



'ELEPAIO

Journal of the
Hawaii Audubon Society

For the Protection of
Hawaii's Native Wildlife

VOLUME 59, NUMBER 2

MARCH 1999

State of the Society for 1998

By Linda M. B. Paul

Mission Statement:

To foster community values that result in protection and restoration of native ecosystems and conservation of natural resources through education and advocacy in Hawai'i and the Pacific.

The Hawaii Audubon Society, established in 1939 by a small group of dedicated birders to further the protection and conservation of Hawai'i's native wildlife and the ecosystems that support it, is now a state-wide conservation organization with a membership of approximately 2000. Although it became a chapter of the National Audubon Society (NAS) in 1978, it is independent of that organization in matters of policy, financial control, and programs. As the Society has slowly grown over the years the number of tasks needed to be done began to outpace the time and ability of our volunteers. Accordingly, more and more tasks are now done professionally, including office management, Paradise Pursuits coordination, accounting and book-keeping, legislative monitoring, the mailing of the 'Elepaio, and the distribution of our publications. However, a large number of volunteers continued to generously donate a huge amount of time and effort to the Society.

Education (See also the Education Committee Report): Twenty-six schools participated in the seventh season of Paradise Pursuits, our nationally known high school environmental education program. Major funding continues to be generously supplied by Hawaiian Electric Charitable Industries and the semi-final and final competitions were broadcast by KITV Channel 4 in the Spring. During the year a major effort was made by the Society and three local organizations to secure a lease on a parcel of land in Kawai

Nui Marsh on which to build an Environmental Education and Cultural Center. The Marsh is the last large remaining wetland in the State and home to four endangered Hawaiian waterbird species, the site of early Hawaiian fishponds, and numerous archaeological remains. The desired parcel is directly adjacent to the area where the Army Corps of Engineers will be restoring waterbird habitat. It is envisioned that the Center will be the future site of a community-based education program that will utilize the many biological and cultural resources of the Marsh. In October, the Society hosted a visit by NAS president John Flicker and NAS field coordinator Glenn Olson to explore a partnership with NAS to develop the Center. In November, the effort to obtain a lease was put on hold, but will resume when the pond restoration work begins.

Conservation and Advocacy (See also the Conservation Committee Report): The Society's Legislative Analyst Maile Bay tracked bills and provided expert testimony in behalf of Hawai'i's native wildlife and habitat at the State legislature, as did other Society volunteers. The 1998 session was notorious for its general assault on the environment in the name of economic "revitalization" and government "efficiency." Our most important message: the environment is the economy!

Programs and Membership: The 1998 membership meetings continued to be held on a bi-monthly basis at the Bishop Museum Paki Conference Room. Programs included the following presentations: Oscar ("Wally") Johnson, Montana State University, gave a slide-illustrated presentation on recent studies of the migration of the Pacific golden plover (Kolea) between Hawai'i and Alaska; Ron Walker, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (FWS), gave a slide show on his trip to the forests of Central America; Patrick

Ching, Hawaiian wildlife artist and author, gave a slide show on Northwest Hawaiian Islands wildlife; Adam Asquith, USFWS, spoke on "Damsels in Distress: Biology and Conservation of Hawaiian Damselflies;" Lenny Freed, University of Hawai'i, gave a slide-illustrated presentation on "Bright Females: Fitness and the Significance of the Hawai'i 'Akepa to Evolutionary Biology and Conservation;" and Margo Stahl, assistant refuge manager at the James Campbell National Wildlife Refuge, gave a slide presentation on the refuge and its inhabitants and her vision for developing a Friends of the Refuge program with HAS.

