



'ELEPAIO

Journal of the
Hawaii Audubon Society

For the Protection of
Hawaii's Native Wildlife

VOLUME 62, NUMBER 2

MARCH 2002

STATE OF THE SOCIETY FOR 2001

by Wendy Johnson, President

MISSION STATEMENT: To foster community values that result in the protection and restoration of native ecosystems and conservation of natural resources through education, science 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 1,500 individuals and operates in accordance with a constitution and by-laws under the supervision of a Board of Directors elected by the members. The 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. The Hawaii Audubon Society operates a website at <http://hawaii-audubon.50megs.com>.

Education (see also the Aquatics Program report in this issue): A set of original educational materials and activities entitled introduction to Hawai'i's Environment is being developed by the Hawaii Audubon Society in cooperation with the Hawai'i State Department of Education and with a grant from the Hawaiian Electric Company. The materials will be distributed to public and private high schools throughout the state and will serve to enrich the general science curriculum with relevant, Hawai'i-based, concepts and exercises. A variety of informational posters, publications and curriculum materials promoting the protection of marine resources were created and distributed by the Society's Pacific Fisheries Coalition program. The educational products and presentations target students and the general public as well as fishermen, lawmakers and resource managers. At the 44th Hawai'i State Science and Engineering Fair, the Society awarded two prizes for outstanding student research relating to Hawai'i's natural history. Karly Peterson, a student at Leilehua High School, received an award for her project entitled "The Occurrence of Fluorescence in Introduced, Indigenous and Endemic Hawaiian Flora." The Society's Outstanding Research Award for the Junior Division went to Alice E. Reynolds, an eighth grader at St. Andrew's Priory, for her work which answers the question, "Do Orangeblack Damselflies have Territory Ranges?" The office of the Hawaii Audubon Society continues to serve as an educational resource and networking point for local, national and international contacts.

Conservation and Advocacy (see also the Aquatics Program report in this issue): The Society's legislative analyst tracked

and provided testimony on behalf of Hawai'i's native wildlife and habitat, as did several Society volunteers. Hawaii Audubon Society continues to be an active participant in the O'ahu Invasive Species Committee and similar activities on Maui and Hawai'i islands. This voluntary partnership of government agencies and non-profit groups and individuals is committed to eliminating the threat which alien invasive species pose to Hawai'i's native ecosystems. The Pacific Fisheries Coalition project supported the establishment of the Hawaiian Island Coral Reef Ecosystem Reserve and worked to ensure that federal rules prohibiting shark finning will be effectively implemented and enforced in Hawai'i. The Hawaii Audubon Society initiated meetings with state and city government representatives and the US Army Corps of Engineers to facilitate permitting and action on wildlife habitat and pond restoration along with educational facilities at Kawai Nui Marsh in windward O'ahu. Society representatives continued to testify at Department of Land and Natural Resources Board hearings on this matter and to work with the Kawai Nui Heritage Foundation and Ahahui Malama I ka Lokahi to promote the need for conservation and cultural education programs based at Kawai Nui Marsh. 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, including the following: support for information gathering process relating to species ecology and the need for greater habitat protection from damaging effects of ungulates in relation to Maui/Kaho'olawe critical habitat designations; concerns regarding oversight and controls on the importation of pest species for University of Hawai'i research; support for controlled aerial broadcast of rodenticide to remove predators from native bird habitats; support for the Federal government purchase of Kahuku Ranch and the subsequent inclusion of those lands into Volcano National Park; support for the National Park Service Omnibus Bill giving authorization for NPS to work outside park boundaries to control exotics; support of fencing to exclude pigs from Kipahoe Natural Area Reserve and other native species habitats around the state.

Programs and Membership: Five bi-monthly membership meetings were scheduled by the Society in 2001. These meetings are open at no cost to all Society members and the general public, and include informational presentations on a wide variety of topics. Programs offered in conjunction with membership

continued on page 100

meetings included the following: Ornithologist Dr. Jim Groombridge documented wild bird management and captive rearing techniques utilized in restoring wild populations of the endangered Mauritius Kestrel; Hawai'i Division of Forestry and Wildlife veterinarian Greg Massey and Linda Elliott of International Bird Rescue and Research presented a slide-show entitled "Oiled Wildlife Response in the Hawaiian Archipelago;" Former Society Board member Sharon Reilly presented highlights from the Pacific Regional Partnership meeting of BirdLife International held in New Zealand, with slides from her visits to New Zealand bird sanctuaries; Theresa Menard, a University of Hawai'i graduate student in zoology, described her recent findings on the seasonal activity patterns of the endangered Hawaiian hoary bat; John Culliney and Bruce Koebele gave a talk on endangered Hawaiian plants and their propagation; Coordinator of the Maui Forest Bird Recovery Project, Dr. Jim Groombridge, presented slides documenting habitat protection, captive rearing, population monitoring and bird moving activities involved with recovery efforts for Maui's critically endangered forest birds.

