



Hawai'i's New Wildlife Center and the Challenge of Oiled Wildlife Rescue

By Lydi Morgan



Linda Elliott speaks to an attentive audience at Hawaii Audubon Society's August program meeting. Photo by Lydi Morgan.

On Monday, August 21, Linda Elliott spoke at the University of Hawai'i Manoa at a program meeting sponsored by the Hawaii Audubon Society. Linda has been working to develop Hawai'i's first official facility for wildlife rehabilitation, and will be breaking ground in the near future for the "HAWAII WILDLIFE CENTER" in Kohala on the Big Island. Her goal is to have an operational facility by mid-2007.

Despite our state's status as the endangered species capital of the world, Hawai'i is the only state without an established facility for native wildlife rehabilitation. Until now, many dedicated volunteers and agencies have borne the burden of caring for sick and injured wildlife at makeshift facilities and usually at their own expense. Thanks to Linda Elliott, Hawai'i will now have a dedicated facility for native wildlife rehabilitation, as well as for training and education, research, and public outreach for conservation issues.

The HAWAII WILDLIFE CENTER will cater to native wildlife, including water birds, birds of prey, and forest birds, as well as other native animals, as necessary. Non-native animals will continue to be referred to local volunteer-run rehabilitation efforts. Many wildlife injuries occur as a result of contact with vehicles, golf courses (ball strikes and golf cart collisions), utility lines, and even malicious acts by humans. At the Center, animals will be treated and quarantined if necessary for disease control, then released back into the wild. Native wildlife from all islands will be treated at the Big Island facility, with logistical assistance from Civil Air Patrol, the Coast Guard Authority, and the State Division of Forestry and Wildlife.

The Center has received an incredible amount of support in the form of grants from the State of Hawai'i and Hawai'i County, and donations of land, professional services, and funds from generous organizations and individuals. While two thirds of the Center's fundraising goal has been reached, Linda Elliott is working diligently to raise the remaining \$865,000 that it will take to achieve a fully operational facility.

A 3,000 square foot building has been designed and will be built to use energy efficiently and to be powered in part by photovoltaic panels. The two-acre property will feature outdoor pens and pools as part of the wildlife rehabilitation process, as well as a native plant garden and learning pavilion.

Oiled Wildlife Rescue

The HAWAII WILDLIFE CENTER will play an important role in emergency response, particularly for the treatment of oiled wildlife. More than 2.5 billion gallons of petroleum products are imported annually into Hawai'i, carried by over 700 tanker ships. Cruise ships and military vessels contribute to the dangerous possibility of oil spills here. In fact, an average of 100 oil releases are reported each year in Hawai'i, with a chronic occurrence of mystery spills. Some of the largest spills that Hawai'i has experienced were from the Ehime Maru in 2002 at 100,000 gallons, Waiiau Pipeline in 1996 at 39,000 gallons, and this year, 30,000 gallons of oil were spilled in one instance at Pearl Harbor.

Fifteen million individual seabirds visit and reside in our island chain each year, and fourteen species of seabirds are known to have been affected by oil spills here. Over 100 birds annually become oiled in the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands from unknown sources of oil. All marine life is negatively affected by oil spills, and it is now known that mammals and seabirds do not avoid spill areas.

Linda Elliott is a member of an international team of oiled wildlife emergency responders and has participated in rescue missions in Africa, France, Spain, the Galapagos, and Hawai'i. She enthralled the program meeting participants with a detailed account of the affects of oil on birds, and the cleanup process.

continued on next page



Arlene Buchholz, HAS Board of Directors, Bruce Casler, Conservation Program Coordinator for Waimea Valley Audubon Center, and Linda Elliott, Hawaii Wildlife Center Director. Photo by Lydi Morgan.

