'ELEPAIO

Journal of the Hawaii Audubon Society

For the Protection of Hawaii's Native Wildlife

VOLUME 58, NUMBER 5 JUNE/JULY 1998

Conservation Status of the Tinian Monarch and Proposed New Category of Protection for Single Island Endemic Species

By Jaan K. Lepson[1]

Introduction

The Tinian Monarch (*Monarcha takatsukasae*, Fig. 1) is a single island endemic forest bird currently placed on the U.S. Endangered Species list. The species has been proposed for de-listing (M. Lusk pers. comm.) since it is abundant and widespread (Pratt et al. 1979, 1987; Engbring et al. 1986) on the 100 km^2 (39 mi^2) island of Tinian (Fig. 2), and it has already been reclassified from Endangered to Threatened (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service 1987). The Tinian Monarch was listed as Endangered in 1970 (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service 1970), largely based on a reputed population of 40-50 (Gleize 1945) immediately following World War II (Engbring et al. 1986, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service 1987, Balis-Larsen and Sutterfield 1997). However, this estimate, and consequently the subsequent listing, was based on an incorrect interpretation of Gleize's data (noted by Pratt et al. 1979 and Engbring et al. 1986, but unfortunately perpetuated by Balis-Larsen and Sutterfield 1997), and the Tinian Monarch did not at any time biologically warrant listing as an Endangered Species. Although this species is currently thriving, a new category of protection is here proposed for single island endemics such as the Tinian Monarch in recognition of their inherent vulnerability to habitat destruction, alien predators and diseases, and natural calamities.

Tinian Monarch in tangan-tangan. Photograph by the author.

Historical background

The Mariana Islands have had a complex and often troubled political history, which has impeded scientific knowledge of the region's avifauna. Initially inhabited by the Chamorros, the islands were conquered and held by Spain for over two hundred years, until the end of the 19th century. At the beginning of the 18th century, most Chamorro inhabitants were forcibly resettled to Guam (Fosberg 1960) as part of a "pacification" effort. Following the American seizure of Guam in 1898, Spain sold the remaining islands to Germany, which held them in a state of benign neglect for nearly 20 years. After World War I, Japan was awarded the islands under a mandate from the League of Nations (Guam remained a U.S. posession), and began active colonization and intensive agricultural development. American administration began with the invasions of Saipan and Tinian in June 1944, and continued with the Trust Territories of the Pacific Islands, under which the United States administered Micronesia for the United Nations. In elections held to determine the political future of Micronesia, the islands north of Guam voted to become a self-governing U.S. commonwealth (a political status similar to that of Puerto Rico) called the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Only sporadic collections were made during the Spanish colonial administration, but the first major works on Mariana birds were published during this time (Oustalet 1895 1896; Hartert 1898). Much indigenous knowledge, however, was lost by the forced resettlement of Chamorros from the northern islands to Guam. Indeed, the current Chamorro name for the Monarch, *chuchurican Tinian*, is derived from the name for the Rufous Fantail (*Rhipidura rufifrons saipanensis*), *chuchurica*, and is unlikely to be the original name (another instance is the Golden White-eye [*Cleptornis marchei*], known by the Spanish name, *kanario*).

Few collections or ornithological observations were made under the German administration, but a Tinian Monarch specimen, originally misidentified as a fantail (*Rhipidura* sp.), was acquired by the Senckenberg Museum in Frankfurt in 1918 (Peters 1996; pers. obs.). However, the species was not scientifically described and named until the early 1930s (Yamashina 1931). Nests and eggs were first described and illustrated by Yamashina (1932), but little was published on behavior or breeding biology. Japanese authorities allowed few outsiders to visit the islands, and access was also difficult during much of the United States military administration of the northern Marianas. On Guam, the principal work under American administration

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was that of Seale (1901). Consequently, relatively little was known of the biology of Mariana birds until recently.

One benefit of the American occupation was that a number of competent biologists were stationed in the Mariana Islands while serving in the United States military, most notably Rollin H. Baker and Joe T. Marshall, Jr. American servicemen made observations of the local avifauna (Gleize 1945, Downs 1946, Moran 1946, Stophlet 1946, Borror 1947, Stott 1947, Marshall 1949), which help to determine the status of Mariana birds immediately following the war. More recently, the Navy has funded studies on the Tinian Monarch and other Endangered Species on the island (Balis-Larsen and Sutterfield 1997).

