



'ELEPAIO

Journal of the
Hawaii Audubon Society

For the Protection of
Hawaii's Native Wildlife

VOLUME 60, NUMBER 2

MARCH 2000

State of the Society for 1999

by Wendy Johnson, President

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 was founded in 1939 as an independent, non-profit membership association with specific aims pertaining to the protection of Hawai'i's native wildlife and habitats through education, research and advocacy. The Society has a membership of approximately 1,800 individuals and operates in accordance with a constitution and by-laws under the supervision of a Board of Directors elected by the members. The Hawaii Audubon Society became a certified chapter of the National Audubon Society in 1978, but continues to function independently in all fiscal, policy and programmatic matters. Several part-time employees and independent contractors provide administrative and professional services for the Society and for specific programs, but many necessary tasks and responsibilities are accomplished through the efforts of dedicated volunteers statewide.

Education (see also the Education Committee Report): In its eighth year of operations, the 1999 Paradise Pursuits program offered twenty-seven teams of high school students the opportunity to show how much they know about Hawai'i's environment. Lively competitions on O'ahu, Maui, Kaua'i and Hawai'i culminated in semi-final and finals games which were televised by KITV in May. This unique education program received major funding from Hawaiian Electric Industries, with additional assistance from Aloha Airlines, Sheraton Hotels and further support from over fifty local companies and individuals. At the 42nd Hawai'i State Science and Engineering Fair, the

Society awarded two prizes for outstanding research relating to Hawai'i's natural history.

Conservation and Advocacy (see also the Conservation Committee Report): The Society's legislative analyst tracked bills and provided expert testimony on behalf of Hawai'i's native wildlife and habitat, as did several Society volunteers. The "Dollar for Dollar" bill, creating a special environmental fund similar to the fund which was established for the Hawai'i Tourism Authority, passed with essential support from the Society. A bill to ban the wasteful practice of shark-finning in Hawaiian waters was introduced with assistance from Society members and generated spirited discussion before it was defeated. This important legislation is being reintroduced in the 2000 legislative session. The Society's Conservation Committee, working to prevent threats to native wildlife and habitats, reviewed and submitted comments on a variety of proposed projects and activities statewide.

Programs and Membership: Six bi-monthly membership meetings were scheduled by the Society in 1999. These meetings are open to all Society members and the general public and include informational presentations on a wide variety of topics. Programs offered in conjunction with membership meetings in 1999 included the following: Dr. Wally Johnson discussed his recent research findings for both American and Pacific Golden Plovers, including rare video footage of adult plovers and chicks filmed near Nome, Alaska; David Duffy presented a slide-illustrated talk on the ecology of Prince William Sound ten years after the Exxon Valdez oil spill; Dr. Kim Holland showed videotape of shark tagging studies done in Hawaiian waters; Dr. Ben Okimoto presented a lecture and slide show on the endangered Hawaiian Bat-Ope'ape'a; Dr. Eric VanderWerf showed slides supporting his research on 'Elepaio populations

and threats from predators.

Field Excursions and Service Activities (see also Field Activities Report): Field excursions in 1999 included two trips to the Ka'ena Point Natural Area Reserve to pull weeds and look for marine mammals and observe the small Laysan Albatross colony there during nesting season and again after the chicks had fledged. Groups guided by Society volunteers also visited the following sites: Pia Valley to observe O'ahu 'Elepaio; Ho'omaluhia Botanical Garden for a birding walk along the dam, Kawai Nui Marsh for a tour of cultural and wetlands locales; Kualoa Beach Park for tidepool explorations; the 'Ewa Plains limestone sinkholes to view fossil remains of extinct Hawaiian birds; Forest Bird Captive Propagation Unit at the Honolulu Zoo for a close look at a variety of rare and endangered endemic birds; the James Campbell National Wildlife Refuge to observe many species of migratory and wetland birds in their natural habitat. A special educational field experience at Ho'omaluhia Botanical Garden was arranged in conjunction with Windward Girl Scouts. Youngsters and their parents viewed a slide presentation on the birds they might see, and then walked through the park to begin their life lists. Four Service Trips were also conducted in 1999. A two-night stay at the Kilauea National Wildlife Refuge on Kaua'i included work on a new trail to view the Red-footed Boobies' nesting area. In August, HAS members helped install a non-skid wire mesh over a section of boardwalk at Mt. Ka'ala Natural Area Reserve. Native plants were planted at Ka'ena Point. A cleanup of the Black Point nesting area for the Wedgetailed Shearwaters involved volunteers in picking up trash and abandoned fishing tackle along the rocky coastline.

