



Audubon's 106th Annual Christmas Bird Count to Take Place December 14, 2005 – January 5, 2006

From December 14, 2005 to January 5, 2006, the National Audubon Society's longest-running wintertime tradition, the annual Christmas Bird Count (CBC), will take place throughout the Americas. During the 106th CBC, approximately 55,000 volunteers of all skill levels are expected to take part in this census of birds.

"Having fun while birding can identify important results that help shape the direction of bird conservation," says Geoff LeBaron, National Audubon Society's Christmas Bird Count director. "Audubon and our partners at the Patuxent Wildlife Research Center and the Boreal Species Initiative are analyzing data from the overall CBC database, and using the results they find to develop Audubon's 'State of the Birds' report. These important results will be reflected in 2006 in our 'State of the Birds' waterbirds report, and inform the Audubon WatchList, which is used to prioritize Audubon's bird conservation activities."

Prior to the turn of the century, people engaged in a holiday tradition known as the Christmas "Side Hunt": They would choose sides and go afield with their guns; whoever brought in the biggest pile of feathered (and furred) quarry won. Conservation was in its beginning stages around the turn of the 20th century, and many observers and scientists were becoming concerned about declining bird populations. Beginning on

Christmas Day 1900, ornithologist Frank Chapman, an early officer in the then budding Audubon Society, proposed a new holiday tradition—a "Christmas Bird Census"—that would count birds in the holidays rather than hunt them. So began the Christmas Bird Count. Thanks to the inspiration of Frank M. Chapman and the enthusiasm of twenty-seven dedicated birders, twenty-five Christmas Bird Counts were held that day. The locations ranged from Toronto, Ontario to Pacific Grove, California with most counts in or near the population centers of northeastern North America. Those original 27 Christmas Bird Counters tallied a total of 90 species on all the counts combined.

"Over five human generations, the CBC has evolved into a powerful and important tool, one probably inconceivable to any of the 27 participants on the first Christmas Bird Count," said LeBaron. "With continually growing environmental pressures, the value of the current data might even exceed the imagination of today's participants."

Today, in Audubon's centennial year (making the CBC five years older than Audubon!), participants from all 50 states, every Canadian province, parts of Central and South America, Bermuda, the West Indies, and Pacific Islands, will count and record every individual bird and bird species seen in a specified area.

continued on page 59

Humpback Whale Sanctuary Ocean Count 2006

8:00 a.m. - 12:15 p.m. - January 28, 2006,
February 25, 2006, March 25, 2006

The Sanctuary Ocean Count is an annual event that places volunteers at various shore locations around the Big Island, Kaua'i, O'ahu and Kaho'olawe. Participants count the number of humpback whales that they see and record the types of whale behaviors that they witness. The collected data helps to develop an important database of information on humpback whale populations and distribution patterns around the Hawaiian Islands while also educating the community about humpback whales and the Sanctuary program. If you are interested in participating in the 2006 Sanctuary Ocean Count or if you would like to learn more about the annual Sanctuary Ocean Count project visit their website, hawaii.humpbackwhale.noaa.gov.

The goal of the Sanctuary Ocean Count is to record the number of humpback whales sighted from various shore sites

continued on page 59

Great Backyard Bird Count, February 17-20, 2006

A Joint Project of Audubon and Cornell Lab of Ornithology

GBBC 2005 a great success thanks to you! Great Backyard Bird Count 2005 was a great success, with over 50,000 checklists submitted, over 600 species seen, and more than 6 million individual birds counted. Thank you to everyone who participated!

Why count backyard birds? Scientists and bird enthusiasts can learn a lot by knowing where the birds are. Now that winter has gripped much of the continent, what are our birds doing? Bird populations are dynamic, they are constantly in flux. We want to take a snapshot of North American bird populations and YOU can help us. Everyone's contribution is important. It doesn't matter whether you identify, count, and report the 5 species coming to your backyard feeder or the 75 species you see during a day's outing to a wildlife refuge. Your data can help us answer many questions:

continued on page 60

During the 105th season, about 70 million birds were counted. Thanks in part to Bird Studies Canada, a leading not-for-profit conservation organization that is the Canadian partner for the CBC, last year saw a record high yet again: 2,022 individual counts. Each count group completes a census of the birds found during one 24-hour period between December 14 and January 5 in a designated circle 15 miles in diameter – about 177 square miles.