Field Excursions and Service Activities: Field excursions in 2001 included several new destinations and many sites which have proved to be annual favorites for members and visitors. Groups guided by Society volunteers visited the following sites: Makapu'u Point Lighthouse to watch whales and seabirds; Sea Life Park Bird Rehabilitation Program and facilities to view convalescent seabirds; Pia Valley hike with Dr. Eric VanderWerf to view endangered 'Elepaio; Marine Base Hawai'i to visit the

Red-footed Booby colony at the end of nesting season; Hanauma Bay for a night time star gazing experience with Dr. Sam Rhoads; Paiko Lagoon Wildlife Refuge for reef and mud explorations and viewing opportunities for migratory shorebirds; Moanalua Valley hike with Lorin Gill along the Kamananui Valley trail to view historic sites and natural beauty; Rowland's Pond, a 5-acre artificial wetland at the Chevron Refinery near Kalaeloa that is home to endangered native waterbird species; hiking along the Maunawili Ditch Trail to view birds, plants and spectacular scenery; the 'Ewa Plains limestone sinkholes to view fossil remains of extinct Hawaiian birds with Dr. Alan Zeigler; the Forest Bird 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. One service trip was also conducted in 2001. A June cleanup of the Black Point nesting area for the Wedge-tailed shearwaters involved volunteers in picking up trash and abandoned fishing tackle along the rocky coastline. Nearby residents were encouraged to control disturbance of the site and predation by pets, rats and mongoose. 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.

Volunteer Activities: Hawaii Audubon Society volunteers continued monitoring seabird restoration efforts at Ka'ena Point in conjunction with efforts by the State of Hawai'i Department

continued on next page

Hawaii Audubon Society

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

Board of Directors

President: Wendy Johnson
261-5957 (H)
First Vice President: Elizabeth Kumabe
Second Vice President: Dan Sailer
455-2311 (H)
Treasurer: vacant
Recording Secretary: Tonnie L. C. Casey,
934-5326 (VM) (HI)

Directors

Chad Castle 262-5412 (H)
John Harrison 956-4566 (O)
Arlene Buchholz 988-9806 (H)
Alice Roberts 538-3255 (H)

Committees

Conservation: Dan Sailer (as above)
Education: Wendy Johnson (as above)
Field Activities: Alice Roberts (as above)
Linda Shapin (as below)
Grants & Scholarships:
Phil Bruner, 293-3820 (W)
Membership: Susan Miller, 261-7580 (H)
Programs: Sharon Reilly 739-2438(H)
Publications: R. David, 329-9141 (HI)
Publicity: vacant

Island Representatives

Hawai'i: Reginald David (as above)
Maui: Renate Gassmann-Duvall
1-808-573-0094 (W)

Administrative Assistant

Linda Shapin
735-3074

'ELEPAIO

ISSN 0013-6069

Managing Editor: Linda Shapin

Scientific Editor:

Ronald Walker, 235-1681 (H)

Distribution: Susan Miller

The 'Elepaio is printed on recycled paper and published nine times per year: February, March, April, May, June/July, August/September, October, November, and December/January

HAS Dues & 'Elepaio Subscription Rates for 2002

All amounts are in U.S. dollars.

