



Honolulu Audubon Society? A Look at the Past...

Except for corrections of typos and minor editing, the following is a verbatim account from the files of the Hawaii Audubon Society as recorded by E.H. Bryan, Jr. using notes taken at a meeting:

Honolulu Audubon Society

Initial meeting held at the Library of Hawaii, Friday, March 17, 1939
at the invitation of Charles M. Dunn.

Those attending the meeting were:

Charles M. Dunn
Kenneth J. Williams
Leopold G. Blackman
J. d'Arcy Northwood, National Audubon Society

Edwin H. Bryan, Jr.
Mrs. J.E. Fredricks, Indiana Audubon Society
Mrs. Wanita Huches, Indiana Audubon Society
Mrs. Ernest C. Ebert, Seattle Audubon Society

Mr. Dunn explained that the protection of Hawaiian birds and the need for popular information about bird life in Hawaii were reasons which prompted him to seek to organize an Audubon Society in Honolulu. He had written to the National Audubon Society headquarter, but as yet he had received no reply.

Colonel Blackman stated that, with the Legislature now in session, this was the time to get behind legislation seeking to protect Hawaii's birds.

Discussion followed, including the statement by Mr. Northwood that the Hui Manu was not taking an active part in urging this protection legislation; and by M. Williams that he had been trying for ten years to get protection for the migratory plover,

Colonel Blackman moved, and it was seconded and carried, that a committee of three be appointed to consult with Mr. George C. Munro and approach the legislature of Hawaii regarding bird protection measures.

After much discussion it was decided that Mr. Dunn, Mr. Williams, and Mr. Munro should constitute such a committee.

Various possible names for a Honolulu Audubon Society were discussed. Mr. Dunn favored a Hawaiian name, such as "Hui Makaaka" (the Society with the wide awake eye), but for the time being, "Honolulu Audubon Society" was left as the official name.

Mr. Dunn proposed that the society meet again in two weeks (March 31, 1939) at the same time and place, to listen to a report from the committee on bird legislation, to consider further details of organization.

Mr. Bryan outlined the present status of bird protection in the Territory of Hawaii: how all of the native forest birds were well protected by law, and how only certain game birds could be shot by persons having a hunting license, and to a limited extent, during the short open season. Present legislation was seeking

principally to protect here under the International Migratory Bird Law, but that there appeared to be no way locally to enforce this law.

The following possible activities of the Honolulu Audubon Society were suggested: to sponsor a Bird Week for the Territory of Hawaii; to encourage interest in birds and other natural history features was also suggested.

Mrs. Fredericks and Mrs. Hughes told about activities of the Indiana Audubon Society, of which they were members. They held a two-day meeting each year, meeting in different places throughout the State. They had a membership of 300 to 400 and numerous Junior members, school children who received information about birds by payment of a 10 cent fee. These ladies advised getting public opinion behind bird legislation in order to influence the legislators in its behalf.

Mrs. Ebert stated that the Seattle Audubon Society held one evening meeting and one field excursion each month.

Mr. Northwood spoke about the benefits derived from the field excursions of amateur naturalists in England.

The meeting adjourned until March 31.

Note: In a handwritten note on Hawaii Audubon Society letterhead dated April 8, 1992, George C. Campbell recorded the following for the file:

"The minutes of the Hawaii Audubon Society first use the name in the June 10, 1946 meeting. The change from Honolulu Audubon Society was not mentioned in those minutes. The minutes of the Honolulu Audubon Society begin on March 17, 1939 and end on May 20, 1946.

This article found in HAS archives, and typed and submitted by Ron Walker, February 2001

Apology from the Editor...

My sincere apology for a very late April 'Elepaio. Several difficulties led to April's 'Elepaio being completed and mailed several weeks late. I'm sorry for the inconveniences this is certain to have caused.

Original Articles Wanted

The Hawaii Audubon Society encourages you to submit articles about research results in fields related to Hawaiian natural science. Reports of observations of Hawaiian birds or bird life are also welcomed. One of the purposes of the 'Elepaio is to publish original, peer-reviewed scientific articles on matters of interest to its members. The 'Elepaio has been published since the founding of the Society in 1939 and currently has a worldwide readership of over 2000 which includes North America, Europe, Australasia and Africa.

