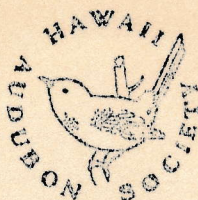


THE ELEPAIO

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For the Better Protection
of Wildlife in Hawaii

February 1948

BIRD CENSUS - HAWAII AUDUBON SOCIETY

	<u>1947</u>	<u>1946</u>	<u>1945</u>
Amakihi	8	44	36
Apapane	34	63	15
Booby			
Red-footed	799	----	----
Brown	1	----	----
Cardinals			
Brazilian	6	5	5
Kentucky	55	38	43
Coot	158	1200(Estimate)	231
Creeper	----	1	----
Doves			
Barred	276	63	81
Chinese	55	20	29
Ducks			
Pintail	1000(Estimate)	3	42
Blue-winged teal	----	2	----
Mallard	----	6	2
Ruddy	----	----	2
Shoveler	----	----	2
Elepaio	28	77	19
Finch (House)	6	7	3
Frigate bird	19	----	----
Gallinule	1	2	18
Gull (Ring-billed)	----	----	1
Heron (Black-crowned night)	75	20	8
Iiwi	----	2	----
Mocking bird	----	2	2
Mynah	97	70	129
Owl (Hawaiian)	1	1	----
Plover (Golden Pacific)	170	35	311
Ricebird	140	44	40
Robin (Japanese hill)	73	65	82
Sanderling	2	----	16
Skylark (English)	----	3	3
Sparrow (English)	117	82	104
Stilt (Hawaiian)	176	36	204
Tattler (Wandering)	6	2	10
Tern			
Common noddy	4	----	----
Hawaiian noddy	25	----	----
Sooty	194	----	----
Thrush (Chinese)	3	3	4
Tit (Japanese)	2	1	1
Turnstone (Ruddy)	118	7	238
White-eye	103	109	122

CHRISTMAS CENSUS

The Tantalus Count

It was still dark when the group met at the Library at 6:15, with rain falling intermittently. The wind, which later became strong and gusty, was then but a gentle breeze. By the time we reached the trail on Tantalus, at 6:45, the temperature registered 66°, the lowest recorded by any group. Later, we had some doubts as to the accuracy of this reading, for when we returned to the car shortly after noon, it still registered 66°! Recalling our troubles of a previous year, we had been careful not to sit upon the thermometer on the way up - just where should one put this instrument in a car when hastening toward the trail?

It was barely full daylight when we entered upon the trail, greeted by calls from the white-eyes and hill robins. For the first two miles of trail, we saw and heard very little else except these two birds. The wind soon rose to such heights that the bird notes were difficult to hear, and we all agreed that our count is extremely conservative, that more propitious weather would have resulted in a much larger count.

A careful watch was kept, not only on the trail, but on the green valleys below, and we were rewarded by the sight of an owl circling below us, in almost exactly the same spot in which he was seen on the 1946 count.

Another repeat was the first apapane, whose call and brief song were heard at the same turn of the trail where we heard apapane last year. We were not so fortunate as to see the brilliant little songster this year, although a second apapane was counted by his song, perhaps a mile farther along the trail.

One thrush was seen and heard on the trail. The second, much to our delight and surprise, came from a shrub as we drove down Tantalus. Surely the injunction not to count from cars could not apply to a usually shy and increasingly scarce bird who practically asked to be included!

Our best success with elepaio came as we slithered down the steep and very muddy trail from the top to the hogback. In the short time it took us to cover that area, we saw as many elepaio as we had seen along the rest of the way.

Four hours and 50 minutes after the start we were back at the car. Hot coffee and a little food - then off to the sunny lowlands.

Census takers: Mrs. Doris L. Smith, Mr. Mark Kerr, Miss Grenville Hatch
Count:

Amakihi	1	Chinese thrushes	2	Kentucky cardinals	18	
Apapane	2	Elepaio	9	Owl	1	TOTAL
Chinese doves	2	Hill robins	41	White-eyes	62	138

Distance on foot - 5 miles

Grenville Hatch

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Pacific Heights Count

We went to the Pacific Heights residential area at about 8 o'clock. The weather was not very good, with rain nearly all the time we were there. I was wearing a G.I. poncho of the variegated color design and the passengers in occasional automobiles looked as if they thought I had come over the hill from the pupule house. We strolled around the upper end of the area on Pacific Heights Road, Laola, Laukoa, and Wailani Streets. We could discover no trail leading on up the ridge from the residential

area, but as this was to cover a residential area, that made no difference. The count is as follows:

Cardinals, Brazilian	7	Hill robin (song heard, but bird not seen)	1
Kentucky	15	Linnets	2
Doves, barred	25	Mynahs	100
Chinese	50	Ricebirds	12
		English sparrows	20

About 3 miles were covered in four hours on foot. Mr. and Mrs. E. B. Hamilton comprised the party.