Regular Member Delivery to U.S. Via bulk mail	15.00
(Not forwardable)	
Via first class mail	21.00
(Hawaii residents: there is no significant time difference between bulk and first class mail to addresses within the state of Hawai'i.)	
Junior Member (18 and under)	10.00
Supporting Member	100.00
Delivery to non-U.S. addresses:	
Mexico (airmail only)	21.00
Canada (airmail only)	22.00
All other countries: surface mail no longer available (see airmail below)	
All other countries (airmail)	28.00

of Land and Natural Resources and the National Audubon Society. Rare bird sightings by members and volunteers were registered with the database at Bishop Museum. Mapping and census of parrot species on O'ahu and Maui was conducted with the help of Society members. Volunteers also participated in clean-ups and habitat restoration at several shore-line and wetland sites, including Kawai Nui Marsh. Members assisted with Miconia removal activities on several islands. Members also represented the Society at conferences and public hearings, and on several teams, task forces and workshops, including the Permit Process Task Force, the 'Alala Recovery Team, the Wetland Restoration and Protection Partnership, James Campbell Achievement Awards, Hawaii Public Radio presentations, the Forest Bird Recovery Team, the Natural Area Reserve Commission, and the Marine Fish Conservation Network Advisory Board.

Other Society Activities: The January 2001 Annual Chapter Leaders' Retreat featured lively discussions on conservation issues and the Hawaii Audubon Society's role in promoting the protection of wildlife and habitats. Plans were made for upcoming activities which support and enhance the Society's goals and mission.

At its March meeting, Board of the Hawaii Audubon Society unanimously approved the appointment of Bob Pyle as an Honorary Life Member of the Society. As the most recent recipient of this honor, Bob Pyle joins a select group of individuals who have made "Bob Pyle - Elite Birder" appeared in the November 2001 issue of the 'Elepaio.

In September, the Society's annual awards dinner was held at the Imin Conference Center adjacent to the University of Hawai'i's East-West Center gardens. Eight educators, volunteers, public figures and corporate leaders were honored 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 slide show depicting various forms of wildlife on the Northwest Hawaiian Islands. Among those honored at the dinner were Janet Kawelo (President's Award) who, in her role as Deputy Director of the Department of Land and Natural Resources, demonstrated that government agencies and non-government resource conservation organizations can work together for the protection of Hawai'i's natural resources. Bill Mull was not able to be present, but was recognized as the recipient of the Charles Dunn Lifetime Achievement Award in recognition of his many years of service to the Society and his dedication to conservation education in Hawai'i.

Grants and Scholarships: The Society's George C. Munro

Environmental Law Award included a small grant which was presented to Jamie Tanabe, 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 zoology student Eldridge Naboa. Scholarship recipient Eldridge Naboa also received funds from the Society's small grants program in 2001. He is studying the availability of suitable nesting cavities as a limiting factor for the recovery of the endangered Hawai'i Akepa (*Loxops coccineus*). Two other researchers working on projects relating to Hawai'i's natural history also received small grants from the Hawaii Audubon Society: Oscar W. Johnson is using radiotelemetry in his continuing investigations on the migratory behavior of the Pacific Golden Plover (*Pluvialis fulva*) and Liba Pejchar, a doctoral candidate at UC Santa Cruz, is conducting research on the endangered 'Akiapola'au (*Hemignathus munroi*).

Publications and Products: The Society published nine issues of the journal 'Elepaio in 2001. This publication was mailed to all members and subscribers and 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 Society include the following: Hawai'i's Birds, a definitive, full color paperback now in its fifth edition; a companion cassette set "Voices of Hawai'i's Birds;" a checklist of the Birds of Hawai'i; and "Hidden Treasures of O'ahu" a map featuring locations and detailed information on sites for exploring nature and ancient Hawaiian culture. The Society also offers several T-shirt designs, an art-quality limited edition print featuring two endangered Nene by artist Richard Petit entitled "The Edge of Forever," a set of notecards featuring the endangered birds of Hawai'i by artist Patrick Ching, and an embroidered patch featuring the 'Elepaio.

Field Trips for 2002

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.

March 16 (Saturday) A trip to Hanauma Bay underwater park and marine life conservation district. A lecture on the history, cultural significance, and future of this lovely place will be given by a Hanauma Bay educational staff member. You may snorkel after the lecture. Recommended: sunscreen, water, lunch, snorkeling gear (which you can also rent at the bay). All well-behaved ages welcome. Field trip starts at 9am. Call the HAS office to register - 528-1432.

