

FOREST BIRD POPULATIONS ON O'AHU

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For the past three years Ahuimanu Productions has conducted various environmental assessments that have led to a greater understanding of the abundance and distribution of O'ahu's forest birds. Beginning in June of 1976 with a brief survey of South Halawa Valley, a series of four avifaunal surveys was conducted in consideration of the alternate routes for the proposed H-3 trans-Ko'olau highway (1, 2, 3, 5). The most intensive as well as extensive survey of the series was initiated on December 19, 1977, and was completed on March 9, 1978. This most recent survey involved 200 man-days in the field and was conducted in eight central Ko'olau valleys and ridges extending from Moanalua Valley in the south to Poamoho Trail in the north. In addition a bird and mammal survey of Army lands on O'ahu and Hawai'i was conducted during 1976 to 1977 under contract to the Army Engineers Division, Pacific Ocean (5). As a part of this contract, a significant portion of the Northern Ko'olau Range and a less extensive area in the Wai'anae Range were surveyed for forest birds. The compilation of these avifaunal surveys represents the most intensive study of O'ahu's forest birds ever conducted.

In addition to extensive data on abundance and distribution of O'ahu's common forest birds, significant information gathered from these avifaunal studies include:

- 1) Observations that confirm the substantial range extension of three exotic species (Vanikoro Swiftlet, Red-vented Bulbul, Yellow-faced Grassquit) (3, 4, 5);
- 2) Three separate observations of the endangered O'ahu Creeper in the central Ko'olau Range (5);
- 3) The first nesting record for the Vanikoro Swiftlet in Hawai'i (5);
- 4) The probable sighting of a female O'ahu 'Akepa at the summit of Schofield-Waikane Trail (4);

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- 5) The observation of the "Mystery Garrulax" on Poamoho Trail, a bird that had not been seen in nearly two decades (5);
- 6) The discovery of a substantial population of 'I'iwi in the Wai'anae Range below Ka'ala (4).

Copies of these contracted survey reports are not currently available for mass distribution. However, the compiled data are now being prepared for future publication.

- 1) Shallenberger, R. J. 1976. Avifaunal survey of South Halawa Valley. Prepared under contract to Parsons, Brinkerhoff-Hirota Assoc. (June 1976). Unpublished.
- 2) Shallenberger, R. J. 1976. Avifaunal survey of North Halawa Valley. Prepared under contract to Parsons, Brinkerhoff-Hirota Assoc. (Sept. 1976). Unpublished.
- 3) Shallenberger, R. J. 1977. Avifaunal survey of North Halawa Valley, Oahu. Prepared under contract to Parsons, Brinkerhoff-Hirota Assoc. (August 1977). Unpublished. Appears in reference no. 6 (Vol. 5).
- 4) Shallenberger, R. J. 1977. Bird and Mammal study of Army lands in Hawaii. Prepared on contract to the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers. Ahuimanu Productions, Kailua. 598 pp. (3 Vols.).
- 5) Shallenberger, R. J. 1978. Avifaunal survey of the central Koolau Range, Oahu. Prepared under contract to Parsons, Brinkerhoff-Hirota Assoc. (April 1978). 106 pp. Unpublished.