Volunteer Activities: Hawaii Audubon Society volunteers continued moni-

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toring seabird restoration efforts on selected islands offshore from O'ahu in conjunction with efforts by the State of Hawai'i Department of Land and Natural Resources and the National Audubon Society. Members also represented the Society at conferences and public hearings, and on several teams, task forces and workshops, including the Alien Aquatic Organisms Task Force, the Permit Process Task force, the 'Alala Recovery Team, the Forest Bird Recovery Team, and the National Audubon Society board meeting.

Other Society Activities: The January, the 1999 Annual Chapter Leaders' Retreat featured special guests participating in planning talks for a unique proposal. Hawaii Audubon Society, Hawai'i Nature Center and National Audubon Society representatives developed a plan to discuss creating a partnership which would enhance each organization's effectiveness and goals in Hawai'i. Dr. Gerry Bertrand, former President of the Massachusetts Audubon Society and current National Audubon Society Board

Member, encouraged this bold action which could result in significant funding for the establishment of Education/Nature Centers throughout the state. Serious discussions continued through May, when it was determined that the best approach would be to work together on a specific project before undertaking a more formal partnership or merger. All three groups agree that increased site-based environmental education opportunities are a top priority for Hawai'i. The Society Board continues to investigate sites, such as the Kawai Nui Marsh, where native wildlife and habitat protection efforts can be effectively linked to educational programs and facilities. In November, the Society's annual awards dinner was combined with an elegant 60th anniversary (1939-1999) celebration at Sarento's Restaurant at the top of the Ilikai Hotel. Among those honored were Brian Schatz (President's Award) who had already established a strong record on environmental issues in his first year as a representative to the State Legislature. Dr. Sheila Conant received the Charles Dunn Lifetime Achievement

Award in recognition of her many years of service to the Society and her dedication to conservation education in Hawai'i. Special recognition was given to charter member and past Society president David Woodside, who joined the Society when he was fifteen years old. An original water-color painting of two Nene was created for the occasion by Richard Pettit, who was on hand to autograph limited edition commemorative art prints presented to each guest at the dinner.

In December, the annual Christmas Bird Counts were held at several locations on O'ahu, Kaua'i, Moloka'i, Maui and the Big Island. Society volunteers served as organizers and team leaders of the event which operates in conjunction with Christmas Bird Counts at thousands of locations in the U.S. and around the world. In 1999 Society was approved as a beneficiary of the Combined Federal Campaign. Federal employees were given the opportunity to designate the Society when making charitable donations via pledges or payroll deductions.

Grants and Scholarships: The Society's
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George C. Munro Environmental Law Award included a small grant which was presented to Paul Tanaka, a second year student at the William S. Richardson School of Law. A full tuition scholarship for use in the University of Hawai'i system was provided in memory of Rose Schuster Taylor to UH freshman Cory Yap. Ongoing research by a recipient of the Society's small grants program included studies at Hakalau on the Big Island to observe 'Akepa fledglings feeding within multi-family flocks. A \$1,000 grant was provided to the Bishop Museum in Honolulu for general research.

Externally Funded Grant Programs: The Western Pacific Fisheries Coalition project (see also WPFC Report) successfully completed its first year activities and was funded for two more years by the supporting foundations (PEW Charitable Trusts, the Rockefeller Brothers Fund, the David and Lucile Packard Foundation

and the Homeland Foundation). This unique marine conservation project is designed to promote collaboration between fishermen and conservationists in a variety of education and advocacy efforts to protect living marine resources in Hawai'i and the Pacific.

Funding to conduct a statewide Aquatics Conference was received by the Society from several sources, including the Western Pacific Management Council, Hawai'i Community Foundation, Minami Foundation, Hawai'i Sea Grant Program, Department of Land and Natural Resources, and the National Park Service. The conference was held in June and brought together users, researchers and managers of aquatic resources in Hawai'i. A grant was awarded to the Society by the Atherton Family Foundation for important waterbird habitat restoration activities at the James Campbell National Wildlife Refuge. The funds received have been matched by Federal

monies in support of this project which will be carried out by USFWS employees and contractors.