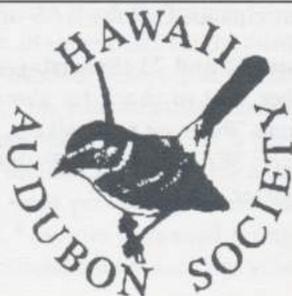
April 20 and 21 (Saturday and Sunday) Paiko Lagoon to see aquatic creatures such as eels, crabs, snails, mantis shrimp, squid, puffer fish, ghost crabs, and whatever else becomes visible. This is also a chance to bid our shorebirds goodbye, as they will be leaving for Alaska any day. Wear old tennis shoes or reefwalkers, and bring sunscreen, water, and lunch. We will meet at Paiko Lagoon at 7:30am. Call Alice to register, 538-3255

continued on page 102

**Give Hawai'i's
native birds a
future.**

**Remember the Hawaii
Audubon Society in your
will.**

850 Richards St., Ste. 505
Honolulu, HI 96813
808-528-1432



Bird of the Month: Laysan Albatross (*Phoebastria immutabilis*) or Moli

The Moli belongs to the order of seabirds called Procellariiformes, (tubenoses), which have tubular nostrils opening externally onto a hooked or plated bill. These birds spend most of their lives at sea, coming ashore in the Northwest Hawaiian Islands, Midway, and some of the main Hawaiian islands only to breed. Just one egg is laid per year, usually in November or December. If the egg is lost or destroyed, no more are laid that season.

The Laysan Albatross is about 32" long, with an impressive wingspan of about 6 1/2 feet. Its body is white, with dark brown wings and tail. Juveniles have darker underwing patterns. The wings are long and slender. The eyes are surrounded by a dark smudge, and the long bill is pinkish. The legs and feet are also a light pink. Vocalizations include high whinnies, whistles, whines and moans. Albatrosses can live to an age of about 50 years.

The Laysan Albatross usually mates for life. Pairs do not begin to actually nest until they are 7 to 10 years old, and return to the same nest site each year. Courtship involves an elaborate dance of bill-clapping, head-bobbing, and a particularly amusing part – pointing bills to the sky and emitting a loud, mutual "mooooooo." While forming a pair-bond, they have a year-long "engagement" in which they dance, establish a territory, build mock nests, and generally spend time together.

Both parents share incubation and feeding duties. The female returns to the sea within days after laying the egg. The male's first shift on the egg lasts almost three weeks, and he does not eat or drink during this time. When the female returns, he goes to sea for several weeks before they switch off again. Incubation lasts for sixty-three to sixty-eight days. Towards the end of incubation, the parents shorten their shifts to about one week.

Chicks are guarded and fed constantly by their parents for the first two or three weeks of their lives. After about a month, the parents visit and feed the chick only every few days.



Laysan Albatrosses at Ka'ena Point, O'ahu 2-9-02

Photo by Ian Lim

Nesting albatrosses and their young face hazards such as predation by cats, dogs, rats, and mongooses. Off-road vehicles can also crush or bury chicks and nests. One of the biggest threats to chicks is the ingestion of plastic debris. Adults can regurgitate debris and remain unharmed, but in regurgitating food to their young, often pass the debris along. Chicks cannot regurgitate, and many die from plastic ingestion.

The single most serious threat to albatrosses at sea is posed by swordfish longline fisheries, which set their hooks at a shallow depth. Seabirds in general have learned that fishing boats are sources of food, both the "chum" thrown into the sea to attract fish and the hooks

that the longliners set from the backs of the boats. Some 60,000 seabirds drown each year when they seize the bait and are hooked and then dragged to their deaths. The Laysan Albatross has suffered a 30% decline in nesting pairs from 1992 to 2001. Try and find out if the fish you purchase or order from a restaurant was caught by a seabird-friendly longline method, and avoid it if it was not.

The Laysan Albatross can be seen during breeding season (November through April) on Kaua'i at Kilauea Point National Wildlife Refuge and on O'ahu at Ka'ena Point. Remember to be respectful of the birds if you go look for them. Move slowly and quietly, don't get too close, and don't wave your arms at them.

[information taken from Seabirds, edited by Delphine Haley (1984), Hawai'i's Birds, by Hawaii Audubon Society (1996), The Sibley Guide to Birds, by David Allen Sibley (2000), and the websites of National Audubon Society (<http://www.audubon.org> and Greenpeace <http://www.greenpeace.org>]

¹More information is available in the 'Elepaio, Volume 57, Number 6. That issue is available for purchase at the HAS office.

Field Trips continued from page 101

***April 27 (Saturday) Ka'ena Point** to check on Albatross chicks! Our February visit was a huge success. We saw about 18 Laysan Albatross, some of which are, by April, sure to be feeding large down-covered chicks! Call the HAS office to register, 528-1432.

