

Bob Pyle - Elite Birder

by Ron Walker



The Board of Directors of the Hawaii Audubon Society recently named Bob Pyle an Honorary Life Member of the Society. As the most recent recipient of this honor, he joins a select group of individuals who have made notable and enduring contributions to the Society's operations and goals over the course of its sixty-two year history. Previously recognized Honorary Life Members include: Margaret Titcomb, Michael Ord, Charles Dunn, E.H. Bryan, Unoyo Kojima, Blanche A. Pedley, Dave Woodside, Grenville Hatch, and Thomas R.L. McGuire

Bob, what are you doing?

In the beginning, as a child, he became fascinated by birds coming to feeders at his grandparents' homes in Washington, D.C. and near Baltimore. Today he is considered the world's foremost Pacific Oceania birder in terms of total number of birds recorded, primarily, in Polynesia, Micronesia and Melanesia. In Hawai'i, Bob Pyle is the proverbial "legend in his own time" and a font of knowledge about resident and visitor birds, especially the rare migrants and accidental arrivals. The Hawaii Audubon Society gave him a Lifetime Achievement Award in 1995 and an honorary Life Membership in 2001.

Dr. Robert Pyle's story is a fascinating interweaving of a career in meteorology with an avocation of birding. His academic credentials include a major in economics at Swarthmore College (1942) and degrees in meteorology from New York University (1943), UCLA (1951) and the University of Washington (1956). His personal ornithological milestones started with his first real birding trip on April 7th, 1941 when he made his first list of birds seen! At about the same time he had to decide whether to pursue ornithology or meteorology as a vocation. Ever practical, he decided on weather forecasting as a way to "earn his supper" and birding as fun and something he "could turn on or off at will."

His career as a meteorologist included time spent in Washington D.C., Japan, and O'ahu and with the U.S. Army Air Corps. He became a virtual professional ornithologist when put on temporary leave to assist in the Pacific Ocean Seabird Project of the Smithsonian Institution from 1966 to 1969. It was during this time that Bob came to know the birds of the Pacific Basin intimately through sea cruises and island hopping.

Although he participated in his first Christmas Count in Los Angeles in 1945, and another in Japan the following year, his first Hawaii Audubon Christmas Count was in 1953. In that year he got serious about birding and joined the Hawaii Audubon Society and the Hawaii Trail and Mountain Club. Association with the latter group was fortuitous; he met his wife-to-be, Leilani, on a ridge in the Mokule'ia Forest Reserve and thus began a joint love of nature and things Hawaiian. Over the years, Bob served the Society as President first in 1955 and later in the 1970s and 1980s and frequently on the Board of Directors.

Bob has birded in all 50 States and many foreign countries including Germany, Switzerland, Japan, the Galapagos, Tahiti, the Marquesas, Christmas Island, Eas-

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ANNOUNCING A

BUMPER STICKER

CONTEST!

The Hawaii Audubon Society is planning to create a bumper sticker to raise public awareness about a conservation issue important to Hawai'i's native wildlife and habitats. We need to compose a brief, compelling slogan highlighting such an issue. i.e., alien species control, forest habitat protection, avian disease control, fishing size limits, ground-nesting seabird/waterbird habitat protection, shark fishing ban, wetland protection, native plant propagation, predator control, sea turtle protection, etc., etc.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO HELP?

The winning slogan will be one with a relevant message and catchy wording. Please submit ideas (multiple entries are welcome) to HAS by mail or by e-mail no later than Jan. 1, 2002. Include your name, address and phone number. The Board of Directors will select a winning slogan in January.

WIN A PRIZE!

The winner will receive a gift basket of HAS products including our notecards, Hawai'i's Birds book, Voices of Hawai'i's Birds tape set, patch, Treasures of O'ahu map, and Nene poster.

Hawaii Audubon Society

850 Richards Street, Suite 505
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813-4709
Telephone (808) 528-1432
FAX (808) 537-5294
Email: hiaudsoc@pixi.com

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Bird of the Month – White Tern (*Gygis alba rothschildi*) or Manu-O-Ku

The indigenous White Tern has become a common sight in certain parts of O'ahu. It has a shallowly forked tail, and is about 10 to 12" long with a 28" wingspan. It has a dark eye-ring, dark eyes, and a black bill with a blue base. Its legs and feet are dark grey. Chicks are white or tan. The White Tern utters high-pitched grunts and squabbles, especially while in flight.

