



# 'ELEPAIO

Journal of the  
Hawaii Audubon Society

For the Protection of  
Hawaii's Native Wildlife

VOLUME 65, NUMBER 5

JUNE/JULY 2005

## Results of 2004-2005 Christmas Bird Count – Main Hawaiian Islands

Species	Kaua'i		O'ahu		Moloka'i	Maui		Hawai'i
Laysan Albatross	4	136 HC						
White-tailed Tropicbird	20	9			101 HC		3	
Red-tailed Tropicbird					55 HC			
Masked Booby		1						
Brown Booby	1	22		7		26 HC		
Red-footed Booby		619		996				
Great Frigatebird	2	14		17		1		
Great Blue Heron				1 US				
Cattle Egret	329	329	229	189	7 LC	18	194	
Black-crowned Night Heron	27	16	18	66	2 LC	1	301 HC	
White-faced Ibis		5 HC	1 US				CW US	
Canada Goose			1			1		
Nene	6 HC	128 HC				2		1 LC
Eurasian Wigeon			5 US					
wigeon sp.		4						
Mallard			2	74	CW	5	17	
Koloa	38 HC	184		3			2 US	
Koloa x Mallard hybrid			11	43 HC			59 HC	
Blue-winged Teal				1 US				
Northern Shoveler		11	1	1	CW		238 HC	
Northern Pintail			62	2	36 HC			
Green-winged Teal		1	1					
Ring-necked Duck		1						
duck sp.				247			6	
scaup sp.	1						21	
Lesser Scaup		3		1	13 HC			
'Io								1 LC
Chukar							2	
Gray Francolin			7	2	10 LC		24	
Black Francolin	3				8		11 HC	
Erckel's Francolin	22		6					

CW - reported count week

HC - high count

LC - low count

US - unusual sighting

*continued*

Species	Kaua'i		O'ahu		Moloka'i	Maui		Hawai'i
Red Junglefowl	181	19			28	16	6	
Ring-necked Pheasant	11	3	2	1		1	2	
California Quail					CW US			
Hawaiian Moorhen	13	84 HC	1	24				
Hawaiian Coot		65	210	90	76 LC		241	
Pacific Golden-Plover	36	203	346	978	98 LC	45	109	16 HC
Hawaiian Stilt	28 HC	100	123	175	91 LC	5	531 HC	
Wandering Tattler	10 HC	5	7	30	3		12	
Bristle-thighed Curlew					5			
Marbled Godwit							1 US	
Ruddy Turnstone	5	12	64	336	32		26	
Sanderling	16			10	7		96	
Dunlin							1	
Long-billed Dowitcher							6	
dowitcher sp.					1			
Bonaparte Gull	1 US HC							
Ring-billed Gull				1			1	
Glaucous-winged gull	1							
Caspian Tern				1 US			CW US	
Hawaiian Noddy	3			2		250		
White Tern				6				
Rock Dove	33		285	268	1	4	19	
Spotted Dove	157	120	383	717	51 LC	31	114	
Zebra Dove	220	218	1103 HC	1902	129 LC	36	107	
Mourning Dove			5 US				65 HC	
Rose-ringed Parakeet				16				
Mitred Parakeet						89 US HC		
Sulphur-crested Cockatoo				4 US				
Barn Owl				CW			1	
Pueo	1	1		1 US		1	1	
Kaua'i 'Elepaio	44							
O'ahu 'Elepaio			7	3				
Eurasian Skylark			3		4	26		
Red-vented Bulbul			315	524				
Red-whiskered Bulbul			20	122				
Japanese Bush-warbler	2	5	43	12		5	4	
White-rumped Shama	29	14	28	41	1			
Oma'o								18 LC
Puaiohi	2							
Hwamei	38 HC	9		2		14	4	

CW - reported count week  
 HC - high count  
 LC - low count  
 US - unusual sighting