Field Excursions and Service Activities: Field excursions included trips to Pia Valley to observe O'ahu 'Elepaio; Makapu'u Point to visit the tide pools; the Hilton Hawaiian Village exotic bird collection; Maunawili Trail for hiking and birding; Kahana State Park to observe native Hawaiian damselflies; James Campbell National Wildlife Refuge to see our four endangered shore birds; Ewa Plains limestone sinkholes to find fossil bird bones; and the rain forest on Pu'u O'o Ranch on the Big Island. Service activities included trips to the Ka'ena Point Natural Area Reserve to pull noxious weeds, Mt. Ka'ala to remove blackberry, and Black Point to repair the artificial shearwater nesting burrows. The Society also maintains a list of birders interested in going birding with other members.

Volunteer Activities: The Society continued to provide volunteer observers for the Laysan Albatross Re-colonization Project on O'ahu in conjunction with the USFWS, Department of Land & Natural Resources, and NAS. In addition members represented the Society at conferences and on several teams, task forces, and workshops, including the Alien Aquatic Organisms Task Force and the

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Conservation Committee Report for June 1998 through January 1999

By Dan Sailer, Conservation Chair

Conservation Committee Report for June 1998 - January 1999

The past six months of activity has largely focused on preventing threats to native plant and animal habitat. The following activities highlight some of the committee's major issues over this period:

Kaua'i: HAS opposed plans to expand the Pacific Missile Range Facility. In particular, we opposed placing launching pads on National Wildlife Refuge areas in the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands and at Johnston Island. The final Environmental Impact Statement withdrew consideration of these sites as additional launching areas.

Big Island: HAS also submitted comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Saddle Road. Our concerns centered on the financing,

timetable, and enforcement of the Palila mitigation plan given a projected loss of some critical habitat lands for the Palila due to road construction. Last June, a memorandum of understanding (MOU) was reached that outlined the major elements of a ten-year, \$13.7 million mitigation plan. The MOU calls for setting aside some 10,000 acres of land for Palila mitigation. The mitigation land is mostly on the west slope of Mauna Kea and in the Pohakuloa Training Area (PTA). The lands are to be managed by the Department of Land and Natural Resources solely for the purpose of mamane reforestation and Palila relocation. A more detailed mitigation implementation plan is still being finalized and plans to begin fencing the PTA area are already underway.

O'ahu: For the Ka'ena Point area, an advisory group was formed to address the area's complex resource management issues. HAS was invited to serve on the

Ka'ena Point 'Ohana and in the last few months we have voiced our concerns and comments regarding the problem of unleashed dogs, burrow trampling, disturbance of nesting albatross and monk seals, and possible overfishing. Discussions are still ongoing.

'Aina Haina: Currently HAS supported Mayor Harris' administrative request to the City Council for the purchase of two parcels totaling 94.7 acres at the back of 'Aina Haina Valley. The land would become a nature preserve and represents an important buffer to one of the largest remaining populations of O'ahu 'Elepaio located in Wailupe Gulch (see May 1997 issue of 'Elepaio). The current landowner has previously attempted to develop the area despite community opposition and soil instability. Council deliberations were ongoing at the time of this month's printing of 'Elepaio.

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State, continued:

Permit Process Task Force (Linda Paul), the 'Alala Recovery Team (Reggie David); the North American Ornithological Conference and the NAS Convention (Sharon Reilly); the Hawai'i Conservation Conference (John Harrison); and the Black-footed Albatross Workshop (Bob Pyle and Linda Paul).

Other Society activities during the year included the following: At the January Chapter Leaders' Retreat, the Board began a long-term strategic planning process, which was continued at a mini retreat in October to set priorities and a time line. In April, the annual Birdathon was held to raise conservation funds for both HAS and NAS. In November, the Society held its annual awards dinner at the McCoy Pavilion at Ala Moana Park to honor those who have made valuable contributions to conservation and environmental education. Among those honored were Hawai'i Senator Andrew Levin (President's Award) for his many years of work in behalf of the environment at the Legislature and Ron Walker (Charles Dunn Lifetime Achievement Award) for his many years of exemplary service to the Society. To celebrate the beginning of the Society's 60th year in Hawai'i, a panel comprised of Sheila Conant, Ron Walker, and Bob Pyle talked about how the Society has changed over the years,

and how it has stayed the same. In December, the annual Christmas Bird Counts were held on O'ahu, Kaua'i, Moloka'i, Maui and the Big Island.