Original photographs and illustrations of Hawaiian birds are also welcomed. They may be either color or black and white prints, 3.5 by 5 inches or larger. They should be clearly labeled as to subject and photographer/artist. Please include permission to publish along with

your address and telephone number.

Two copies of manuscripts should be submitted for review. All materials should be sent to Hawaii Audubon Society, 850 Richards Street, Suite 505, Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813.

April's Field Trip Postponed Until May 18

On April 23 our office received a phone call from Marine Corps Base Hawai'i telling us that our long-awaited field trip to the Base's Red-footed Booby Colony would have to be postponed until Friday, May 18th. There is still space available on that trip, so call the office if you're interested in going—528-1432.

Field Trips for 2001

All trips with an * are still in the process of being planned. Our planning has gotten off to a slow start this year, what with two of our planned trips being postponed at last minute. Details will be provided as the scheduled dates get closer. A donation of \$2 per participant on all field trips is appreciated.

Friday, May 18 Field trip to Marine Corps Base Hawai'i to visit Red-footed Booby colony. Let's hope we're not postponed again! Call HAS office before May 11 to register—528-1432.

Monday, May 28 Field trip to see the stars at Hanauma Bay. Dr. Samuel Rhoads, author of "The Sky Tonight—A Guided Tour of the Stars Over Hawai'i" will speak about the stars overhead! We will meet at 7:00 pm at the gate to Hanauma Bay. Please call Alice Roberts to register 538-3255.

Hawaii Audubon Society

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'ELEPAIO

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Ronald Walker, 235-1681 (H)

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Production Editor: Vacant

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February, March, April, May, June/July, August/September, October, November, and December/January

Environmental Organizations Call for Increased Protection of Plant Habitat on Moloka'i

Conservation Council for Hawai'i (CCH), Sierra Club, and Earthjustice Legal Defense Fund renewed their efforts to protect dozens of threatened and endangered Hawaiian plants by calling on the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to follow the law and designate critical habitat in all areas essential to the plants' recovery. On December 29, 2000, the Service proposed to designate critical habitat for 32 threatened and endangered plant species on the island of Moloka'i.

Critical habitat designation is required by the federal Endangered Species Act (ESA). The ESA prohibits federal agencies from funding, authorizing, or carrying out any action that adversely modifies or destroys critical habitat. Critical habitat is defined as those areas necessary to recover threatened and endangered species to the point that they no longer need the ESA's protection. Critical habitat may include areas not currently occupied by threatened and endangered species if these areas are necessary for their survival and recovery. The essential role of critical habitat is to help recover threatened and endangered species and get them off the list.

"There is a lot of misinformation about critical habitat in Hawai'i," said Marjorie Ziegler, Earthjustice Resource Analyst. "Critical habitat is not a federal land grab. It does not mean that the areas designated as critical habitat will become nature preserves. It is a tool for the people to use to protect the land, our natural resources, and special areas. Critical habitat designation means that federal agencies cannot fund, authorize, or carry out actions that will destroy or adversely modify the habitat that is essential to getting these plants off the endangered species list. This is especially important in Hawai'i because of the significant federal presence here, such as military training, and federally funded highway, sewage plant, and airport construction," Ziegler said.

The organizations have identified several omissions in the Service's proposed critical habitat. Historic, but currently unoccupied, habitat for listed plants still found on Moloka'i is not included in the proposed critical habitat designation. Nor

is the Service proposing critical habitat for nine plant species that used to occur on Moloka'i, are no longer found there, but still occur on one or more of the other Hawaiian islands.

"Critical habitat should include areas currently unoccupied by listed plants if these areas are necessary to recover the species and get them off the list," said Karen Blue, Executive Director of CCH. "Designating only the areas where listed plants are currently found is contrary to common sense, species recovery, and the ESA. Excluding Moloka'i from the proposed critical habitat for these plants severely limits their overall chances for recovery. In order to reduce the risk of extinction, unoccupied areas that are suitable for reintroductions and outplanting of these plants should be designated as critical habitat," Blue said.

