



KŌLEA

NEWS FROM THE
CONSERVATION COUNCIL
FOR HAWAII.

Volume 73, Issue 1 - Fall 2022/Winter 2023

Kilo Manu -Hawai'i Island Bird Tours



'Akiapōlā'au

by Jack Jeffrey

by Bret Nainoa Mossman

In 2022 in cooperation with Birds Hawai'i Past Present, Conservation Council for Hawai'i conducted four free community bird walks on Hawai'i Island. Two were along the Kaulana Manu trail searching for native forest birds, one visited several locations along the Kona coast looking for rare migratory visitors, and then finally visited the Pu'u Ō'ō trail in search of rare endangered forest birds.

Trips are limited to 10 participants, and all four filled up fast. On the first trip the Kaulana manu participants were treated to a fantastic view of a nēnē feeding on 'ōhelo berries followed by some closeup looks at 'apapane, 'ōmao and a few glimpses of 'i'iwi.

On the Kona coast birding trip we visited three important bird areas Pu'u Koholā Heiau National Historical Park, Puakō, and Kaloko Honokōhau National Historical Park. On this trip we were in search of a visiting belted kingfisher, spotted sandpiper and several species of gulls, ducks, and shorebirds. We got good looks at the kingfisher at Pu'u Koholā, saw the spotted sandpiper on the beach at Puakō, and got two species of gulls, and a good variety of migratory ducks and shorebirds at 'Aimakapā point in Kaloko Honōkohau NHP.

On the Pu'u Ō'ō trail we went in search of 'Akiapōlā'au. Unfortunately, we did not find any, but we did get great looks at 'i'iwi, 'ōmao, and even a young male 'ākepa! Finally the last trip of the year we went to the Kaulana manu nature trail once again. It was a cold rainy day, but still got to see some really close 'ōmao, great looks at 'i'iwi, and saw an 'apapane working on her nest.

Please keep an eye out for more exciting bird walks returning in the future! Follow CCH and Birds Hawai'i Past Present on Instagram for updates and signup links. Walks are limited to 10 people first come first serve with preference given to Hawai'i residents.



'i'iwi

by Randy Bartlett



Highlighting the year at the Annual Awards and Membership Meeting

by Colleen Heyer

Members and supporters of Conservation Council for Hawai'i gathered on October 15 at the Waiwai Collective in Mōili'ili for our 2022 annual awards and membership meeting. This intimate space in the Varsity building was the perfect place to spend an evening together, in person (hurray!), connecting with old friends, and hearing updates about CCH's work over the past year. Nā Hōkū Hanohano nominated musician, Hanāle Bishop, graced us with beautiful background music while we mingled, dined and browsed the auction items and country store. The delicious dinner was catered by Ed Kenney's Town Food & Events Catering and was entirely comprised of locally sourced food.

There was also an information table hosted by the Protect Remote Islands Coalition, where attendees could learn about their efforts to expand the Pacific Remote Islands Marine National Monument. You can learn more at [www.https://www.protectpri.com](https://www.protectpri.com)

For the program portion of the evening, past CCH president of the board, Rachel Sprague, was honored for her six years of service. During this time, she served in many officer positions, including president for three of those years. Rachel also served twice as our National Wildlife Federation delegate. While in that position, she was the primary author on an NWF resolution supporting invasive mammal control and eradication in the islands. Locally, with her extensive seabird knowledge, Rachel was instrumental in the creation of CCH's seabird educational poster which was distributed to all public schools and libraries across the state.



*Hanāle
Bishop*



*Rachel
Sprague &
Jonee
Peters*



*Hōku
Cody &
Bret
Nainoa
Mossman*



Annual meeting - cont'd

This year's Koa award recipient was Hob Osterlund. Hob is a writer, photographer and conservationist who documents and advocates for the Laysan albatross birds on Kauai. She is the founder of the Kaua'i Albatross Network and the author of the book "Holy Mōlī: Albatross and Other Ancestors." Hob also produced the documentary "Kalama's Journey," a story about an albatross chick. Through public presentation, social media and bird guiding, Hob tirelessly inspires people to care about the magnificent mōlī of Hawai'i. Her acceptance speech at our CCH dinner had the crowd laughing and smiling.