Grants & Scholarships: The Society's George C. Munro Environmental Law Award went to Robert Albrecht at the W.S. Richardson School of Law. A full tuition scholarship for the 1998-99 school year, provided in the memory of Rose Schuster Taylor for use in the University of Hawai'i system, went to Mary Diehl. The Society's small grants program recipients were 1) Daniel Gruner for his study of the community structure of arthropods found on 'Ohi'a-lehua, 2) Teresa Leon for her research of aeolian systems on Hawai'i Island, 3) Sabrina Clark for her investigations of the feeding of Hawaiian 'Akepa fledglings in multi-family flocks, and 4) Bonnie Nielsen for her research project on 'Apapane. A Kolea Research Fund grant went to Phil Bruner and a \$1000 grant was given to the Bishop Museum to help maintain the database of historic and current bird sightings in Hawai'i.

Externally Funded Grant Programs: The Land Trust Project completed the handbook on conservation options and land protection tools for communities and landowners in Hawai'i and received an additional grant from the Trust for Public Land to publish it. The Society

continued planning the Aquatics Conference, which will be held in the Spring of 1999, with a focus on an ahupua'a approach to aquatics resource management. The Society also received four large education grants to finance its Western Pacific Fisheries Coalition program, a collaborative effort between conservationists and fishermen to promote resource protection and sustainable use of fisheries resources through education and outreach. The grants were funded by PEW Charitable Trusts, the Rockefeller Brothers Fund, the David and Lucile Packard Foundation and the Homeland Foundation.

Publications and Products: The Society published nine issues of 'Elepaio, our journal that includes peer-reviewed articles on research and management of Hawai'i and Pacific natural resources. In addition, the Society publishes Hawai'i's Birds, reprinted in 1997 with minor revisions, which sells for \$9.95 along with its companion cassette tape set Voices of Hawai'i's Birds at \$24.95; and a Checklist of the Birds of Hawai'i, 1997 edition, available for \$3.00. By the end of the year production of the Treasures of O'ahu map was almost complete, which will sell for \$3.95. In addition to three T-shirt designs, the Society added a patch featuring the 'Elepaio to our product line. The patch sells for \$3.00.

Mahalo, Paradise Pursuits Volunteers

By Sylvianne Yee

I'm sure you've all heard the saying that volunteers are the backbone of the community. The same is true for Paradise Pursuits, for without the help and support of many individuals and organizations the games would not go as smoothly or as effectively.

Kudos go to many individuals and organizations, but a few in particular continue to donate their time and expertise year after year. One such individual is Audubon President Wendy Johnson. Wendy has filled every job imaginable from question reviewer and writer to moderator, timekeeper, and scorekeeper to cheerleader. She has attended every game for the last four years and patiently sat through round after round of questions and answers, lending us her commonsense and knowledge. Thank you, Wendy!

Other individuals who have supported Paradise Pursuits over the years are Sam Gon, ecologist for the Nature Conservancy who has been a judge and question reviewer for at least five years; Renate Gassmann-Duvall, Audubon's 1998 Program Award winner, who hustles for prizes and game personnel on Maui; Robert Ripp of GST Telecom Hawai'i and David McDonough of KITV-4 who produce our play-off games and final games; Nylene Takahashi and Farrington High School students who are our helpers and cheering section for the finals, and the students of Moanalua High School's Media and Communications Learning Center who help to produce the playoff games.

A heartfelt thank you to all of the above and to the countless others who give so much to our youth in the hopes that they will become better stewards of Hawai'i's environment.

