



THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY

HAWAII CHAPTER

Newsletter

August 2010

From the President

by Bill Standley

Yet another year has passed since the last newsletter and I'd like to be able to report that construction has begun on the Kaena Point fencing project, but unfortunately it's still a couple of months away (see article on page 6). Besides continuing to sponsor grants like the Kaena Point fencing project, the Chapter had several activities on Oahu this past year. We had a fun-filled social event at the local pub on the UH Manoa campus, and will be planning another such event in the fall. Thanks to the leadership of a couple of Chapter members, we also held two field trips during the past year, one was a tour of the James Campbell National Wildlife Refuge and one took participants on a search for Elepaio nests in Moanalua Valley (see article on page 3).

I want to thank outgoing Chapter Board members Keith Swindle and Vanessa Pepi for their participation on the Board last year and am happy to say that Brenda Becker, Ed Johnson, Liz Kashinsky, Dave Leonard and Dave Smith all returned as Board members. Their time and efforts are greatly appreciated. I am pleased to report that we have three new Board members this year – Chris Lepcyck, Mike Lohr and Barry Stieglitz. Chris works at UH Manoa (see article on page 2), Mike works for Pono Pacific Ecosystem Restoration Services, and Barry works for the National Wildlife Refuge System of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

We are always looking for new ways to expand the Chapter's opportunities to promote wildlife conservation issues in Hawaii so I encourage you to get in touch with any Board member if you have any ideas.

In this issue -

- The Wildlife Ecology Conservation and Management Lab at UH Manoa
- Hawaii Wildlife Center Update
- 2010 Chapter Field Trips
- Oil Spills: Is Hawaii at risk? Is Hawaii prepared?
- New Journal of Fish and Wildlife Management
- Kaena Point Fencing Update

Join us for the following events at the 2010 Hawaii Conservation Conference:

UH-HIP Breakfast Join us for our annual UH-Hawaiian Internship Program breakfast at 7:00 a.m. on August 5th at Ala Moana Beach Park on the grass near the Diamond Head/makai corner of the Magic Island parking lot.

Chapter Meeting Our annual opportunity to get together with the full membership will be held on August 5th at 5:00 p.m. in room #312 at the Hawaii Convention Center. Please come by to say to hi.

TWS-HI T-shirt or Tank Top Purchase a TWS-HI chapter t-shirt featuring Ron Walker's beautiful Wedge-tailed Shearwater design. Men's t-shirts and women's tank tops will be available. Look for our table at the HCC.

The Wildlife Ecology Conservation and Management Lab at UH Manoa

By Cheryl Lohr

Two small rooms in Sherman Laboratory at the University of Hawaii at Manoa are the home-base for the new Laboratory of Wildlife Ecology, Conservation and Management. In these rooms you will find Dr. Christopher Lepczyk leading a host of students in pursuing research questions which address issues such as: ecosystem degradation; homogenization of the world's biodiversity; the rise in exotic species and extinction of native species; and stakeholder involvement in managing and conserving biodiversity. The research currently underway in the lab is inter-disciplinary and incorporates different fields of research, including wildlife ecology, conservation, landscape ecology, human dimensions of natural resources, invasion biology, and natural resource management. Chris is currently investigating: how landscape changes relate to dynamics in animal communities/populations across the USA; how 3D forest structure relates to bird diversity; and, if stable ecosystems house greater biodiversity. Chris is also in the process of developing new urban ecology investigations here in Hawaii.



Dr. Chris Lepczyk

In only its first two years of existence the lab rapidly grew to house 10 graduate and several undergraduate students. **Cheryl Lohr** is investigating stakeholder's perceptions of over a
Continued on page 5



Hawaii Wildlife Center Update

By Linda Elliott

Thanks to the many donors and supporters, including the Hawaii Chapter of TWS, the first phase of the construction of the Hawaii Wildlife Center (HWC) is complete. A weatherproof building now stands, the interior is framed and ready for completion, and a fully graded site has been prepped for final landscaping. The windows and sliding glass doors were all donated and have been installed. The metal roofing, siding and gutters are complete along with all exterior painting. We are grateful to our design / engineering / construction team for making this happen.

The HWC is located on 2.2 acres in north Kohala on the Big Island and will be the first emergency wildlife response and rehabilitation facility for native Hawaiian wildlife. The 4,500-square-foot Center consists of three integrated facilities: an indoor and outdoor wildlife care and response unit, an education pavilion, and an interpretive courtyard. The HWC will also respond seven days a week to treat sick and injured native birds. It will provide the best achievable medical and husbandry care for sick, injured and orphaned native wildlife from throughout the archipelago, including those affected by natural and man-made disasters. The goal is to return those successfully treated back to the wild. Animals under care will provide hands-on experience and information on these rare species. Overall wildlife populations will also benefit by serving as a resource for public education about each individual and the needs of the entire population.