Population status of Tinian Monarch after World War II: reports of U.S. service personnel

Daniel A. Gleize was the first to publish his observations. He sent his report from Tinian in June 1945, listing eighteen bird species, estimated numbers, and their habitats (Gleize 1945). Gleize was apparently a novice in the field since he states, "This is the first time I have been able to name every bird in my area" (Gleize 1945: 220), and he was probably inexperienced in estimating population sizes, which is notoriously difficult in the field.

In his report, Gleize (1945) estimated 40-50 birds for both the Tinian Monarch and the Rufous Fantail, but did not state whether this was intended as a population estimate or, more likely, merely the number of birds he saw during his unspecified time on Tinian. Contrary to some sources (Baker 1951, Balis-Larsen and Sutterfield 1997), this estimate should not be regarded as a comprehensive population survey. Nevertheless, Gleize was the only source to provide any sort of numbers for birds in the Mariana Islands. It was apparently this report to which the Tinian Monarch owes its listing as Endangered (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service 1987) because Gleize's numbers were misinterpreted as a species-wide population estimate.

Downs (1946) found the Monarch in brushy woodlands, describing the nest, vocalizations, and foraging behavior. He collected one specimen with a sling shot, but did not hazard an estimate of numbers. Moran (1946) described the Tinian Monarch without any indication of abundance, and completely overlooked or ignored the fantail, suggesting a very casual survey at best.

The most detailed information on abundance comes from Marshall (1949), who collected specimens and made observations in the field between December 1944 and December 1945. Although reporting no population estimates, he noted that the Monarch "is present in about equal numbers with *Rhipidura* in woodland, but it reaches the peak of its abundance in a kind of arborescent marsh vegetation found in Marpo Valley" (Marshall 1949: 214). He also stated that the Fantail "is abundant in the woodland understory on

'ELEPAIO

ISSN 0013–6069
Managing Editor:
(vacant)
Scientific Editor
Ronald Walker, 235–1681 (H)
Reporters:
Distribution:
Robert Pyle

The *'Elepaio* is printed on recycled paper and published nine times per year: February, March, April, May, June/July, August/September, October, November, and December/January.

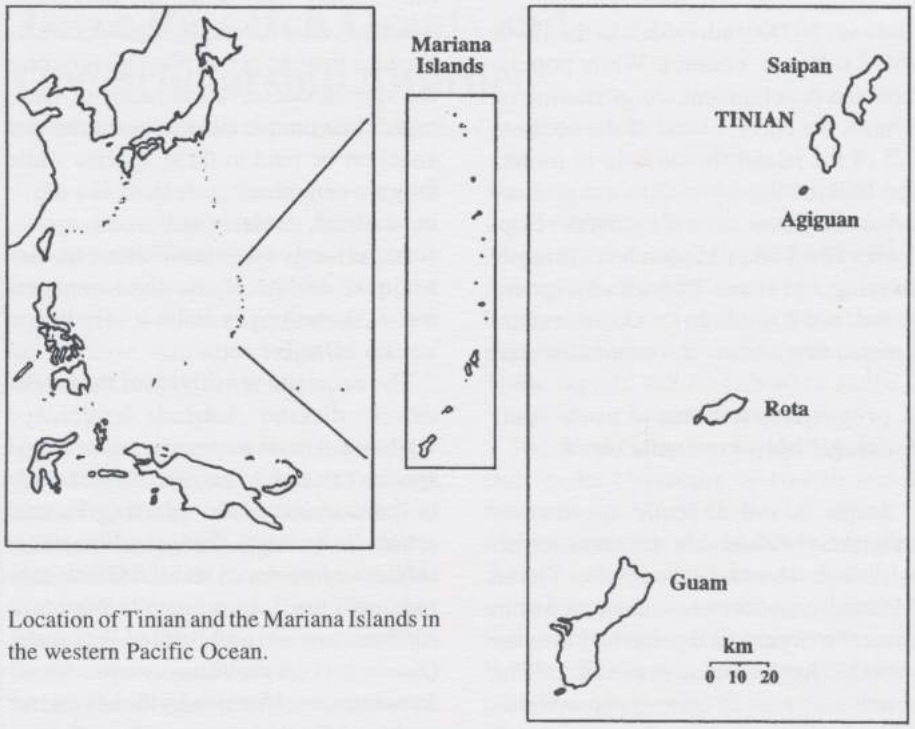
Saipan, Tinian, and Guam" (Marshall 1949: 213).