The Damaging Effects Of Oil

Oil disrupts the structural integrity of feathers, thereby causing a bird to lose its waterproofing. Once this occurs, the down beneath the feathers becomes wet, causing the bird to lose buoyancy and become hypothermic. Subsequent effects include preening to exhaustion and oil ingestion, with the internal effects of anemia, pneumonia, and organ damage. Consequently, removal of oil from the bird is only one of many concerns, and emergency responders are trained to stabilize the animal by treating for hypothermia and dehydration before any cleanup can take place, in order to reduce the risk of shock. It is for this reason especially that individuals who encounter oiled wildlife are asked to contact an expert rather than attempt treatment, in order to avoid putting yourself and the animal at risk.

Once the animal is stabilized the cleanup can begin. Animals are washed in a series of tubs with a 2% solution of Dawn dishwashing detergent. Water temperature is kept high, at about 100°F (just a few degrees below body temperature), to keep the birds from getting a chill. After the oil is removed, birds are rinsed thoroughly, as any residual soap would attract minerals from hard or salt water and prevent waterproofing. Washing takes an average of 45 minutes per bird and consumes a large amount of water. The animals are then dried in pens using an indirect source of warm air, in order to avoid burning. Cleaned and dried birds are placed in pools for evaluation where responders assume "lifeguard duty", frequently rescuing birds whose waterproofing has not been fully restored. Animals must meet specific standards of health before they can be released back into the wild.

Linda explained the difference between crude, or black oil, and diesel, or white oil. Black oil is easy to spot and makes animals easier to catch because of its stickiness. Diesel, on the other hand, is harder to see, and is more toxic to both animals and humans. Diesel spills see a much lower rate of survival for oiled animals, especially in connection with these other disadvantageous factors: cold climate, lack of support, and slow response time.

A Critical Element

The lengthy and laborious process of wildlife rescue and rehabilitation requires a tremendous amount of support and an incredible number of trained staff and volunteers, as well as a properly equipped facility. The HAWAII WILDLIFE CENTER



Cleaning oil off of a red-footed booby after the August 1998 Tesoro spill in Hawai'i. The temporary response facility was set up at the DOFAW office in Olinda, Maui. This bird was successfully treated and released.



Linda Elliott washes oil off of a loon at the oiled wildlife response facility at Wabmun Lake, Edmonton, Canada after an oil spill in August 2005. Several hundred birds were washed and rehabilitated.

will fulfill a critical element that has been missing for so long in this state, in our ability to treat sick and injured native wildlife.

Thank you, Linda, for all of your hard work and dedication, and for sharing your knowledge with the Hawaii Audubon Society!

For more information about the HAWAII WILDLIFE CENTER, contact Linda Elliott at hawaiiwildlifecenter@mac.com or call (808) 884-5576. If you would like to contribute, please make checks payable to HAWAII WILDLIFE CENTER and send to P.O. Box 506, Hawi, HI 96719. Your charitable donations to this 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization are tax deductible. Thank you so much for your support!

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A Fond Farewell

Hawaii Audubon Society mourns the recent loss of Bob Krauss, who, among many other things, was a dedicated enthusiast for the kōlea, or Pacific Golden-Plover. In Bob's own words from the Honolulu Advertiser,

"Not all of our important visitors come to Hawai'i on commercial airlines or by ship. Some of our most discriminating tourists fly themselves from Alaska to spend the winter. They are known as Golden Plover, birds of an unusual feather, who arrive in August and stay until the following spring, when they fly back to mate and hatch babies. While in Hawai'i, they camp out on the best real estate: lawns of the

rich and famous, exclusive golf courses and the grounds of 'Iolani Palace."

In appreciation of his long-time kōlea chronicles, Bob Krauss received the Hawaii Audubon Society "Environmental Journalism Award" at our Annual Awards Dinner in 2004. Mr. Krauss' fascination with these amazing migratory birds was shared by many in our community. His regular reports on his, and his readers', kōlea observations are vivid illustrations of some of the most accessible and enjoyable bird-watching experiences in Hawai'i. He will be greatly missed.

Upcoming Events at Waimea Valley Audubon Center

For reservations and more information call (808) 638-9199. The Center is run by the National Audubon Society.

Saturday, October 14

North Valley Hike

8:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Approx. 6 miles, moderate to strenuous, may involve shallow, slippery stream crossings. For ages 12 and up (must be accompanied by an adult). Program fee: \$3 plus admission, cash only. Reservations required.