Continued on page 5

2010 TWS-HI Chapter Field Trips

Chapter members on Oahu organized two field trips this past year. Mike Silbernagle organized a trip to the James Campbell National Wildlife Refuge (JCNWR) where participants saw first hand how the JCNWR is one of Hawaii's crown jewels with respect to wetland and waterbird conservation. JCNWR is home to resident endangered waterbirds including Hawaiian Stilts, Hawaiian Moorhens, and Hawaiian Coots, as well as providing a crucial wintering ground for Bristle-thighed Curlews and other migrants. During the guided tour, Mike explained the recent expansion of the approved refuge boundary.

The expansion increases the refuge in terms of both size (from about 260 acres to about 1,100 acres) and focus by acquiring the last remaining



Photo by Bill Standley

pristine coastal dune on Oahu in addition to more wetland habitat. Acquisition of the beach dune and strand habitat will protect Hawaiian monk seal haul-out sites, as well as sea turtle and seabird nesting sites.

Yet another Mike, this time, Board member Mike Lohr, led chapter members and guests on a hike up Moanalua Valley that included seven stream crossings. Although most of the hike was through non-native vegetation



Photo by Mike Silbernagle

like strawberry guava, a few native species were spotted. Even though it was late in the breeding season, Mike was able to lead participants to some known Elepaio territories and finally to an active nest where we even got to see the pair switch off sitting on the eggs. During the hike Mike explained the predator control efforts being funded by the US Army to mitigate for potential impacts to Elepaio due to their training on Oahu.

Thanks to both Mikes for providing chapter members such great opportunities - keep up the great work!



Photo by Dave Leonard

Oil Spills: Is Hawaii at risk? Is Hawaii prepared?

By Linda Elliott

With the recent BP accident in the Gulf of Mexico, our hearts go out to the families, residents and the wildlife that will suffer. This tragedy is reaching all the way to our islands as professionals from Hawaii have gone or are preparing to go to assist the cleanup and environmental response.

Although Hawaii has no offshore oil platforms we are still at high risk of major oil spills from tankers and other vessel traffic. More than 90% of our energy comes from oil and we import more than 2.5 billion gallons of oil arriving in over 700 tanker ships annually. More than 100 vessels are known to have grounded in Hawaiian waters, several of which have contaminated the near shore environment with fuel, oil, chemicals and other pollutants. In addition to the large number of oil tankers, cargo ships, tugboats, fishing vessels, cruise ships, and military vessels, there are also aging sunken vessels with fuel still on board that can begin leaking at anytime. On land, oil transporting pipelines and storage tanks create additional risks.

Over 100 oiled seabirds have been reported annually in the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands from unknown sources. During the 1998 oiled wildlife response to the Single Point Mooring Spill off of Barbers Point, Oahu over 50 seabirds were recovered from multiple islands and many more were observed oiled in seabird colonies. In all, fourteen species of seabirds have been reported oiled in the Hawaiian archipelago.

You may be surprised to know that there is currently NO wildlife facility in the Pacific Islands equipped to respond to oiled wildlife, though Hawaii has more endangered species per square mile than anywhere else in the world. The coastal lands, reef ecosystems and waters of the Hawaiian archipelago provide habitat for more than 14 million seabirds (23 species, 4 that are threatened or endangered), several endangered wetland and remote island birds, Hawaiian monk seals, hawksbill and green sea turtles, more than a dozen species of whales and dolphins, and more than 7,000 marine fish and invertebrate species.



Photo of Linda Elliott washing an oiled Laysan Albatross at the Midway Atoll NWR.

The Hawaii Wildlife Center, currently under construction in north Kohala, will address this critical need for the first oiled wildlife response and rehabilitation facility for native Hawaiian wildlife. Trained staff and volunteers will provide the leadership and manpower necessary to effectively respond to inevitable contamination events.

Linda Elliott has more than 15 years as an oiled wildlife response manager and has worked seventeen oiled wildlife responses worldwide. Elliott has participated in Hawaii's oiled wildlife response planning and all oiled wildlife responses in the islands during this time. [Editor's note: Just before printing Linda was called to assist with the wildlife rescue effort being organized in response to the oil spill that occurred in the Kalamazoo River in Michigan.]

The Wildlife Ecology Conservation and Management Lab at UH Manoa -

continued from page 2

dozen introduced terrestrial vertebrates.

Deidre Duffy is analyzing all of the historical hunting records from across Hawai'i. **Danica Zupic** is evaluating NOAA's Bay Watershed Education and Training (BWET) program.

Tammy Summers has been investigating indigenous capture methods of Green and Hawksbill sea turtles in the Marianas Islands.

Mark Chynoweth is investigating the movement of feral goats on the Big Island, and **Chris Miller** is developing a management plan for a new NARS area on Oahu. Recent graduates include **Lasha Salbosa** who tested a new model of animal movement for wild pigs, and **Brianna McDowell** who analyzed the vital statistics (e.g. adoption rate) from the Hawaiian Humane Society (HHS) for the past 30 years.