The 106th CBC is larger than ever, expanding its geographical range and accumulating information about the winter distributions of various birds. The CBC is vital in monitoring the status of resident and migratory birds across the Western Hemisphere, and the data, which is 100% volunteer generated, have become a crucial part of the U.S. Government's natural history monitoring database. Articles published in the 104th and 105th CBC issues of *American Birds* define new methods of analyses of large citizen-science data sets, with relevance to other programs beyond the CBC.

Count results from 1900 to the present are available through National Audubon's website www.audubon.org/bird/cbc. Included in those results is the last report of the Ivory-billed Woodpecker in the CBC database – two birds that were seen in the Singer Tract in Louisiana during the 38th CBC in 1937. Other sightings were reported earlier in the 1930s.

More than 50,000 observers participate each year in this all-day census of early-winter bird populations. The results of their efforts are compiled into the longest running database in ornithology, representing over a century of unbroken data on trends of early-winter bird populations across the Americas. Simply put, the Christmas Bird Count, or "CBC", is citizen science in action.

CBC compilers enter their count data via Audubon's website at www.audubon.org/bird/cbc or through Bird Studies Canada's homepage at www.bsc-eoc.org, where the 106th Count results will be viewable in near real-time. Explore this information for the winter of 2005-2006 or visit a count from the past. See if and how the state of your local birds has changed during the last 25...50...or 100 years.

Kaua'i

*Waimea 12/30/05
Michele Ho'okano
808-335-9975 or
kokee@aloha.net

Kapa'a 12/20/05
Brenda Zaun
808-635-6349 or
brenda_zaun@fws.gov

O'ahu

**Honolulu 12/18/05
Arlene Buchholz
808-988-9806 or
snovakz@juno.com

**Waipi'o 01/02/06
Dave Bremer
808-623-7613 or
bremerd001@hawaii.rr.com

Maui

Pu'u O Kaka'e
(date TBA)

'Iao Valley (West Maui)
(date TBA)

Date/Leader undetermined as of 11/21/05.

Please check back for updates.

Moloka'i

Kalaupapa 12/19/05
Arleone Dibben-Young
808-553-5992 or
nene@aloha.net

Kualapu'u 12/19/05
Arleone Dibben-Young
808-553-5992 or
nene@aloha.net

Hawai'i Island

***Kulani Prison (Volcano) (12/18/05)
Eldridge Naboa
808-936-2189 or enaboa@tnc.org

North Kona (date TBA)

Date/Leader undetermined as of 11/21/05.
Please check back for updates.

- * A Hawaiian Bird Identification meeting will be held on December 20. Call for time and location.
- ** December 6 HAS Program Meeting will be on Bird Identification to prepare for Count. See info in this issue.
- *** Kulani does require security clearance for everyone so participants need to submit to Eldridge their name, social security number and date of birth by December 1.

'Elepaio

ISSN 0013-6069

Managing Editor: Linda Shapin
Scientific Editor: Ron Walker

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

850 Richards Street, Suite 505
Honolulu, HI 96813

Tel: (808) 528-1432 Fax: (808) 537-5294

E-mail: hiaudsoc@pixi.com Website: www.hawaii.audubon.com

Pacific Fisheries Coalition (PFC) (a project of HAS)

Tel: (808) 262-6859 Fax: (808) 537-5294 Website: www.pacfish.org

Board Roster:

Liz Kumabe, President
Ron Walker, Vice President
Wendy Johnson, 2nd Vice President
Sal Pagliaro, Treasurer
Phil Bruner, Director
Arlene Buchholz, Director
Jennifer Crummer, Director
John Harrison, Director

Staff:

Linda Shapin, HAS Admin. Assistant
Linda Paul, PFC Executive Director
Keiko Bonk, NWHI Communications Coordinator