Saturday, October 21

South Ridge Loop Trail

8:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

For the experienced hiker. Limited spaces sign up early! Reservations required. Approx. 7 miles, may involve slippery stream crossings. For ages 12 and up (must be accompanied by an adult). Program fee: \$3 plus admission, cash only.

Saturday, October 28

3rd annual Twilight Trek-or-Treat

7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

Traverse along a trail of treats and tales and encounter nocturnal wildlife. Call early to reserve a space, program fills quickly! All ages welcome (strollers recommended for infants and toddlers). Bring a flashlight and be on time! Reservations required. Program fee: \$10 Adults, \$8 Children (4-12) (\$5 for Annual Pass Holders and 20+ hour volunteers)

Friday, November 3

Moonwalk

7:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.

Take an evening stroll and experience the sights and sounds of Waimea Valley. Bring a flashlight and comfortable walking shoes for this 1.5 mile walk. Ticket sales begin at 7:30 p.m. Be on time! Gates close promptly at 8:00 p.m. Adult \$5; Child (4-12 yrs) \$3

Saturday, November 4

Annual Plant Sale and HECO Arbor Day

Get a Tree for Free!

9 a.m. - Till they're all gone!

Join us for the HECO/Kaulunani Partnership presents: An Arbor Day Tree Giveaway. Pick up a free tree on Arbor Day (one per family) while supplies last. Visit the Waimea Valley Arboretum Annual plant sale. Purchase beautiful unique hibiscus, and difficult to find Native Hawaiian plants.

Kama'aina Admission Rates: Adult \$5; Child (4-12 yrs) \$3; Child (under 4 yrs) FREE. General Admission Rates: Adult \$8; Child (4-12 yrs) \$5; Child (under 4 yrs) FREE. Special Senior (60 yrs and older) and Military rates available. Annual Pass Holders and Volunteers with 20+ hours FREE.

59-864 Kamehameha Hwy, Hale'iwa, HI 96712

Phone (808) 638-9199, Fax (808) 638-9197



Free Admission
Free Parking

Chapter members always
receive a 10% Discount in
the Nature Store

Non-transferable

Hawaii Audubon Society member and one guest

Name

January 31, 2007

Exp. Date

DAY PASS

All Hawaii Audubon Society members are invited to enjoy a complimentary visit to the Waimea Valley Audubon Center on O'ahu's North Shore! Please present this Day Pass at the ticket booth when you enter the valley. And don't forget, HAS members receive a 10% discount at the gift shop! The Center is open seven days a week, from 9:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. (closed Christmas and New Years Day). Please call (808) 638-9199 with questions, or visit www.audubon.org for information on weekly and special events.

Hawai'i Aquatics Conference 2006: Fish for the Future – How Do We Get There?

**November 4 & 5, 2006, Gateway Center, Natural
Energy Laboratory, Keāhole Point, North Kona**

The Fourth Conference will continue the resource management dialogue begun in 1999 on how aquatics resource management based on traditional Hawaiian moku and ahupua'a (community-based) management approaches can be meshed with western-style methods to restore and sustainably manage Hawai'i's aquatic resources. The Conference will present updates on current research in both marine and freshwater ecosystems, debate fish replenishment areas, present the pros and cons of community-based resource management, and feature discussions of aquatics management problems and possible solutions.

The Hawai'i Aquatics Conferences arose from the realization that aquatics research, management, education, and policy planning consist of many individual and generally uncoordinated efforts by people who rarely interact with one another. Holding a statewide meeting every two years provides a regular forum for managers, fishermen, educators, conservationists, policy makers and the general public to share information and ideas on better ways to manage integrated aquatic systems (streams and riparian areas, wetlands, estuaries, lagoons, coral reefs, near-shore and offshore waters).