March Field Trip set for Sunday, March 21

Our March field trip will be a behind-the-scenes visit to the Forest Bird Propagation Unit at the Honolulu Zoo. Curator James Mejeur will be our guide. Since the area is quite small, the group is limited to 10 persons. If more people call to reserve space, he has agreed to have two tours of the facility, one at 9 a.m. and another at 2 p.m.

This unit is not open to the general public, so this is our once-a-year opportunity to see some of Hawai'i's endemic birds at close range. Call Mary Gaber at 247-0104 for reservations and further information.

President's Lands Legacy Budget Includes \$4.6 Million for National Wildlife Refuges in Hawai'i

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service would receive \$4.6 million for additional land acquisition in Hawai'i under the budget proposal submitted to Congress by President Clinton on Monday, which is part of a \$1 billion Lands Legacy Initiative announced by the President to expand federal protection of critical lands and help states and communities preserve local green spaces.

"The Lands Legacy funding will provide important acquisition opportunities and protections for vital areas throughout the National Wildlife Refuge System," said Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt, whose agency oversees the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. "The Lands Legacy demonstrates a historic dedication by the President and Vice President to protect our national parks, wildlife refuges and local community open spaces."

The \$4.6 million included in the President's budget is now targeted toward the acquisition of lands to add to the Kona Forest Unit of Hakalau Forest National Wildlife Refuge and to acquire lands in the proposed O'ahu Forest National Wildlife Refuge.

"The parcels being considered for acquisition include some of the best remaining native forest communities on the Big Island and O'ahu," said Robert P. Smith, Pacific islands manager for the Fish and Wildlife Service. "We owe a debt of gratitude to their existing landowners for their efforts over the years to protect habitat for Hawai'i's native species. The Lands Legacy initiative now gives the federal government a chance to step up to the plate and protect these lands in perpetuity."

A total of \$3,362,000 of Lands Legacy funding is proposed for use in acquiring a portion of McCandless Land and Cattle Company lands for addition to the Kona Forest Unit of Hakalau Forest National Wildlife Refuge. Although the proposed acquisition is still in the planning stage, the current landowners have indicated a willingness to consider an offer from the Service to purchase their lands. The property supports the core population of the critically endangered 'Alala or Hawaiian crow, as well as four other endangered forest birds, the endangered Hawaiian hoary bat, several endangered plant species and a rich diversity of other native plants and animals.

The remaining \$1 million would add to existing funding for the purchase of private lands within the proposed O'ahu Forest National Wildlife Refuge. The proposed refuge includes essential habitat of some of the last remaining endangered O'ahu tree snail populations, a rich diversity of native plants, the endangered Hawaiian hoary bat and other native species. The endangered O'ahu creeper and the O'ahu 'Elepaio, a native bird proposed as endangered, have been sighted within the project area. Planning is underway for the O'ahu Forest National Wildlife Refuge, and a draft environmental assessment regarding the project is scheduled for release within a few months.

Another part of the \$1 billion program will involve providing \$588 million in matching grants to state and local governments across the nation. This money will be used for acquisition of land and easements for urban parks,

greenways, outdoor recreation, wildlife habitat conservation and coastal wetlands, fisheries, and coral reef protection. Grants will be awarded on a competitive basis, with priority going to projects consistent with statewide smart growth plans aimed at expanding open spaces.

The Lands Legacy initiative investment represents a 125 percent increase over Fiscal Year 1999 funding—the largest one-year investment ever in the preservation of America's natural spaces. It includes \$900 million from the Land and Water Conservation ("LWCF") fund, marking the first time any Administration has requested full funding from LWCF, which draws its revenues from federal offshore oil leases. The two proposals for additional refuge lands in Hawai'i would be funded through this Land and Water Conservation Fund.