The Service is not designating critical habitat in the Mo'omomi, Pelekunu, and Kamakou Preserves. "While we appreciate the efforts of government agencies and private landowners to protect native Hawaiian ecosystems and other special areas, critical habitat should be designated in all areas that are essential to recover these plants, including areas currently managed to promote conservation," said Jeff Mikulina, Executive Director of Sierra Club, Hawai'i Chapter. "The fact that some essential habitat areas are currently managed to benefit listed plants does not mean they do not need the vital protection that critical habitat designation confers," Mikulina said.

The organizations note that just because certain areas are currently managed to promote conservation, does not necessarily prevent federal agencies from proposing actions in the future that would threaten listed plants and their habitat. For example, in 1998, the U.S. Navy proposed a deep draft harbor and missile launches on Tern Island in French Frigate Shoals, despite the fact that the island is part of the Hawaiian Islands National Wildlife Refuge. Designating critical habitat also would prevent federal actions taking place outside managed areas — such as the proposed airport/runway expansions and the introduction of alien species — from threatening essential

habitat found within preserve boundaries.

The Service is not proposing any critical habitat for an endangered loulu palm (*Pritchardia munroi*), citing misled concerns about the possibility of increased threats to the plant from collecting and vandalism. The organizations note that designating critical habitat and drawing general lines on a map will not increase the chances that the plant will be vandalized. The fact that some loulu palms have been collected or vandalized in the past means that potential collectors/vandals already know where the plants are located. Furthermore, the only known individual of this species in the wild occurs at the base of a ravine in a remote and relatively inaccessible area on private land. Even if someone wanted to collect or vandalize this plant, it would be difficult to reach it.

The proposed critical habitat designation is the result of a lawsuit filed against the Service in 1997 by Earthjustice on behalf of CCH, Sierra Club, and the Hawaiian Botanical Society. In 1998, federal district Judge Alan C. Kay ordered the Service to publish proposed critical habitat rules for 245 threatened and endangered Hawaiian plants, after finding the Service in violation of the ESA for failing to justify its refusal to designate critical habitat for any of these plants on the grounds that it would not be "prudent." The Service has also proposed critical habitat on Ni'ihau, Kaua'i, Maui, Kaho'olawe, and Lana'i, and is expected to do the same for the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands, Hawai'i, and O'ahu. A public hearing is scheduled for March 22, 2001 on Lana'i (6-8 pm at the Lana'i Community Library on Fraser Avenue).

Source:

Earthjustice Legal Defense Fund news release dated March 21, 2001

Contact:

*Marjorie Ziegler, Earthjustice 808 599-2436
Karen Blue, CCH 808 286-2449
Jeff Mikulina, Sierra Club 808 538-6616*

Products and Publications List 2001

Hawai'i's Birds by the Hawaii Audubon Society, 5th edition, 1997. Over 150 color photographs and illustrations. \$12.95 per copy (\$9.95 plus \$3.00 postage and handling).

Voices of Hawaii's Birds by Douglas Pratt and the Hawaii Audubon Society, 1995. Two 60 minute tapes of songs of more than 100 species of birds found in Hawai'i. Includes a booklet. \$15.50 (\$12.50 plus \$3.00 postage and handling).

NEW! Hawaii's Rare & Endangered Birds Notecards with artwork by renowned Island artist Patrick Ching. Eight greeting cards with envelopes. \$9.50 per box (7.00 plus 2.50 postage and handling).

Treasures of O'ahu Map A fun and informative self-guided tour of O'ahu including hiking, birding, and ancient cultural sites. \$4.95 (\$3.95 plus \$1.00 postage and handling).

The Edge of Forever The Society's 60th Anniversary Commemorative Poster by Richard Pettit. \$20.00 (\$15.00 plus \$5.00 postage, mailing tube, and handling).

'Elepaio logo patch \$3.75 (\$3.00 plus \$.75 postage and handling).

Checklist of the Birds of Hawaii—1997 by R.L. Pyle. Lists all taxa naturally occurring in Hawai'i and introduced species that have established viable populations. Also includes all changes from the 1992 checklist. \$3.00 (\$2.00 plus \$1.00 postage and handling).