May 13 (Monday) Starwatch at Hanauma Bay with Dr. Samuel Rhoads, author of "The Sky Tonight—A Guided Tour of the Stars Over Hawai'i." We will meet at 7:00pm at the gate to Hanauma Bay. Please call Alice Roberts to register 538-3255.

May 19 (Sunday) Honolulu Zoo Although the Native Hawaiian Forest Bird Captive Propagation Unit is temporarily closed, Linda Santos will give us a tour of the South American aviary

and the walk-through aviary (your editor was there several weeks ago - a fantastic close-up look at some very beautiful and unusual birds!) at the back of the zoo. This trip is limited to 15 participants. Call the HAS office to register, 528-1432.

June 22 and 23 (Saturday and Sunday) Paiko Lagoon Another visit to check for shorebirds and sea critters. Wear old tennis shoes or reefwalkers, and bring sunscreen, water, and lunch. We will meet at Paiko Lagoon at 7:30am. Call Alice to register, 538-3255

Artificial Nesting Cavities Are An Essential Management Tool for the Endangered Hawai'i 'Akepa

Eldridge E. Naboa
University of Hawai'i at Manoa
Department of Zoology

Eldridge is an awardee in Hawaii Audubon Society's Research Grants program. Here is a progress report on his project.

The Hawai'i 'Akepa (*Loxops coccineus coccineus*) is a Hawaiian Honeycreeper that nests obligately in naturally occurring cavities. These cavities occur mainly in large 'ohi'a (*Metrosideros polymorpha*) and koa (*Acacia koa*) trees (Freed 2001). There is evidence indicating that nest-sites are limiting 'Akepa populations, and that cavity-trees are falling at a faster rate than they are being replaced (Hart 2000, Freed 2001). Thus, 'Akepa populations will become even more nest-site limited, with reduced number of breeding birds.

Artificial nesting cavities have the potential to be a successfully management tool. Previous study of the 'Akepa at Hakalau Forest National Wildlife Refuge on the windward slope of Mauna Kea on the island of Hawai'i, has shown that artificial cavities have been used successfully (Freed 2001). This initial study used relatively few cavities with elaborate camouflage to resemble natural snags.

This last spring (January to May 2001), I had to opportunity to expand the artificial cavity project. I increased the density of artificial cavities, placed them over a wider area, made two different sizes of entry holes, and sanded black ABS sewer pipe to produce a rough gray appearance rather than glue bark to the pipe. This latter change enabled the cavities to be made in less time with less expense, and was based on the fact that birds continued to use cavities in which the bark had fallen off. Rubber cap-alls, a standard plumbing product, provided a waterproof top to the cavity. The rubber cap-alls were cured in the sun to prevent off gassing.

The study took place at the Pua Akala Tract of the Refuge, where 'Akepa exist at highest densities. Approximately 200 artificial cavities were constructed, of which 144 were placed in a 700 X 700 meter study area. I used a grid system with transect poles at intervals of 50 meters and placed an artificial cavity on a tree within 20 meters of the pole. If there was a natural cavity in the area, additional cavities were placed. Artificial cavities were placed on a vertical surface of a relatively large tree (that could safely support a ladder). The cavities were placed at least 12 feet high and within 5 feet of twigs on which the bird could perch.

During the year 2001, 4 of the cavities used during previous years were re-used by the same pairs, in some cases for the third year in a row. In one case, an un-banded male replaced the banded male from the previous year. This indicates that females may determine the location of the nest-site. In addition, a pair that had nested in natural cavities the last few years used an artificial cavity that had not been used previously since the beginning of the study in 1992. Thus, 5 cavities were used during 2001, representing an additional artificial cavity used per year

over the last three years.

In addition to replacing fallen trees with natural cavities, the artificial cavities may increase breeding success. Before year 2001, 10 out of 11 nesting attempts in artificial cavities were successful (0.91). This compares favorably with the long-term success rate in natural cavities of 0.75. Year 2001 was a tough year for the birds, with 3 of 5 nests in artificial cavities being successful (0.60). However, this was still higher than the estimated success rate of 0.50 for natural cavities.

Based on when the original cavities were first used, I expect some of the new ones to be used in the 2002 breeding season. I look forward to inspecting the new cavities before the breeding season to detect signs of nest material or Honeycreeper smell that would indicate that they have at least been explored.