White terns can be mistaken for white rock doves in flight, except for their tendency to hover, their forked tail, and their more graceful fluttering.

This seabird eats fish that it gets by diving into the ocean. During breeding season (February to September), adults can be seen returning from the sea with small fish in their bills with which to feed their young. No actual nest is built - the single egg is laid on a ledge or tree branch. The chick (cute!) is then raised on the branch.

The White Tern can be seen flying above the grounds of 'Iolani Palace, the governor's mansion, Thomas Square, Fort DeRussy, and at Kapi'olani Park. Take your binoculars and look for the babies!



White Tern with egg.

Photo by J.W. Thompson

[information taken from *The Birds of Hawaii and the Tropical Pacific*, by Pratt, Bruner, and Berrett (1987), and *Hawaii's Birds*, by Hawaii Audubon Society (1996).]

BOB PYLE - ELITE BIRDER

ter Island, Fiji, the Marshall Islands, also the Cook Islands, Micronesia, the Marianas, Melanesia, Australia, New Zealand, Samoa, Trinidad, Brazil, Chile, and Antarctica. He modestly estimates that his life list numbers about 2,000 ("plus or minus 500") species seen, although he is most proud of the approximately 215 birds he has recorded in his notebooks for Hawai'i. He figures he has seen all of the penguin species of Antarctica and South America but regrets he missed those in South Africa. He rates the short-tailed albatross as the rarest migratory bird he has seen; calls the 'I'iwi his favorite Hawaiian bird because of its color, song and habits; and believes that the O'u on Kaua'i and Po'ouli on Maui are the rarest birds on his island list.

His contributions to the Hawaii Audubon Society go back to 1954 when he produced the first "Green" bird field check card. He dedicated it to Grenville Hatch, longtime leader of Audubon, and the card has seen many updates since. During this time, he served as compiler of the annual Christmas Bird Count and was responsible for including each of Hawai'i's annual accounts in the national "Audubon Field Notes" (later called "American Birds"). His most useful claim to fame was the ongoing development of the "Checklist of the Birds of Hawai'i" which was first published in the "Elepaio" as a preliminary version in 1977. It was updated several times and has been a current source of information about Hawai'i's birds for birders and ornithologists.

In February, 1984, Bob retired as manager of the Weather Satellite Field Station at the Honolulu Airport and went to work, part-time, at the Bernice P. Bishop Museum in the Vertebrate Zoology Division which includes bird collections. The Hawaii Audubon Society provided financial support for this work. He developed and continues to assist in the updating of a data base within "The Occurrence and Status of Birds in Hawai'i" which now has over 70,000 records. Concurrent with this monumental project, he established the "Hawai'i Rare Bird Photo File" which now includes 1300 pictures contributed by field researchers and casual observers.

In 1998, Dr. Pyle formally retired from the Bishop Museum but continues to volunteer his time in support of the Museum's bird collections and ornithological records. He is still active with the Hawaii Audubon Society and serves as an informal advisor, providing us with an endless supply of information and opinion. He rates Frank Richardson as his most memorable field companion and Roger Tory Peterson as his most famous acquaintance. He has always been interested in conservation but does not consider himself an activist, preferring looking at birds to sitting in hearing and board rooms.

He offers this bit of advice: "Although alien birds may have negative impacts in Hawai'i, bird watching by casual observers, even in urban areas, can stimulate interest in native species and generate support for conservation."

HAS Annual Awards Dinner 2001



Cyanotech President - Gerald Cysewski

Hawaii Audubon Society members, friends and distinguished guests gathered September 20th at the Hawai'i Imin Conference Center for the Society's eighth Annual Awards Dinner. Eight educators, volunteers, public figures and corporate leaders were recognized for their contributions to environmental education and the protection of Hawai'i's wildlife and habitats. **Patrick Ching**, renowned local wildlife artist and author, presented an entertaining and informative slide show on the wildlife of the Northwest Hawaiian islands. Mr. Ching also brought books and prints which were offered for sale at the dinner, with half of the proceeds donated to the Society. **Dr. Craig Thomas** was the lucky winner of the door prize: a beautifully framed Gicle'e reproduction of Patrick Ching's painting of the Pueo, entitled "Lord of the Evening Sky." **Bob Pyle** received special recognition on being named an Honorary Life Member of the Hawaii Audubon Society this year (see cover article).