Since the Tinian Monarch was estimated to be similar in abundance to the Rufous Fantail by both Gleize and Marshall, and since the Rufous Fantail was considered "abundant" by Marshall, the logical deduction is that the Tinian Monarch was also common. Moreover, Marshall (1949) also stated that he collected 35 specimens of Tinian Monarch, which would have been an impressive, albeit appalling feat if only 40-50 individuals existed for the entire species.

Recently I was able to examine Marshall's unpublished field notes from his stay in the Mariana Islands, which are housed at the Joseph P. Grinnell Library in the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology at the University of California, Berkeley. The entries confirm that the Tinian Monarch was indeed common. In his species accounts, Marshall writes (quoted in whole, but italicized emphasis added) of the Tinian Monarch:

Monarcha takatsukasae

Tinian. In about equal numbers with Rhipidura, and in same type of habitat, with the addition that *this is exceedingly abundant in the tall cane under trees and other dense growth in marshes*. Two such spots are the forest around Lake Hagoi, and the tall cane marsh at Marpo Valley. In such strictly cane and marsh habitats, Rhipidura is absent. Monarcha is a more stolid, phlegmatic bird than Rhipidura, it ambles around in the foliage like a vireo, with the same occasional dashes after flying insects or hovering before a twig that vireos do. It is more often found on an exposed perch in the understory of the forest, sitting upright like a flycatcher and making insect-flights. Calls are loud harsh wren-like notes. Given often when birds are chasing each other. Song is beautiful, clear, and flute-like, a very pure tone. Usual form is three syllables, first 2 short grace notes, 3rd a beautiful "wheeeooo" of descending inflection. Dybas found a nest of this species in March. Like Rhipidura the birds are independent, foraging alone, but *because of their great numbers, they are always coming into association with each other*. Song especially heard in the evening. Generally paired.



Location of Tinian and the Mariana Islands in the western Pacific Ocean.

It is evident from Marshall's notes that the Tinian Monarch was not a rare species at the time of Gleize's (1945) report.

Moreover, habitat for the Tinian Monarch was probably never at a precariously low level. Most of Tinian's forest had been destroyed by Spanish cattle ranching, Japanese sugar-cane farming, and American carpet-bombing (Engbring et al. 1986; for details of vegetation and botanical history see Fosberg 1960 and Falanruw et al. 1989), but "some beautiful forest" (J. T. Marshall, Jr. pers. comm.) remained along the rugged limestone cliffs (see also Figs. 36 and 39 in Marshall 1949 and Pl. 25 in Fosberg 1960). These forests probably supported healthy populations of Tinian Monarchs since native forest appears to be preferred habitat. The species is now most numerous in native limestone forest (Balis-Larsen and Sutterfield 1997, A. P. Marshall pers. comm.), although it is also common throughout wooded habitats (pers. obs.), including the extensive monocultures of tangan-tangan (*Leucaena leucocephala*) that were aerially seeded to help reforest the island after the war (Engbring et al. 1986). While only an estimated 5% of the island was forested at the end of World War II (Engbring et al. 1986; see also Fig. 1 in Downs 1946 for a map illustrating extent of forested areas), the remaining native forest probably provided sufficient high-quality habitat that the species was never in real danger of extinction.

Current status of the Tinian Monarch

The Tinian Monarch is now abundant on Tinian (Pratt et al. 1979, 1987; Engbring et al. 1986; pers. obs.). Their melodious songs and harsh calls are conspicuous in virtually every available patch of forest and woodland throughout the island (pers. obs.) While the highest densities occur in native forest, the Monarchs are common even in monospecific stands of tangan-tangan. Surveys in 1982, 1994, and 1996 found it to be second in abundance only to the ubiquitous Bridled White-eye (*Zosterops conspicillatus saypani*), which occurs in some the highest densities of any passerine bird in the world (Engbring et al. 1986). Accurate determination of populations in the wild is notoriously difficult, and the variable-circular plot used in these surveys is highly sensitive to observer differences (Craig 1996; S. Fancy pers. comm.). Nevertheless, all recent surveys indicate a robust population, estimated at nearly 40,000 in 1982 (Engbring et al. 1986)

