



'ELEPAIO

Journal of the
Hawaii Audubon Society

For the Protection of
Hawaii's Native Wildlife

VOLUME 59, NUMBER 1

FEBRUARY 1999

59 Years With The Hawaii Audubon Society

- 1939: First Meeting of the Honolulu Audubon Society. Established Motto: "For the Better Protection of Wildlife in Hawaii". First 'Elepaio published. First Christmas bird count.
- 1943: Conservation issue priority: Introduced birds and diseases.
- 1945: First Legislative Committee formed. Conservation issue priorities: Cats, rats, mynas, and mongoose problems; forest loss.
- 1946: Name changed to the Hawaii Audubon Society.
- 1948: Conservation issue priority: Stop introduction of exotic bird species.
- 1950: HAS helped organize the Conservation Council for Hawaii.
- 1952: Conservation issue priority: Coastal and dry land plants.
- 1955: Conservation issue priorities: Conservation of marine life; conservation education for Hawai'i.
- 1957: Conservation issue priorities: Wetland loss; exotics.
- 1960: Conservation issue priorities: Need for a "conservancy" type program; conservation easements; Kanaha Pond and airport expansion; natural area reserves.
- 1961: Conservation issue priorities: List Natural Area Reserves at Ka'ala, Eke, Olokui, Wailau, Alaka'i.
- 1962: Conservation issue priority: Pig and goat control.
- 1965: Conservation issue priorities: Nene captive propagation; non-game wildlife position for State; exotic plant control.
- 1966: Conservation issue priorities: Bulldozing of native forests; multiple-land use deemed a failure; restrict import of birds.
- 1969: Conservation issue priorities: Natural Resources curriculum for UH; environmental education in schools; avian disease related to extinction.
- 1970: HAS members influential in creation of Hawai'i Natural Area Reserve System ("NARS") Commission and Animal Species Advisory Commission. Conservation issue priorities: Kawai Nui bird sanctuary; listing of 'Alala as endangered.
- 1971: Conservation issue priorities: seabirds, wetland preservation; feral animal control in forests; native species reforestation; needs of endemic species; H-3 development.
- 1972: HAS members influential in passage of Hawai'i Endangered Species Act.
- 1975: HAS motto changed to "For the Protection of Hawai'i's Native Wildlife".
- 1979: Federal court orders removal of feral sheep from Mauna Kea as a result of HAS lawsuit. First time an animal has been a plaintiff in a lawsuit - *Palila v. State of Hawai'i*. Conservation issue priorities: Palila, whale harassment.
- 1986: Federal court orders removal of mouflon sheep from Palila habitat.
- 1989: HAS and National Audubon Society ("NAS") open joint office in Honolulu.
- 1990: HAS and NAS file notice of intent to sue U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service ("USFWS") under federal Endangered Species Act over the 'Alala (Hawaiian Crow).
- 1991: HAS in conjunction with Thousand Friends of Kaua'i and others file notice of intent to sue Kaua'i Electric over Kalihiwai transmission line. HAS and NAS file suit against USFWS and a private land owner under the federal Endangered Species Act seeking an active hands-on recovery effort for the 'Alala.
- 1992: Following long negotiation with Kaua'i Electric, reached a settlement mutually agreeable to all parties, which includes a long term study of the effects of power lines on Newells' Shearwaters, funded by Kaua'i Electric.
- 1993: Following extensive negotiations between HAS, USFWS and several private landowners, a long term management agreement was negotiated between the USFWS and private landowners to allow for hands-on management of the wild population of the 'Alala. The first year's efforts resulted in increasing the wild population by almost 50%.
- 1994: HAS continued its participation on the 'Alala recovery team, hired an independent contractor to monitor conservation issues during the 1994 legislative session, participated in the NARS review panel meetings on the Big Island, participated in the State Endangered Species Act workshop, continued the highly successful high school environmental quiz show Paradise Pursuits, and began designing and oiled wildlife rehabilitation program.
- 1995: HAS hired its first office staff person; the Paradise Pursuits and Legislative Analyst programs continued to be run by independent contractors. Volunteers successfully stopped a legislative effort to gut the state Endangered Species Act, monitored the Albatross Project on Kaohikiapu Island, served on the 'Alala Recovery Team and the NARS Working Group, conducted a systematic search for the 'elepaio, whose population has severely declined on O'ahu, and formed a Birders Network.
- 1996: HAS, with the help of Sierra Club Legal Defense Fund ("SCLDF"), was able to stop imminent koa logging on 5300 acres of essential habitat of the 'Alala. The land at issue was subsequently purchased by the Federal government for addition to the Hakalau National Wildlife Refuge. HAS received an educational grant from the Environmental Protection Agency ("EPA") to conduct teacher workshops on environmental issues, continued its Paradise Pursuits and Legislative Analyst programs, added a set of cassette tapes "Voices of Hawai'i's Birds" to its list of educational products, and held its first Birding for Beginners workshops at the Honolulu Zoo.
- 1997: HAS joined with other local conservation organizations in a partially successful attempt to fix a very bad bill that amended the state's Endangered Species Act by permitting the taking of endangered plants and animals for the first time in Hawai'i. HAS also joined forces with the Kawai Nui Heritage Foundation to successfully lobby for state matching funds to restore 65 acres of waterbird habitat in Kawai Nui Marsh. The HAS board drafted a mission statement for the Society and Paradise Pursuits completed its sixth successful year and began its seventh.
- 1998: HAS submitted a draft Environmental Assessment in conjunction with efforts to obtain a lease on five acres of state land in Kawai Nui Marsh for an Audubon Education Center, but at the end of the year took a time out until construction of the waterbird habitat in the Marsh begins. HAS also received a large grant from four mainland foundations for a fisheries education project, continued its Paradise Pursuits and Legislative Analyst programs, and completed "Hidden Treasures of O'ahu", a birdwatching/hiking map.