Publications and Products: The Society published nine issues of 'Elepaio, a journal that includes peer-reviewed articles on research and management of Hawai'i and Pacific natural resources in addition to Society news and notices. Other educational products produced by the Hawaii Audubon Society include the following: "Hawaii's Birds," a definitive, full color paperback now in its fifth edition; a companion cassette set "Voices of Hawaii's Birds," and checklist of the Birds of Hawaii; "Hidden Treasures of O'ahu," a map featuring locations and detailed information on sites for exploring nature and ancient Hawaiian culture; "The Edge of Forever," an art-quality limited edition print featuring two endangered Nene. The Society also offers several T-shirt designs and an embroidered patch featuring the 'Elepaio.

1999 Education Committee Report

by Wendy Johnson,
Education Chairman

The HAS Education Committee works to provide opportunities and motivation for learning about Hawai'i's native wildlife and habitats. In 1999 our unique environmental quiz program for high school students, Paradise Pursuits, successfully completed its eighth year of operations. Twenty seven public and private high schools throughout the state fielded four-person teams which competed against each other by answering a wide variety of questions in the categories of natural history, human impact, alien species and native species.

The single-elimination format resulted in the top five O'ahu teams and one team each from Maui, Kaua'i and Hawai'i advancing to the play-off round held on O'ahu and televised on 'Olelo's channel 56. 'Aiea, Hilo, Kamehameha and Maui High Schools then proceeded to the final competitions held at the KITV studios and moderated for the fourth consecutive year by top news anchor, Paula Akana. After three rounds of exciting competition 'Aiea High School, in only their second year of participation, emerged as

the 1999 Paradise Pursuits Champions. Cory Yap, the 'Aiea High School team's co-captain, described his team's experience by writing, "Our major goal at the beginning of the year was mainly to have fun and learn as much as we could before competition....Participating in Paradise Pursuits is not only hard work and studying, but is fun and gives challenges to students who are willing to learn about Hawai'i's natural environment"

Support for the Paradise Pursuits program is derived from a variety of sources, with major funding in 1999 again provided by Hawaiian Electric Industries. Vital services and donations were received from Aloha Airlines, Sheraton Hotels, and the Environmental Education Branch of the Hawai'i State Department of Education. Other sponsors pledged support which helped to cover television production costs, and these sponsors included Chevron Products Company, Kamehameha Schools/Bishop Estate, Tesoro Hawai'i and Ironworkers Union Local 625.

More than fifty companies and individuals donated prizes. HAS and community volunteers worked as question

reviewers, scorekeepers, timers and judges for the games, while other non-profit groups and government agencies supplied valuable assistance and sites for the games.

Judges from the HAS Education Committee presented two awards for outstanding research relating to Hawai'i's natural history in 1999 at the 42nd Hawai'i State Science and Engineering Fair. Elisa Nishimoto received the Senior Division Research award for her project on "The Orientation of the Native Mollusk, *Neritina granosa*, to Current and Mucous Trails."

Working at Kolekole Stream near Honomu on the Big Island, Elisa monitored the movements of Hihiwai in response to various environmental factors. Her work provides a compelling argument for the maintenance of adequate stream flow as one aspect of habitat protection for these unique native mollusks. The Junior Division Research award went to Whitney Nekoba, a seventh grader who spent many hours in the field studying "Factors that Influence the Territorial Behavior of the Pacific Golden Plover, *Pluvialis fulva*, in East Hawai'i."

Western Pacific Fisheries Coalition Project - 1999

by Linda Paul, Executive Director of Western Pacific Fisheries Coalition

In 1998 the Hawaii Audubon Society received a large education grant funded by the PEW Charitable Trusts, the Rockefeller Brothers Fund, the David and Lucile Packard Foundation and the Homeland Foundation, with matching federal funds to support a marine conservation education and advocacy project called the Western Pacific Fisheries Coalition ("WPFC"). The WPFC project is a unique collaboration between conservationists and fishermen who found common ground in their desire to promote the conservation and responsible use of living marine resources in Hawai'i and the Central and Western Pacific. The Society was chosen to administer the grant because 1) it is the only local conservation organization that monitors fisheries issues and advocates for fisheries conservation in Hawai'i at the present time, 2) the broad-based conservation efforts of the Society take the traditional Hawaiian watershed ecosystem conservation and management approach (*ahupua'a*), which extends from the top of the mountain ridges to the outermost edges of the reefs and beyond, and 3) there is considerable expertise in the area of marine resource conservation among the Society's board of directors and members. The project is guided by Linda Paul, Bob Endreson, and William Aila.