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Kuapa and Kaelepulu Pond Count

We were very happy to have two volunteers from the Boy Scouts assist us with this year's bird count: Richard Setsu from McKinley High School and George Sakurai from R. L. Stevenson Intermediate School. These two boys circled Kuapa Pond on foot, starting from the upper ewa side and working down to the highway and across to Woodland. Along this side very little bird life was seen except 44 plover. Above the stone wall at the upper end of the other side, we were thrilled to see 49 Hawaiian stilt, which were easily seen from the roadside. From here we could also see a large flock of birds on the far side of the pond but were unable to identify them until the boys walked out to the end of the wall. From there they were able to identify them as night heron - 68 of them. A lone heron was later seen along the edge of the pond near Woodland. It was also at the upper end that the boys saw 10 ruddy turnstone. Much to our disappointment no coot or duck were seen on Kuapa.

Along the roadside we counted 41 mynah, 16 Kentucky cardinal, 3 Brazilian cardinal, 13 Chinese dove, 61 English sparrow, 62 Barred dove, 8 Ricebirds, 4 linnet, and just as we were about to leave the area, one lone tattler.

At Kaelepulu Pond, we hoped to see duck but were again disappointed. On the pond we were able to count 105 coot and one flock of 15 plover were sighted. Along the roadside we counted 32 barred dove, 12 ricebirds, 6 mynah, 1 Kentucky cardinal, 1 Brazilian cardinal and 1 Chinese dove.

Blanche A. Pedley

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Woodlawn - St. Louis Heights Trail Count

December 21st, the most exciting day for the bird watchers, was wet and windy on the Woodlawn - St. Louis Trail. Christmas census taking is always full of anticipations, especially when one takes the same trail year after year.

This year Harlan Chong and I were on the trail by 7:00 a.m. in spite of the 25-38 miles per hour wind and the guaranteed rain. It was wonderful to be out so early in the morning and watch the world get up. The air was clean, and even with the strong wind everything seemed to be in its place. I felt grateful that this peace was for me, too. Ah, with this frame of mind the rain was soft against my face and the bird songs sounded like a string section coming in whenever the percussions took time out. It was the most exciting symphony I had ever heard.

The first bird of the day was a Kentucky cardinal. Birds were all around us, but the wind was too strong, and they were having a difficult time keeping themselves from being blown to pieces; consequently, we hardly heard even the chirps. Though we took half an hour to climb the hill of guava forest, we either heard or saw 3 Kentucky cardinals, 2 barred doves, 1 Chinese dove, 2 hill robins, 3 white-eyes, and 13 ricebirds.

The most playful sight was to watch a ricebird swing on the end of a grass blade with an occasional short and clear chirp, as though to say, "Gee, it's fun, try it,

it's all yours."

By 7:30 we were in the koa-lehua forest. Now, the excitement should begin. The trail was not too well kept, but nothing bothered us. We were too intent on watching birds and smelling and hearing as rapidly as our small bodies could take.

"Kentucky?"

Silence, only long enough to shift our attention from the right to the left valley.

"Two, male and female."

Kentucky cardinals are always picturesque among the koa trees. They were especially plentiful today.

"Hear that? No?"

"Ke, Amakihi!"

Amakihi is very shy, but today we were fortunate enough to see several of them flying toward us oblivious of our existence. Evidently the amakihi didn't realize that anyone would be on the trail on a day like this; so they were at ease and really performed for us.

Frozen, don't dare move even an inch.

"Here." Passing the glasses.

"In the lehua."

"Yep, apapane."

It's gone, but we can hear its soft song. Oh, how gentle and gracious.

The real treat of the day was a delightfully hospitable elepaio. "Ele - pai - o, ele - pai - o," coming nearer and nearer, then suddenly we saw a young sprightly elepaio. He gave us a very thorough look over, then gave an approving chirp, as if to say, "I am busy, but make yourselves at home." Once he came as near as an arm's length. We spent a very enjoyable time with him for about fifteen minutes. A Chinese thrush's song woke us from our delightful coma and reminded us that we were on a bird count.

Many, many times as we hiked toward the ridge we wished that the birds could only warn us by either singing more melodiously or wearing brighter feathers to remind us that they were already accounted for, but no such luck. If one of the birds saw us counting him twice and suddenly said, "Thank you, I've been accounted for five minutes ago," I know, I'd never take a Christmas census again!