Committee Chairs:

Conservation: Naomi Arcand
Education: Wendy Johnson
'Elepaio: Ron Walker
Field Trips: vacant
Fundraising: Sal Pagliaro
Grants & Scholarships: Phil Bruner
Membership: Linda Shapin
Program: Arlene Buchholz
Publications: Linda Paul
Website: Stephen Bibbs

The data that you collect will be combined with Christmas Bird Count and Project FeederWatch data to give us an immense picture of our winter birds. Each year that these data are collected makes them more important and meaningful. So as we see patterns, discover new questions and insights, we'll update you. And we'll ask for your help again.

Participating is Easy. We need every bird enthusiast in North America to count for the birds! All you need is basic knowledge of bird identification and access to the Internet at home, a friend's house, local library, school, or anywhere you can get access to the Web. Here's what you do:

* **Count the birds** in your backyard, local park, or other natural area on one or all four count days. You can count in as many different locations as you wish, just make sure to keep separate records and fill out a checklist for each area.

* **Watch the birds** for at least 15 minutes on each day that you participate. We recommend watching for a half-hour or more, so that you'll have a good sense of what birds are in your area.

* **How to count:** Your data will be used by scientists to analyze bird populations, so it is very important that everyone count their birds in exactly the same way. On the day(s) that you count, watch your bird feeders or take a short walk (less than 1 mile) in your neighborhood or park.

For each kind (species) of bird that you see, keep track of the *highest number of individuals* that you observe at any one time. Use a "tally sheet" to help keep track of your counts. Your tally sheet should look something like the following:

* House Finch - 3, 5, 3, 1

* High Count = 5

* Blue Jay - 1, 3, 6, 2

* High Count = 6

Be careful not to count the same bird over and over! Don't add another Blue Jay to your tally every time you see a Blue Jay at the feeder. *You could be seeing the same individual again and again.* If you record only the highest number of individual birds that you see in view at one time, you're sure to never count the same bird more than once!

* At the end of the day go to "Submit your bird checklist" on our GBBC web site. Fill out the questions about your location, local habitat, and count duration. Then enter your high counts for each species sighted on that day and location. You can submit one bird checklist for each day that you count or for each new area that you count in. For example:

* If you count on four days at one location, you'd submit four different checklists.

* If you count on four days at two different locations each day, submit eight checklists. And so on.

Problems getting access to the Internet? Many libraries, schools, bird clubs, and other community-based groups will be helping, too. If organizations in your area are not already planning to help those without Internet access, you can help get something started!

Finally, after you've submitted your data, explore our web site. Check our results section to see other reports from your community, and watch as data come in from other areas. Have a look through our other pages, and find out other ways you can help birds. Enjoy!

All info reprinted from the Great Backyard Bird Count: www.birdsource.org/gbbc

around the islands in a four-hour period. Not only has this proven to be a fun volunteer activity for residents and visitors, but it also helps to provide important population and distribution information on humpback whales around the Hawaiian Islands.

The Sanctuary Ocean Count takes place on the islands of Hawai'i, Kaua'i, and O'ahu. The Ocean Count is also conducted on Kaho'olawe by the Kaho'olawe Island Reserve Commission. The Great Whale Count on Maui is conducted independently by the Pacific Whale Foundation.

Counts will be held on the last Saturday in January, February and March. Data from the counts will provide the Sanctuary with important information regarding humpback whale distribution over the course of the whale season.

Both site leaders and general volunteers are being sought for all islands. Two site leaders will be needed for each site. Site leaders will be responsible for serving as the point of contact for the volunteers at their site, coordinating the data collection of whale sightings, and handling any media inquiries at their site. Because site leaders are an essential part of the count, they will be required to participate on all three days and attend a training session on data collection procedures. For their efforts, they will receive a free Sanctuary Ocean Count t-shirt.

Of course, the count cannot be done without the help of enthusiastic volunteers. If you are interested in joining us for a morning of whale watching, either as a general volunteer or site leader, please call our offices to register. Registration for site leaders will begin in November and general volunteer registration will begin in December. Calls for the Big Island count will be taken at our O'ahu office through a toll-free number.