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and over 50,000 individuals in the 1990s (M. Lusk pers. comm.). While population and development are increasing on Tinian, the Navy's lease of the northern 2/3 of the island should help to protect the bulk of the Monarch's range from urban, commercial, and tourist development. The Tinian Monarch is currently thriving and is not biologically endangered, and is unlikely to become endangered *as long as current conditions remain.*

A proposed new status of protection for single island endemic birds

Single island endemic species are inherently vulnerable to catastrophe. Although abundant now, the Tinian Monarch could become endangered from severe environmental perturbation or the introduction of disease or predators. The recent near-miss by Supertyphoon Keith, which caused extensive damage when it passed just south of Tinian in November 1997, illustrates the vulnerability of a species confined to a single small island. More ominous is the threat posed by the Brown Tree Snake (*Boiga irregularis*), which has exterminated three endemic birds on nearby Guam, while two others survive only in captivity, leaving Guam virtually devoid of birdlife (Savidge 1987; pers. obs.). There have been many sightings of the snake on Saipan, just 8 km (5 mi) away, and its establishment on Tinian would probably doom the Monarch. Indeed, Tinian may have narrowly escaped disaster after World War II: Downs (1946: 90) noted, "just one snake observed." The identity of this snake is unknown, but the Guam catastrophe warns against complacency.

I propose a special "Vulnerable Single Island Endemic" status for those species, such as the Tinian Monarch, that are endemic to small islands. Such a status need not require the full legal protections and responsibilities merited by designation as Federally Threatened or Endangered, but it is essential that it include frequent monitoring and provide for the *automatic* listing in the event conditions change (e.g. establishment or multiple sightings of Brown Tree Snakes, which should be *prima facie* evidence of endangerment), without any political or bureaucratic delays. The current provisions for emergency listing under the Endangered Species Act are necessary, but insufficient for single-island endemics because they do not explicitly recognize the special conservation needs of these taxa. Their unique situations require that attention be paid to these species while they are common, *before* there is a crisis. In contrast, under the current sytem, action is rarely taken until after a species begins to decline. By the time managers realize something is amiss it may be too late for effective action.

The exquisite sensitivity of these species to disaster demands heightened vigilance. This is imperative since island species can and do become extinct while in bureaucratic limbo awaiting Federal action: for example, the Guam Flycatcher (*Myiagra freycineti*) and the Guam subspecies of the Rufous Fantail (*Rhipidura rufifrons uranie*) and Bridled White-eye (*Zosterops concpicillatus conspicillatus*) were eaten to extinction by the brown tree snake while they were still candidates for Federal listing. By the time listing action was undertaken it was oo late for effective action. The proposed Vulnerable Single Island Endemic" category would explicitly recognize the special conservation needs of such species, which may be abundant and thriving at the moment but which may quickly become Threatened or Endangered.

Conclusions

The Tinian Monarch was placed on the Endangered Species list in error. Gleize's (1945) estimated number, which was the only figure available at the time of listing, was reasonably but incorrectly interpreted to be a species-wide population estimate.

Marshall's data (1949, unpubl. field notes) unambiguously show that the Tinian Monarch was a common species even in 1945, when it would be expected to have been at its lowest population level due to the ravages of intensive agricultural development and war. Even if the species had been rare in 1945, it is now abundant, and merits removal from the U. S. Endangered Species list.

The inherent vulnerability to extinction faced by single island endemic species, however, argues for the creation of a new status of protection to recognize the unique conservation needs of such species. Single island endemics can never be taken for granted.

Acknowledgments

I thank Carla Cicero and Barbara Stein for access to Joe T. Marshall, Jr.'s unpublished field notes at the Grinnell Library, University of California, Berkeley; the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for the opportunity to participate in the 1994 census of the Tinian Monarch; Michael Lusk for unpublished USFWS data on the Tinian Monarch; and Peter Beiersdorfer, H. Douglas Pratt, and an anonymous reviewer for constructive comments on this manuscript.

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Three Research Grants and One Scholarship Awarded

By Phil Bruner, Chair, Grants and Scholarship Committee

Hawaii Audubon Society is pleased to announce that research funds were provided to Daniel S. Gruner, Teresa I. Leon, and Sabrina M. Clark to support their work on different projects designed to increase our knowledge of native Hawaiian biota.