The President has made it clear that he wants to work with Congress to obtain this funding not only for this fiscal year, but to create a permanent funding stream beginning in Fiscal Year 2001," Secretary Babbitt said, "Theodore Roosevelt began this century with a renewed emphasis on conservation. The President and Vice President are providing the same sort of conservation leadership to start the 21st century. This is a remarkable legacy for future generations of Americans."

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Source: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Pacific Ecoregion. contact: Barbara Maxfield, 808-541-2749 Phil Carroll 053-231-6121

Second Annual Black Point Cleanup is Set

By Dan Sailer, Conservation Chair

Our second annual cleanup of Black Point on the island of O'ahu is scheduled for April 17, from 9 a.m. to noon. We will meet at the corner of Papu Circle and Kaiko'o Point (look for orange signs along Kahala Avenue). Along with Ka'ena Point, Black Point is one of the last re-

maining nesting colonies for the Wedge-tailed Shearwaters or 'Ua'u kani on the main Hawaiian Islands (most nesting now occurs on the offshore islets or along the Northwest Hawaiian Islands).

This popular fishing area unfortunately accumulates both onshore trash and discarded fishing tackle offshore, posing threats to marine animals, seabirds and swimmers alike. Last year, a

truck-bed of trash, line and weights was removed from the point and adjacent area.

While we hope to find less this year, we still need your helping hands! To volunteer, or for more information please call Dan at 455-2311 evenings, or email him at dnsailer@aol.com. Mahalo for your kokua!

First captive Puaiohi released to the Wild

With a wild population of about 200 birds, the endangered Puaiohi or small Kaua'i thrush is taking a step toward recovery this month. Beginning this week, three groups of young, captive-reared puaiohi are being released into their historic habitat within the State of Hawai'i's Alaka'i Wilderness Preserve on Kaua'i. The 14 birds were hatched from a captive flock at The Peregrine Fund's Keauhou Bird Conservation Center and are the first puaiohi raised in captivity to be released into the wild.

"Returning any endangered species to its natural habitat is incredibly exciting," said Alan Lieberman, Project Director for the Peregrine Fund in Hawai'i. "The significance of this event is magnified because these are the first Puaiohi to be hatched, reared and released in history."

Lieberman credited ongoing partnerships with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Hawai'i Division of Forestry and Wildlife, and the Biological Resources Division of the U.S. Geological Survey as making a difference in the conservation of endangered birds in Hawaii. "Accomplishments like these are why we are here, and one reason our partnership continues," he said.

For the Puaiohi project, The Peregrine Fund raises birds in captivity and releases them into the wild, the Biological Resources Division conducted ecological research on the wild population and will monitor the long-term outcome

of the release, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service provided funding for the project, and the Hawai'i Decision of Forestry and Wildlife administers and manages the habitat in which the Puaiohi project is being conducted.

"The Puaiohi is one of the rarest and most secretive of Kaua'i's forest birds," said Robert P. Smith, Pacific Islands Manager for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. "Two years ago, simply finding a nest was a significant achievement. With the help of our State of Hawai'i colleagues and the efforts of The Peregrine Fund and the BRD field crew, our ability to benefit this species has greatly expanded."

"This effort is one part of a multifaceted research and management effort to assist the recovery of the Puaiohi and other species in Hawai'i," said Bethany Woodworth, Research Biologist for the Biological Resources Division of the U.S. Geological Survey. "In addition to studying the endemic bird species, we are controlling introduced predators around the release sites and conducting research to determine other management strategies that will help stem the tide of birds species loss in Hawai'i."

The Puaiohi released in this project were reared in the Keauhou Bird Conservation Center, a captive propagation facility on the Big Island operated for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service by The Peregrine Fund. The \$2.5 million facility is located on 150 acres of Kamehameha

Schools Bishop Estate's Keauhou Ranch near Volcano.