Big Island: 1-888-55-WHALE ext. 253

Kaua'i: 246-2860

O'ahu: 397-2651 ext. 253

As always, we are encouraged by the growing number of enthusiastic volunteers for the Sanctuary Ocean Count and we look forward to seeing you out there counting whales!

(all info reprinted from the website mentioned at the end of paragraph one)

HAS Holiday Open House Sunday, December 17th

The Hawaii Audubon Society will hold an Open House for holiday product purchases on Saturday, December 17th from 11am to 3pm. Hawaii's Birds 6th Edition, Treasures of O'ahu map, and our tees make great stocking stuffers for birders, aspiring birders, and nature lovers in general. Gift memberships are also available. For a list of our products, see page 64.

Lots of downtown parking, and far away from the malls! Holiday cookies, eggnog, and good cheer will also be provided!

Federal and State Governments Approve Safe Harbor Agreement with Chevron Hawaii Refinery

Plan Provides for Protection and Conservation of Endangered Hawaiian Waterbirds

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) and the State of Hawaii Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) have approved a 6-year Safe Harbor Agreement with Chevron Hawaii Refinery in recognition of its ongoing efforts to protect endangered waterbirds.

The detailed agreement encourages proactive management by Chevron Hawaii Refinery that benefits the endangered Hawaiian stilt and Hawaiian coot at its James Campbell Industrial Park refinery and provides regulatory assurances to Chevron that no additional restrictions will be imposed on future land, water, or resource use on its lands due to increased numbers of stilts and coots.

"Chevron has worked closely with the Service since 1992 to protect and conserve the stilt and coot," said Patrick Leonard, field supervisor for the Fish and Wildlife Service's Pacific Islands Fish and Wildlife Office. "Chevron's commitment to these two endangered birds shows that government and private industry can work effectively and amicably together toward the common goal of protecting wildlife and their habitats."

"We welcome the opportunity for the state to partner with Chevron and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in this important conservation project," said Peter Young, DLNR chairperson. "It is this kind of cooperative effort that will provide a long-term future for our native wildlife and their ecosystems," he said.

Chevron will manage 6 acres of stilt nesting habitat at Rowland's Pond and 5 acres of coot foraging habitat at the Impounding Basin and Oxidation Ponds, which are surrounded by tanks that store crude oil and petroleum products.

The 6-acre Rowland's Pond – named after the refinery's first plant manager – is fed by storm water and clean, treated water. Hawaiian stilts were attracted to the site in 1992 following the availability of an invertebrate population in Rowland's Pond. Hawaiian coots were first observed at the refinery in 1997 and two pairs of coots have nested since 2000.

Pond areas within the refinery are not managed to create permanent populations of stilts or coots, but rather to provide temporary habitat that will help maintain and increase populations until other natural wetland areas are protected, restored, and managed. For example, the Department of Land and Natural Resources is working with several partners to restore the 70-acre Pouhala Marsh, located approximately 8 miles northeast of the Chevron Hawaii Refinery. Efforts to restore the marsh are expected to be completed by the time this agreement expires.

The finalized agreement authorizes Chevron Hawaii Refinery, via federal permit and state license, to incidentally take coots and stilts that have increased above the baseline. Baseline numbers for the two species were determined from the average number of adults observed at the refinery's open water ponds during monthly visits conducted during the nonbreeding season from September 2001 to September 2002. The established baseline for the Hawaiian stilt is 21 adult birds, and for the Hawaiian coot is 4 adult birds.

Chevron Hawaii Refinery has an obligation under the agreement and permit/license to ensure that the populations of stilts and coots do not go below these established baselines. However, Chevron is not responsible for any natural fluctuation in the number of stilts and coots as long as they are meeting the requirements of the agreement.