How The Honolulu Audubon Society Was Organized

by J. D'Arcy Northwood, President

FROM: Vol. 1, No. 1
November 1939

In January 1939, a letter appeared in the local paper from Charles M. Dunn asking all bird lovers to meet at the Library of Hawaii with a view to forming a branch of the National Association of Audubon Societies. Previous to this there had been several letters showing interest of the public on the question of better protection for our birds, most of them strongly in favor of

such protection. There was also an editorial on the same subject.

In March the first meeting took place, the name of the society was decided upon, and there was discussion on the activities which the society would undertake. At the next meeting, J. D'Arcy Northwood was elected president, and Charles M. Dunn, secretary-treasurer. A committee

consisting of Kenneth J. Williams, George C. Munro and Charles M. Dunn was formed to present the views of the society on bird protection to the Legislature. A bill later became law extending complete protection to the migratory shore birds and ducks and also to the stilt and mudhen for the next two years.

At the next meeting in May a constitution and by-laws were adopted; Mrs. James R. Judd, President of the Hui Manu; Mr. Riley H. Allan, Editor of the Star Bulletin; Mr. Raymond S. Coll, Editor of the Advertiser; and Mr. Kenneth J. Williams were elected vice-presidents. George C. Munro, who has taken a foremost part for years urging better protection for our birds and E. H. Bryan, Jr., Curator of Collections at the Bishop Museum, regretted that they were unable to accept active office and agreed to act as advisers.

Cooperation with the Hui Manu is also assured with regard to bird protection and educational work in the schools.

Since then monthly meetings have been held, at which, talks of interest to bird lovers have been given by Walter Donaghho, E.H. Lewis, Kenneth J. Williams, Dr. Morton E. Cummings, and Buster Andrews.

The discussions following the talks were always interesting, many members joining in with their views and observations.

Once a month a bird walk has been arranged, when members and their friends have had the opportunity to see and hear many of our birds. At one lunch time on a trail no less than four of the native forest birds were in sight at once, the 'elepaio, 'amakihi, 'apapane, and i'iwi.

Now thanks to the energy of our secretary, Charles M. Dunn, we are to have a printed paper giving an account of our activities month by month. Here is the first number of "The 'Elepaio," named after the little Hawaiian bird which is the emblem of the society.

Members should make an attempt to attend the meetings, which are held at the Library of Hawaii at 7:30 p.m. on the first Monday in each month. We know we have their good wishes in their absence but their presence is often necessary for the proper conduct of business.

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Depart Of Land And Natural Resources Announces Its Recommendations To Prevent The Extinction Of The Po'ouli

The Department of Land and Natural Resources ("DLNR") today announced its preliminary recommendations for emergency measures to prevent the extinction of the Po'ouli (*Melamprosops phaeosoma*), a native Hawaiian forest bird from Maui whose remaining world population may total only three birds. The recommendation is in response to a review of a joint Environmental Assessment ("EA") issued by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service ("USFWS") and DLNR that generated considerable public comment. A final joint-agency recommendation will be issued once an official response to public comment is issued in January.