To register contact Marni Herkes, marnih@hawaiiintel.net. For further information contact Linda Paul, Hawaii Audubon Society, linpaul@aloha.net; Dr. Bill Walsh, Division of Aquatic Resources, darkona@hawaiiintel.net; Rick Gaffney, Hawaii Fishing and Boating Assoc., captrick@aloha.net; Sara Peck, U.H. SeaGrant College Program, peck@hawaii.edu.

HAS Field Trips for 2006

Saturday, November 4

James Campbell National Wildlife Refuge with Ron Walker
This trip is now full. If you would like to be put on the waiting list, please call the HAS office, 528-1432 and leave your name and telephone number. You may also call the USFWS at 637-6330 to make your own reservations for a visit to the Refuge.

December: Christmas Bird Count (dates and schedule TBA)

Neighbor Island Field Trips

Hawaii Audubon Society would like to establish a network for field trip leaders and participants on neighbor islands. If you live on a neighbor island and are interested in organizing and/or leading field trips, please contact the HAS office, 808-528-1432 or hiaudsoc@pixi.com. Thank you!

2006 Seabird Workshop

Sponsored by: The Hawaii Chapter of the Wildlife Society

Date: October 26 & 27, 2006

Location: Ko'olau Golf Club, Kane'ohe, O'ahu

For Further Information: visit www.tws-west.org/hawaii
or call David Smith at 808-973-9786S

Mahalo Nui Loa!

The Hawaii Audubon Society has recently received an incredibly generous gift of \$5,000 from the M. Lucile Waldron Trust, in memory of the late M. Lucile Waldron and her late husband, Ted Waldron. Hawaii Audubon Society would like to sincerely thank these generous individuals, and all of you who help to perpetuate the Society and its mission!

Bequests

A bequest to the Hawaii Audubon Society is an excellent way to further our conservation and education efforts.

Although an attorney should be consulted in the drafting of your will, a model clause for bequests reads as follows: "I hereby give, devise, and bequeath to the Hawaii Audubon Society, Honolulu, Hawaii, the sum of _____ dollars (or set forth a description of property), to be used for the general purpose of said organization."

For more information and assistance, contact the Hawaii Audubon Society, 850 Richards Street Suite 505, Honolulu, HI 96822, (808) 528-1432, hiaudsoc@pixi.com.

Candidates Needed

At the Board Meeting on July 17, 2006, Linda Paul and John Harrison were appointed to form a Nominating Committee for the 2006 HAS Board elections. The committee is seeking Society members who are willing to serve on the Board of Directors. The bylaws call for fifteen directors to serve two-year terms; five of the fifteen directors are elected by the membership to officer positions.

Two Officer seats (Treasurer and Recording Secretary) and six Director seats are vacant and open for nomination. Running for re-election are Directors Phil Bruner, Arlene Buchholz, and Christine Volinski. Incumbents continuing to serve through 2007 are President Liz Kumabe, First Vice-President Ron Walker, Second Vice-President Wendy Johnson, and Director John Harrison.

The HAS Board is a dynamic group of committed individuals whose energy and expertise involve many aspects of environmental protection in Hawai'i from fund raising to education, and from birding to habitat cleanup. All members of the Board are expected to attend six two-hour Board meetings per year (one every other month) and a weekend Leaders' Retreat in January. Directors are also expected to be active on one of the Society's two standing committees: Conservation and Education. Persons interested in serving on the Board are encouraged to contact the HAS office for more information.

If you are a Society member and want to be a candidate, please submit a letter of interest and brief resume of your background and activities (in and/or outside of HAS) to the attention of the Nominating Committee at the Hawaii Audubon Society's address by November 1, 2006. Nominating Committee members may be contacted by emailing the HAS office at hiaudsoc@pixi.com.

The Board of Directors of the Hawaii Audubon Society
Invite You to Attend the Society's

Annual Awards Dinner

Wednesday, October 18, 2006

6:00 pm to 9:00 pm

Treetops Restaurant, Paradise Park

(3737 Manoa Road, at the back of Manoa Valley)

Buffet Dinner with Vegetarian Option



Silent auction featuring a private collection of fascinating bird books and more



Awarding of outstanding volunteers, corporate leaders, and public servants
for their contributions to the protection of Hawaii's native wildlife and ecosystems



Meet the Hawaii Audubon Society Board of Directors, Staff, and fellow Members!