From 1993 -2003, Chevron has worked with the Service under a Cooperative Agreement to manage its open water ponds for stilt temporary nesting habitat and implemented predator control. As a result of this cooperative effort, 361 Hawaiian stilts and 12 coots were added to the statewide population. From 14 to 51 stilts and up to 9 coots fledge each year at the site. The smaller numbers for Hawaiian coots can be attributed to the fact that the birds did not begin breeding at the site until 2000.

The total population of Hawaiian stilts statewide is estimated between 1,200 and 1,500 individuals, and the Hawaiian coot's statewide estimate is between 1,500 and 3,000 individuals.

Hawaii's waterbirds and their habitats have suffered greatly as a result of habitat destruction caused by the draining and filling of wetlands for agricultural, residential, and industrial development. Populations also were affected by over-hunting and the introduction of invasive species such as cats, dogs, mongooses, and rats. This ever-increasing loss of native wetland habitat and high predation rates make management of Chevron Hawaii Refinery's open water ponds an important interim recovery strategy that will lead to a net conservation benefit to both species until native habitat is restored.

Source: USFWS News Release dated November 10, 2005

Contact:

Pacific Islands External Affairs Office
300 Ala Moana Blvd., Room 3-511 Box 50187, Honolulu, HI 96850

Phone: 808 792-9530 Fax: 808 792-9583

Contact: Ken Foote (USFWS), 808 792 9535 or 282 9442
Clifford Inn (DLNR), 808 587 0407

Help give Hawaii's native birds a future...



They thrive on your donations

Hawaii Audubon Society, 850 Richards Street, Suite 505, Honolulu, HI 96813

HAS Annual Awards Dinner 2005

by Wendy Johnson, Second Vice President

Hawaii Audubon Society members, friends and distinguished guests gathered October 17th at the Atherton Halau on the grounds of Bishop Museum for the Society's twelfth Annual Awards Dinner. Nine notable individuals were recognized for their contributions to the creation, production and revisions of the Society's guidebook, "Hawaii's Birds."

Bob Pyle, Mike Ord and Tom Dove were among the honored awardees, and they also joined forces for a panel discussion covering the history of our esteemed publication. Tom Dove's beautiful and charming bird photos were, fittingly, the highlight of the evening. The Awards Dinner audience was delighted with the charming images of Hawaii's beautiful birds and very appreciative of the interesting historical anecdotes presented by Mr. Ord and Mr. Pyle.

Ron Walker, First Vice-President of the Hawaii Audubon Society Board of Directors was an important honoree, and also served as a very entertaining Master of Ceremonies for the evening. Long-time Board member John Harrison presented the humorous awards with warm appreciation.

The following Annual Awards for 2005 were presented with a light-hearted spirit and with much gratitude from the Hawaii Audubon Society Board of Directors:

- * **Old Coot Award** presented to Mike Ord for singlehandedly launching the flight of Hawaii's Birds long, long ago.
- * **'I'iwi Award** presented to Lynne Madden of Island Heritage for overall loveliness in overseeing the design, layout, and printing of the 6th edition.
- * **Kolea Award** presented to Wendy Johnson for multiple non-stop migrations to Waipahu for meetings at Island Heritage for the 6th edition.

Field Trips for 2006

Field Trip information and updates are also be available on the HAS office answering machine (528-1432) and on our website, www.hawaii.audubon.com. The field trip calendar will be decided upon at the Annual Board Retreat at the end of January, and will appear in the March 'Elepaio and on our website.

Saturday, January 21 Makapu'u Lighthouse with Arlene Buchholz to watch whales and look for seabirds, Tiger sharks, and sea turtles. Come and enjoy this 2-mile round-trip walk on the remote Ka Iwi Coast. Meet at the gate next to Kalaniana'ole Highway at 9:30am. Wear good walking shoes and bring water, snacks, sunscreen, binoculars. Come prepared for all sorts of weather, especially rain. Call or email the HAS office to register, 528-1432, hiaudsoc@pixi.com.

Saturday, February 25 Whale Watch Cruise aboard the Star of Honolulu with John Harrison. A very popular trip. We will cruise off the coast of Waikiki for 1 1/2 hours in search of those lovely Humpback whales. On past trips, we have also seen a variety of seabirds, including the Pomarine Jaeger! Bring a warm jacket, water, snacks, and binoculars. Cost will be approximately \$25 per person. Call or email the HAS office to register, 528-1432, hiaudsoc@pixi.com.