The Po'ouli was first discovered in 1973 in the upper elevation rainforest of East Maui at 6,494 feet elevation by college students during the Hana Rain Forest Project. It was the first new Hawaiian bird species discovered since 1923. The species was so unique that it was placed in a new monotypic genus. It was given the common name of Po'ouli, which means "black-faced" in Hawaiian.

The Po'ouli population, which was initially estimated to be fewer than 200 birds, has experienced a precipitous decline since its discovery. Despite aggressive habitat management activities (such as fencing and pig control) in this remote rain forest, there are now only three known Po'ouli within the Hanawi Natural Area Reserve, which provides habitat for the highest number and density of endangered forest birds in the State. The reasons for the decline are not thoroughly understood but are believed to be: continued predation by introduced mammalian predators (specifically 3 species of rats, mongooses and cats); avian disease; habitat degradation as a result of feral pig activity in the forest; competition with introduced birds; and possible lack of adequate food resources.

The Environmental Assessment presented six alternatives, ranging from habitat management, moving birds together to promote breeding in the wild, building field aviaries to promote breeding, and finally, removing the last known birds from the wild and into a captive rearing facility. DLNR is recommending a combination of 1) expanded habitat management, 2) location of active pairs, wild nests and additional birds, and 3) consideration of translocation. At this time, DLNR does

not recommend any human manipulation of the three known wild adult Po'ouli outside of a potential "hard release" of a female into the territory of the known male. DLNR remains committed to bring in any Po'ouli eggs for artificial incubation and hatching if a successful nest is found.

Michael Buck, DLNR Forestry and Wildlife administrator, said, "This is a very tough decision to make. Only in Hawai'i are natural resource managers faced with such a set of difficult options to stave off the extinction of a species. There are no right answers and we felt obligated to reach out broadly for feedback and guidance."

Four well-attended public meetings were held with the scientific and resource management leadership in Hawai'i. The agencies also received over 50 written comments on the environmental assessment, including participation from international scientific experts. The majority of public comments supported action for expanded habitat management activities that would benefit the Po'ouli as well as other native species. There was mixed opinion on the controversial alternative of bringing the remaining three birds out of the wild and into captive propagation. Concerns were raised about the risks involved, especially with the uncertainty about the sexes of the birds.

"We thank all the people who attended the public meetings and sent in written comments," said Buck. "Many of the meetings became emotional as people shared their feelings. We all came away from the meetings determined to not allow other Hawaiian forest birds to reach the same precarious level as the Po'ouli."

Many of the public reviewers pointed out that the uncertainty involved in determining the sexes of the birds just added to the high risk involved in bringing the birds into captivity. There was already a low probability of the birds producing offspring even if a male and female were brought together and able to survive in a captive situation. Many felt that the odds of this option were not much better than aggressive habitat management that could benefit any additional Po'ouli not yet detected in the area. Expert scientists urged extreme caution in bringing into captivity a wild-caught insect-eating bird.

Even supporters of this alternative said it was the best of a bad set of options.

"We recognize that some reviewers had high hopes for an immediate attempt at captive propagation involving the capture of the three known birds. In the end, DLNR believes that the risk of this alternative is too great, and that such direct attempts at establishing a captive flock with so few birds could cause extinction rather than recovery," explained Buck.

"Our recommendations for the Po'ouli are based on an analysis of comparative risks," said Mike Wilson, DLNR Chairperson. "The reality is that the chances of saving the Po'ouli in the long term are slim. It is a very rare bird that is in less than optimal habitat, and sadly, we could be witnessing an inevitable extinction."

"We feel that our preliminary recommendations provide the greatest potential benefits with the best allocation of scarce resources. Responsibility and common sense guides us to spend out limited recovery resources to deal with actions that have some chance of success, and will benefit as many native forest bird species possible, in addition to the Po'ouli. The Po'ouli's habitat in the Hanawi Natural Area Reserve is also home for 5 other rare forest birds, 18 rare plants, various snail species and an unknown number of native insects," Wilson said.

Some of the expanded habitat management actions to be considered in the final EA include:

- Continued predator control in established home ranges using bait stations.
- Expansion of bait station predator control into areas where birds have been located and between home ranges.
- Accelerated environmental registration and use of aerial or hand broadcast methods for predator control.
- Accelerated implementation of fencing and ungulate (hoofed animals) control plans now in place for the Hanawi NARS and the East Maui Watershed Partnership.
- Control of alien birds as appropriate and feasible what may directly compete with Po'ouli for food or territory.

