



## Christmas Bird Count—1998: Regional Summary for Hawai'i and Pacific Islands

by Robert L. Pyle

The eight regular counts were conducted in the main Hawaiian Islands during the 1998 Christmas Bird Count. Results are tabulated in Table 1. This was a banner year for finding endemic and endangered species in Hawai'i. Because the Saipan count did not occur, only three of the four regular counts in Guam and the Mariana Islands were taken. The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service counts from French Frigate Shoals, Laysan and Johnston Atoll were not received this year. Five of the eight Hawai'i counts had lower party hours afield than last year. Counts with lower party hours were Waimea, Honolulu, Kualapu'u, Volcano and North Kona. Counts with more party hours were Waipi'o, Kapa'a and Pu'u O Kaka'e. Increased participation in the annual Christmas Bird Counts would raise totals and improve coverage of the count circles to more accurately reflect bird populations.

A major highlight of this year's Hawai'i counts is the exceptional totals reported for native Hawaiian landbird species. The Pu'u O Kaka'e count, carefully coordinated with field work by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service research teams on Maui, achieved extraordinary coverage of the wild Haleakala mountain slopes where the few remaining critically endangered endemic forest birds are known to occur. For the first time on a Christmas Count, two of the world's three known remaining Po'ouli were carefully observed. The teams also tallied seven Maui Parrotbills and 58 'Akohekohe; representing counts for these critically endangered forestbirds which are higher

than those for all previous Christmas counts combined. Pu'u O Kaka'e recorded 995 endemic forest birds, compared to 697 last year. On Kaua'i, Waimea's good forest coverage resulted in 1075 endemic forest birds, more than double last year's total.

The eight main island counts recorded a total of more than 3000 native endemic forest birds representing sixteen different species and three additional subspecies. Seven of these species are endangered. In addition, eight endemic species of upland and wetland birds were recorded, of which five are endangered. Most of the 1,249 individuals were Hawaiian Coots and Hawaiian Stilts.

Honolulu continues to be the statistical leader of the Hawai'i counts, finding over 17,000 birds of 51 species. This total number of birds is higher than that of the seven other counts combined. Highlights include a Great Blue Heron and Killdeer, both rare in Hawai'i. Waipi'o, also on O'ahu, and Waimea on Kaua'i were next highest with 43 and 44 species, amounting to 4,400 and 2,800 individuals respectively. Waimea recorded nine Laysan albatross in addition to the forest birds. Waipi'o found one 'I'iwi, which is one of the rarest remaining forest birds on O'ahu, and eight species of ducks again this year, including 31 Northern Pintails and an unusual Blue-winged Teal. Despite a rainy morning, counters at Kapa'a on Kaua'i tallied fourteen endangered Nene, a surprising 54 endangered Koloa ducks, and a rare Pied-billed Grebe straggler. Kualapu'u on Moloka'i found 107 endangered Hawaiian Stilt compared to 30

last year, but otherwise the species pattern was about the same. Low participation at North Kona and Volcano on Hawai'i Island resulted in significantly fewer species than last year.

In the western Pacific, the Saipan count was missing for the first time since it began more than a dozen years ago. Saipan normally finds more native landbirds than does any of the other Guam and Mariana Islands counts; it is expected to resume in 1999.

Rota found the same eight native landbird species, and 282 individuals, slightly more than in its inaugural count last year. Highlights included three Eurasian Wigeons and a common Snipe, both second records for Rota, and several other unusual migrant shorebirds.

Both Guam counts improved over last year's abnormally low totals resulting from the typhoon. At Dededo, good numbers of Plovers, Turnstones, White Terns, Philippine Turtle Doves and Tree Sparrows suggest that at least the common species may have recovered well since last year's storm. The Southern Guam count did not improve as much, continuing the declining trend of recent years resulting from the loss of wetlands and other productive habitat within the count circle. Counters did find 48 Guam Swiftlets, a new record for the count by far. Twenty-two Micronesian Starlings at Dededo were the only other native landbirds found on Guam. Highlights among visiting species for Guam included a Black-headed gull at Dededo and two Common Terns at Southern Guam. See pages 83 through 85 for tables listing counts.