Dinner speakers: (L-R) Bob Pyle, Mike Ord, and Tom Dove

- * **'Iwa Award** presented to Linda Shapin for shameless pursuit of bird photos for the 6th edition.
- * **Ruddy Turnstone Award** presented to Bob Pyle for leaving no stone unturned in his quest for taxonomic accuracy in the 6th edition.
- * **Rock Dove Award** presented to Tom Dove for unheard-of devotion and industry in taking the best bird photos ever, and for having a truly wonderful bird photographer's name. YOU ROCK, TOM!
- * **Myna Award** presented to Ron Walker for the gracious hosting of wild and crazy proofing parties at his house for the 6th edition.
- * **Albatross Award** presented to Eric VanderWerf For long incubation - waiting years to see his work on the 6th edition in print.
- * **'Io Award** presented to Linda Paul for extraordinary diligence in watching over the entire 6th edition revision process.

December 6 (Tuesday) Annual Membership/Program Meeting: Bird Identification Lecture and Slide Show in Preparation for the Christmas Bird Count

Board member and retired wildlife biologist Ron Walker and Dr. Phil Bruner will join forces to give a presentation on common (and uncommon) birds found in Hawai'i, accompanied by Tom Dove's excellent photos. This is will be a perfect opportunity to brush up on your avian identification skills in time for the upcoming Christmas Bird Count. Ron's knowledge is legendary, Dr. Bruner's collection of bird skins is fascinating, and Tom's photos are outstanding.

Christmas Bird Count information will be available at the Program Meeting. Program Meetings are held at the University of Hawai'i's St. John Lab (Botany Building Rm. 011) in the ground floor auditorium at 3190 Maile Way, where it intersects East-West Road. The main entrance to the building is at ground level, street side (Hint: the Diamond head side stairs do not lead to the auditorium). Program meetings take place from from 6:30pm to 8:30pm, refreshments are served, and HAS products will be available for purchase.

Legislative Analyst Needed

The Society is seeking a part-time legislative analyst to advocate the Society's positions on bills affecting native wildlife and habitat. Following selected bills concerning agriforestry, endangered species, and land use planning, the position provides a much needed voice for conservation interests. The position runs roughly concurrent with the legislative session, December 2005 through May 2006. Duties include:

- * extracting matters of concern to the Society from the 3,000+ bills, resolutions, and departmental funding requests;
- * consulting with appropriate Society officers and communicating with other environmental organizations to develop and present testimony at hearings;
- * following certain bills and resolutions through the process, lobbying legislators and governmental resource personnel as needed;

- * submitting verbal and written reports at monthly Society Board meetings; and
- * preparing a written summary of activities within two weeks of session's end.

The contractual position is compensated at \$4,000 for the period. Past experience with Hawai'i's legislative process is a plus. To apply, please send a letter of interest, resume, and short writing sample to: Hawaii Audubon Society, 850 Richards St. #505, Honolulu, HI 96813. Applications will be accepted until December 23, 2005.

Memberships, Products and Publications Available - Great Gifts!!!

For more information on our products, activities, and on birding in Hawai'i, please visit the HAS website, www.hawaii.audubon.com, or contact us at the address above. To join the Society and/or to order products, please copy this page, make your selections, and mail along with a check made out to Hawaii Audubon Society, 850 Richards St., Ste. 505, Honolulu, HI 96813.