I would like to acknowledge the Bank of Hawai'i Educational Enrichment Scholarship Program, the Haumana Biomedical Research Program, the Hawaii Audubon Society, Dr. Leonard Freed, Dr. Patrick Hart and Dr. Rebecca Cann for their combined support for this project. I would also like to thank Wendy Kuntz, Jonah Kaye, Springer Fyberg, the United States Fish and Wildlife Service staff on the island of Hawai'i, the Institute for Cultural Ecology students and staff and also my parents, Artemio and Maria Naboa for all their help and encouragement. This has truly been an ULTIMATE undergraduate experience!

Literature Cited

- Freed, L.A. 2001. Significance of Old-Growth Forests to the Hawai'i 'Akepa. *Studies in Avian Biology* (22): 173-184.
- Hart, P.J. 2000. Correlates and Causes of Rarity in the Hawai'i 'Akepa. Doctoral Dissertation. University of Hawai'i at Manoa. Department of Zoology.

Reminder: Due Date for Applications for Research Grants in Hawaiian or Pacific Natural History is April 1, 2002

The Hawaii Audubon Society offers grants for research in Hawaiian or Pacific natural history. Awards are oriented toward small-scale projects and generally do not exceed \$500.00. Grants are reviewed semiannually. Deadlines are April 1 for summer/fall grants and October 1 for winter/spring grants. Application guidelines are available by calling (528-1432) faxing (537-5294) or emailing (hiaudsoc@pixi.com) the HAS office.

2001 Aquatics Program Report

by Linda Paul, Executive Director for Aquatics

Pacific Fisheries Coalition. The Hawaii Audubon Society received grants from the Pew Charitable Trusts, the David & Lucile Packard Foundation, the Rockefeller Brothers Fund and the Homeland Foundation to continue the third year of the Pacific Fisheries Coalition project, a coalition between conservationists and fishermen that promotes the conservation and responsible use of living marine resources in Hawai'i and the Central and Western Pacific. Additional funds were received from the Hawai'i Community Foundation for the Fisheries 2001 Symposium and the Hawai'i Aquatics Conference 2001. The biannual Hawai'i Aquatics Conferences were initiated by Hawaii Audubon Society in 1999 to provide a regular forum for aquatics resource managers, practitioners, conservationists, educators, policy makers, and the general public to share information and ideas on better ways to manage integrated aquatic systems. The Aquatics Conference 2001 was televised statewide by 'Olelo Community Network.

Shark bycatch and finning. By creating public awareness of the environmental impacts of this practice through many avenues, the Pacific Fisheries Coalition succeeded in facilitating the passage of Hawai'i legislation which stopped this wasteful practice in 2000. In 2001, shark finning supporters attempted to pass another state law that would have made enforcement impossible by redefining "whole" and allowing sharks to be cut up at sea and unwanted parts discarded. Coalition volunteers convinced the legislature to wait for the federal rules to be implemented and then make state law consistent. Coalition members submitted comments on the proposed federal rules recommending that: 1) the word "carcass" be defined to close any loophole, 2) shark fins be added to the list of substances that may not be transshipped through Hawai'i via the free trade zone, 3) the rules include specific data reporting requirements, both by

shark fishermen and by dockside enforcement personnel, and 4) the rules apply to state waters. Linda Paul, a member of the U.S. delegation, participated in the first preparatory conference of the Western and Central Pacific Tuna Stocks Convention, where she actively worked to ensure transparency in the new rules of procedure being negotiated for the Commission and implementation of management measures that will curb bycatch and shark finning in the Pacific.

Habitat protection policies. The establishment of the Northwestern Hawaiian Island Coral Reef Ecosystem Reserve by Executive Order (EO) in January 2001 was the culmination of three years of work by the Coalition. The EO also created a Coral Reef Ecosystem Reserve Advisory Board. The Importance of Refuges to Reef Fish Replenishment in Hawai'i, co-authored by Dr. Charles Birkeland and Dr. Alan Friedlander, illustrated in 4-color by Elyn Tong, and published by the Society, was presented to the U.S. Coral Reef Task Force in Washington, D.C. in December 2001. The proposed rule establishing a Fisheries Management Area (FMA) in the Northwest Hawaiian Islands, which the Coalition petitioned the State to implement, was approved to go forward for public hearings in September 2001. The Coalition is actively campaigning for the establishment of a network of marine reserves in the FMA and is gathering support for a Coral Reef Protection Act for Hawai'i that will create the marine equivalent of the Natural Area Reserve System (NARS). The Coalition continues to monitor meetings of the Western Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Council and urges sound management and habitat protection practices. Linda Paul, who represents the Hawaii Audubon Society on the Marine Fish Conservation Network Advisory Board, heads the Networks Council Reform drafting committee.