Continued on page 5

Soar With Kaua'i's Albatross!

Beginning January 22, people across the nation can follow the path of the Laysan albatross currently nesting at Kilauea Point National Wildlife Refuge on Kaua'i as they forage across the ocean.

To kick start the project, Kaua'i residents and visitors are invited to join Dave Anderson, the project leader, at the Sheraton Princeville Hotel Ballroom on Thursday, January 21, at 7:30 pm. He will present a free, one hour slide presentation featuring the natural history of several Pacific seabird species, the results of last year's tracking project from Tern Island, and what he hopes to discover from this year's tracking project at Kilauea Point.

Anderson, a Wake Forest University ornithology professor, will attach tiny transmitters to six albatross. The transmitters will send a signal to a satellite and relay back to earth the latitude and longitude of each bird as it is flying in search of food for its young.

Participation is free and open to anyone with e-mail and/or Internet access. To sign up, go to the "Join the Project" section of

website <http://www.wfu.edu/albatross>. After following instructions, participants will receive an e-mail message every 24 hours posting location data. It is real time science information delivered world wide!

"Last year's results from Tern provided astounding evidence to how far albatross fly," said Anderson. "We had birds make long and repeated trips east to San Francisco Bay and back. One bird has flown more than 24,843 miles in flights across the North Pacific to find food for its chick in just 90 days, flights equivalent to circling the globe! Probably the most surprising thing that we've found is that the birds that nest out in the middle of the ocean are traveling all the way back to continents to find their food."

"We are excited about the upcoming Kilauea Point project because of the uncertainty of where our birds go to feed," commented Refuge Manager Tom Alexander. "This past year we have seen a decline in numbers, and perhaps tracking results can give us knowledge to help protect them and their feeding grounds."

The refuge's nonprofit association, Kilauea Point Natural History Association ("KPNHA"), has provided funds for Anderson to track from the Refuge this spring. The National Science Foundation is continuing to fund the project from Tern Island with tracking beginning this weekend.

Funding for next year has not been found yet for either site. "This probably is a once in a lifetime chance to get this type of information," said KPNHA's president, Dave Boynton. "So we are encouraging as many teachers and students to sign up as possible to take advantage of having real time access to research data on Kaua'i's albatross."

The website also offers all sorts of resource information, chart maps to use, and gives students assistance with coming up with their own hypothesis, probably before scientists even have a chance to absorb the facts!

source: press release from U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's National Wildlife Refuge System. Contact: Ann Hudgins, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 541-2749

Senator Inouye Announces \$8 Million in Federal Funding Toward Purchase of Palmyra Atoll for National Wildlife Refuge

Senator Dan Inouye announced on January 6 that the Congress has approved the release of \$8 million dollars toward the purchase of the privately owned Palmyra Atoll for addition to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Hawai'i and Pacific Islands National Wildlife Refuge Complex.

Palmyra Atoll is about 1000 miles south of Honolulu and includes approximately 600 terrestrial acres and 15,000 acres of coral reef and marine environment. Palmyra is nesting and wintering habitat for hundreds of thousands of migratory birds. As a coral reef resource, Palmyra is virtually unmatched anywhere within the United States and its possessions.

"Pending agreement with the Interior Secretary on specific acquisition priorities nationwide, the Congress approved a large block of funding in Fiscal Year 1998 for the Interior Department's national land and water conservation program," said Senator Inouye. "I am very pleased that the Congress and the Interior Department have now reached agreement on protect-

ing Palmyra's wonderful natural resources. This \$8 million appropriation for Palmyra Atoll represents the largest ever single-year allocation for a federal refuge in the western United States, and one of the largest in the nation," continued Inouye.

Palmyra Atoll is the only nesting and resting habitat for migratory seabirds and shorebirds within 450,000 square miles of ocean. Each year, hundreds of thousands of migratory seabirds, including the second largest colony of red-footed boobies in the world, visit Palmyra to raise their young. Migratory shorebirds flock to Palmyra during their non-breeding season to escape the harsh arctic winters.

The atoll is also home to a stand of a rare rainforest tree species, *Pisonia Grandis*. From their gnarled roots to their high canopies, these magnificent trees feature the preferred nesting locations for various species of seabirds that visit Palmyra.

Palmyra's lagoon and marine waters support large numbers of tropical fish, giant clams, and threatened hawksbill and

green sea turtles which nest on Palmyra's beaches. Further, the atoll hosts a robust population of the largest living terrestrial invertebrate, the coconut crab, which has been over-harvested in other Pacific Island areas for its value as a food source.