We reached the Woodlawn - St. Louis Trail intersection about 9:15. This is an excellent place to observe birds, but today the wind was too strong for us to even stand still for a minute; consequently, our plan to eat our lunch here was shattered and we were forced to move on.

The wind had broken a white hibiscus twig and blown it on the trail. I'll never have the nerve to pick any flower; so when I saw the beautiful flower, I was excited. There's nothing more thrilling than to come across a white hibiscus on the trail. The wind had immensely handicapped our birding, but I was able to enjoy the sweet fragrance of this hibiscus for the rest of the trip.

The St. Louis Trail was very overgrown, but we managed to hear white-eyes, cardinals, and hill robins. We also saw some beautiful rainbows. One of the most thankful sights was the formation and disappearance of a rainbow. While we were watching the magic rainbow through the ironwood needles, we heard the wind sough through the branches and the occasional melodies of the hill robins and cardinals.

The guava, Norfolk pine area was scarce of birds. Formerly this area was full of white-eyes, sparrows, mynahs, ricebirds, and cardinals; but today even here the wind seemed to be too strong for birds. I have often seen owls among the pines, but there was no sign of them today.

The last bird of the day was a ricebird at 11:30. We hiked 3 miles in $4\frac{1}{2}$ hours in rain and wind. 70% of the time was spent in the koa-lehua forest and 30% in the

guava-kukui forest. The birds seen were as follows: 30 white-eye, 24 ricebird, 14 hill robin, 15 Kentucky cardinal, 6 amakihi, 6 apapane, 6 elepaio, 5 Chinese dove, 3 barred dove, 2 linnet, 1 sparrow, and 1 Chinese thrush. Though we did not see anything unusual, we had an enjoyable morning.

Unoyo Kojima

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Ulupau Head - Mokapu Point Count

For the Christmas Bird Count of 21 December 1947, the area at Kaneohe Naval Air Station, including Ulupau Head and Mokapu Point was assigned to Mr. Al Lebreque, Mr. George Sonoda and myself. The census was made between 8:30 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. A count was made of the birds at rest, either nesting or roosting, at Ulupau Head. Birds in the air over the land were counted when it was evident that they were not recounts that had taken off from the colony. The open country was rather lightly covered and the perimeters of the several pools by the highway were surveyed. The greatest number of species, as well as the greatest number of birds of one species, was seen at Bayou Barager. The following is a list of birds recorded in the area:

Red-footed booby (in white plumage) 773 (in gray plumage) 26, frigate bird 19, sooty tern 194, brown booby 1, common noddy tern 4, unidentified tern 1, English sparrow 37, mynahs 43, ricebirds 96, Chinese ringnecked doves 33, small ground doves 174, Pacific golden plover 108, wandering tattler 5, Kentucky cardinal 1, ruddy turnstone 108, sanderling 2, stilt 127, Brazilian cardinal 2, Hawaiian noddy tern 25, pintail duck 1064, coot 53, black-crowned night heron 6, gallinule 1. Total 23 species, 2903 individuals.

Ruth L. D. Porter

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Christmas Count Summary

Oahu, T.H. (Kapalama Heights, Halawa Trail, Tantalus Trail, Woodlawn - St. Louis Trail, Kuapa Pond, Kaelepulu Pond, Mokapu Peninsula - Ulupau Head; ponds and marshes 27.18%, open country 21.36%, lower forest 29.13%, upper forest 20.39%, residential area 1.94%). December 21, 1947; 6:45 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Overcast, frequent rains; temp. 66-84 degrees F.; wind NNE, 1-30 m.p.h. Fourteen observers in six parties. Total hours, 25 $\frac{3}{4}$ (on foot); total miles 21 (on foot); 157 (in car). Red-footed booby 799, brown booby 1, frigate bird 19, black-crowned night heron 75, pintail 10064, gallinule 1, coot 158, Pacific golden plover 170, ruddy turnstone 118, wandering tattler 6, sanderling 2, Hawaiian stilt 176, Chinese dove 55, barred dove 276, sooty tern 194, common noddy tern 4, Hawaiian noddy tern 25, Japanese tit 2, English sparrow 117, ricebird 140, Kentucky cardinal 55, Brazilian cardinal 6, house finch 6, Chinese thrush 3, Japanese hill robin 73, mynah 97, white-eye 103, Hawaiian owl 1, elepaio 28, apapane 34, amakihi 8. Total 32 species, about 3816 individuals. Harlan Chong, Grenville Hatch, Mark Kerr, Unoyo Kojima, Al LaBreque, Donald Mitchell, Blanche A. Pedley, Ruth Porter, Frank Richardson, George Sakurai, Richard Setsu, Doris L. Smith, George Sonoda, David Woodside (members and guests of Hawaii Audubon Society).