# Paradise Pursuits—Off and Running

by Susan Harada,  
Paradise Pursuits Coordinator

This is the ninth year of Paradise Pursuits and we are off and running with 25 schools participating so far. We are still waiting on a few more applications. Last year's winning team, 'Aiea was the first to get their application in. Their coach, Jason Brennan says they are ready to defend their title and looks forward to the competition.

One of the most rewarding features of the games is to watch teams play. For many students this is their single opportunity to demonstrate their expertise in the area of Hawaiian natural history. Stu-

dents bubble with excitement as they take on the questions. Last year Hanalani School, a small private school from Mililani had the greatest smiles and the best sportsmanship. Their attitude was infectious as the staff and judges couldn't help themselves but to smile too. Another interesting game was when the all male St Louis team squared off against the all female Hilo High team. Talk about the stress of competition!

This year the main text for the games will be the award winning Atlas of Hawai'i. It has great graphics and well written and concise chapters. The chapter on birds was written by long time HAS member Dr. Sheila Conant. Others

contributing to the Atlas include Dr. Charles Lamoureux, George Balaz, Rick Warshauer, James Maragos, Frank Howarth, Steve Montgomery, Bill Mull and Sam Gon, all familiar names in Hawaiian natural history research.

KITV has again agreed to tape and televise the final games. We are looking forward to continuing support from Aloha Airlines, Sheraton Waikiki, Chevron, Tesoro and the Iron Workers Union to help with the games. We are seeking out some new venues and would welcome suggestions if you have any. You can contact Suzan Harada at phone 732-4489 or e-mail environm@lava.net with your suggestions.

## Volunteer Opportunities with Paradise Pursuits!

Volunteers are needed for staffing Paradise Pursuits - the environmental quiz game for Hawai'i's high school students. No experience necessary. We need scorekeepers and timekeepers for preliminary rounds on O'ahu 2 weekends in February and one weekend in April (exact dates to be announced). Please call the HAS office if you are interested in helping out - 528-1432.

## Hawaii Audubon Society

850 Richards Street, Suite 505  
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Telephone (808) 528-1432  
FAX (808) 537-5294  
Email: hiaudsoc@pixi.com

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## 'ELEPAIO

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Table 1: Christmas Bird Counts in the Main Hawaiian Islands - 1998

Species	Kaua'i Waimea	Kapa'a	O'ahu Waipi'o	Honolulu	Moloka'i Kualapu'u	Maui Pu'u O Kaka'e	Hawai'i N. Kona	Volcano
Pied-billed Grebe		1					1	
Laysan Albatross	9	55		5				
White-tailed Tropicbird	8	13		1	6			4
Red-tailed Tropicbird	3				1			
Brown Booby	2	1		6		9		
Red-footed Booby		467		1221				
Great Frigatebird		9		44		30		
Great Blue Heron				1				
Cattle Egret	361	176	122	178	45	15	9	
Black-crowned Night Heron	10	7	2	33	23	1	45	
White-faced Ibis							2	
Brant	3							
Canada Goose (small races)				1				
Nene	1	14				4		3
American Green-winged Teal					2			
Mallard	2			179			2	
duck sp.				5				
Hawaiian Duck	5	54		14				
Hawaiian Duck x Mallard (hybrid)			22					
Northern Pintail		11	31	2	28		24	
Blue-winged Teal			1					
Northern Shoveler	1		7		10		39	
Eurasian Wigeon			6					
American Wigeon			6					
Ring-necked Duck			3				2	
Greater Scaup							2	
Lesser Scaup	1						8	
scaup sp.					11			
Bufflehead			2		4			
'Io							1	3
falcon sp.					1			
Black Francolin	2				14		2	
Gray Francolin				22	6	4	3	
Erckel's Francolin	25		7					
Chukar						1		
Kalij Pheasant								3