The following annual awards were presented with great appreciation from the Hawaii Audubon Society Board of Directors:

- **President's Award: Janet Kawelo, Deputy Director of the Department of Land and Natural Resources**, was recognized for her consistent determination and fine efforts to ensure that Hawai'i's public trust resources are protected now and in the future. Ms. Kawelo has demonstrated a sincere commitment to cooperation with non-government conservation organizations working for the protection of Hawai'i's natural resources.

- **Charles Dunn Lifetime Achievement Award: Bill Mull**, etymologist and photographer, was recognized for his long term, exemplary contributions to, and support of, the Hawaii Audubon Society and its various activities and goals. Mr. Mull has many years of past service and notable accomplishments as a member of the Society's Board of Directors.
- **Conservation Award: Bill Garnett** was recognized for his important research and fieldwork supporting the protection of Hawai'i's native plant species. The flourishing nursery at Pahole natural Area Reserve is a credit to his propagation skills and dedication.
- **Volunteer Service Award: Mary Gaber** was recognized for her role as Field Activities coordinator for the Society for many years. As a former member of the HAS Board of directors, Mary's reliability, energy and enthusiasm have been much appreciated by fellow Board members and by field trip participants from across the state and around the world.
- **Environmental Journalism Award: Susan Scott**, columnist for The Honolulu Star-Bulletin, was recognized for her notable achievements in raising public awareness about environmental issues in Hawai'i. Her "Ocean Watch" column provides its readers with facts and concepts which contribute to an increased understanding about the unique and fragile nature of Hawai'i's marine ecosystems.
- **Corporate Conservation Award: Cyanotech Corporation's President Gerald Cysewski** was recognized for his company's commitment to providing vital nesting and breeding habitat for the endangered Hawaiian Stilt. Cyanotech has devoted extensive resources to the creation of waterbird habitat at its Keahole facility on the island of Hawai'i.
- **Corporate Education Award: Hawaiian Airlines** was recognized for raising public awareness regarding the unique native birds of Hawai'i. Using the names and images of rare and endangered birds on their airplanes, calendar, and promotional materials introduces important conservation issues to a wide sector of the general public in Hawai'i, on the mainland and in the Pacific.
- **Corporate Environmental Education Sponsor Award: Tesoro Corporation** was recognized for its ongoing contributions in support of the Seabird Project, a joint project of the Hawaii Audubon Society, the National Audubon Society and the state Department of Land and Natural Resources. This year an important educational display was produced and installed at Ka'ena Point, the only nesting site for Laysan Albatross on the island of O'ahu.

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT 2001-2002

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 from December 14, 2000 to January 5, 2001. If you want to do something good for birds and meet other "bird people," call one of the coordinators to sign up. There is a \$5.00 charge per person to support compiling and publication of the nationwide results. Note: Special information is needed by the coordinator of the popular "Kulani Prison" count, so call the Big Island Volcano coordinator by December 1 to ensure your spot.

<u>Island</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Coordinator</u>	<u>phone #/email</u>
Kaua'i			
*Waimea	12/29	Michelle Ho'okano Marsha Ericson Koke'e Natural History Museum	808-335-9975
Kapa'a	TBA-	Barbara Stuart	808-826-9233
O'ahu			
Honolulu	TBA	Arlene Buchholz	988-9806 or snovakz@juno.com
Waipi'o	12/15	David Bremer	623-7613 or bremerd001@hawaii.rr.com
Maui			
Pu'u O Kaka'e	12/29	Lance Tanino	808-280-4195 or lancemanu@hotmail.com
'Iao Valley (West Maui)	12/14	same as above	same as above
Moloka'i			
Kalaupapa	12/17	Arleone Dibben-Young	808 553-5992 or nene@aloha.net
Kualapu'u	12/18	same as above	same as above
Hawai'i Island			
Kulani Prison (Volcano)	TBA	Larry Katahira Nick Shima Tanya Rubenstein	808-985-6088 808-967-7396 x239 808-985-6197
North Kona	12/15	Reggie David	808-329-9141 or rdavid@kona.net

¶*There will be a bird identification workshop held on 12/27 at the Waimea Neighborhood Center from 6:00-7:30pm.