*continued*

	Kaua'i		O'ahu		Moloka'i	Maui		Hawai'i
Species								
Red-billed Leiothrix			12	85		6		
Japanese White-eye	38	108	266	284	7	147	49	6 LC
Northern Mockingbird	16	5	2	1	1	1	1	
Common Myna	223	255	877	1435	135	221	155	3 LC
Yellow-faced Grassquit			2 US					
Saffron Finch	2 US HC		32 US	4 US				
Red-crested Cardinal	30	56	58	225	4 LC	1	7	
Northern Cardinal	60	21	69	92	10	14	18	1 LC
Western Meadowlark	1	29						
House Finch	139	13	221	323		13	41	1 LC
Yellow-fronted Canary				18				
Maui 'Amakihi						19	3	
Hawai'i 'Amakihi								7 LC
O'ahu 'Amakihi			35	21 LC				
Kaua'i 'Amakihi	72							
'Anianiau	27							
'Akikiki	3 US							
Maui 'Alauahio						2		
'Akeke'e	19							
'I'iwi	22					4		23 LC
'Apapane	303		68			36		58LC
House Sparrow	144		335	296		12	114	2 LC
Orange-cheeked Waxbill				4 US			33 HC	
Common Waxbill			423	553				
Red Avadavat			5	31				
African Silverbill	12 US HC							
Nutmeg Mannikin	118	313	88	97	3	23	3	50 HC
Chestnut Munia	270	120	772	12			2 US	
Java Sparrow	69	58	247	909		35	22	
<b>Species</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>Observers</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>Party-hours</b>	<b>36.25</b>	<b>26.75</b>	<b>38.25</b>	<b>59.25</b>	<b>11.5</b>	<b>15.5</b>	<b>20.0</b>	<b>4.0</b>
<b>Count Date</b>	<b>12/18/04</b>	<b>12/28/04</b>	<b>01/02/05</b>	<b>12/18/04</b>	<b>12/20/04</b>	<b>12/19/04</b>	<b>12/16/04</b>	<b>12/18/04</b>

CW - reported count week

HC - high count

LC - low count

US - unusual sighting

# Results of 2004-2005 Christmas Bird Count – Northwest Hawaiian Islands

## Northwestern Hawaiian Islands

Species	Laysan Island	French Frigate Shoals
Laysan Albatross	140,629	4,424 HC
Black-footed Albatross	21,006	5,988
Black-footed X Laysan Albatross (hybrid)	3	2
Bonin Petrel	CW	CW
Wedge-tailed Shearwater	2	
Tristram Storm-Petrel	CW	US CW
Red-tailed Tropicbird	3	6
Masked Booby	89	182
Brown Booby	27	51
Red-footed Booby	227	1,079
Great Frigatebird	931	980
Cattle Egret	1 US	
Laysan Duck	483 HC	
Northern Pintail	22 HC	
Bufflehead	1 US	
Pacific Golden-Plover	389	95
Semi-palmated Plover	3 US	
Wandering Tattler	112	3
Whimbrel	1 US	
Bristle-thighed Curlew	20	1 LC
Ruddy Turnstone	1,319	465
Sanderling	27 HC	19 HC
Red Phalarope	1 US	
Brown Noddy	28	645
Hawaiian Noddy	1,070	847
Gray-backed Tern	8	3
Sooty Tern	2	2
White Tern	41	181
Laysan Finch	CW	
<b>Species</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>Observers</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Party-hours</b>	<b>18.0</b>	<b>9.5</b>
<b>Count Date</b>	<b>12/26/04</b>	<b>12/23/04</b>

CW - reported count week  
 LC - unusually low count  
 HC - unusually high count  
 US - unusual sighting

# Initiation of a Life History Study of Ruddy Turnstones ('Akekeke) Near Nome, Alaska

by Andrea Bruner, 2004 HAS Research Grant recipient



As part of the requirements for receiving a research assistance grant from Hawaii Audubon Society I am reporting on the findings of my work during this past field season (5-18 June 2004). Over the last 16 years I have been involved in life history studies of Black-bellied, American and Pacific Golden-Plover on the Seward Peninsula in western Alaska 40 miles NW of Nome. This research has yielded many new insights and publications.

The 2004 field season marked the beginning of a new, long-term study on the Ruddy Turnstone (*Arenaria interpres*). This is the second most abundant wintering shorebird in Hawaii. Its Hawaiian name imitates its call, 'Akekeke. The immediate focus of my research is on nest site fidelity, mate retention, and natal philopatry. Three pairs were caught and color banded along with five chicks. Locating nests and trapping both members of a pair is a time consuming and challenging process. The chicks must be banded within 24 hours of hatching or they will have left the nest and be extremely difficult to safely capture.

'Akekeke prefer to nest close to small water features and both parents actively incubate and defend the nest. Turnstones at Nome, Alaska hatch two to three weeks before plovers. Their breeding territories overlap with Black-bellied Plover territories at our study site. The 2005 field season will be used to band additional turnstones and search for 2004 marked birds.

An exciting and unexpected result of the 2004 banding effort was the discovery by Reggie David of one of our marked adult male turnstones at Honokohau on the Big Island. This bird has been repeatedly seen at this location. On March 5, 2005 it was well along in acquiring its breeding plumage. It took eleven attempts to capture this bird on the breeding grounds in 2004. As the 2005 field season at Nome approaches I look forward to seeing this individual complete its annual cycle from breeding grounds to wintering grounds and back.