WPFC project goals during its first year included 1) reduce the albatross bycatch taken by the Hawai'i-based longline fleet, 2) restrict the transshipment of shark fins through Hawai'i as a means of reducing shark bycatch by domestic and foreign longliners in the North Pacific, 3) establish a cooperative infrastructure to enable the fishing community to become part of a State-wide fisheries management, monitoring and enforcement effort, 4) educate the fishing community on the need to effectively implement Hawai'i's bottomfish management plan, 5) achieve community support for a ban on destructive set net gillnet

fishing, 6) develop community support for a recreational fishing license program; and 7) significantly increase support and funding of fisheries management measures by the Division of Aquatic Resources ("DAR").

To carry out this effort the WPFC 1) set up forums for the fishing clubs and DAR fisheries managers to exchange views and work together to achieve sustainable fisheries; 2) presented a live 20 minute broadcast on the state of Hawai'i's fisheries on Hawai'i Public Radio; and 3) organized briefings by panels of fishery experts for the House and the Senate committees that deal with fisheries legislation. WPFC volunteers were busy during the 1999 legislative session providing expert testimony, analysis and briefing documents on national and international fisheries policies and guidelines. WPFC representatives visited schools and community groups to talk about the need to conserve and responsibly manage Hawai'i's marine resources; developed new educational tools to provide information about the status of Hawai'i's marine resources, including curriculum materials, a teachers activity guide, a poster on Hawai'i's marine resource problems, a four page brochure for school children to take home, a comprehensive brochure outlining alternative resource protection methods, an adopt-a-reef program for fishing clubs, an adopt-a-beach project for kids, an essay contest and an art work contest.

WPFC created an all-inclusive fisheries information web site (www.westpacfisheries.net) with reports on resource protection efforts and linkages to many sources of fisheries-related information. WPFC representatives also monitored the meetings of the Western Pacific Fishery Management Council (WESPAC) and participated in the planning of the International Marine Debris Conference, which will be held in Honolulu in August 2000.

With the successful completion of the first year of the project in September 1999, the supporting foundations provided additional funding for two more years of work. Project goals for 1999-2001 include: 1) achieve both a state and federal prohibition on the transshipment of shark fins through Hawai'i; 2) prevent further cuts and increase financial support for Department of Aquatic Resources from both State and federal sources; 3) obtain Department of Land and Natural Resources ("DLNR") jurisdiction over unintentional introductions of alien aquatic species; 4) assure effective implementation of the statute-to-rules legislation passed in 1999; 5) encourage WESPAC to effectively and responsibly implement the federal Sustainable Fisheries Act; 6) participate in and encourage the Multilateral High Level Conference ("MHLC") to draft a sustainable pelagics management convention that addresses by-catch and the needs of Pacific island communities; and 7) facilitate the creation and distribution of an action plan that will mitigate fishing vessel sources of marine debris.

In addition to continuing many of the activities begun in the first year, activities undertaken at the end of 1999 to further the second year goals included petitioning 1) Secretary of Commerce Daley to preempt WESPAC and implement the FAO and U.S. shark full utilization policy in the Central and Western Pacific; and 2) Governor Cayetano to adopt the WESPAC plan team recommendations for coral reef management in State waters, take back jurisdiction over State waters in the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands ("NWHI"), and begin promulgating rules that would establish the NWHI as a Fishery Management Area. WPFC representatives also participated in the MHLC on pelagic fisheries in the Central and Western Pacific as members of the U.S. delegation.

HAS Conservation Committee Report 1999

by Dan Sailer, Conservation Committee Chair

The following actions represent highlights of the Conservation Committee's activities from March 1999 to January 2000:

Kaua'i

Regarding the proposed expansion of the Kaua'i Missile Range Facility, the Society opposed placing missile launch facilities in the Northwest Hawaiian islands and cited concerns regarding the continued use of Kaula Rock for live fire training. The Society also noted that more frequent aircraft flights to Ni'ihau could impact the seasonal use of the wetlands there by Hawaiian waterbirds.

O'ahu

In April, The Society conducted its annual Black Point Cleanup. The area serves as one of only two nesting areas

for Wedge-tailed Shearwaters on the island of O'ahu.

We also staffed an educational booth at the Kane'ohe Family Fair. The Society supported the creation of the O'ahu Forest National Wildlife Refuge. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is currently negotiating the purchase and use of private lands in the northern Ko'olau Range for habitat conservation.