Daniel is studying species richness and community structure of arthropods found on Ohia-lehua. Teresa's focus of research is on the behavioral evolution of Hawaii's lycosid spiders that inhabit neogeoaeolian, high altitude aeolian and subterranean ecosystems. The Mae Mull Fund, set aside for research in aeolian systems on Hawaii Island, will be used for this project. Mae contributed a lifetime of service to Hawaii Audubon Society and the protection of Hawaii's unique environment. The fund established in her honor will be put to good use by Teresa as we learn more about this special habitat. Sabrina is working on the Hawaiian Akepa, an endangered species. She will investigate the feeding of fledglings in multi-family flocks. As part of the requirements to receive these grants, the applicants have agreed to provide a brief report of their findings at the conclusion of their work. These reports will be published in the 'Elepaio at a future date.

The Rose Schuster Taylor Scholarship to the University of Hawaii was awarded to Mary Diehl of Pahoa. Mary's academic record at Pahoa High School was excellent, and she was involved in many conservation projects. She has served as President of the E.A.R.T.H. Club at her school for the past two years. For those unfamiliar with this organization, the title stands for Environmentalists Are Really The Heroes. We are confident that Mary will make many more contributions to Hawaii's environment as she continues her education.

The Paradise Pursuits Experience

By Nina Yuen, Team Captain, Hilo High School

The members of our Paradise Pursuits team were always interested by Hawaiian ecology, but we really did not know much about individual species and the way they interacted. Without Paradise Pursuits, we would probably never have learned all that we did. We would study by going around in the woods by my house and finding trees that matched the pictures in the books. Once we found them, we would give a little tour of my backyard while someone displayed the leaves and fruit, like an environmental Vanna White. "This is an Ohia tree. Notice the red pom pom flowers . . . ." Or, we would read the books and suddenly burst out "Hey! Did you know that the native cricket is the first thing to occupy a lava flow?"

"Cool." My teammates would respond with genuine enthusiasm. "Crickets Rock."

We would simulate the buzzer situation by all grabbing an instrument, as someone played Paula Akana. "What is the name of the only native Hawaiian mammal"? Kori would ask. "Zoooop"! Went the slide whistle. "Shinga! Shinga"! Went the maracas. "The Hoary Bat"! someone with the ukulele yelled.

That is correct"! Kori screamed.

The competition was a bit different. But it was just as exciting, with the real TV studio and the bright rainbow-colored camera lights shining down at us. Paula Akana was calm and poised, but we were buzzing with adrenaline. Whenever our team buzzed in, the table shook. Somehow, we thought that if we hit the buzzers really hard, we would get them to bing first. It seemed to work. Our last game was incredibly close. When we got the giant trophy, a winged golden woman with her arms outstretched, we were jumping with happiness, singing miscellaneous Spice Girls songs, and dancing down the steps. On the ride back from the competition, we couldn't stop saying "Look! A mango Tree! Those are from India! And octopus tree! Waiwi! Ohia"! Because we studied alien species, we are now able to recognize threats to native species, to look along the road side as we drove , and we knew what was going on when we see banana poka strangling a native tree. And we have all developed deathly fears of No-No flies.

Now, even though I don't constantly shout things out, my ride home has become more interesting because now the trees and plants have identities, and they no longer are a mass of green. Even in the airplane, we were glowing from our win. Some of us read our ecology book, finding new meaning in the words because of all we had learned. We went home with color-your-own Nene goose T-shirts, prints of baby giraffes, beautiful leis, bag loads of goodies, and a remarkable new knowledge of the amazing Hawaiian ecosystems around us.

The Legislature 1998 and its Aftermath

by Maile M. Bay, HAS Legislative Analyst

Beginning in 1991, with the end of the 1980s boom economy, the state faced a downturn in its economy. Although tourism levels remained fairly constant, current state tax revenues which have been reduced from the boom period levels cannot support the increased number of government personnel and size of its infrastructure.

The primary remedy tried in previous years has been to address economic concerns by downsizing government personnel and services, thus, reducing support to various programs, including conservation efforts. This been reported in 'Elepaio for the past several years by the HAS legislative analysts with the same basic message: the Legislature and Administration continue to allow the state's financial crisis to preempt their support for the environment. The environment has been treated as just another program subject to cuts, rather than as the heart of the tourism industry, the soul for attracting new business, and the major reason that connects most of us to a state with one of the highest costs of living in the nation, but with a clean, safe and healthy environment —that must be properly managed and cared for if we are to retain these qualities.