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MIDWAY AGAIN: I went back to Midway on 19-22 December 1947. The goonies (Laysan Albatross) and the black-footed goonies had come back. You may recall, if you read the thing, that I had commented lately that they were gone when I was there in August and September; but like the swallows at Capistrano, they came back on schedule. Practically all birds of both species were on eggs or preparing to nest. To those of us who had never seen the goonies before, their complete calmness in choosing the lawn of the PAA hotel, the skipper's front lawn, or any other place that took their fancy for nesting purposes was amazing. The place is literally covered with them.

Their peculiar dance, which has caused so much comment, was much in evidence, and the consistent clacking of their long bills, sounding much like hitting two sticks together, could be heard for long distances, and at late hours. The ritual dance

contains one "movement" in which the bill is clacked at a rate that would make Gene Krupa envious.

A few Bonin Island Petrels were still in evidence, as were three or four Red-tailed tropic birds and a like number of the little Fairy tern. The thousands of Sooty tern that I had seen in September were gone. I don't recall having seen a single individual during this last trip. One member of our party, who went on to Wake Island, and who had been there in September, commented on the fact that this time, Sooty terns in great number were on Wake, with eggs, although there were few, if any, during September. I wonder, therefore, if the other birds leave Midway when goonies arrive.

The lack of gregariousness between the black-footed and the white goonies was very noticeable. Nesting colonies were established in completely separate places, and individuals of the two species seemed to eye each other with obvious suspicion when passing. And from a purely aromatic standpoint, the goonies were much more pleasant than the boobies on Ulupau Head.

H. Paul Porter

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THE QUESTION OF AVIAN INTRODUCTIONS IN HAWAII. By Harvey I. Fisher. Pacific Science 2:59-64. January 1948.

Dr. Fisher points out that a unique fact about the avifauna of Hawaii is that seldom is a native bird seen in urban areas. However, birds of a few species are abundant in the same areas: these birds are exotics introduced here. The importation of birds has not been limited to forms that would be restricted to the habitat provided by the lower coastal areas, which with few exceptions, are also the urban sections. Hawaiian mountains and forests have many established foreign birds, and native birds in most regions are relatively rare.

In perhaps no other similarly circumscribed area in the world have as many exotic species been introduced successfully (232; of these 94 are exotics of which 53 are probably established and the remainder of unknown status).

Dr. Fisher questions the benefits derived from these wholesale importations. Birds desirable to one economic group are not so to another, and birds esthetically desirable may not be so desirable economically, and vice versa. No comprehensive study seems ever to have been made of the interaction of an exotic and a native bird in Hawaii, so it is not known if the exotics are detrimental to the native species. Avian diseases cannot be guarded against because there is no quarantine on avian imports. Only a clean bill of health from the importer or a veterinarian in the country of export, is required.

Dr. Fisher urges that we cease to accept birds on the simple basis that some one wants them and that no objection has been raised. He feels that our general attitude should be that we want no more exotics.

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LAYSAN ALBATROSS: On December 14, 1947, one Laysan albatross was seen flying low over the east coast of Mokuapu Peninsula. On January 11, 1948, an albatross' egg was seen on Moku Manu in precisely the same spot that the Laysan albatross was raised last year (Fisher; Pacific Science v 2 no 1). This egg may be bad as it appears to be deserted and has a small dent in it.

David Woodside

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FEBRUARY ACTIVITIES:

BIRD WALK: February 8th, to Kipapa. Meet at the Library of Hawaii at 8:30 a.m.

MEETING: February 16th, at 7:30 p.m., at the auditorium of the Library of Hawaii. Dr. Frank Richardson will report on "The Birds of the Plateau between Pelekunu and Wailau Valleys of Molokai."

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HAWAII AUDUBON SOCIETY:

President - Mr. H. Paul Porter, 446 Niu Street

Vice-Presidents - Mr. E. B. Hamilton, 528 17th Street, CHA-3

Miss Grenville Hatch, 1548 Wilhelmina Rise

Secretary-Treasurer - Mrs. Blanche A. Pedley, 3770 Sierra Drive

Editor, The Elepaio - Miss Charlotta Hoskins, 3212 Loulu Street, Honolulu, Hawaii

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