Recently, The Society also supported proposed rules by the Hawai'i State Department of Health which would ban the feeding of feral animals in public and recreational areas. Feral cats continue to be a serious threat to our ground nesting seabirds, waterbirds, and owls across the state. It is hoped that by prohibiting the feeding of feral cat colonies, the endangered birds near urbanized areas will be better off.

Maui

The Society opposed the siting of a windfarm on the slopes of West Maui due to potential impacts to avifauna in the area. Nene, pueo, and shearwaters use the area for foraging or as a flyway and are at risk of being hit by the proposed turbines. The windfarm company has planned a number of measures that will hopefully reduce the risks to native wildlife in the area.

Hawai'i

The Society expressed concerns about inadequate surveys for native invertebrates and the Hawaiian Hoary Bat in the Waiakea Timber Management Area. The area is slated to be logged as a part of a State effort to demonstrate the feasibility of a timber harvesting industry.

Paradise Pursuits Thanks Sponsors

by Suzan Harada, Paradise Pursuits Coordinator

As we move closer to the Paradise Pursuits games the community support is rolling in! A big mahalo to our traditional program 'ohana Aloha Airlines, Sheraton Waikiki for coming up with travel and lodging for our neighbor island players and the Ironworkers Union, Local 625 for a monetary contribution to help offset the cost of the games! Rex Johnson of The Nature Conservancy has made a generous contribution of 20 copies of Hawai'i: The Islands of Life, a most meaningful prize for the players. Other organizations giving prizes so far include Island Heritage, Zippy's, and Sea Grant Extension.

The preliminary game schedule is as follows:

Saturdays, February 26 and March 4 from 9:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at Paki Hale - O'ahu

Saturday, March 11 from 9:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the 'Iao Nature Center - Maui

Saturday, April 1 from 9:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. tentatively at the DOE Hilo Annex - Hawai'i.

Due to faculty and some extracurricular changes there are no schools from Kaua'i participating this year.

The final games are set for Saturday, April 15 at KITV studio. Guest judges are Heidi Bornhorst, Director of the Honolulu Botanical Gardens and Burt Lum, columnist on computer technology for the Honolulu Advertiser. Heidi is also the author of Growing Native Hawaiian Plants, and a weekly columnist on gardening in Hawai'i. Burt is actually a computer geek whose avocation is Hawaiian natural history.

If you want to see a serious competition, join us on April 15 at the KITV studios or tune in to the games as they are broadcast on KITV on the following Saturdays!

Upcoming Field Trips in 2000

Here is a list of field trips either scheduled or being planned for 2000. All trips with an * are in the process of being planned. Watch this list in future issues of 'Elepaio for updates.

- March 11 Black Point Shore Line Clean-up from 9 am to noon. Black Point is one of only two active nesting areas on O'ahu for Wedge-tailed Shearwaters. They return every March with fledgelings departing in late fall. We will be removing shoreline trash as well as fishing line and tackle from the near shore area. See Calendar for details.
- March 25 Makapu'u Whalewatch - see this month's Calendar for details
- April 9 'Aiea Ridge Trail with Dan Sailer. One of the best trails for upper-elevation forest on O'ahu. Possible to see 'Apapane and Common 'Amakihi and to look for the elusive O'ahu Creeper, which has only been seen several times in the past two decades. Other birds include Japanese Bush-warbler and White-rumped Shama. Plants may include 'ohia, koa, 'olapa, and 'ie'ie. Eight miles round trip. 12 Years and older.
- April 20 Red-footed Booby colony at Marine Corps Base Hawai'i to see new chicks. On our January visit, the birds were building nests, so we can anticipate a new chick in most of those nests. Limited to 20 people.
- May 20th Service Trip to Pahole Natural Area Reserve to plant native seedlings. The 658 acre Pahole Reserve is a lowland mesic forest in the Mokule'ia foothills. Within the Reserve are Hawaiian plants and animals such as 'oha wai, a rare lobeliad; palapalai fern; 'ohia lehua trees; 'amakihi and 'elepaio birds; the "happy-face" spider, and pupu kani oe, or O'ahu Tree Snail, an extremely rare and imperilled animal.
- June *Tide Pools
- July *Moanalua Valley Family Hike
*Poamoho Trail
- August 20 Native Forest Bird Captive Propagation Unit at Honolulu Zoo. Two trips, 9:30am and 1:30pm, each limited to 10 people. This is a very popular trip. See and hear 'Amakihi, 'Apapane, and 'I'iwi up close, along with an aging but charming Laysan Finch.
- September *Keauhou on the Big Island
- October *James Campbell National Wildlife Refuge
- November 25th 'Ewa Plains Sinkholes to look for fossils of extinct Hawaiian Birds with Dr. Alan Ziegler.
- December - *Christmas Bird Count

