

Journal of the  
HAWAII AUDUBON SOCIETY

Volume 9 Number 1



For the Better Protection  
of Wildlife in Hawaii

July 1948

KOREAN NOTES  
By Chester Fennell

We share with our readers a letter from Chester Fennell, dated March 27th, written from Fusan, Korea.

...How time does fly over here! ...never have I seen the days speed by so rapidly as they do now. On the 4th of April I shall have already been here six months. Incredible, isn't it? Half my contract already served.

You may be wondering at my new address. I had the opportunity to transfer, so grabbed at it, mainly to get away from the congested city area of Seoul for the summer and to explore a wholly new part of the country. Fusan is the leading port of Korea and is located on the extreme southeastern tip of the peninsula about 200 miles from Seoul. I arrived here last week, the 16th to be exact. Much to my surprise, in spite of the fact that it is so much farther south, it's not much warmer than in Seoul, tho the dampness and fresh cold wind off the ocean may make it seem a great deal cooler than it actually is. Similar to San Francisco climate. However, spring is considerably farther advanced than around Seoul. On a hike last Sunday up in the mountains immediately around Fusan, I found several species of wild flowers already in bloom, including: two species of violets (one, purple and one, white; both very small; the white species exceedingly fragrant) and the gerbera anandria Schultz. Forsythias and cherry trees were in flower around the Korean homes as well as two kinds of ornamental trees which I was unable to identify. Willows, azaleas and wild rose bushes were in small leaf.

Bird observations here so far include four species of gulls, tentatively identified as the Vega herring gull (*Larus argentatus vegae* Palmen), the Asiatic common gull (*Larus canus Kamtschatschensis* Bonaparte), the black-tailed gull (*Larus crassirostris* Vieillot) and the Kamtschatkan black-headed gull (*Larus sibiricus* Butlerin). The first three are all fairly common along the piers and along the waterfront in general. To date, I have seen but a single individual of the Kamtschatkan black-headed gull. All species seem to associate closely together.

Golden-eyes (*busephala clangula clangula* (L.)) and eastern scaup ducks (*aythya marila mariloides* (Vigors)) are common in the North Inner Harbor, the latter in flocks of 75 to 100. Also saw 24 shovellers (*spatula clypeata* (L.)) in a small lake only a short way inland from the piers. White-billed divers (*colymbus adamsii* G.R.Gray) are also common in the North Inner Harbor and fearlessly hang around close to the piers and Korean fishing boats ever hopefully looking for hand-outs. Saw four Korean wrens (*troglodytes troglodytes peninsulae* (Clark)) along a small stream in the mountains above the city last Sunday. A flock of some fifty suthoras (*suthora webbia fulvicauda* Campbell) were also observed busily engaged chattering to themselves and rummaging around in a dense thorn thicket close to the city water reservoir. The big surprise of the day was also found in this same landscaped area around the reservoir: a pair of Henson's brown-eared bulbuls (*ixos amaurotis hensoni* (Stejneger)). Tho I had never seen this species before in actual life, I at once recalled it from the color plates in Kuroda's "Birds of the Japanese Empire"



and from museum specimens I had seen in Seoul. It is a loud brazen species and extremely aggressive in all its actions. This particular pair, for the most part, frequented the topmost branches of the nearby deciduous trees, frequently uttering high-pitched, whistling calls and greedily gulping down the large, white flower petals of an early blooming ornamental tree. Every now and then they broke into short, clumsy, fly-catcher-like flights in awkward attempts to capture some insect or other flying past. I heartily doubt that they had any success whatsoever, for soon as they left their perch they rapidly dropped in elevation and only by much flapping and fluttering of the wings were they able at all to regain their former position. Their long tails and ragged crests help not a little in giving them a bold cocky appearance. According to the 1942 "Handlist of Japanese Birds" published by the Ornithological Society in Japan, this species is only a winter visitant to Korea and breeds in Hokkaido, Japan.