The Nature Conservancy, working with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, has been discussing the terms of a potential sale with the private owners of Palmyra Atoll. In addition to the recently released federal funds, it is expected that funds from private conservation sources will be contributed to the purchase price for a unique public-private conservation partnership to protect this important natural habitat. A recent proposal by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service outlines the agency's preferred management scenario of a wildlife refuge with a limited public use program.

source: press release from Senator Daniel Inouye's office 1/6/99

Help Hawai'i's Marine Resource Management

by Maile Bay, Fishery Policy Analyst for Western Pacific Fisheries Management Coalition

Many people in the fishing community know the good news - marine resources bring in money to Hawai'i. In Hawai'i, residents and tourists together spend nearly \$800,000,000 annually in this industry. Now the bad news-the State of Hawai'i ranks 48th in the nation in dollars spent to manage marine resources through the Department of Land and Natural Resources, Division of Aquatic Resources ("DAR"). In 1998, our lawmakers funded DAR at only \$3.3 million dollars - that is only less than one-half of 1% or 1/4000 of the total amount of money generated by the use of our marine resources. DAR needs 4 times this to really do its job. The General Excise Tax alone at 4% of the revenues from fisheries and reef and tourist-related marine industry equals \$32 million dollars a year.

With the money received from our marine resources nearing the billion dollar mark, we need to make sure that these precious resources remain to benefit our grandchildren and their children. That will not happen if they are exploited, depleted, or lost. This responsible use requires adequate management of our marine resources by the Hawai'i State Department of Land and Natural Resources, DAR. But these folks cannot do their job with tiny budgets and too few and underpaid staff, while facing budget cuts

every year. Nationally, the State of Hawai'i ranks near the bottom in its level of pay for its fishery/aquatic biologists.

What can be done to close the gap between the dollars spent to use our resources and the pennies spent to oversee the management of those resources? Plenty.

The Western Pacific Fisheries Coalition, a Hawaii Audubon Society sponsored project, is sponsoring a series of free educational workshops on O'ahu for individuals and organizations interested in changing this picture. Workshops will cover various approaches, ranging from learning the "whys and how to dos" of your legislative system to the hands-on education of our public officials and law makers who can make a difference.

The workshops will include learning methods for reaching out to the general public, decisions-makers, and government staff to get their support, attention, and action. In other words, how to change the Bad News to GOOD News and obtain adequate support and funding to manage our marine resources. The next workshop will be February 2, 1999, 6:30 p.m. at the Hawaii Audubon Society office. The workshops are free and open to any interested person, but space is limited, so call today. For more information call Maile Bay. She can be reached by phone 947-1523, fax 941-0180, or e-mail, bay@hula.net.

Test Your Paradise Pursuits Knowledge

by Sylvianne Yee, Paradise Pursuits Coordinator

Ever wonder what kinds of questions are tossed at the Paradise Pursuits participants? See how many of these you can answer correctly. Remember that students have only 5 seconds to come up with an answer! Answers can be found on the last page of this newsletter. Good luck!

- 1) What is the primary gas thought to cause the "greenhouse effect"?
- 2) Forest bird observation in Hawai'i is best in what months?
 - a. June to August
 - b. September to October
 - c. November to May
- 3) What is the term used to describe a hardened, rock-like sand dune?
- 4) Not many gulls are seen in Hawai'i. These primarily continental birds lack the ability to what?
- 5) In Hawai'i the green anole lizard is commonly referred to as a chameleon but it is actually a type of
- 6) The ancient Hawaiians used koa wood for canoes and surfboards but not as food bowls. Why?
- 7) What percentage of the nation's endangered plants are found in Hawai'i?
 - a. 21%
 - b. 38%
 - c. 55%
- 8) What are the 2 types of marine reptiles found in Hawai'i?
- 9) Although considered a social nuisance, these insect pests do not carry disease and were often eaten by ancient Hawaiians. What are these pests?
- 10) What native bird inflates a red throat pouch during courtship?

PO'OULI Continued from page 4

DLNR is also recommending moving a female Po'ouli to the home range of the known male based on a final confirmation that wild nesting of the three known birds is improbable, and if behavioral responses suggest it has a reasonable chance of success. This will involve expanded field searches for additional Po'ouli, obtaining more definitive results on sexing of known birds, and evaluating field observations of breeding readiness such as male singing, displaying, and responsiveness to playback calls. The field crew will be conducting dry runs with surrogate species to test capture, transport and release techniques.