continued on page 84

Species, continued	Kaua'i Waimea	Kapa'a	O'ahu Waipi'o	Honolulu	Moloka'i Kualapu'u	Maui Pu'u O Kaka'e	Hawai'i N. Kona	Volcano
Red Junglefowl	136	22						
Ring-necked Pheasant	2			2	1	26		
Wild Turkey					1			
Hawaiian Moorhen	9	4	6	9				
Hawaiian Coot	9	56	85	76	89		164	
Black-bellied Plover							CW	
Pacific Golden-Plover	61	57	405	1268	126	20	179	32
Killdeer				1				
Hawaiian Stilt	13	20	132	168	107		190	
Lesser Yellowlegs					2			
Wandering Tattler	2	1		31	7	1	15	
Spotted Sandpiper							1	
Ruddy Turnstone	4	2	2	287	16		53	
Sanderling	18		7	29	15		31	
Common Snipe			1					
Gaucous-winged Gull							1	
Sooty Tern				1				
Hawaiian Noddy				1		25		
White Tern				1				
Rock Dove			43	302	13	65		
Spotted Dove	74	63	283	1295	76	91	26	3
Zebra Dove	207	214	500	3690	299	39	110	2
Barn Owl	2				1		1	
Short-eared Owl						1		
Guam Swiftlet				11				
Eurasian Skylark			1		3	18		3
Red-vented Bulbul			308	1406				
Red-whiskered Bulbul			13	225				
Japanese Bush-warbler		2	68	43		27		
Kaua'i 'Elepaio	135							
O'ahu 'Elepaio				10				
Hawai'i 'Elepaio								38
White-rumped Shama	32	3	39	116	1			
'Oma'o								75
Greater-necklaced Laughing Thrush		4						
Hwamei	14	3				22		
Red-billed Leiothrix			22	75		26		
Northern Mockingbird	6			2	5	2		
Common Myna	201	244	538	2474	271	103	93	

Species, continued	Kaua'i Waimea	Kapa'a	O'ahu Waipi'o	Honolulu	Moloka'i Kualapu'u	Maui Pu'u O Kaka'e	Hawai'i N. Kona	Volcano
Japanese White-eye	227	66	193	403	96	147	58	35
Northern Cardinal	75	17	21	90	23	38	31	3
Red-crested Cardinal	16	24	60	207	44		36	
Yellow-faced Grassquit			1					
Saffron Finch			19				27	
Western Meadowlark		8						
House Finch	48	10	95	502	117	63	34	6
Yellow-fronted Canary				82			17	
Maui Parrotbill						7		
Kaua'i 'Amakihi	64							
O'ahu 'Amakihi			29					
Maui 'Amakihi						248		
Hawai'i 'Amakihi								18
'Anianiau	21							
'Akiapola'au								5
Hawai'i Creeper								5
Maui 'Alauahio						133		
'Akeke'e	28							
Hawai'i 'Akepa								4
'I'iwi	23		1			143		91
'Akohekohe						58		
'Apapane	804		57		20	406		461
Po'ouli						2		
House Sparrow	41	23	120		49	100	24	2
Lavender Waxbill							5	
Common Waxbill			565					
Red Avadavat			4					
Warbling Silverbill	2						12	
Nutmeg Mannikin	20	280	6		30	52	15	
Chestnut Mannikin	76	63	853					
Java Sparrow		42	187				145	
Individuals	2803	2036	4873	17,005	1563	1927	1408	796
Species	44	34	43	51	36	33	36	20
Observers	44	8	13	32	8	20	6	11
Party-hours	22.17	13.50	39.75	61.50	19.50	36.25	8.15	3.25
Count Date	01/02/99	12/29/98	12/26/98	12/19/98	12/16/98	12/19/98	01/03/99	12/26/99
Compilers	Kate Reinard	Barbara Stuart	David Bremer	David Smith	Rick Potts	Lance Tanino	Reginald David	Larry Katahira

# 1999 Awards Dinner & 60th Anniversary Celebration

This year's annual awards dinner in November was a festive and elegant celebration in honor of the Hawaii Audubon Society's sixtieth anniversary. Seventy members, guests and award recipients enjoyed the convivial gathering, the beautiful setting and a wonderful meal at Sarento's restaurant at the top of the Ilikai Hotel. This special evening also was the occasion of the unveiling of an original painting entitled "The Edge of Forever" by Richard Pettit, who was on hand to autograph the limited edition prints which were presented to each guest at the dinner.

Special recognition was given to a highly regarded charter member and past president of HAS, David Woodside, who joined us for dinner along with his wife and daughter. Mr. Woodside was fifteen years old when he joined the newly founded Hawaii Audubon Society. He was employed for many years by the Territory and State of Hawai'i as a game biologist, and has worked for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service since 1980. Mr. Woodside has been involved with the management of every state and federal wildlife refuge in Hawai'i and the Northwest Hawaiian Islands, and he received the Teddy Roosevelt Conservation Award from President Bush in 1990.