1999 Field Activities Report

by Mary Gaber, Field Trip Coordinator

- January Ka'ena Point
- February Kilauea Point National Wildlife Refuge (Kaua'i)
- March Forest Bird Propagation Unit, Honolulu Zoo
- April Ho'omaluhia Botanical Garden Dam Walk
- May Pia Valley
- June Kualoa Beach Reef Walk
- July Introduction to Birds for Girl Scouts @ Ho'omaluhia Botanical Garden
- July Ka'ena Point
- August Mt. Ka'ala
- September Kawainui Marsh
- October James Campbell National Wildlife Reserve
- November 'Ewa Plains Sinkholes Bird Fossil Trip
- December Christmas Bird Count

The Kilauea National Wildlife Reserve field trip, the trip to Mt. Ka'ala, and one of the Ka'ena trips were service trips. The total number of participants in field trips for 1999 was 164, excluding the number of people who participated in the Christmas bird count.

Legislative Action Alerts Available

Hawaii Audubon Society members interested in receiving emailed action alerts from this year's legislative session can contact the Society's legislative analyst, Elliott Harris. Please email environment2000@aol.com to receive notification of actions you can take to support important legislation.

Blackburn's Sphinx Moth First Hawaiian Insect Added to Endangered Species List

The Blackburn's sphinx moth, Hawai'i's largest native insect, is facing extinction. As a result, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service announced today it is designating the species as endangered under the Endangered Species Act.

Once found on six Hawaiian islands, the moth now exists only on the islands of Maui, Kaho'olawe, and Hawai'i. It is the first Hawaiian insect to be protected under the Act. A species is designated as endangered when it is in danger of extinction throughout all or a significant portion of its range.

"Threats to the moth include introduced ants and parasitic wasps that prey on its eggs and caterpillars, and the loss of its native plant host, which is a dryland forest tree," said Anne Badgley, regional director of the Service's Pacific region. "In addition, a chance event such as a fire of a hurricane could wipe out the three remaining populations. The species also is vulnerable to over-collection or for trade."

Blackburn's sphinx moth has blackish-gray mottled wings, a gray abdomen with orange highlights, and a wingspan of up to five inches. In its larval stage, the caterpillars are large and either green or grayish, and look similar to tomato hornworms. The caterpillars feed on native 'aiea trees and other plants in the night-

shade family.

Although the moth has adapted to using some introduced plant species, non-native plants rarely provide as good a host as their native counterparts. For example, during recent drought periods in Hawai'i, the introduced tree tobacco died or lost its foliage, while its relative, the native 'aiea, was drought-tolerant and maintained its nutritional value for the sphinx moth.

Considered to be extinct as recently as the late 1970s, biologists rediscovered Blackburn's sphinx moths on East Maui in 1984. Subsequently, biologists have found the species on Maui, Hawai'i and Kaho'olawe. Although no population estimates are available, the East Maui and Kaho'olawe populations appear to be the largest.

"Although scientists know that insects play an important role in the Hawaiian web of life, we have not had the opportunity to study the Blackburn's sphinx moth and its life cycle to be able to identify that role," Badgley said. "In general, insects frequently are important as pollinators, as a food source, and as recyclers in the natural world."

In accordance with the State of Hawai'i law, this listing will provide both federal and state protection for the species. Protections offered by the En-

dangered Species Act include prohibitions on collection of the species, sale or purchase of these insects, unauthorized use of chemical insecticides that would harm the species, and unauthorized release of biological control agents that would attack the moth.

The Endangered Species Act requires the development of recovery plans identifying step[s] to be taken to recover the species. Recovery plans for listed species often include strategies for controlling key threats, monitoring existing populations, and increasing the number of individuals and populations through natural or artificial means. The Service is currently funding research examining the life history, captive rearing, and conservation biology of the sphinx moth.