Hope that by this time you may have seen some of the color shots I forwarded to the Porters a short time ago. Hope to procure more of birdlife as I go along, especially since I now have an 8 mm. movie camera and a telephoto lens. Have high hopes of getting out on some of the offshore islands this summer to look for sea bird colonies. Wish Miss Peppin were close by for professional assistance and to help make the most of the opportunities present.

Rose Titus, teaching at Pahala, Hawaii, reports hill robins at Hui-o-Pele shelter, 13,280 ft. elevation, and 20 to 30 feet from the rim of Mokuawaeoweo crater. She saw them there January 1 of this year. Isn't this an all-time-high record? Would appreciate knowing...

Best wishes to all our Island friends.

-----00000-----

Editor's note: In the Elepaio, for September, 1945, vol. 6, p. 19, mention is made of a dead hill robin having been found by Dr. V.G. Clark in the vicinity of the pond near the top of Maunakea, at an elevation of 13,007 feet. It would appear that Miss Titus has recorded the highest elevation yet known for the hill robin. We would welcome comment from our readers.

-----00000-----

FILMS PRESENTED TO THE SOCIETY: Miss Hazel Peppin has presented to the Society two reels of colored motion pictures of Hawaiian perching birds, making two stipulations: (1) that the Audubon officers approve, as a group, of where and how the films are to be used, thereby maintaining better supervision and prolonging their years of usefulness, (2) that she may have the privilege of borrowing them should the occasion arise.

The Society has gratefully accepted this most generous gift, with a keen realization of its value, representing infinite patience and skill, and unique in showing the iiwi and apapane.

-----00000-----

BIRD WALK: Sunday, May 9th. Rain and Tantalus perforce ruled out again, so we journeyed once more to Kalena, which is certainly an ideal spot for bird watchers regardless of weather. As we set out, there were six to eight black-crowned night heron at their usual fishing grounds in the Pearl Harbor flats. Our progress was temporarily handicapped by several over-vigilant MPs at Schofield, but we were finally "set free" and drove up into the Waianae's where there was much less rain than might have been expected.



While the trail was short, the variety of the birds seen and heard was great. Just as we started up the hill the brilliant song of a Chinese thrush filled the air, and we all stopped to listen as it sang on and on. Miss Kojima slid into the thicket and reported seeing two of the birds before they flew. A good beginning! White-eyes were everywhere, and Kentucky cardinals, even as high as the crest of the ridge. There were linnets and amakihi, Japanese hill robins and elepaio for all to observe. Along the ridge with lehua in bloom, both iiwi and apapane flew into view, though less obligingly close than on previous trips.

From the beginning of our walk the Japanese bush warbler kept us tantalized by his invisible nearness, calling constantly and wandering off into his shaky song from time to time. The great patience of one group was finally rewarded by actual sight of a bush warbler--certainly a crowning achievement. For this writer, however, the high point of the day was a long look at what must have been female Oahu creepers--two of them--busily tearing up the bark of dead limbs in search of insects. The two-barred wings and characteristic movements of the small brownish birds up and down the limbs "chipping" as they went, convinced us that we really had seen creepers.

Eleven species on one small ridge in an equally small space of time--who could ask for more?

Margaret W. Clark

-----00000-----

BIRD WALK: May 22d, the third Saturday bird walk, was a pleasant surprise for the nine fortunate rambles. Tantalus was overcast with rain clouds, but we courageously decided to take the scheduled trip. I as usual misled the group into the Paea Valley where we saw the Kentucky cardinal singing from the very top of a dead branch. When I heard the doves and ricebirds from a vacant lot, I knew that we were on the wrong road, so reluctantly we turned away from this sleepy valley and headed toward the higher road. It was a wonderful climb. White-eyes were all over, busily hopping from one tree to another. Each curve brought us higher and higher toward the hogsback. The air smelt sweet, and the breeze mixed in with the filtered warmth of the sun felt wonderful. One always feels gentle and kind and speaks never louder than a whisper on a day like this.