The partnership between The Peregrine Fund, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, USGS Biological Resources Division, and State of Hawai'i Department of Land and Natural Resources began in Hawai'i in 1993 as part of the 'Alala recovery program. Biologists with this partnership have hatched and reared 12 different species of native Hawaiian forest birds, including the Puaiohi, 'Elepaio, 'Amakihi, 'Oma'ō, 'I'iwi, 'Apapane, Palila, 'Alala, Maui parrotbill, 'Akohekohe, Nene, and Hawai'i creeper on three islands.

The State of Hawai'i has more birds listed as endangered than any other state in the Nation. Of the 140 endemic species in Hawai'i, half are extinct and half of the remaining species are endangered. Hawai'i's forest birds face threats from a variety of sources, including avian pox and malaria spread by alien mosquitoes; predation by introduced animals such as rats, feral cats, and mongooses; degradation of habitats by feral pigs, goats, and deer; and the spread of numerous alien plant species.

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Source: Peregrine Fund (Alan Lieberman) 808-985-7218 U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (Barbara Maxfield) 808-541-2749 U.S. Geological Survey (Bethany Woodworth) 808-967-7396 DLNR, Kaua'i Division of Forestry & Wildlife (Tom Telfer) 808-274-3433

Field Activities Report for 1998

By Mary Gaber, Field Activities Coordinator

The following is a listing of the sites visited by HAS sponsored field trips last year in 1998:

January	Ka'ena Point
February	Pia Valley
March	Forest Bird Propagation Unit at Zoo
April	Red-footed Booby Colony at KMCH
May	Makapu'u Tide Pools
June	Exotic birds at Hawaiian Village Hotel
July	Maunawili
August	Damsel Fly Discovery hike in Kahana Valley
August	Mt. Ka'ala
September	Campbell Wildlife Refuge
October	'Ewa Sinkholes
November	Pu'u O'o Ranch on the Big Island
December	Christmas Bird Count (no field trip)

The Ka'ena Point and Mt. Ka'ala field trips were also service trips; in both we assisted in eradication of noxious weeds. Each year we will be scheduling one or two service trips in conjunction with the field trips. We also will make one neighbor island trip.

The Big Island trip last November was particularly rewarding because in addition to seeing 'I'iwi 'Apapane, 'Amakihi, 'Oma'ō, 'Akiapola'au and 'Elepaio, we got a close look at another Hawai'i rainforest endemic—one of the rare insect-capturing caterpillars. The total attendance for field trips this year (excluding the Christmas Bird Count) was 191.

Any suggestions for field trips would be appreciated. Call Mary Gaber at 247-0104 or write to the HAS office.

The 'Elepaio: from Vol. 1, No. 2, January 1940 Issue

By J. d'Arcy Northwood, President (1940)

The 'Elepaio: This is the little bird that was chosen by the Society as its emblem and whose likeness appears on our membership cards, so that it is fitting that it should be the subject of our first sketch of a Hawaiian bird.

In contrast to all our other birds its friendly attitude marks it at once. Perhaps it would be more correctly called its inquisitive attitude but at any rate one has only to go a short way into the forest and soon one hears a scolding "chack-chack" or a whistled "whee-whee-o" and a little brown bird is seen flitting nearer and nearer. It may pause to pick an insect off a leaf or to drop to the ground to capture some small creature but if one keeps still it may soon be only an arm's length away, fearlessly examining the intruders into its quiet haunts.

It is mostly brown, lighter below, with flecks of white on the wings. The tail is carried high, often at right angles to the line of the back. The males have a black bib across the breast and the young birds are russet where the old ones are white. It belongs to the flycatcher family, yet its habits and appearance are more like those of a wren. It builds a deep compact nest closely woven of moss and fibers with lichens outside, usually in the slender twigs of an 'ohi'a or other forest tree, though sometimes it will nest quite low down. It lays two or three eggs whitish ground color, thickly sprinkled with reddish brown dots.

Other species of 'Elepaio are found on Hawai'i and Kaua'i, differing slightly from the O'ahu bird but with very similar habits. It is not found on Maui, Moloka'i, or Lana'i.