Field Trips for 2001

All trips with an * are still in the process of being planned. Details will be provided as the scheduled dates get closer. A donation of \$2 per participant on all field trips is appreciated.

November 17 (Saturday): 'Ewa Plains Sinkholes to look for fossils of extinct Hawaiian birds with Dr. Alan Ziegler, who will also share information about the geology of the area. We will meet at Kalaeloa Harbor (formerly known as Barber's Point Deep Draft Harbor) on Malakole Road at 9am. Bring hat, sunscreen, water, and, if you like, a picnic lunch to eat at Kalaeloa Beach Park. This is one of our most popular trips, and Dr. Ziegler's knowledge of this topic is encyclopedic. A non-strenuous trip suitable for those who don't care to hike. Call the HAS office to register, 528-1432.

Saturday, January 12, 2002: Whale watching on a Zodiac! We meet at Wai'anae Boat Harbor at 8:40am and will board a large Zodiac boat to whale watch for 3 hours. This is a tremendously fun trip (editor took the trip 2 years ago and had a wonderful time!). We will see lots of whales and most likely spinner dolphins as well. Pelagic birds are another possibility. Wear sunscreen, bring a jacket, binoculars and camera, and lunch to eat at the harbor afterwards if you'd like. Cost will be approximately \$40 per person. Limited to 15 participants. Call the HAS office to sign up - you must be signed up by December 29th - 528-1432.

*December - Christmas Bird Count (to be scheduled)

Why Allowing Cats Outdoors is Hazardous to Cats, Wildlife, and Humans

Outdoor cats, even otherwise well-cared-for cats, face an extraordinary array of dangers. According to The Humane Society of the United States free-roaming cats typically live less than five years, whereas cats kept exclusively indoors often live to 17 or more years of age.

General Hazards to Free-Roaming Cats

Cars. Cars kill millions of cats each year in the United States and maim countless others.

Poisoning. Cats can find chemicals that are poisonous to them on treated lawns, in rat or mice bait, and on driveways and roads from car antifreeze.

Other animals. Outdoor cats can be injured or killed by free-roaming dogs, wildlife, and other cats.

Human Abuse. Animal care and control agencies report cases of cats being burned, stabbed, or otherwise hurt. Free-roaming cats may also be stolen.

Traps. Cats caught in traps set for other animals may suffer for days before release or starvation and dehydration.

Overpopulation. Unaltered outdoor cats are the major source of the cat overpopulation problem, causing millions of unwanted cats to be euthanized at animal shelters each year. Kittens can be safely spayed or neutered as early as eight weeks of age, and there are significant physical and behavioral benefits from this procedure.

Disease Risks to Free-Roaming Cats, Wildlife, and Humans

Free-roaming cats are at risk from many diseases. Some diseases affecting cats can be transmitted to humans.

Rabies is caused by a virus that can infect warm-blooded animals, including cats, people, wildlife, and farm animals. Rabies is lethal if not detected and treated immediately.

Feline Leukemia Virus (FeLV) compromises a cat's immune system and is the leading cause of death due to infectious disease in cats. There is no cure. FeLV has also been diagnosed in a mountain lion.

Feline Panleukopenia (FPV or feline distemper) is extremely contagious. FPV disarms the cat's immune system. It is fatal without intensive medical treatment. FPV has been diagnosed in the endangered Florida panther.

Feline Infectious Peritonitis (FIP) is a debilitating and fatal viral disease. No cure exists. FIP has been diagnosed in jaguars, mountain lions, and lynxes.

Feline Immunodeficiency Virus (FIV) destroys a cat's immune system and is often fatal. It is found most often in unneutered, free-roaming males. No vaccine or cure is available. FIV has been found in bobcats and the endangered Florida panther.

Feline Viral Rhinotracheitis and Feline Calicivirus are extremely contagious, with death occurring most often in very young or older cats.

Cat-scratch disease, toxoplasmosis, lyme disease, roundworms, hookworms, and plague are other cat diseases or parasites that are transmissible to humans and can cause serious illness.