When we reached the top, it was quite a surprise to see residential homes instead of hill robins. Evidently men have taken over this parking area. Even the audacious hill robins haven't developed enough confidence in men to share the woods with them. The day was hazy, but wonderfully enchanting. Even an artist could not do justice to this day.

The trail was quite clear, but wet enough to be slippery. No ginger blossoms, but the plants seemed so refreshed after the Friday night's rain. White-eyes and hill robins were everywhere, but they kept away from us. Have you ever heard a symphony in a bamboo grove? It's delightful and contentment. The woodwinds, brasses and string instruments melodiously rocking me to sleep.

As we were eating our lunches, we were treated to the delicate beauty of a tropic bird gracefully flying towards Manoa Cliff. Molokai, Lanai, and even Maui were visible.

I, in a way, felt neglected to end a hike without the occasional showers. Though the rain clouds drifted by, there was not a single drop to refresh us, and even the elepaio did not come around. Of course, I could have waited for the rain and the elepaio, but I was very much satisfied and grateful for all that were given to me, and feeling very happy, got into our cars and headed for home.

Unoyo Kojima

-----00000-----



## BIRD BANDING RETURNS

The following records have been sent to us by the Fish and Wildlife Service.

Band No. 40-407540, *Anous stolidus pileatus* (noddy tern) nestling banded Sept. 6, 1947 on Rabbit Island by Chester M. Fennell. Found dead Nov. 30, 1947, on Waimanalo Beach between Waimanalo and Kailua by G. A. Barnard.

Band No. 44-725941, *Sula sula rubripes* (red-footed booby) adult banded June 28, 1947 at Ulupau by Chester M. Fennell. Found dead Sept. 9, 1947 at Waimanalo by Daniel Highland.

Band No. 44-725809, *Sula sula rubripes* (red-footed booby) nestling banded June 28, 1947 at Ulupau by Chester M. Fennell. Found dying Oct. 11, 1947 at Ulupau by John Noa.

Band No. 44-725020, *Sula sula rubripes* (red-footed booby) adult banded June 14, 1947 at Ulupau by Chester M. Fennell. Found dead May 1, 1947 at Ulupau by John Wooley.

Band No. 41-724280, *Diomedea nigripes* (black-footed albatross) adult banded in June 1946, on Sand Island, Midway, by Commodore Gordon Rowe. Captured and released Nov. 2, 1947 on Sand Island by Roy C. Ketchum.

Band Nos. 41-724271 and 41-724229, *Diomedea nigripes* (black-footed albatross) adults banded in June 1946, on Sand Island, Midway by Commodore Gordon Rowe. Captured and released Nov. 2, 1947 on Sand Island by Roy C. Ketchum.

Band No. 40-721519, *Diomedea nigripes* (black-footed albatross) adult banded Dec. 25, 1940 on Sand Island, Midway by Walter Donaghho. Found dead Nov. 1, 1947 by T/Sgt. Paul H. Falgout.

Band No. 40-721213, *Diomedea nigripes* (black-footed albatross) adult banded Dec. 25, 1940 on Sand Island, Midway by Walter Donaghho. Caught on fish hook July 22, 1942 fifteen miles southwest of Cape Ommamey, Alaska by Captain Sam Haugan.

Band No. 40-721589, *Diomedea nigripes* (black-footed albatross) adult banded Dec. 25, 1940 on Sand Island, Midway by Walter Donaghho. Retaken on Midway Island by R. I. Musselman.

Band No. 40-721313, *Diomedea nigripes* (black-footed albatross) banded Jan. 12, 1941 on Sand Island, Midway by Walter Donaghho. Band found with some skin attached Nov. 7, 1942 at Naval Air Station, Midway Island by A. A. Blaszk, Ph M 1/c.