Featuring

THE LIFE AND TIMES OF 'AKEKEKE (RUDDY TURNSTONE)

A Presentation by Dr. Phil Bruner

Dr. Bruner has spent the past three years investigating the breeding biology of 'Akekeke (Ruddy Turnstone) at his study site located 40 miles NW of Nome, Alaska. Dr. Bruner has been rewarded with observations that have never been reported, and his presentation will transport you to a special place with one of Hawaii's unique migratory shorebirds.

\$25 per person

Please make your reservations no later than October 11 by calling (808) 528-1432, emailing hiaudsoc@pixi.com, or by registering on our website, www.hawaii-audubon.com. Checks may be mailed to Hawaii Audubon Society, 850 Richards St. #505, Honolulu, HI 96813.

Awards Dinner Silent Auction

A feature at this year's Annual Awards Dinner will be a silent auction of a fascinating collection of books donated to the Hawaii Audubon Society by Chad Castle, a former Board member. Their value varies between \$2 for a pamphlet entitled "Birding

Hotspots of Southeast Texas" and \$200 for a leather bound, gold leafed issue of the "Birds of America" by John James Audubon. A rare 1901 volume by William Alanson Bryan entitled "Key to the Birds of the Hawaiian Group" will also be available.



*A hiker's view of the noisy H-3 from atop 'Aiea Ridge Trail.
Photo by Lydi Morgan.*



Field trip participants search for the elusive 'elepaio, and observe several other bird species in the process.

Photo by Lydi Morgan.



*Fruiting 'ie'ie on 'Aiea Ridge Trail.
Photo by Lydi Morgan.*

News and Views From Atop a Ko'olau Ridge: A Visit to 'Aiea with the Hawaii Audubon Society

By Lydi Morgan

Ten participants gathered in the hills above 'Aiea on the morning of Saturday, August 19 for an eventful field trip sponsored by the Hawaii Audubon Society. Dr. Phil Bruner, Hawaii Audubon Society Board of Directors member and Professor of Biology at BYUH led the way, delighting the hikers with an abundance of interesting facts about the native and introduced flora and fauna that were encountered.

From 'Aiea State Park we made our way along the 'Aiea Loop Trail, stopping frequently to discuss plants and birds that we came across. An amazing variety of introduced Eucalyptus species dominates the loop trail, and Phil pointed out their different bark characteristics: smooth to discourage climbing animals, or thick and spongy to absorb and transfer moisture. Although this landscape is dominated by non-native and invasive plants, small numbers of healthy native species persist, such as koa, 'ōhi'a, pūkiawe, 'iliahi, and alahe'e. Most of the birds there are introduced as well, including the white-rumped shama, red-vented bulbul, and in particular abundance, the Japanese white-eye.

Turning onto an unmarked fork in the trail, the group embarked upon the 'Aiea Ridge Trail, a fantastically different environment than what we had just experienced. Almost instantly we were walking through native-dominated forests of large koa and 'ōhi'a trees, huge stands of uluhe fern, hāpu'u and 'ama'u tree ferns, kōpiko, 'iliahi, and alahe'e. We even discovered flowering 'ie'ie plants, as well as two native parasitic plants, moa, and hulumoa,

the Hawaiian mistletoe.

As is sadly inevitable in almost any Hawaiian forest, the invasion of outsiders was apparent. Silent intruders in this relatively unspoiled environment included strawberry guava, palm grass, liliko'i vine, and even a Jackson's chameleon. Of a much noisier nature was the rushing of cars on the H-3 freeway in the valley below us; a convenience for many, but for this small group of nature-lovers, an unfortunate intrusion upon the majesty of the Ko'olau and of our peaceful outing.