The Threat Outdoor Cats Pose to Birds and Other Wildlife

How many birds and other wild animals do domestic cats kill each year in the United States? No one knows, although reasonable extrapolations from scientific data can be made. Nationwide, cats are estimated to kill hundreds of millions of birds and more than a billion small mammals such as rabbits, chipmunks, squirrels, and shrews each year. Cats kill not only plentiful animals, but also rare and endangered species for which the loss of even one animal is significant.

There are more than 66 million pet cats in the United States. A recent poll shows that approximately 35% are kept exclusively indoors, leaving more than 4 million owned cats free to kill birds and other wildlife all or part of the time. In addition, millions of stray and feral cats roam our cities, suburbs, farmlands, and natural areas. Strays may be lost or abandoned by their owners. Feral cats are the descendants of strays and shun all human contact. These cats are victims of human irresponsibility. No one knows how many homeless cats are in the United States, but estimates range from 60 to 100 million. These cats can lead short, miserable lives.

Loss and fragmentation of wildlife habitat, resulting from development, road construction, intensive agriculture, and other land uses, are by far the leading causes of declining bird populations. Domestic cats are numerous, efficient, non-native predators that contribute to the decline. Here's how:

Cats are Not a Natural Part of Our Ecosystems. The domestic cat is a descendant of the wild cats of Africa and Asia. Cats were introduced in North America when Europeans arrived on this continent. Some people presume that cats killing certain animals, such as field mice, is beneficial, but native small mammals are important in maintaining biologically diverse ecosystems.

Cats Compete With Native Predators. Owned cats have huge advantages over native predators. And they are not strictly territorial, keeping members of their own species out of a given area. As a result, cats can exist at high densities and may out-compete native predators for food. In addition, unaltered cats are prolific breeders. A female

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Fossils Reveal Birdlife of Hawai'i's Past

(from Volcano Watch, A weekly feature provided by scientists at the Hawaiian Volcano Observatory - this piece from January 20, 2000)

Strolling the desolate Mo'omomi Beach of Moloka'i's north shore some 30 years ago, a woman came upon what appeared to be the remains of a turkey dinner projecting from an eroded sea cliff.

The neatly laid-out skeleton was all there except for the head. The bones of the drumsticks looked familiar enough, but surely this bird must have been a disappointment to white meat lovers, for the breast bone showed no sign of a keel and was, instead, as smooth as the skin of a softball. Furthermore, the wing bones were so tiny that they should have belonged to a much smaller bird.

A phone call to Bishop Museum summoned the paleontologists, who immediately confirmed the obvious. Whatever this bird once was, it had walked the Earth but could never have flown. Detailed study revealed that the bird was an extinct, flightless waterfowl, a giant goose-like duck.

Discovery of the giant duck sparked the search for more Hawaiian bird fossils. Until then, fossil hunters had assumed that Hawai'i was not worth their efforts. Lava flows would, of course, have incinerated the remains of any dead animal, the thinking went, and nowhere in the islands were there the kinds of geological features (lake beds, river bars, etc.) that would have preserved the bones of ancient creatures. But now here was an environment that did - sand dunes.

And sure enough, the Mo'omomi dunes and some dune systems on other islands held the fragile bones of a long-gone bird world. Besides more goose bones, fragments of other species came to light: a crow, a long-legged owl very different from the pueo, and many kinds of honeycreepers, together with hundreds and hundreds of seabird skeletons. Amazingly, owl pellets packed with the bones of extinct honeycreepers documented the meals of these vanished night-hunters.

The discoveries didn't stop there. Archeologists found bird bones in limestone sinkholes at Barber's Point. Most importantly, ancient bird bones turned up in lava tubes on Maui and the Big Island.

So far, 33 new and extinct species of birds have come to light, and many other species wait to be described. Altogether, these extinct birds include at least 8 kinds of waterfowl, 2 ibises, 12 rails, an eagle, a hawk, 4 owls, and many species of songbirds. Many species of surviving native birds also turned up.

When did all these birds live? Carbon-dating has since disclosed that most of the bones are only a few thousand years old. A few birds appeared at archeological sites, evidence that Polynesians and long-extinct birds once shared the islands.

What happened to this lost world of birds? Like the original giant duck, many were flightless, including all the extinct waterfowl, ibises, and rails. Perhaps some of these birds met an end as food for their new human predators. But many could have perished with the changes brought about by human settlement. Forests were cleared for upland agriculture, while streams and ponds were transformed for kalo cultivation. Rats may also have wiped out ground-nesting species. We will never know, but these kinds of changes resemble the forces of extinction that now threaten the remaining native Hawaiian birds.