Please Join Us! (all memberships are for one calendar year)

- _____ **Regular Membership** (Bulk Mail) 20.00
- _____ **Regular Membership** (First Class Postage) 26.00
- _____ **Foreign Membership** (Airmail) 32.00
- _____ **Junior Membership** (under 18) 15.00

Products and Publications: (prices include postage)

- _____ **Hawaii's Birds** by the Hawaii Audubon Society, 6th edition, 2005. Over 150 color photographs and illustrations. \$12.99
A companion CD, *Voices of Hawaii's Birds* by Hawaii Audubon Society, is in production.
- _____ **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. \$8.00
- _____ **Hawaii's Rare & Endangered Birds Notecards** with artwork by renowned Island artist Patrick Ching. Eight greeting cards with envelopes. \$9.50
- _____ **Treasures of O'ahu Map** A fun and informative self-guided tour of O'ahu including hiking, birding, and ancient cultural sites. \$4.95

_____ **Checklist of the Birds of Hawai'i—2002** by R.L. Pyle. Lists all taxa naturally occurring in Hawai'i and introduced species that have established viable populations \$3.50

_____ **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

_____ **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

_____ **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. \$.75

_____ **Hawaii Audubon Society logo t-shirts** in white, natural, Pacific blue, jade, and grey. Tank tops in white and grey. S to XL. \$19.00

_____ **Ruddy Turnstone t-shirts** in white with a full color picture of the Ruddy Turnstone with both its Hawaiian and Inuit names. Part of proceeds benefits our Shorebird Research Fund. S to XL \$24.00

_____ **Kolea Research Fund t-shirts** in white. A lovely Kolea (Pacific Golden Plover) among yellow hibiscus blossoms. Part of proceeds benefits our Shorebird Research Fund. S to XL \$24.00

_____ **I would like to make an additional contribution to support the work of Hawaii Audubon Society. All donations are tax deductible.**

_____ **TOTAL ENCLOSED** Please specify size and color if applicable, and allow 3 weeks for delivery.

Annual Fall Trip to Paiko Wildlife Refuge to Welcome Home our Kolea and Other Shorebirds From Alaska (Low-Tide Reef/Mud-Walk)

by Alice Roberts, Trip Leader

This was my first field trip with my 2 new hips! To tell their story first, they did very well, my stability was greatly improved since my last wet-foot trip, as some of you may remember. If some of you are as curious as I would be if you had new hips: cobalt, chrome and titanium femur top and socket with plastic cushion.

The low-tide in Honolulu Harbor on the day of our Field Trip was expected to be 0.0' at 9:13 am coming in to 2.2' (very high, full moon) by 3:42 pm; our low-tide was to be about 45 minutes earlier.

A bright red Northern Cardinal on a telephone wire greeted us, or he could have guarding his territory! Twenty-one of us gathered at the Makai end of Kuli'ou'ou Road watching many mud critters scurry into burrows, little fish jump, and many birds hunting, including both an adult and a juvenile Black-Crowned Night-Heron ('Auku'u) -big flapping flight. One of our group shared her spotting scope so we got to see some birds up close and personal.

On the mud flats in the sanctuary's lagoon, we saw many Pacific Golden Plovers (Kolea,) darting about, a couple of Ruddy Turnstones ('Akekeke) with their black bibs flipping stones, and then we saw a grayish bird with a long straight bill and watched its head move back and forth like an Egyptian dancer and then we heard it call ulili-ulili-ulili-ulili as it flew away - a Wandering Tattler ('Ulili).

Crossing the short concrete wall, we looked at some trees - Milo (a hibiscus relative with gorgeous wood), Coconut Palm, and Ironwood/Casuarina (I've been told machetes chip when cutting this wood). We crossed the gravelly space and checked the rain puddles for Bufo ("Hawaiian Toad") eggs and/or tadpoles but none were found. Another Northern Cardinal was calling from a Kiawe tree, we discussed short thorned Kiawe and the two other varieties. We found a Mangrove embryo and talked about how Mangroves and other coastal plants deal with salt water. Covering the refuge land are bushes of Naupaka, and all sizes of Kiawe and Milo; the sandy edges are covered with Pickleweed with beautiful little hot pink star flowers, and Akiaki grass.

A few of us went over to check-out at the drainage canal, no ducks were reported this trip. We did not enter the refuge but went around it; I've been inside and have usually found more excitement outside. [FYI: The Honolulu Advertiser, Friday, 9/9/2005, page B3, "Trash, trespassers taint Kuli'ou'ou sanctuary" by Suzanne Roig]. She'd spoken with David Smith of the Department of Land and Natural Resources, and there are no rules requiring permits to enter the sanctuary during the day. The sanctuary was established decades ago with a land gift from the Paiko family.