Invasive Aquatic Species. In 2000 the Pacific Fisheries Coalition was successful in promoting State Division of Aquatic Resources (DAR) statutory authority over the introduction of alien aquatic species via ballast water and hull encrustation's, enabling DAR to qualify for federal funds to clean up infestations. The problem of intentional introductions for aquarium, aquaculture and research purposes remains. At the request of a member of the State House of Representatives, the Coalition drafted language for a bill that was introduced in 2001 that would have given DAR veto power over all intentional introductions if DAR biologists thought they might pose a threat to native aquatic ecosystems. The bill passed through two committees before the Department of Agriculture killed it, along with a subsequent joint House/Senate Resolution requesting that the two agencies form a task force to come up with a plan. Seabird Bycatch. The federal court shutdown of the Hawaiian-based swordfish fishery has helped this problem enormously, however the Coalition continues to push for the reduction of the incidental catch of seabirds by longline gear. The Coalition urged the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to adopt proven avoidance measures through letters, testimony and comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for

Mahalo to More HAS Annual Appeal Donors

The following HAS members have sent us Annual Appeal donations between December 31, 2001 and January 15, 2002. We extend our sincerest thanks to them for showing their support of the work we do! Many thanks to:

Paul and Sarah Baldwin, Paul C. Banko, Nancy M. Bannick, Dr. Carl Berg, Kathleen Berg, Steeman Chris, Mary J. Dobson, Barbara E. Dunn, Pat Engelhard, Michael J. Fisher, Leila Gibson, Alfred S. Gima, MD, Ann Guild, John H. Haas, Jean Hardie, Margit L. Holsworth, David Kemble, Alan J. Knue, Abigail S. Laros, Peter Lindhout, Byron E. Lippert, Martha and Jack Lockwood, Karen Loomis, Craig Martin, Laura and Mike Miller, Tom and Ros Miller, Hob Osterlund, Linda M.B. Paul, Chuck Pucevich, Susan Schenck, Kurt R. Schwarz, Talbert K. Takahama, George A. Theros, Emilia Thomas, Lynn R. Thomas, Lee and Melinda Varian, Ursula Wasko, Lorrin W. Wong, and Michael and Patricia Young.

continued on next page

Rare Akiapola'au Move into Restored Habitat

The call of an endangered forestbird chick on the Big Island is always a welcome sound, but biologists are especially excited to hear a juvenile 'akiapola'au ñ one of the Big Island's rarest birds ñ chirping within restored habitat at Hakalau National Forest Wildlife Refuge. The chick was heard calling from an area planted with koa trees in 1995 and is the first known sighting of an endangered forestbird within the rehabilitated habitat on the refuge.

"Fifteen years ago, this area was an open pasture," said refuge manager Dick Wass. "Since 1987, more than 230,000 trees have been planted on the refuge, including about 208,000 koa trees. Our goal was to restore habitat for Hawai'i's forestbirds, so this shows we're on the right track."

One of the most unusual of the state's forestbirds, the 'Akiapola'au is sometimes called Hawai'i's "woodpecker" because it uses its stout bill to chisel bark in search of insects. The curved and flexible upper bill and tongue are used to pry food from beneath the bark. adult pairs raise only one chick at a time. The chick is cared for by its parents for at least a year – the longest period for any songbird ñ perhaps because it takes that long to learn to use its "Swiss Army-knife" bill.

The 'Akiapola'au is found only on the Big Island, where approximately 1,000 birds exist. Of those, about 300 are found within Hakalau Forest National Wildlife Refuge. Population numbers appear to have dropped dramatically in the Ka'u region since the 1970s, according to biologists, who consider the species the third rarest forestbird on the Big Island after the 'O'u and 'Alala.

Hakalau Forest National Wildlife Refuge was created in 1985 to protect endangered forestbirds and their rainforest habitat. About 32,700 acres are included within the refuge, of which about 4,000 acres were open grassland when purchased.