New fossil discoveries will undoubtedly be made and appear in the news. Readers can see the fossil giant duck on exhibit at Bishop Museum in Honolulu.

Editor's note: Want to see real bird fossils? Join the November 17th Field Trip to 'Ewa Plains Sinkholes - see page 69 for details!

Allowing Cats Outdoors...continued

cat can have up to three litters per year, with four to six kittens per litter.

Studies of Cat Predation. Extensive studies of the feeding habits of domestic, free-roaming cats have been conducted over the last 50 years. These studies show that approximately 60% to 70% of the wildlife cats kill are small mammals, 20% to 30% are birds, and up to 10% are amphibians, reptiles, and insects.

Scientists have found that the number and types of animals killed by cats vary greatly. Some free-roaming domestic cats kill more than 100 animals per year. Rural cats take more prey than suburban or urban cats. Birds that

nest or feed on the ground are the most susceptible to cat predation, as are nestlings and fledglings of many other bird species.

For more information contact:
American Bird Conservancy, Cats Indoors!
1834 Jefferson Place NW
Washington, D.C. 20036
202-452-1535

email: HYPERLINKmailto:abc@abc.birds.org
abc@abc.birds.org
Web site: www.abcbirds.org

Additional Protection for the Rota Bridled White-Eye Proposed

The Rota bridled white-eye - a small forest bird with a distinctive ring of white feathers around its eyes - is proposed as an endangered species today by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Found in the Mariana archipelago, the Rota bridled white-eye exists only on the island of Rota in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

"We join with the people of Rota today in trying to protect one of their unique and beautiful native birds," said Anne Badgley, Pacific Regional Director for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. "Just like the totot, the Rota bridled white-eye is an important part of Rota's natural heritage. This bird is found nowhere else in the world, and we hope to work closely with local residents to ensure it does not disappear forever."

Population estimates for the Rota bridled white-eye have declined dramatically since the early 1980s, when they numbered almost 11,000 birds. Today, fewer than 1,200 birds probably remain on Rota, an 89 percent decline. Once numerous and found at low elevations on the island, current Rota bridled white-eye populations are concentrated in four areas of the island in old-growth native limestone forests more than 200 meters (650 feet) in elevation.

The Rota bridled white-eye is a small (approximately 10 centimeters or 4 inches) yellowish bird with a yellow-orange bill, legs, and feet. Average weight of the bird is about 9 grams (one-third of an ounce). The species feeds primarily on insects and often is found in small flocks of five to seven birds. Its closest relatives are the Guam bridled white-eye, which is believed to be extinct, and the Saipan bridled white-eye, which is relatively abundant on Saipan, Tinian, and Aguiguan.

Exact causes for the sharp decline in Rota bridled white-eye populations are unknown. Possible factors contributing toward the decline include degradation or loss of habitat due to development, agricultural activities, and naturally occurring events such as typhoons; avian

disease; predation by rats and black drongos (an introduced bird species from Taiwan); and use of pesticides.

The Rota bridled white-eye was listed as threatened and endangered by the CNMI government in 1991. If this proposal becomes a final rule, Federal protection would be extended to the species and a recovery plan outlining activities to be undertaken to recover the species would be developed and implemented.

"The goal of our recovery plans is to recover the species so they become eligible for delisting," said Badgley.

The Service will designate critical habitat for the species in the future. The public will have the opportunity to fully participate in that process.

The proposed listing of the species was delayed when the Service announced in November 2000 that it would be unable to list any new species in Fiscal Year 2001 because virtually its entire listing budget was being used to comply with court orders and settlement agreements, which primarily involved the designation of critical habitat for species already listed under the Act. Last month, the Service announced an agreement with a variety of plaintiffs that would free up funds to list the Rota bridled white-eye and other species.

The proposed rulemaking was published in the Federal Register on October 3. A public comment period is open until December 3. Copies of the proposed rule are available through the Federal Register Internet website at <http://www.access.gpo.gov>. Copies will also be available by calling the Fish and Wildlife Service office in Honolulu at 808 541 3441. Comments should be sent to Paul Henson, Field Supervisor, Pacific Islands Office, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 300 Ala Moana Blvd., Room 3-122, Box 50088, Honolulu, Hawaii 96850.