For further information on Dr. Lepczyk's research program, courses, outreach efforts, and students, see: www.ctahr.hawaii.edu/nrem/staff/lepczyk.html Chris can be reached at lepczyk@hawaii.edu or 808-956-2617.

Hawaii Wildlife Center Update -

continued from page 2

We now need to raise the last 16% (\$450,000) of the funds required to complete the interior of the building and open the doors this year. With those funds in hand the last four months of the final construction will take place. HWC can then begin the critical work of caring for Hawaii's endangered wildlife and providing education programs with the addition of staff, interns and volunteers.

Hawaii's wildlife needs this critical response facility now. If you are interested in donating or for more information about the project, visit www.hawaiiwildlifecenter.org.

New Journal of Fish and Wildlife Management!

There is a new online journal from the US Fish and Wildlife Service that focuses on the practical application and integration of science to the conservation and management of North American fish, wildlife, plants, and the ecosystems on which they depend.

The *Journal of Fish and Wildlife Management* publishes peer-reviewed papers on applied conservation research for which there are currently few publications outlets. For understandable reasons, agency research must often focus on fairly narrow topics or specific management problems. The subsequent data, analyses, and publication products are often scientifically sound, but may not be approved for publication in existing peer-reviewed journals because they are not perceived as being novel, they do not have a high enough scientific impact, or the scope of study is not sufficiently broad to appeal to a wide audience. *The Journal of Fish and Wildlife Management* is specifically designed to remedy this situation by providing a state-of-the-art outlet for publishing the peer-reviewed results of applied conservation research.

All scientists are welcome to submit manuscripts to the Journal of Fish and Wildlife Management, regardless of professional or personal affiliation; the rigorous scientific standards of the peer review process are applied equally to all. We encourage submission of original, high quality, English-language papers exhibiting a high level of scientific rigor and sophistication that provide practical application and integration of science to conservation and management issues in the following categories: Articles (full research papers, including comprehensive reviews), Notes (shorter research papers of more limited scope and inference), Surveys (papers on inventory and monitoring studies, field surveys, and survey methodology), and Issues and Perspectives (essays examining questions of concern to conservation professionals and comments on papers published in the *Journal*)

Continued on page 6

New Journal of Fish and Wildlife Management!

continued from page 5

of Fish and Wildlife Management). Invited topic papers and reviews will also be common entries in future issues and are currently being solicited— suggestions are welcome!

The broad scope of this journal necessitates an impressive cadre of subject matter experts to fill the editorial roles. The editorial team consists of more than 80 experts across more than 20 major subject areas. Members of the editorial team come from a diversity of backgrounds, including government agencies, academia, and non-governmental organizations.

The *Journal of Fish and Wildlife Management* is in the public domain, completely electronic, and free; there are no subscription or page charges and access is unlimited for anyone with internet access. All manuscripts must be submitted using our online submission site. Full details on the editorial team, the submission and review process, how to sign up as a reviewer, how to receive issue alerts, and much more, are available online at www.fws.gov/science/jfwm.html.

The launch of *Journal of Fish and Wildlife Management* was timed to coincide with the resurrection of *North American Fauna* under the same general process and guidelines. *North American Fauna* started publishing monograph length articles in 1889, but remained dormant since 1991. Manuscripts are once again being accepted at <https://naf.allentrack.net/cgi-bin/main.plex>. *North American Fauna* is being re-launched as an open access journal. In addition, the 76 previously published issues have been digitized and are now available online (www.fwspubs.org) in a format that allows searching within PDFs, forward linking, and streamlined searching and retrieval, whether a user searches inside the website or is using a search engine.

Kaena Point Fencing Update

From Lindsay Young

The right of entry to begin construction on the Kaena Point fencing project was approved on January 8th, 2010. One contested case petition was submitted to the Board of Land and Natural Resources (BLNR) which will be on the August 2010 BLNR agenda. Final fencing contract negotiations are being completed to be signed for the August BLNR meeting. Construction arrangements have been postponed until the contested case decision is made. However, it is expected that construction will begin in mid-September. Signs have been designed and are being printed for posting pending resolution of the contested case. A complete predator removal and biosecurity plan was completed in June and sent for internal review to Hawaii stakeholders for feedback. An external review will be commissioned once feedback is received. Provided fence construction occurs in the fall of 2010, predator removal will occur in December 2010.

Upcoming Meetings of Interest

Pathways to Success 2010: Integrating Human Dimensions into Fish and Wildlife Management A Conference and Training Program. September 27 - October 1, 2010, Estes Park, Colorado

17th Annual Wildlife Society (TWS) Conference, October 2-6, 2010, Snowbird, Utah

Watchable Wildlife Conference, October 5-7, 2010, Kearney, Nebraska

