 page report which would be considered for publication in *'Elepaio*.

Grants are reviewed semiannually. Deadlines are **April 1** for summer/fall grants and **October 1** for winter/spring grants. Call, write, or FAX the HAS office (see page 2) for application guidelines.

Calendar of Events

Thursday, February 5 and March 5

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.

Wednesday, February 11

Monthly meeting of the **Conservation Committee** at the HAS office at 5:30 p.m. (Note new day, place, and time.) All are welcome. For more information, call chairperson Dan Sailer, 455-2311.

Wednesday, February 11

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

Sunday, February 22

Our **field trip** will be a hike into Pia Valley to observe Oahu 'elepaio, led by Eric VanderWerf and Sharon Reilly. Suggested donation \$2 per person. Limited to

15 participants; please call Mary Gaber at 247-0104 to register and to get details on meeting time and place.

Thursday, February 26

Bring your friends and join fellow HAS members at the **Program and Membership meeting**, 7:30-9:30 p.m., Paki Hall Conference Room, Bishop Museum. Wally Johnson (Professor emeritus, Biology, Montana State University) and Phil Bruner (Professor, Biology, BYU-Hawaii) will use video recordings and slides to bring us up to date on recent studies of the migration of "our" kolea between Hawaii and Alaska. Their program last year brought a capacity crowd—don't get left outside the door! Refreshments are provided; HAS books, tapes, and T-shirts (including kolea) available for purchase.

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