As we neared the mudflats outside of the peninsula, we saw Ghost Crab holes, many with large pyramids (male advertising) and even some very active ghost crabs; we chased and caught

and sexed a couple (in plastic peanut butter jars for better investigation) - males. Then we caught a Boxcrab; it too was male; I was hoping to find a female crab of some type, full moon usually means lots of eggs and larvae with eyes!

We saw some Seaweed/Limu, but I think much less than on earlier trips. We found some "reds" - fat invasive "Gorilla" Ogo (related to the delicious poke ogo) that's destroying so much of our shallow water areas, two other invasives Hypnea, and Acanthophora were everywhere; "browns" - Padina with the calcium rings, and Dictyota; "greens" - thick feather-like Caulerpa with its runners, oatmeal-sand making Halimeda, and the leathery invasive; and even some itchy blue-green Lynbya.

Most of us ventured into the shallow shoreline water, where we saw many little tiny Gobies (a family of fish with pelvic fins fused as suction cups for jumping waterfalls on their spawning return to freshwater streams of their birth). At least one Lizardfish was seen darting off in characteristic zig-zag fashion. Near the turn-around-point of our walk, we saw several small groups of young Mullet ('Ama'ama) which joined together into a large school as we tried to herd them!

It was a gorgeous day; both Koko Crater and Koko Head were highlighted by a blue sky. While we walked, we talked about the area's geology - Koko Crater and Koko Head and which was which and their ages and of course Hanauma Bay. A Great Frigatebird ('Iwa) went gliding overhead; it was black with a white chest - female - several were amazed by her wingspan!

We saw several invertebrates or remains of invertebrates including Oysters under rocks and Snail and Clam shells. Under rocks and on seaweed, we found pink, orange, blue, purple, brown, and white Sponges; and some clearish Tunicates - our nearest invertebrate relative (we're both chordates). This trip, we found many "tongues" - sacs of mucous, feeding apparatus of burrowing worms.

This was national Get the Drift and Bag It day, so we each collected a bag of trash; a couple did lots more! As we returned to our vehicles, we talked about what we'd seen. Besides those animals and plants noted above, we'd also seen a couple of White Terns (Manu-O-Ku), one even dived for and caught some fish and then headed towards land and perhaps a hungry baby; Red-Vented Bulbuls, Zebra and Spotted Doves, Mynas, Red-Crested Cardinals, Sparrows, and some little finches. Sadly, no Hawaiian Black-Necked Stilts (Ae'o) were seen this trip - perhaps next time.

My new hips and I are looking forward to returning to Paiko in late-March to mid-April to bid farewell to our Shorebirds before they leave for Alaska. See you then?



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

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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

'ELEPAIO • 65:9 • DECEMBER 2005 / JANUARY 2006

Calendar of Events

Table of Contents

Tuesday, December 6 Program Meeting
 Bird Identification for Christmas Bird Count .
See page 62

December 14, 2005 to January 5, 2006
 Christmas Bird Count. *See page 58*

December 17, 2005 HAS Holiday
 Open House. *See page 60*

Saturday, January 21 Field Trip
 Makapu'u Lighthouse to look for whales and seabirds.
See page 62

Saturday, February 25 Field Trip
 Whale Watch cruise aboard the Star of Honolulu.
See page 62

Audubon's 106th Annual Christmas Bird Count	58
Humpback Whale Sactuary Ocean Count 2006	58
Great Backyard Bird Count	58
Holiday Open House	60
Federal and State Governments Approve Safe Harbor Agreement with Chevron Hawaii Refinery	61
HAS Awards Dinner	62
Field Trips	62
Annual Membership/Program Meeting	62
Legislative Anyslist Needed	63
Membership, Products and Publications	63
Annual Fall Trip to Paiko Wildlife Refuge to Welcome Home our Kolea and other Shorbirds from Alaska	64