Much of our hike was spent in search of the native and endangered O'ahu 'elepaio. Although they remained elusive for our group that day, Phil told us of his encounter with five of the birds only two weeks prior to our excursion on that very same trail. In addition to seeing one solitary 'elepaio, he was visited by a family of four birds, two adults and two juveniles, the teenagers still begging for food from their parents. Despite our group's unsuccessful efforts to catch a glimpse of these inquisitive birds, we were happy enough to know that they were out there somewhere. And we were delighted to find that the native 'amakihi were one of the most abundant species of bird there.

Thank you, Phil, for imparting your knowledge, and thanks to those enthusiastic hikers who came to share in the activity and learning. Join us next time for another exciting outing with the Hawaii Audubon Society!

‘Elepaio Nest Located in Pōhakuloa for the First Time

The Hawai‘i ‘elepaio (*Chasiempis sandwichensis sandwichensis*) is a subspecies endemic to the island of Hawai‘i and inhabits the dry leeward forests of south and west Hawai‘i. Threats to the ‘elepaio include feral ungulates, introduced predators (rats, cats, mongoose), avian malaria, avian pox, and fire.

A small and decreasing population of Hawai‘i ‘elepaio has been documented during bird surveys in the Big Island’s Pōhakuloa Training Area for over a decade. Although young fledglings were sighted once in recent years, no ‘elepaio nests have ever been located in Pōhakuloa. This recently changed during a survey to document the presence of one of the two remaining nesting pairs of Pōhakuloa ‘elepaio. The April 2006 survey was conducted by Lena Schnell and Jefferson Jacobs, both of the Pōhakuloa Natural Resource Office. The two biologists had encountered as many as four ‘elepaio at the start of the survey, and had split up to follow the individual birds. After following a pair of ‘elepaio

for more than 20 minutes, Jefferson lost sight of them as they made a long flight (indicative of travel to a nest) towards Lena who was then able to follow them to their nearby nest.

The extremely camouflaged pendulous nest is located approximately seven meters high in a māmane (*Sophora chrysophylla*) tree, surrounded by māmane/naio habitat. When originally found, the nest was still under construction, but more recently the female has been observed while incubating. The nest will be monitored closely and a surrounding rodent control grid will be maintained throughout the breeding season to decrease the threat of rats on the nest.

Source: Ecosystem Management Program Bulletin, May 2006, Environmental Division, Directorate of Public Works, US Army Garrison, Hawai‘i. Contact: Michelle Mansker (808) 656-2878 ext. 1029

Sign up to Receive Events Listings via Email!

Would you like to receive Hawaii Audubon Society event listings and volunteer opportunities via email? Sign up to be on our new “Events Email List” by sending an email to hiaudsoc@pixi.com. Indicate that you would like

to subscribe to the email list. Emails will be sent about once a month with a list of upcoming field trips, program meetings, volunteer opportunities, and other events. We look forward to seeing you at our events!

Membership in Hawaii Audubon Society

Regular US Member \$ 20.00
Junior Members (18 and under)..... \$ 15.00
Supporting Member \$100.00

Foreign Membership (Airmail)
Mexico..... \$ 26.00
Canada..... \$ 28.00
All other countries..... \$ 33.00

*These are annual membership dues, valid January 1 through December 31.
Donations are tax deductible and gratefully accepted.*

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Country, Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Membership \$ _____ + Donation \$ _____ = Total \$ _____

New Membership ☐ Renewal ☐

Please make checks payable to Hawaii Audubon Society and mail to us at 850 Richards St., #505, Honolulu, HI 96813.

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Calendar of Events

Saturday, October 14

Waimea Valley, North Valley Hike. *See page 51*

Wednesday, October 18

HAS Annual Awards Dinner

Please make your reservations by October 11 *See page 53*

Saturday, October 21

Waimea Valley, South Ridge Loop Trail Hike. *See page 51*

October 26 & 27

Seabird Conservation & Management Workshop.

See page 52

Saturday, October 28

Waimea Valley, Halloween Event. *See page 51*

Friday, November 3

Waimea Valley, Moonwalk. *See page 51*

Saturday, November 4

Waimea Valley, Annual Plant Sale and Tree Giveaway.

See page 51

Saturday, November 4 and Sunday, November 5

Hawai'i Aquatics Conference. *See page 52*

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