# HAS Awards For Student Research

by Wendy Johnson, Education Committee Chair

Hawaii Audubon Society presented two awards for outstanding research relating to Hawai'i's natural history at the 48th Hawai'i State Science and Engineering Fair. In early April representatives of Hawaii Audubon Society's Education Committee joined other agency judges in studying the exhibits and interviewing students on the subject of their original research.

Samuel Alonzo and Dillon Wier from Kapolei High School received the HAS Senior Division Research award for their project entitled "Reef Efficiency - Natural Reef vs. Artificial Reef." Snorkeling off Kahe Point on west O'ahu every day for a month, these students monitored biodiversity and took underwater photographs to document their research. These energetic boys counted and identified twenty species of fish during the course of their study, and found that cement slabs constituting an artificial reef serve as good habitat for a wide variety of fish in the area. The natural coral reef in the same vicinity generally had fewer fish and less biodiversity. It was noted that coral was sparse and unhealthy in the natural reef adjacent to the artificial one, and the students felt more artificial reefs should be created to supplement deteriorated coastal habitats which support marine life. Samuel and Dillon really enjoyed their field work and plan to continue their investigations.

The HAS award for outstanding Junior Division Research relating to Hawai'i's natural history went to a project submitted by Mali'o Kodis, a seventh grader at Waiakea Intermediate School in Hilo on the island of Hawai'i. Mali'o designed a series of tests to investigate: "Hedychium gardnerianum's (Kahili Ginger) Effects on Surrounding Soil and Native Flora." She eradicated Kahili Ginger from four small plots of wild growth in the Hilo area to determine whether or not native plant growth would be stimulated as a result. Mali'o also tested soil pH in the test plots before and after eradication. While it was difficult to control or monitor all the variables in this natural setting, Mali'o's work did indicate that fewer native plants flourished in areas near ginger plants or roots. The presence of ginger also was

associated with more alkaline soil, while it is believed that native plants prefer acidic soil because they evolved in the presence of acidic volcanic emissions. This study highlights the complexity and importance of efforts to protect native plants as a vital part of Hawai'i's unique environment.



The HAS award for outstanding research in the Junior Division went to Mali'o Kodis.



Samuel Alonzo and Dillon Wier received the HAS award for outstanding Senior Research relating to Hawaii's natural history.

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'Iwi photo by T. Dove

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

## June 20th Program Meeting: Midway Atoll's Birds, Turtles and Seals with Sally Ann Marston

HAS Volunteer Sally Ann Marston has a B.S. in Wildlife Biology from Evergreen State College, Olympia, WA. She has done work with Marbled murrelets, Northern spotted owls, Bald eagles, Sandhill cranes, banding projects of shorebirds and passerines, harbor seal studies, and extensive salmon restoration projects in the Northwest.

Sally will present a slide show of Midway's fauna from her three-month stay as an intern for USFW Service in 1992. While on the atoll, she participated in numerous studies, including the breeding success of Laysan and Black-footed albatross, and numerous atoll-wide census of seals, turtles, and seabirds.

Also included will be National Marine Fisheries Service's Monk Seal Recovery Team's translocation project of young female seal to the atoll and the tagging of a newly weaned seal. Slides of about 15 seabird species, shorebirds, and more unusual birds will be shown as well.

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 6:30pm to 8:30pm, refreshments are served, and HAS products will be available for purchase.



*Laysan Albatross photo by S. Marston*

## Field Trips for 2005

Field Trip information and updates are also be available on the HAS office answering machine (528-1432) and on our website, [www.hawaiiaudubon.com](http://www.hawaiiaudubon.com).

**June 25, Saturday, Hilton Hawaiian Village.** Tour the exotic bird collection with a guide from Hilton's Wildlife Department. The Hilton's lush grounds are home to an intriguing variety of birds from all over the world including swans, penguins, flamingos, cranes, ibises, Mandarin ducks, cockatoos and parrots. Trip starts at 9:30am; limited to 15 participants. Please call the office to register, 528-1432. *The previously planned Waikamoi Preserve trip with Jennifer Crummer has been postponed because of access difficulties.*

**July 9, Saturday, Kawai Nui Marsh.** Wetlands bird walk with Ron Walker. Kawai Nui marsh, Hamakua wetlands, and Kaelepulu in Enchanted Lake. The tour will take place from 8:30am until noon. Bring water, sunscreen, sun hat, raincoat, binoculars, and good walking shoes. Trip limited to 20 participants, please call the office to register, 528-1432

**July 26, Tuesday, Chevron Ponds** with Sal Pagliaro. In 1992, the first Hawaiian Stilts on Chevron's property at Campbell Industrial Park were seen - standing fresh water attracts birds - so Chevron fixed up several ponds and began managing them. The US Fish & Wildlife Service has been monitoring them since 1993, and trapping cats & mongoose as well. Chevron personnel will give us a tour of this great place, but please note that photography is prohibited. Limited to 12 participants. Trip starts

at 7:30am. Participants must call office to register, 528-1432.