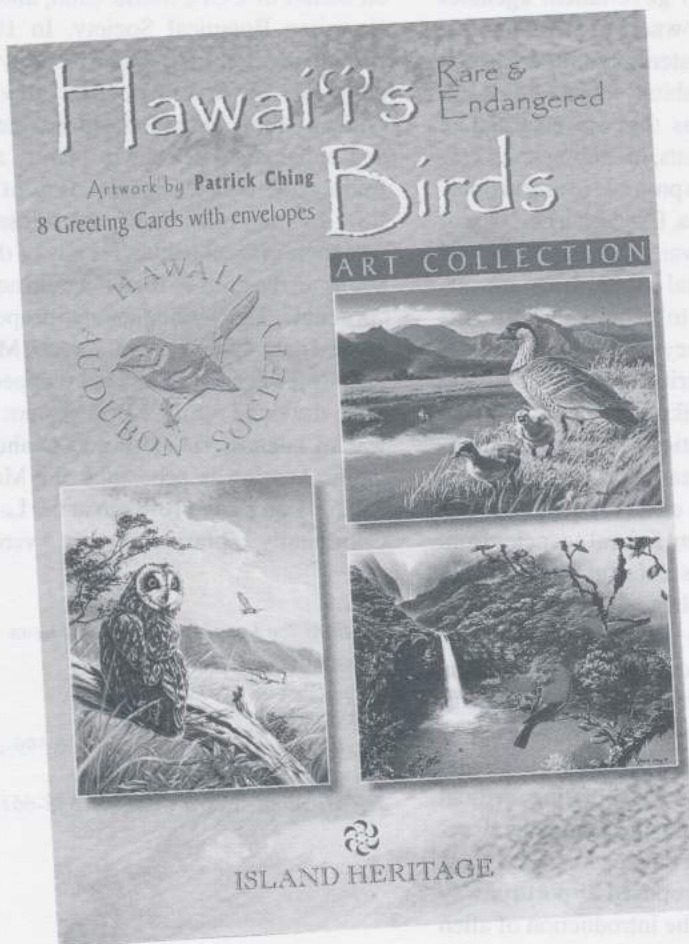
Checklist of the Birds of the Mariana Islands by James D. Reichel and Philip O. Glass, 1991. Lists all taxa naturally occurring in the Marianas and introduced species that have established viable populations. \$3.00 (\$2.00 plus \$1.00 postage and handling).

Checklist of the Birds of Micronesia by P. Pyle and J. Engbring, 1985. Lists all taxa naturally occurring in Micronesia and introduced species that have established viable populations. \$3.00 (\$2.00 plus \$1.00 postage and handling).

Field Card of the Birds of Hawaii by R. L. Pyle and R. David, 1996. A pocket-sized field card listing bird taxa found in Hawai'i. \$.50 each. Call for postage price.

Also available are **Hawaii Audubon Society logo T-shirts** in white, spruce, and gray, in sizes from small to extra large. \$15.00 (\$12.00 plus \$3.00 postage and handling).

Send orders, with check payable to the Hawaii Audubon Society, to Hawaii Audubon Society, 850 Richards Street, Suite 505, Honolulu, HI 96813-4709. Products may also be purchased at the office to avoid mailing charges.



Something New!

Beautiful sets of notecards entitled "Hawai'i's Rare & Endangered Birds" are now available from Hawaii Audubon Society. This set of 8 greeting cards and envelopes features the artwork of Patrick Ching, renowned artist and author from Hawai'i whose work is recognized for its meticulous detail.

Birds on the notecards include the Pueo, Nene, 'I'iwi, 'Io, 'Akohekohe, 'Apapane, Po'ouli, and A'eo. Each set is \$7.00 plus \$2.50 mailing. Call the office to order — 528-1432.

The Board of Directors of the Hawaii Audubon Society (HAS) requests your responses to the following questions to assist the Board in planning related to fiscal and affiliation issues. Please fold this page (see fold marks on other side) and add a 34 cent stamp before mailing back to us. Please mail to us before July 1. Thank you!