It occupied a prominent place in the mythology of the Hawaiians. When a canoe was built the tree had first to be chosen and then felled. Before the work proceeded further the kahuna watched the movements of the 'Elepaio as in examined the fallen trunk. If the bird began to peck it was a bad sign, but if it called "Ono ka ia," without pecking, the wood was sound. The late Charles Judd has pointed out that there is more than a grain of truth in this augury. If the wood were infested by insects the birds would naturally peck in search of food, while if there were no insects it would call "'Elepai-o" and fly away.

Good luck to the 'Elepaio, it is heart warming to hear its cheery whistle and watch its confiding approach on the forest trails.

Help Hawai'i's Marine Resource Management

By Maile Bay

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 percent 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 percent 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.

Maile Bay is the Fishery Policy Analyst for Western Pacific Fisheries Management Coalition

Reminder:

Small Research Grants and Full Tuition Undergraduate Scholarships available for 1999-2000 school year. Information appeared in the February, 1999 issue of 'Elepaio regarding the Rose Schuster Taylor full tuition scholarship to an undergraduate student in the University of Hawai'i system for the 1999-2000 school year and the Society's small research grants program. Applications are available by calling or faxing the HAS office (528-1432 phone, 537-5294 fax); completed applications must be received by April 1, 1999 for the research grants and May 1, 1999 for the scholarship. Scholarships will be administered through the University of Hawai'i Financial Aid offices.

1998 Education Committee Annual Report

By Wendy Johnson, President

The HAS Education Committee activities focus on providing opportunities and motivation for learning about Hawai'i's native wildlife and habitats, and the need to protect them. Paradise Pursuits, our quiz program for high school students, completed its seventh year in 1998, with twenty-six public and private schools represented statewide. Playoff competitions included games between five O'ahu teams and three outer island teams which are broadcast regularly throughout the year by 'Olelo on channel 56. The top four high school teams were featured in semi-final and final competitions televised in May by KITV. Well known local newscaster Paula Akana acted as moderator of the program for the third consecutive year, contributing her Hawaiian language skills, polish and warmth to the production. This year, Hilo High School became the first neighbor island team to win the Paradise Pursuits championship. Hilo High student Nina Yuen had a lot to say about the process of studying for and competing in Paradise Pursuits, stating that she and her teammates have gained an ability to "recognize threats to native species" and that

"trees and plants have identities" now. All the participants shared in the fun and displayed impressive knowledge about Hawai'i's unique ecosystems.

Fiscal, volunteer and in-kind support for Paradise Pursuits continued to be broad-based and extensive, allowing the program to become an established component of Hawai'i's high school environmental education opportunities. Hawaiian Electric Industries provided major funding for 1998, while necessary services were donated by Aloha Airlines, Outrigger Hotels and Resorts and the Hawai'i State Department of Education. The television production was sponsored by Ironworkers Union Local 625 and BHP Hawai'i, Inc. Over fifty companies and individuals donated cash and prizes in support of Paradise Pursuits.

The Hawaii Audubon Society maintained strong working relationships with other organizations involved with environmental education in Hawai'i in 1998. The Sierra Club High School Hikers Fall Workshop included Paradise Pursuits games, and a display at the annual conference of the Hawai'i Environmental Education Association helped to familiarize educators with our goals and objectives. The DOE's Environmental Education Branch continued to take an active

role in promoting Paradise Pursuits. The Hawai'i Nature Center, The Nature Conservancy, Moanalua Gardens Foundation, The National Tropical Botanical Garden, and the Department of Land and Natural Resources provided source materials, game sites, question review and volunteer services which were vital to the success of the program.