Source: USFWS News Release dated October 3, 2001
Contact: Barbara Maxfield - 808 541 2749 or 808 349 1409

December Program Meeting – Maui Forest Bird Recovery Efforts: Current Activities

Jim Groombridge, PhD, the Maui Forest Bird Project Coordinator, will give a slide presentation on the recovery efforts to save Maui's critically endangered forest birds, such as the Po'ouli and the Maui Parrotbill. The conservation of Maui's endangered avifauna includes habitat protection as well as monitoring bird populations. Other more hands-on conservation measures include pulling eggs for captive rearing and moving birds to establish new populations or to assist with pair formation.

Dr. Groombridge has extensive experience in the recovery of critically endangered birds of Mauritius. He recently gave us a presentation on his work in the Mauritius Islands.

Program meetings are held at Henry Hall Room 109 on the Chaminade University campus (3140 Wai'ala'e Avenue, Kaimuki) from 7:30 to 9:30pm. Refreshments are served, and HAS publications, T-shirts, notecards, and maps are available for purchase.

Holiday Gifts Available From Hawaii Audubon Society

Come volunteer for at least an hour on Sunday, November 18 and get 10% off any purchase! Plus you won't have to pay for postage and handling. Products are also available during HAS office hours, Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday from 9:30 am to 5 pm.

Hawaii Audubon Society logo T-shirts. In white, light green, and grey. Small, Medium, Large, and Extra Large \$15.00 each (\$12.00 plus \$3.00 postage and handling).

Hawaii'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 Note cards 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.

Help Us With Our Annual Mailing and Get a 10% Product Discount!

Sunday, November 18th,
10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the HAS office

Can you spare a couple of hours to stuff and seal envelopes so that you and your fellow members can receive 2002 HAS ballots, local membership renewals, and the President's annual report/appeal?? Come for the whole time or just a few hours.

HAS products will be also be available for Holiday purchase—Tee-shirts, books, tapes, notecards, maps, and patches all make great gifts for the birders (or potential birders) on your list! All shoppers who spend at least one hour helping us stuff envelopes will be offered a 10% discount!

Food and soft drinks will also be served to helpers.

Please call Linda Shapin at the HAS office - 528-1432 - and let her know when you can come by on that day.

Membership Matters

by Wendy Johnson, President

Due to increasing costs, the Board of Directors of the Hawaii Audubon Society voted in September to increase annual membership rates from \$10 to \$15 per calendar year, beginning January 2002. This increase will allow the Society to continue to publish and mail nine 'Elepaio issues annually to current members. In the case of "joint" National Audubon Society (NAS) / Hawaii Audubon Society (HAS) members who remit dues to NAS, an additional \$15 subscription fee, paid directly to HAS, will be required in order to receive the 'Elepaio by mail. This action is necessitated by changes in NAS policy regarding Chapter dues share and Chapter certification. The new NAS Growth Strategy indicates that because dues share payments to HAS, and other certified Chapters in the U.S., will diminish significantly over the next five years, there will no longer be a specific requirement that certified Chapters provide newsletters, activities and programs to members.

The Hawaii Audubon Society has published and distributed the 'Elepaio and conducted field activities and educational programs for more than sixty years, long before it became a certified Chapter of NAS in 1978, and will continue to do so. The increased membership dues for local HAS members and new subscription fee for joint NAS/HAS members will make this possible. The Society also plans to make current issues of the 'Elepaio available on our website in 2002. Each of our members is a valued component of the Hawaii Audubon Society and will individually be informed of the new policy in late November when the annual ballots and renewal, or subscription, forms are received by mail.



NOVEMBER 2001

'ELEPAIO

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Calendar of Events

Mondays, November 12 and December 3

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

Mondays, November 12 and December 3

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

Saturday, November 17:

Field trip to 'Ewa Plains Sinkholes to look for fossils of extinct Hawaiian birds with Dr. Alan Ziegler. See page 69.

Sunday, November 18:

HAS Annual Appeal mailout party at HAS office. See page 73.

Monday, December 10:

HAS Annual Membership Meeting and Program. See page 63.

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