Membership survey

1. Do you know that of the \$25.00-\$35.00 dues which you pay annually to the National Audubon Society (NAS) for joint membership in NAS and HAS, HAS receives only \$5.50?

YES _____

NO _____

2. Do you know that it costs HAS approximately \$9.00 per year to publish and mail the 'Elepaio to all joint and local members?

YES _____

NO _____

3. Do you know that you can be a local HAS member without joining NAS?

YES _____

NO _____

4. Do you know that you can become a HAS member for life for only \$500?

YES _____

NO _____

5. Do you favor raising the dues for regular local HAS membership from \$10.00 to \$20.00?

YES _____

NO _____

6. Do you favor increasing the number of 'Elepaio issues per year from 9 to 12 issues if the dues are increased?

YES _____

NO _____

7. Would you like to receive/read the 'Elepaio on the HAS website instead of receiving a paper copy in the mail?

YES _____

NO _____

COMMENTS:

Hawaii Audubon Society
850 Richards Street, Ste. 505
Honolulu, Hawaii'i 96813

Membership survey

Hawaii Audubon Society
850 Richards Street, Ste. 505
Honolulu, Hawaii'i 96813

1. Do you know that it costs HAA approximately \$2.00 per year to publish and mail the "Epsilon" to all joint and local members?
YES _____ NO _____
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YES _____ NO _____
3. Do you know that you can become a HAA member for life for only \$250?
YES _____ NO _____
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YES _____ NO _____
5. Do you know that the number of "Epsilon" issues per year from 9 to 13 issues if the dues are increased?
YES _____ NO _____
6. Would you like to be notified by "Epsilon" on the HAA website instead of receiving a paper copy in the mail?
YES _____ NO _____

COMMENTS

HAS Awards for Student Research

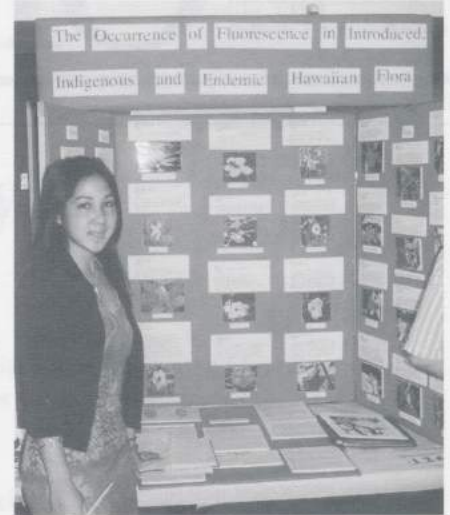
By Wendy Johnson, Education Committee Chair

The Hawaii Audubon Society presented two awards for outstanding research relating to Hawai'i's natural history at the 44th Hawai'i State Science and Engineering Fair. In early April representatives of the Hawaii Audubon Society's Education Committee joined other agency judges in studying the exhibits and interviewing students on the subject of their original research. Karly Peterson from Leilehua High School received the HAS Senior Division Research award for her project entitled "The Occurrence of Fluorescence in Introduced, Indigenous and Endemic Hawaiian Flora." Working on a variety of native and alien flowering plant species, Karly studied the plants under a black light and recorded the fluorescent character of the blossoms for each specimen. Because fluorescence is considered to be an important attractant factor for many insect pollinators, plant species which have this characteristic may be more successful competitors in a variety of ecosystems than species which do not fluoresce. Karly's data shows that introduced plants are significantly more likely than endemic or indigenous plants to have flowers with fluorescent properties. This project highlights one of the many ways in which alien species may display a competitive advantage for survival over native species when introduced into Hawai'i's unique environment.