Band No. 40-721392, *Diomedea nigripes* (black-footed albatross) adult banded Dec. 29, 1940 on Sand Island, Midway by Walter Donaghho. Found dead about May 27, 1942 at about two and one-half miles north of Yachats, Oregon by W. O. Hammon.

Band No. 40-721470, *Diomedea nigripes* (black-footed albatross) banded Dec. 7, 1940 on Sand Island, Midway by Walter Donaghho. Captured and released between Dec. 1946 and Feb. 1947 on Midway Island by Mrs. C. T. Jones.

Band Nos. 41-414428 and 41-41432, *Puffinus pacificus cuneatus* (wedge-tailed shearwater) banded June 22, 1946 at Kapapa Island by George C. Munro. Captured May 23, 1948 on Kapapa Island by George C. Munro.

Band Nos. 41-414464 and 41-414482, *Puffinus pacificus cuneatus* (wedge-tailed shearwater) banded April 19, 1947 on Kapapa Island by George C. Munro. Captured May 23, 1948 on Kapapa Island by George C. Munro.

Band No. 41-414495, *Puffinus pacificus cuneatus* (wedge-tailed shearwater) banded May 10, 1947 on Kapapa Island by George C. Munro. Captured May 23, 1948 on Kapapa Island by George C. Munro.

-----00000-----



CAPTURE OF ALBATROSSES NEAR JAPAN: The Elepaio for May (Vol. 8, p. 59) carried a note taken from the Honolulu Advertiser regarding the capture of an albatross banded in Hawaii and captured near Japan when it swallowed a baited fish hook. The article stated that this was the second instance of birds banded in the Hawaiian Islands being captured near Japan. Mr. George C. Munro has called to our attention that this is actually the third such case. A fullgrown young Laysan albatross, banded by Hadden in July 1937, was taken 300 miles from Japan in December 1937. A black-footed albatross, banded by Walter Donaghho, December 1940, on Sand Island, Midway, was reported by Inamitsi Oka as being taken off Tokyo, Japan on April 30, 1941. So this one, reported by Dr. Oliver Mistin, Jr., is the third case on record.

-----00000-----

SATURDAY BIRD WALKS DISCONTINUED: We regret to announce that the experimental Saturday bird walks have been discontinued, at least for the present. Those who have attended report the usual enjoyable and profitable time, but the Saturday walk has not fulfilled the purpose for which it was attempted--to provide a field trip for those who are unable to join us on Sunday. Our thanks are extended to Miss Kojima for devoting an extra day each month to the experiment.

-----00000-----

EDITOR ON HOLIDAY: Our editor is on a well-earned holiday, visiting in Los Angeles, then taking the northern route through Canada, stopping at points of interest. She will spend the summer at Breadloaf, returning in September to Hawaii. Mrs. Priscilla Griffey Harpham has kindly consented to take over (after this issue) until Miss Hoskins' return.

-----00000-----

#### JULY ACTIVITIES:

BIRD WALK: July 11th, to Pa Lehua. Meet at the Library of Hawaii at 8:30 a.m. Instead of the usual Honouliuli Trail let's attempt the ridge trail; down into the valley and have lunch at the cabin!?

MEETING: July 18th, SUNDAY, at the Bird Park. Meet at 9:00 a.m. at the parrot cages. Mr. Paul Breese, Director of the Zoo, will conduct us on tour around the park, showing us the various birds and giving us an idea of the general plans for the development of the bird park. Mr. Breese hopes by that time there will be a number of baby birds, which he promises to permit us to see.

-----00000-----

#### HAWAII AUDUBON SOCIETY:

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

Vice-Presidents - Mr. E. B. Hamilton

Miss Grenville Hatch, 1548 Wilhelmina Rise

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

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

DUES: Regular - \$2.00 per annum Junior (18 years and under) - \$1.00 per annum  
Life - \$50.00