"With our partners at Peregrine Fund, we remain committed to bring in any Po'ouli eggs for artificial incubation and hatching if a successful nest is found," said Paul Conry, DLNR wildlife program manager. "We have already been working with

surrogate species and believe this represents a viable option to prevent extinction. That means we must do a better job with predator control in known Po'ouli habitats."

Wilson said, "The plight of the Po'ouli should not be looked at in isolation from the challenges that have shaped our endangered species crisis statewide. The reasons for its decline are the same factors that have led to the decline and extinction of several of Hawai'i's forest birds, native plants, and other wildlife. With limited resources, there will always be a question of the appropriate balance between the need for aggressive management while still addressing the critical condition of the Po'ouli and other rare species."

Source: DLNR News Release; for more information, contact Michael Buck, 808/587-4181

PARADISE PURSUITS QUIZ ANSWERS

- 1) carbon dioxide
- 2) c
- 3) inflated
- 4) to drink or process salt water
- 5) iguana
- 6) natural resin in koa wood gives
- 7) b
Food a bad taste
- 8) sea turtles & sea snakes
- 9) lice or ukus
- 10) frigate bird or 'iwa

ANSWERS

So how did you do? If you got 8-10 correct, you've reached the KITV finals! 6-7 takes you to the play-offs. 5 or less - sorry but you're eliminated! Better luck next year.

Excerpt From Highlights Of The 1968 Christmas Bird Count—'Aiea Trail

FROM: Volume 29, No. 8, February 1969

'Aiea Trail was unusually quiet but finally, after anxiously waiting since 1961 we are able to happily report two creepers. Unbelievable! But unmistakably creepers!

'Aiea has changed. There's a caretaker's home across from Keaiwa Heiau and the gate is locked from 7pm to 7am. When we reached the entrance to the park at 0645am there were already two car-loads of people waiting to get in.

We parked our car temporarily and walked in. Dawn is a wonderful time of the day. Unknown! Enchanting! And surprising! Today, the first caller was the shama thrush instead of the usual cardinal. The shama not only filled the lower picnic area with its melodious song but also gracefully presented itself with its tail up in the air. Instead of the cardinals singing from the top of the Norfolk pines, the house finches were chattering and busily flitting from one treetop to the other, but on the ground there was no dove nor mynah. Too many people - no room for the birds. The overcast and the semi-darkness of dawn offered a delicately lacy effect to the silhouetted eucalyptus leaves contrasted against the background of the sturdy Norfolk pines. Our hearts danced to the enchanting music of the dawn until the gate was opened, when we moved the car into the park and started on the business of the day to count birds.

As usual the ubiquitous white-eyes confused the identification by being among 'amakihi and house finches. Fortunately, 'amakihi was very actively calling. Several times the call sounded so much like the tit's that we got excited hoping for a glimpse of a tit, which was last reported in 1962, but every time the caller turned out

to be a handsome yellow male 'amakihi. The house finches were at home at their usual feeding area among the ironwood trees.

The absence of leiiothrix (only four counted) left an unusually mysterious haunted feeling. Somehow we expected to hear a sudden burst of melodious chorus, but unfortunately not even an alarm note. We heard only a faint calling from way deep in the valley. What happened? If any of you know the answer, please let us know.

Also, what happened to the 'apapane? Only four! In 1956 we counted over 400 of them, but in 1966 only 6 and none last year. Somehow I expected to see more this year, because there were some eucalyptus blossoms, and the weather was ideal for nectar feeding, but we heard the beautifully gentle and tender call only four times and saw that handsome bird only once. We had a very close but swift look at this bird. It dashed across our path, and we felt the strong wing beat and saw a flash of red and black; then it was gone.

As we were commenting on the unusually few birds, we suddenly saw two large birds among the white-eyes. We instinctively called, "mockingbird", but not believing our identification we began the process of elimination - spotted dove? No. Shama thrush? No. It's mockingbird! Yes, mockingbird! These two birds quietly came and quietly left us standing in awe.

The most rewarding surprise was finding the creepers. Of course, birders are optimists, but when our prayers are answered, we are surprised. So, after calling "another white-eye, another 'amakihi" for the last ten minutes, then suddenly we said, "Wait - they are creeping! The bill?

STRAIGHT! A C*R*E*E*P*E*R! Two of them!" We looked at each other and silently thanked God for this moment.