A team of Education Committee representatives acted as judges at the 41st Hawai'i State Science & Engineering Fair and presented two awards for outstanding research relating to Hawai'i's natural history. The Senior Division Research Award was presented to Janelle Ishida of Moloka'i High School for her work at Kaulapapa National Park experimenting with varying concentrations of seawater for use as a herbicidal spray in coastal strand areas. The HAS Junior Division Award went to three eighth graders, Carline Higaki, Krista Kiyosaki and Channing Jang, at Waiakea Intermediate who gathered data on the growth and adaptations of 'Ohi'a trees near the Big Island's Saddle Road and analyzed their observations as responses to a variety of environmental factors. Both projects resulted in new data with positive implications for the conservation of native Hawaiian ecosystems.

Seabirds and Longline Fishing: A Global Problem Being Addressed By BirdLife International

In every ocean of the world, longline fishing vessels set and haul their lines, bringing aboard hake, cod, halibut, tuna, swordfish - and seabirds. Reports in the early 1990's from Australia of tens of thousands of albatrosses being killed in the Southern Ocean by tuna longliners first drew attention to the problem. A resolution Incidental Mortality of Seabirds in Longline Fisheries adopted by IUCN at its First World Conservation Congress in Montreal, Canada in October, 1996 caused BirdLife International, with funding from the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, to undertake a review of seabird mortality caused by longline fisheries.

In both hemispheres, seabird mor-

tality has encouraged research into mitigation methods such as weighting lines to increase their sink rate, setting lines at night when few seabirds forage, deploying bird-scaring lines and testing underwater setting tubes.

In 1997, the Food and Agriculture Organization's Committee on Fisheries (COFI) agreed to hold a Consultation on Reduction of Incidental Catch of Seabirds in Longline Fisheries. A Seabird Technical Working Group drafted an International Plan of Action in Tokyo, Japan in March 1998 for adoption by COFI at its February 1999 meeting, following its revision at the consultation in Rome in October, 1998.

A "Range State Agreement" for

southern albatrosses under the terms of the Bonn Convention on Migratory Species is being pursued by the Valdivia Group of Temperate Southern Hemisphere Countries on the Environment. It will require signatory nations to improve the conservation status of their breeding albatrosses, hopefully leading to a further reduction in longliner-caused mortality.

BirdLife International's Seabird Conservation Programme is based at the Avian Demography Unit, University of Cape Town, Rondebosch, 7701, South Africa. <www.uct.ac.za/depts/stats/adu/seabirds>.



March 1999

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Calendar of Events

Thursdays, March 4 and April 1 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, March 8 and April 12 Conservation Committee monthly meeting at the HAS office at 5:45 p.m. For more information, call chairperson Dan Sailer, 455-2311.

Mondays, March 8 and April 12 HAS Board meeting, always open to all members, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the HAS office.

Sunday, March 21 Field trip to the Forest Bird Propagation Unit at the Honolulu Zoo at 9 a.m. This unit is not open to the general public, so this is our once-a-year opportunity to see some of Hawai'i's endemic forest birds ('I'iwi, 'Apapane, 'Amakihi, and a Laysan Finch) at close range. Group limited to 10 persons. If enough people sign up, two tours will be given, one at 9 a.m.

and one at 2 p.m. Call Mary Gaber at 247-0104 for reservations and further information. **Monday, April 19 Program Meeting.** David C. Duffy, leader of the Pacific Cooperative Studies Unit (operated by the U.S. Geological Survey, the National Park Service and the University of Hawai'i), will give a slide-illustrated presentation entitled "An Oil Spill Ran Through It - 10 Years After the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill."

Dr. Duffy is a botanist and an ornithologist specializing in seabirds. Prior to coming to Hawai'i he managed the Alaska Natural Heritage Program at the University of Alaska in Anchorage, where he examined why birds and mammals have not recovered from the disastrous 1989 Exxon Valdez oil spill.

The meeting is from 7:30-9:30 p.m. at Bishop Museum, Paki Hall Conference Room. Refreshments provided; HAS publications, tapes, patches and T-shirts available for purchase. See you there!

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