**August 27, Saturday, Kuli'ou'ou Ridge** with Dr. Phil Bruner. A trip to view both alien and native plants and birds at the top of the trail. Stuart Ball's book, *The Hiker's Guide to O'ahu*, calls this one of the finest hikes on the island, and says it offers something for everyone. Please call the office (528-1432) to register and for directions to the trail head. Hike starts at 8am, bring food, water, sunscreen, and binoculars, and be sure to wear good hiking shoes.

**September (date TBA) James Campbell National Wildlife Refuge** with Ron Walker. See Hawai'i's endangered waterbirds and other migratory waterfowl at one of O'ahu's few remaining wetlands. This is a good place for unusual sightings! In past years we've see the Red Knot, Semi-palmated Plover, Common Pochard, Black-tailed Godwit, and even a Peregrine Falcon. Bring water, snacks, binoculars, spotting scope if you have one, and sunscreen. This is a non-strenuous field trip, very little walking is involved. Please call the office to register, 528-1432.

**October (date TBA) 'Ihi'ihilauakea** in the Hanauma Bay area (sorry, previously listed as Maui).

**November (date TBA) Sea Life Park Seabird Rehabilitation Center** with Arlene Buchholz. Go behind the scenes at Sea Life Park and learn about the Seabird Rehabilitation program.

**December (dates and schedule TBA) Annual Christmas Bird Count.**

## Membership in Hawaii Audubon Society

### Regular US Member

(via bulk mail, not forwardable) .....\$ 15.00  
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 PLEASE LET US KNOW IF YOUR ADDRESS CHANGES.

## Upcoming Events of Interest

### Bishop Museum:

“The Sky Tonight” occurs in the planetarium on the first Friday of each month at 7:00 pm hosted by Barry Peckham. General admission is \$4 for adults, \$3 for ages 4-12. Reservations are highly recommended and can be made by calling 848-4168.

### Hanauma Bay Lecture Series:

All events are on Thursday nights at 6:30pm in the Hanauma Bay Theater and usually run about 1 hour. Events are free and open to the public. Parking and entrance are free after 4:30pm. No reservations required.

June 9: “Special Ocean Day Event” Northwest Hawaiian Islands Coral Reef Ecosystem Reserve.

June 16: Film “Coral Seas” Blue Planet film by BBC, introduced by Cindy Hunter, Hawaii Coral Reef Initiative and Hawai‘i Institute of Marine Biology.

June 23: Hawai‘i Coral Reef Initiative, lecture by Michael Hamnet, Hawai‘i Coral Reef Initiative.

June 30: Film “Healing Sea” by Films for Humanities and Sciences. Introduced by David Krupp, Windward Community College and Hawai‘i Institute of Marine Biology.

Schedule for July was unavailable at this printing; check the Bay’s website, <http://www2.hawaii.edu/~hanauma/programs>

### Waikiki Aquarium:

July 8, 7:00-9:30pm, Coral Reef Spawning and Romance. Each summer, rice corals in the Aquarium’s Edge of the Reef exhibit spawn two to four days after the new moon. Celebrate this rite of the reef renewal with the Waikiki Aquarium. Minimum age 16 years. \$12, \$16 for non-members. Reservations required, 440-9007.

### ‘Elepaio

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## Calendar of Events

### Monday, July 18 Board Meeting

Open to all members, 6:30 to 8:30pm at the HAS office.

**June 20 Program Meeting.** Midway Atoll's Birds, Turtles, and Seals with Sally Marston. See page 38.

### June 25 Field Trip

Hilton Hawaiian Village exotic birds. See page 38.

### July 9 Field Trip

Kailua Wetlands bird walk with Ron Walker. See page 38.

### July 26 Field Trip

Chevron Ponds (Hawaiian Stilts) with Sal Pagliaro. See page 38.

**August 15 Program Meeting.** Topic to be announced.

### August 27 Field Trip

Kuli'ou'ou Ridge with Dr. Phil Bruner. See page 38.

See also Upcoming Events of Interest, page 39.

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