At the 1999 Awards ceremony, the Board of Directors of the Hawaii Audubon Society was most pleased to honor the following public figures, volunteers and contributors for their significant support of the Society's activities and goals:

**President's Award**-Representative Brian Schatz is a freshman representative in the State legislature who has already established a strong record on the environment. He introduced a bill banning shark finning last year and supported strict controls on alien aquatic species in Hawai'i. Mr. Schatz founded Youth for Environmental Service in 1994 and his commitment to action continues to have a positive impact on conservation issues in Hawai'i.

**Charles Dunn Lifetime Achievement Award**-Sheila Conant is a zoology professor at the University of Hawai'i where she teaches courses on island ecosystems and conservation biology. Dr. Conant is a former HAS Board member and has received numerous awards for community service and teaching. The Society has been the beneficiary of Dr. Conant's passionate dedication to conservation and education for many years.

**Conservation Award**-Jack Jeffrey is a wildlife biologist with the Big Island National Wildlife Refuge Complex. Native flora and fauna conservation is the focus of both a notable vocation and a life-long avocation for Mr. Jeffrey. His significant influence on wildlife and habitat issues in Hawai'i is a result of his vast knowledge, his profound commitment, and his infectious enthusiasm.

**Volunteer Service Award**-Mitch Groth has worked as the layout editor for this journal for the past year. His expertise and ideas are extremely valuable to the Society and his assistance is greatly appreciated. Mr. Groth's diligence and reliability are unprecedented in a volunteer.

**Program Award**-Robert Ripp has made outstanding contributions to the Paradise Pursuits program for the past three years. He is the producer of the Paradise Pursuits play-off games which are held and taped at 'Olelo. With a minimum of assistance and no financial compensation, Mr. Ripp has contributed a unique combination of professionalism and good humor to the productions.

**Corporate Education Award**-Hawaiian Electric Company has been the primary source of funding for the Paradise Pursuits program since its inception nine years ago. HECO's commitment to environmental education and continuing financial support are vital to the successful operation of our well-known quiz program for Hawai'i's high school students.

**Corporate Environmental Education Sponsor Awards:** Aloha Airlines again provided complimentary air transportation for neighbor island Paradise Pursuits teams and their coaches in the final rounds of competition. The on-going support of Aloha Airlines allows HAS to offer participation in the Paradise Pursuits program to all high school students throughout the state. Sheraton Waikiki Hotel provided complimentary hotel accommodations and prizes for participants in the playoffs, semi-finals and finals of the 1999 Paradise Pursuits program. Kamehameha Schools/Bishop Estate provided a generous contribution in support of the 1999 Paradise Pursuits network television production, as did Chevron Products Company and Ironworkers Union Local 625, and Tesoro Hawaii.



Board Member *Tonnie Casey*, recognizing Charter Member *David Woodside*.

## Now available:

*"The Edge of Forever"*—  
Hawaii Audubon Society's 60th  
Anniversary commemorative art-  
quality watercolor print by  
renowned artist Richard Pettit.  
This colorful print (deep burnt  
orange, dark dusty blue, and  
undertones of violet and pink) is  
27" by 36" and is available  
through the HAS office for the  
wholesale price of \$25.00  
(plus \$5.00 shipping).



# Christmas Bird Count 1999-2000 Now to Include a Count on Midway!

The Christmas Bird Count is a coast-to-coast annual bird census. Volunteers count every bird and bird species over one calendar day. Birds are indicators of the overall health of the environment. Christmas bird count data in any given area can provide valuable insight into the long-term health of bird populations and the environment. Over 45,000 people from all 50 states, every Canadian province, the Caribbean, Central and South America and the Pacific Islands participate in more than 1,700 counts held during a two and a half week period!

Join our Christmas Bird Counts during the official count period, this year from December 16 to January 3, 2000. If you want to do something good for birds and meet other "bird people," call one of the coordinators to sign up. Note: By press time for this issue, the deadline to sign up for the Kulani Prison count will have passed. There is a \$5.00 charge per person to support compiling and publication of the nationwide results.