"The grassland area was forested 150-200 years ago, before cattle and ranching were established on the Big Island," explained Wass. "Our philosophy has always been that the best

way to conserve Hawai'i's forestbirds is to restore their habitat. With the help of thousands of volunteers, we've reforested abandoned pastures and controlled weeds such as gorse, banana poka, blackberry, and holly. Hundreds of wild cattle and pigs have also been removed. The 'Akiapola'au sighting, plus dozens of observations of other native birds in the reforested area, prove the value of our efforts."

Wass gives volunteers most of the credit for replanting efforts within the refuge. Led by refuge staff, volunteer groups from schools, Scouts, conservation organizations, and service clubs have been gathering seeds and planting native trees and shrubs for the past 15 years.

"We've also had tremendous support from the State's Division of Forestry and Wildlife, whose Waimea tree nursery supplied many of our koa seedlings, the U.S. Forest Service, the Big Island Resource Conservation and Development Office, AMERICAN FORESTS, and the Natural Resources Defense Council," said Wass. "The technical assistance, funding, and support of these partners has energized our reforestation program."

Hakalau Forest National Wildlife Refuge is one of more than 530 National Wildlife Refuges within the United States, including 19 scattered across the Pacific. Located on the windward slope of Mauna Kea, the refuge is the largest in Hawai'i. Hakalau Forest (including its Kona Forest Unit) and O'ahu Forest National Wildlife Refuges are the only refuges specifically established to protect Hawai'i's 21 endangered forestbird species.

Source: US Fish and Wildlife Service news release dated 01/09/02

Contact: Dick Wass, 808-933-6915

Barbara Maxfield, 808-541-2749

Aquatics Program...continued from previous page

Pelagic Fisheries of the Western Pacific Region. The Hawaii Audubon Society supported the Second International Conference on the Conservation of Albatrosses in 2000 and the meeting of the Pacific Seabird Group on Kaua'i in 2001.

Public outreach. The Pacific Fisheries Coalition web site continues to post information about specific project issues, with linkages to many sources of fisheries-related information (www.westpacfisheries.net). The Coalition's Outreach Coordinator continues to arrange presentations at fishing club meetings, operates a booth at the Hawai'i Fishermen's Festival, distributes Coalition posters, brochures, and "Pono Fishermen" stickers, and visits schools and give presentations on "pono" fishing practices. The Outreach Coordinator also created a teachers activity guide and four sets of curriculum materials.

Additional Publications. The briefing book on Alien Aquatic Species was revised in 2001. A Report on Shark Fishing in the Pacific was also revised in 2001 and includes a summary of the National Plan of Action for Sharks, trade information and

scientific papers presented at the Shark Conference 2000, which were previously available on the Coalition website. A report on the Socio-Cultural Impacts of Shark Finning was drafted for distribution and a comprehensive briefing book for Hawai'i legislators was assembled, which includes the Pacific Fisheries Coalition's white papers on Destructive Fishing Practices - Gillnets and Marine Protected Areas, a brochure, Taking Care of Hawai'i's Near Shore Resources, papers on invasive aquatic species, Vessel Monitoring System information, some DAR handouts and the Coalition's new marine refuges booklet, The Importance of Refuges to Reef Fish Replenishment in Hawai'i. Large posters featuring fish graphics depicting Size at First Reproduction, and Large Females Produce More Eggs were created by the Pacific Fisheries Coalition and distributed broadly.



MARCH 2002

'ELEPAIO

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

HAWAII AUDUBON SOCIETY • 850 RICHARDS STREET, SUITE 505 • HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813-4709

Nonprofit Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Honolulu, Hawaii
Permit Number 1156

Calendar of Events

Mondays March 11 and May 13
HAS Board meeting open to all
members, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the
HAS office.

Saturday, March 16 Field trip to
Hanauma Bay. See page 102.

Monday, April 15 Program Meeting
(topic to be announced in next
'Elepaio)

Saturday and Sunday, April 20 and
21 Field Trip to Paiko Lagoon. See
page 102.

Sunday, April 27 Field Trip to
Ka'ena Point. See page 102.

Table of Contents

State of the Society for 2001	pg. 99
Bird of the Month	101
Field Trips for 2002	pg. 102
Artificial Nesting Cavities are an Essential Management Tool for the Endangered Hawai'i Akepa	pg. 103
Reminder: Due Date for Applications for Research Grants	pg. 103
2001 Aquatics Program Report	pg. 104
Mahalo To More HAS Annual Appeal Donors	pg. 104
Rare Akiapola'au Move into Restored Habitat	pg. 105