The final rule listing the Blackburn's sphinx moth as endangered was published in the Federal Register on February 1. Questions about the listing may be directed to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Pacific Islands Office at 300 Ala Moana Blvd., Rm. 3-122, Honolulu, Hawai'i 96850 or by calling 808-541-3441.

source: USFWS News Release dated 02/01/00

contact: Barbara Maxfield, 808-541-2749 or 342-5600

A Birding Invitation From Venezuela

Venezuelan Audubon Society cordially invites you to join us for a spectacular 14-day adventure throughout eastern and southeastern Venezuela. The trip is planned for March 22 to April 4, 2000, and will be led by Rodney Fuentes, our outstanding and thoroughly knowledgeable bilingual guide. The excursion will include the submontane forest of the Tepuis National Monuments in the vast and breathtaking Gran Sabana.

We'll also explore the tropical rainforest of the Orinoco Delta along the Morichal Largo, as well as the coastal mountain range of the Paria Peninsula National Park. And we'll see the amazing Oilbirds and the fabled cave they inhabit. Many of these regions are wild, rugged, and untouched. They shelter more

than 600 species of birds, including 68 endemic species.

The Guianan Cock of the Rock, Capuchinbird, Scarlet-horned Manakin, Pompador Cotinga, Crimson Topaz Hummingbird, Musician Wren, White-plumed Antbird, Harpy Eagle, Venezuelan Flower-piercer, Scissor-tailed Hummingbird, Groove-billed and Chestnut-tipped Toucanets, Cream-colored woodpeckers, Oilbirds by the thousands, and many others will be waiting here to show off for you!

While you've no doubt heard about our recent floods, the trip areas were not affected. In those areas that were, cleanup operations are well in hand; the airport has reopened to all flights. And although there have been some unfavorable re-

ports in the international news media about our President Chávez, democracy and civil liberties remain intact.

Join us for an unforgettable journey. The weather will be sunny and warm—a perfect tropical vacation after the cold, northern winter. We promise that you will enjoy not only the fabulous birds but also the stunning beauty of these unique and marvelous places. The group will be limited to a minimum of 8 and a maximum of 15 persons.

As a nonprofit environmental organization, all proceeds go to conservation efforts in Venezuela. For further information, please contact Mary Lou Goodwin at advocacy@telcel.net.ve. Please also see our Web site at <http://www.audubonvenezuela.org>.



MARCH 2000

'ELEPAIO

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Calendar of Events

Thursdays, March 2 and April 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, March 13 and April 10 Conservation Committee monthly meeting at the HAS office at 5:45 p.m. For more information, call chairperson Dan Sailer, 455-2311.

Mondays, March 13 and April 10 HAS Board meeting, always open to all members, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the HAS office.

Saturday, March 11 Annual Black Point Shoreline Cleanup from 9 am to noon. We will meet near the corner of Papu Circle and Kaiko'o Place. Look for orange flagging on Kahala Avenue for the turn onto Papu Circle. See listing on page 14. Bring good footwear, water and sunscreen. For more information and to sign up please call Dan Sailer at 455-2311 (evenings) or email: dnsailer@aol.com.

Saturday, March 25 Field Trip to Makapu'u Point Lighthouse in Waimanalo to watch whales and look for seabirds, Tiger sharks, and sea turtles. Meet at 8 a.m. at the Hawai'i State Library at King and Punchbowl for carpooling, or meet at 8:30 a.m. at the gate that leads up to Makapu'u Point Lighthouse. Bring plenty of drinking water, snacks, sun screen, hat, good walking shoes, and binoculars. There is also the possibility of a hike down the switchback trail to the tidepools. No limit to the number of participants, but please call hike leader Marlee Breese 259-5268 to register, or if you have questions.

Sunday, April 9 Field Trip to 'Aiea Ridge Trail with Dan Sailer. One of the best trails for upper-elevation forest on O'ahu. Possible to see 'Apapane and Common 'Amakihi, Japanese Bush-warbler and White-rumped Shama. Plants may include 'Ohia, koa, 'olapa, and 'ie'ie. Eight miles round trip. Twelve years and older, please. Call Dan Sailer to register, 455-2311.

Monday, April 17 Program Meeting (subject to be announced) will be at Chaminade University's Henry Hall, Room 109. THIS WILL BE THE NEW LOCATION FOR ALL OF OUR PROGRAM MEETINGS IN 2000. A MAP WILL BE PRINTED IN NEXT MONTH'S 'ELEPAIO.

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