This year the picture at the Legislature was even more favorable to economic interests. The Administration and key Legislators moved to revitalize the state's economy with help from a carefully picked group, the Economic Revitalization Task Force (ERTF), comprised of large business interest representatives, bankers, and a few union leaders. As reported in the local papers, Governor Cayetano, House Speaker Souki, and Senate President Mizuguchi appointed this group to develop a plan of action to respond to the downturn in Hawaii's economy.

The ERTF plan was published in October 1997, with major recommendations for legislative action.

*to implement a "trickle down" theory of tax reform by: (1) imposing an increase in the regressive general excise tax (that applies to most goods and services) and a decrease in corporate taxes—both proposals were defeated; and (2) decreasing individual state income taxes, which passed. The proposed purpose of these measures was to attract investors to the State and provide spending money to residents to pump back into the State's economy. HAS took no position on these proposals.

*to increase from 6% to 7.25% the hotel room tax rate (the transient accommodations tax or TAT) and to increase the allocation of the TAT from $25 million to $55 million for the Hawaii Convention and Visitors Bureau (HCVB) to market Hawaii's tourist industry; this proposal passed. Hawaii Audubon Society, along with the Sierra Club, testified, without success, in support of dedicating an equal portion of the TAT to the protection and preservation of the State's natural resources, thus, caring for the asset that HCVB will be marketing abroad.

*to alter the State's land use laws by (1) abolishing the State Land Use Commission, the state's long range planning agency that reviews agricultural, conservation, urban, and rural district boundary changes, and (2) delegating to the counties jurisdictional authority over "unimportant" agriculture lands, estimated to be about 700,000 to one million acres; the bill was deferred at the last minute by both the House and Senate, and died. The bill was opposed by conservation organizations, including the Society, which testified that this legislation would reduce the higher level of public participation allowed before the State Land Use Commission, potentially opening this acreage to urban development with the potential of less public notice and little, if any, public review and comment. But stay alert, a version of this bill will most likely resurface next year.

*to significantly change the regulatory process to require all state and county agencies issuing development-related or business licenses, permits, or approvals to draft rules by December 1999, establishing time frames for processing applications. If a government agency, commission, or official fails to grant or deny an application within the established time frame, the application will be then automatically approved. HAS and other environmental groups adamantly opposed the automatic approval provision of this legislation, but it passed in the final hours of the session. If the Governor does not veto the bill, an unlikely event, there is talk among a number of organizations of developing a strategy to repeal this legislation next year. This bill, if enacted into law, has the potential of drastically impacting environmental issues and concerns,

Despite the fiscal shortfalls of state revenue, the Legislature approved bond funding to buy the Waiahole Ditch from Amfac JMB ($10 million) and increased the allocation of hotel room taxes (TAT) to market tourism by the Hawaii Convention and Visitors Bureau ($55 million) at the expense of the counties (who lost $20 million) and the general fund (which lost $35 million).

The community of environmental organizations, including the Sierra Club, EarthJustice Legal Defense Fund, Hawaii's Thousand Friends, the Conservation Council for Hawaii, the Hawaii Audubon Society, Ahupua'a Action Alliance, Life of the Land, and others declared these bills an "assault" on Hawaii's environment. Social service organizations opposed the predominately

regressive tax proposals, while construction and government employee unions gave their support to them, and lots of money flowed into a media blitz campaign from the supporters of the "tax reform" measures, including the public employees union.

Last year habitat conservation planning became law in a strong push by the Department of Land and Natural Resources. In an attempt to correct various concerns with the law, HAS President Linda Paul pressed to include a definition of "adaptive management." Although the legislation concerning the definition died, the Legislature in the final week of the session resurrected a bill, S. B. 1089, from last year that amends the law, addressing various minor concerns, but not the major concerns noted below.

S. B. 1089, as passed, could significantly impact habitat in several ways. As the bill is currently written, it provides no incentives or provisions for land owners to create new habitat for endangered species. Furthermore, the monitoring allowed on a designated parcel can only occur no more than once a year, which fails to address unexpected, seasonal, or climatic changes that can impact a species protected in a habitat conservation plan and safe harbor agreement. In past deliberations before the Legislature, HAS has pushed unsuccessfully to have this law include emergency relief and remedies that can counter actions or uses that could jeopardize endangered species habitat. Lawmakers still have not authorized any method to prevent imminent damage to these habitats. Work remains for next year to correct these deficiencies.