**Please note: there have been some changes, corrections and additions since last month's issue. One change is the addition of Midway Island count. A trip has been scheduled for December 29 to around January 4. For more information, please call Coordinator Bob Pyle at 983-4646.**

<u>Island</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Coordinator</u>	<u>phone #/email</u>
<b>Kaua'i</b>			
Waimea	01/02	Michelle Ho'okano Koke'e Natural History Museum	808-335-9975
Kapa'a	12/29	Barbara Stuart	808-826-9233
<b>O'ahu</b>			
Honolulu	12/19	Arlene Buchholz	988-9806 or snovakz@juno.com
Sectors: KMCAS		Eric Vanderwerf	956-4717
Kane'ohe		Bob Pyle	983-4646
Kawai Nui Marsh		David Watson	262-5295
Maunawili Valley		Chad Castle	261-5420
East Honolulu/Palolo		Clyde Imada	955-1006
Manoa Valley		Arlene Bucholz	988-9806
Tripler Ridge		David Bremer	623-5285
Halawa Valley		Dave Smith	973-9786
Waipi'o	12/18	David Bremer	623-7613
<b>Maui</b>			
'Iao Valley	12/18	Lance Tanino	808-280-4195 or ltanino@parsonsuxb.com
Pu'u O Kaka'e	12/19	Renate Gassmann-Duvall	808-573-0094 or corvusco@maui.net
<b>Moloka'i</b>			
Kualapu'u	12/21	Rick Potts Kalaupapa National Park	808-567-6802
<b>Hawai'i Island</b>			
Kulani Prison (Volcano)	12/18	Larry Katahira Nick Shima Tanya Rubenstein	808-985-6088 808-967-7396 x239 808-985-6197
North Kona	12/19	Reggie David	808-329-9141 or rdavid@kona.net
<b>Midway Island</b>			
Midway	12/31	Bob Pyle	983-4646

## *Volunteers Needed at USFWS's Tern Island and Laysan Island Field Stations*

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is looking for a few good volunteers. We have opportunities at our Tern Island Field Station and our Laysan Island Field Station. We are looking for people with biology field experience and background as well as people with maintenance experience and backgrounds. The biology work includes work with migratory and resident seabirds, the Laysan duck, the Laysan finch, and alien plant eradication. Maintenance work would include small engine repair, carpentry, plumbing repair, and general grounds and building repair work. The weather conditions can be harsh with rain, strong winds, and hot sun for long periods of time. Both stations require a time commitment of at least 3 months and up to 6 months. We hire around 12 volunteers throughout a year. Please call or email Joan Besta at 808-541-1699, x167 or Joan\_Besta@fws.gov for more information about the volunteer opportunities available and how to apply. Include a phone number if possible and a mailing address please.



DEC. 1999/JAN. 2000

# 'ELEPAIO

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## Calendar of Events

**Thursdays, December 2 and January 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.

**Mondays, December 6 and January 10: Conservation Committee** monthly meeting at the HAS office at 5:45 p.m. For more info, call chairperson Dan Sailer, 455-2311.

**Mondays, December 6 and January 10: HAS Board meeting**, always open to all members, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the HAS office.

**Monday, December 13: Program Meeting and Annual HAS Members Meeting** Election results will be announced and the 1999-2000 officers and directors will be introduced. Dr. Eric VanderWerf, 'Elepaio researcher, will be our program speaker. He will tell us about the conservation of the O'ahu 'Elepaio, its distribution and ecology, and the effects of diseases and of removing introduced predators on the population biology. The program meeting will be from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. at the Bishop Museum's Paki Hall Conference Room. Refreshments provided. HAS publications, tapes, patches, t-shirts, our new map, "Treasures of O'ahu," and our 60th Anniversary poster will be available for purchase.

**December 16 to January 3, 2000: Christmas Bird Counts.** If you want to do something good for birds and meet other "bird people," call one of the coordinators to sign up. Please see page 87 for details.

**January Field Trip:** To the Red-footed Booby colony at Marine Base Hawaii on a weekday, a Thursday or Friday after Martin Luther King Day. Possible dates are January 20, 21, 27 or 28. If you are free and would like to participate, please call Mary Gaber at 247-0104. Leave your name and phone number and you will be called as soon as the date is confirmed.

**February 19-21:** Our second annual service trip to Kilauea Point National Wildlife Refuge on Kaua'i will take place during the Presidents' Day weekend. The birds will be busy courting and nest building. Facilities for sleeping and cooking meals are limited (10 cots available) at the Visitor Center. Call Mary Gaber at 247-0104.

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