Unfortunate for the Christmas census, but fortunate for our spirits, because the trail was quiet except for the occasional chirping of the crickets and the call of birds, the rustling of the koa bean pods sounded like castanets and the swaying of the eucalyptus branches seemed like Spanish dancers, then suddenly a rainbow appeared to confirm the reality of the beauty. We were intoxicated with the fragrance of the eucalyptus and naupaka, but the scene before us was not an apparition but real. There was before us a huge dead koa tree with young eucalyptus and fern taking root in one of the rotted holes in the branches to soften the brutality of nature's force. For its background was the intense warmth of the sun, gold tinting the edges of the ever-changing fast-moving rain clouds. What a picture!

Some how all this beauty had a sad note - why so few birds? Fortunately, the 'elepaio is still there to perform for us. Twice we had a wonderfully close look (only a few feet away) at both the immature and mature 'elepaio. How much longer will this be possible? Will the day come when even the adaptable 'elepaio will become scarce? How much longer can the trail take from the humans the deep scars of erosion from unauthorized trails, motorcycles, and horses?

It is possible to stop the abuses on the trail by vigilance by all hikers. 'Aiea is an ideal location for a trail-side museum, where ecology can become meaningful to all of us. Let's keep forever this beauty spot for future generations.

Full Tuition Undergraduate Scholarships Available

Through a trust set up by Yao Shen in memory of Rose Schuster Taylor, HAS has been able to grant a full tuition scholarship to an undergraduate student in the University of Hawai'i system for much of the past two decades. Students must be majoring in a field related to Hawaiian or Pacific natural history.

Applications are available from the HAS office (call us and we'll send you one - 528-1432); completed applications must

be received by May 1 of each year. 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?

Undergraduate students are encouraged to request an application. Scholarships will be administered through the University of Hawai'i Financial Aid Services.

Overview Of The 1998 Christmas Bird Count Results

by Arlene Buchholz, Audubon Christmas Bird Count Coordinator

Thank you to all the participants who helped to count Hawai'i's birds on all the main islands and some of the Northwest Hawaiian islands for the Audubon Christmas Bird Count 1998! A total of 112 species were counted by participants. Unusual birds sighted are listed with the results for each count circle. The data from the Hawai'i Christmas Bird Count will be sent to the National Audubon Society and tabulated for a special edition of *America's Birds*. We'll advise members through the 'Elepaio when it is available.

On Saturday, December 19th, 34 people in 11 groups counted species in the 15 mile Honolulu count circle centered at the Pali lookout. These groups counted birds at Kapiolani Park and Diamond Head Crater, East Honolulu, Waimanalo, Kailua, Kane'ohe, Kawainui Marsh, Marine Corps Base Hawaii (Kaneohe), Maunawili Valley, Tripler Ridge, Halawa Valley, Tantalus and Manoa. The Waipio count circle organized by David Bremer; on Saturday, December 26th, 13 participants observed a total of 44 species. Wetlands near Pearl Harbor, suburban parks and neighborhoods and hiking trails are cov-

ered for the Waipio count. There are many good wetland habitats in the Waipi'o count circle that are usually not accessible to the public. Two flights of parrots were seen, and the number of Saffron Finches are increasing.

On Moloka'i, the Nature Conservancy and Rick Potts at Kalaupapa National Historic Park organized and coordinated the count. A group of 8 observers in 4 parties counted a total of 36 species on Moloka'i for the Kualapu'u count circle. A white-rumped shama was seen on count day this year and is recorded for the first time of the CBC from Moloka'i. The bird was singing and apparently maintaining a territory, and has been seen regularly in the area since then. Nesting is suspected but not yet confirmed. A falcon was observed flying along the western coastline of Kalaupapa National Historic Park. It could not be identified to species level, but appeared to be of merlin or peregrine size and general markings.

Members of the Koke'e Natural History Association organize and compile the Waimea (Kaua'i) count circle every year. On January 2nd of this year, 44 observers

counted a total of 45 species including a Warbling Silverbill. Barbara Stuart organized the Kapa'a (Kaua'i) count circle for the 17th year, and her group of 8 observers counted 34 species on December 29th, including a Pied-billed Grebe and a Greater Necklaced Laughing Thrush.

20 Maui observers organized by Renate Gassmann-Duvall and Lance Tanino counted a total of 31 species on December 19th on the Pu'u O Kaka'e count circle. Special sightings included 2 Po'ouli and 7 Maui Parrotbills.