This year, HAS and other conservation organizations also supported combining the state's Coastal Zone Management (CZM) Program, Office of Planning, currently administratively attached to the Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism into the Office of Environmental Quality in the Department of Health. Although the final version of the state budget moved the CZM Program's 10 positions to the Department of Health, the legislation to make necessary amendments to move the program failed.

The conservation and environmental community stayed organized throughout this year's session, networking through weekly meeting of the Environmental Legislative Network, remaining in contact by telephone and e-mail, actively advocating through a press conference and rally declaring the ERTF's actions to be an "assault" on our environment, and supporting equal funding of conservation activities along with tourism marketing at a sign waving at the State Capital.

There is talk among leaders of environmental groups to plan a proactive agenda early before the 1999 session. Stay tuned...and let Susan Miller at the HAS office know if you'd like to be involved.

Damsels in Distress?

On Monday, August 17, 1998, Adam Asquith of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will speak on "Damsels in Distress: Biology and Conservation of Hawaiian Damselflies" at the HAS **membership meeting and program.** Adam will introduce us to the beauty and diversity of Hawaiian damselflies. From coastal anchialine ponds to vertical waterfalls and mountain-top bogs, these animals are the terrestrial manifestations of Hawaii's freshwater systems. He will tell us why wise water use and alien species control are imperative for the conservation of these unique creatures. The meeting is from 7:30-9:30 p.m. at Bishop Museum, Paki Hall Conference Room. Refreshments provided; HAS publications, tapes, and T-shirts available for purchase.

Damsels in Kahana!

On Sunday, August 16, 1998, Adam Asquith and Ron Englund will lead a **field trip** to Kahana State Park to observe native Hawaiian damselflies and learn about their biology, habitats, and conservation needs. Meet at 9:00 a.m. by the State Library along Punchbowl to carpool or at 10:00 a.m. at the entrance to Kahana Valley State Park (next to restrooms). Trip will be 2-3 hours; bring hat, sunscreen, mosquito repellent, water, lunch or snack, and tabis; wear boots. Suggested donation is $2.00/person. Please register by calling the HAS office (528-1432, voice mail box 4) before August 15th.

WANTED:
Big Islanders to Help Nene Habitat

A small number of motivated, Big Island Nene enthusiasts have the opportunity to get in on the ground floor of a proven habitat management scheme.

Qualifications: willingness to operate a large, self-propelled, walk-behind mower, gas-powered weed - eaters, hand tools, or some combination of the same. Time commitment: not more than one day/month, less during dry spells and Nene breeding season.

Benefits: Nene viewing opportunities, including glimpses of family groups, new fledglings, flock social interactions; exercise and fresh air (vog permitting).

Compensation: cold drinks, lasting gratitude, and small stipend.

Interested applicants should call Darcy Hu at Hawaii Volcanoes NP (985-6092) for further details.

HAWAII AUDUBON SOCIETY

'ELEPAIO

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Calendar of Events

Thursday, July 2 and August 6
Education Committee monthly meeting, 7 p.m. at BaLe Sandwich Shop in Manoa Marketplace (near Safeway). For more information, call chairperson Wendy Johnson, 261-5957.

Monday, July 13 and August 10
Conservation Committee monthly meeting at the HAS office at 5:45 p.m. For more information, call chairperson Dan Sailer, 455-2311.

Monday, July 13 and August 10
HAS Board meeting, always open to all members. 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. at the office.

Saturday, July 18
Join Dan Sailer for **field trip** on the Maunawili trail from the Waimanalo side. 5-mile round trip hike follows the base of the Koolau to see small waterfalls, large vistas, and sometimes native birds. Bring: mosquito repellent (or appropriate clothing), raingear, lunch, water, closed-toed shoes. Meet at 8:30 a.m. by the State Library along Punchbowl to carpool or at 9:15 a.m. at Frankie's Drive-In parking lot on Kamehameha Highway in Waimanalo. Please call Dan Sailer at 455-2311(h) to make reservations and notify him where you plan to meet the group.

Thursday and Friday, July 30-31
1998 Hawaii Conservation Conference, Honolulu. For more information, contact Nancy Glover, 944-7133, Secretariat for Conservation Biology at UH-Manoa.

Sunday, August 16
Field trip to Kahana State Park to observe native Hawaiian damselflies - see p. 29

Monday, August 17
HAS **membership meeting and program** "Damsels in Distress: Biology and Conservation of Hawaiian Damselflies" - see p. 29

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