The HAS award for outstanding Junior Division Research relating to Hawai'i's natural history went to a project

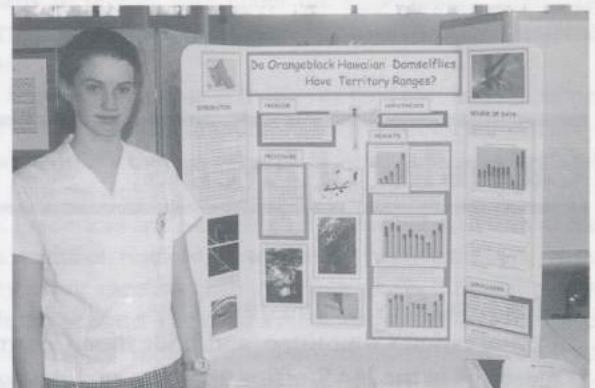
submitted by Alice E. Reynolds, an eighth grader at St. Andrew's Priory. Alice spent many hours in the field making observations and gathering data which answers the question "Do Orangeblack Damselflies have Territory Ranges?" Damselflies were captured with an insect net at several field sites and then carefully marked on one wing with a black felt tip pen before release. The insects were subsequently recaptured within a 50 meter radius from their original locations, allowing Alice to establish a likely territory size for this native species. Her observations also led to the conclusion that optimal habitat for damselflies includes almost any stream which does not support introduced fish predators.

Special mention is warranted for an excellent Senior Research project submitted by Whitney Nekoba, a ninth grader at Waikeka High School. Whitney traveled to Alaska last summer to research her third year Science and Engineering Fair project on the Pacific Golden Plover entitled "Habitat Selection for Nest Cups on the *Pluvialis fulva* at Nome, Alaska." Whitney was the recipient of an HAS Science and Engineering Fair Award in 1999 and received a small grant from HAS in 2000. Her original and research reflects a compelling commitment to natural history in Hawai'i.



Karly Peterson received the HAS award for outstanding Senior Research relating to Hawai'i's natural history.

Below: The HAS award for outstanding research in the Junior Division went to this project submitted by Alice Reynolds.



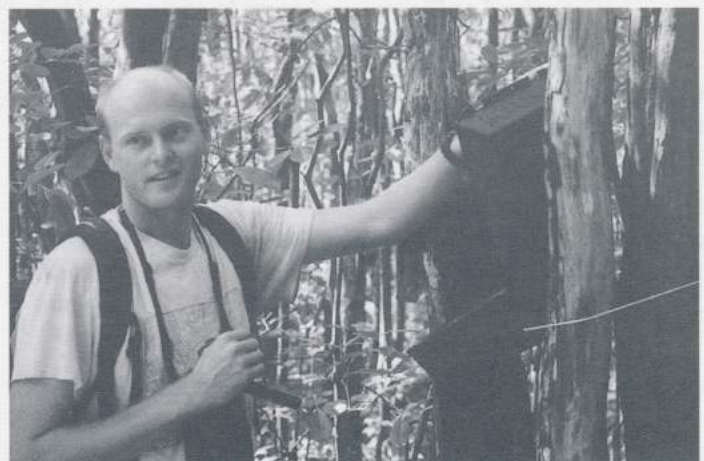
Field Trip Report: 'Elepaio in Pia Valley

by Alice Roberts, Field Trip Coordinator

The 'Elepaio in our book, Hawai'i's Birds, is not a Pia Valley bird, nor is the call on our tape; but these 2 examples got us focused for our search. Led by Dr. Eric VanderWerf, who has spent years doing 'Elepaio research, the Pia Valley field trip on March 25th was wonderful. Our 7 participants spent about 4 hours in the Valley. Barbara Mayer of Waimanalo reported seeing a young 'Elepaio and the first adult she'd ever seen in her life!

Others saw a male in the nest area. Dr. VanderWerf said this bird's behavior was territorial before mating. Other birds heard included the White-rumped Shama Thrush and Red-billed Leothrix.

Dr. VanderWerf shows us a rat poison bait box - Photo by Barbara Mayer





MAY 2001

'ELEPAIO

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Calendar of Events

Mondays, May 14 and June 11

Conservation Committee and Education Committee monthly meetings at the HAS office at 5:45 p.m. For more information, call chairperson Dan Sailer, 735-5278 or Education chair Wendy Johnson at 261-5957.

Mondays, May 14 and June 11

HAS Board meeting always open to all members, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the HAS office.

Friday, May 18

Field Trip to Marine Corps Base Hawai'i. See page 32.

May 28

Field Trip Hanauma Bay to see the stars. See page 32.

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