The Volcano count circle (includes Kulani prison) on the Island of Hawai'i was held on December 26th with 11 participants observing a total of 20 species in the rain forest environment. On the North Kona count led by Reginald David, 38 species were recorded by a group of 6 participants, and the most interesting sightings were 1 Spotted Sandpiper, 2 white-faced Ibis, and a Glaucous-winged Gull. Also, 11 Burrowing Parrots.

Thank you again to everyone who made the Audubon Christmas Bird Count possible!

Natural and Cultural History of the Kailua Ahupua'a and Kawai Nui Marsh 1999

The educational tours of the Kailua Ahupua'a and Kawai Nui Marsh this year will be a general introduction of the natural and cultural history of the Kailua Ahupua'a and Kawai Nui Marsh. The purpose of these tours will be to develop a training program for volunteers to become docents for the Kawai Nui Heritage Foundation and lead school and community groups to various archaeological, historic and ecological sites in the marsh and surrounding areas.

The tour group will meet at the Kailua YMCA at 8:30 am and walk as well as car pool to the following sites as time permits. Return trip should be back at the Kailua YMCA by 12noon.

1. Ulupo Heiau
2. Kukanono Historical and Hawaiian Sites
3. Na Pohaku o Hauwahine
4. Pahukini Heiau
5. Oneawa Estuary
6. Kaelepulu Pond - Wetland birds

Dates of the tours:

1. Saturday, February 6, 1999
2. Saturday, April 3, 1999
3. Saturday; June 5, 1999

Bring: Backpack or fanny-pack, water, mosquito repellent, sunscreen, raingear, hat or cap, sunglasses, camera and notebook.

Contact: Chuck "DOC" Burrows for more information and to sign up for these educational tours at 595-3922 (home) or 581-2922 (pager), or email cburrow@aloha.net

Hawai'i's Birds - A CALL FOR PHOTOS

by Reginald E. David, Publications Chair

It is time to revise Hawai'i's Birds once again; I am looking for a new cover shot and hopefully better shots of the following birds: Gray Francolin, Chestnut-bellied Sandgrouse, 'Akeke'e, Maui Parrotbill, Po'ouli, Red-vented Bulbul and House Sparrow.

The schedule is to have the book ready to go to press by the end of March or the beginning of April at the latest.

If you have photographs that you would like us to consider for inclusion in the 6th edition please send them to Reginald David at P.O. Box 1371 Kailua-Kona, Hawaii, 96745. Please insure them, and include contact telephone numbers and an email address if you have one. I will return unselected images by the March 15th and selected images by June 1st.

If you would like to discuss images of birds not listed above, or to discuss anything related to the revision please feel free to call me at (808)-329-9141 or email me at rdavid@kona.net



FEBRUARY 1999

'ELEPAIO

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Calendar of Events

Thursdays, February 4 and March 4
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.

Mondays, February 8 and March 8
Conservation Committee monthly meeting at the HAS office at 5:45 p.m. For more information, call chairperson Dan Sailer, 455-2311.

Mondays, February 8 and March 8
HAS Board meeting, always open to all members. 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. at the office.

February 13-15, 1999 Service Trip

Service trip to Kilauea Point National Wildlife Refuge on Kaua'i to plant native Hawaiian shoreline plants. The group will be working the afternoon of the 13th and all day on the 14th. The group will be staying below the Visitor Center, sleeping on futons, and doing its own cooking. Bus transportation from Lihu'e Airport the morning of the 13th will be provided, as well as vehicles for the group to explore Kaua'i on the morning and early after-

noon of the 15th. A bus will also return the group to the airport. For more information and reservations, please call Mary Gaber, evenings only, at 247-0104.

Tuesday, February 23

HAS Membership Meeting and Program
Dr. Oscar W. Johnson ("Wally") from Montana State University will give a slide presentation on some new plover information from Argentina. In January 1999 Wally will be traveling to Argentina, where he will be observing American Golden-Plovers on their pampas wintering grounds. He is anxious to compare wintering behavior there with the kolea in Hawai'i. He will also report on his visits with Argentine shorebird biologists and museum collections of plovers. It should be a very interesting talk about a very different part of the world. In addition, he has some really outstanding close-up video of kolea parents with chicks filmed last summer near Nome. **NOTE: NEW LOCATION FOR THIS PROGRAM MEETING - MCCOY PAVILLION AT ALA MOANA PARK.** Join us from 7:30 - 9:00 p.m. Refreshments provided. HAS books, tapes, t-shirts and patches will be available for purchase.

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