Next up, father and son shark advocates, Mike and Kaikea Nakachi, spoke about the oceanic white tip shark, a shark species which has become critically endangered in the past 30 years due to long line fishing practices. Mike and Kaikea shared how this shark is very important in Hawaiian culture, as their 'aumakua (family or personal guardians) and as ocean companions. We were treated to an advance preview of the animated short film, "Manō" by Brittany Biggs, which premiered a few days later at the Hawai'i International Film Festival. Mike is also a board member at CCH and we

have partnered together with Earthjustice to help save the oceanic white tip shark by bringing a complaint against NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service and their delayed response to saving this species. Mike and Kaikea hail from Hawai'i island. Mike is the owner of Moana 'Ohana. Kaikea is currently pursuing his PhD at the University of Hawai'i and is founder of Mālama Manō.

The program wrapped up with door prize fun and fellowship. Thank you all for turning out for a wonderful evening. Mahalo (thank you) to all of the donors, volunteers, and supporters who made this event a huge success.



*Hob
Osterlund*



*Nakachi
'Ohana*

*all photos by Chris
McDonough*

SAVE THE DATE!

**May 6, 2023 = Manu o Kū Festival,
'Iolani Palace Grounds**

**September 30, 2023 - Annual Awards and
Membership Meeting, Honolulu, HI**

**October 21, 2023 - Hawai'i Island Bird Festival -
Hilo, HI**

Work Underway to Reintroduce the Recovering America's Wildlife Act



by Chris McDonough

by Les Welsh - National Wildlife Associate Director for the Pacific Region

Despite enormous work by many, the Recovering America's Wildlife Act (RAWA) did not make it to a final vote last session, but the US Senate is on a fast track now to reintroduce this important legislation. Senator Tillis (R-NC) is the new Republican lead working with Senator Heinrich (D-NM) to introduce the bill.

Roughly one-third of America's wildlife species are now at some degree of risk of extinction. More than 1,600 U.S. species are already listed as threatened or endangered under the federal Endangered Species Act, and more than 150 U.S. species already have gone extinct. Nearly 500 additional species have not been seen in recent decades and are regarded as possibly extinct. Here in Hawai'i, often called the "endangered species capital of the world", the numbers are equally serious with the Pacific Islands Office of the Fish and Wildlife Service listing more than 400 threatened and endangered species across the islands.

When passed, RAWA will help at-risk wildlife before they need the more costly and last ditch "emergency room" measures required by the Endangered Species Act, while also helping recover those species already listed as threatened or endangered. The current levels of funding are less than 5 percent of what is necessary. The bill as written would provide states, territories, and tribes with \$1.39 billion annually to catalyze proactive, on-the-ground, collaborative efforts to restore essential habitat and implement key conservation strategies, as described in each state's Wildlife Action Plan. This legislation follows the recommendation of a diverse group of conservation and industry leaders—the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies' Blue Ribbon Panel on Sustaining America's Diverse Fish & Wildlife Resources. For Hawai'i's native wildlife, that would mean an additional \$59,177,899 annually for our states Wildlife Action Plan. Increased funding would allow for the continued restoration of the recently reintroduced and re-endangered Kiwiku bird, greater recovery efforts for our A'o and 'U'au birds, and greater protection and breeding of Hawai'i's highly endangered Kahuli tree snails and many other native Hawaiian species of concern.

"The historic, bipartisan Recovering America's Wildlife Act is by far the most important piece of wildlife legislation in the past half-century," said Collin O'Mara, president and CEO of the National Wildlife Federation. "At a time when more than one-third of wildlife species are at heightened risk of extinction, this critical legislation will help recover thousands of at-risk species through proactive, collaborative efforts in every state, territory, and Tribal nation, creating jobs while preventing extinctions."

Right now, the push is on to secure sponsorship from the same Republican Senators who signed on to the last bill. 60 votes are needed to pass this kind of bill in the Senate. Ideally getting at least 10 Republicans signed on would send a strong message to the House that this bill can pass with bipartisan support. There is talk on the hill that RAWA may go to the Senate floor for a vote as early as the end of this month. If true, we would then be off to the races to re-enlist the former bill's sponsors and secure what new ones we can. With help from all of you, we will hope to secure Representative Ed Case's sponsorship as well. NWF sees Rep. Case's support as critical to its passage. Please join CCH and NWF in calling on Rep. Case to cosponsor and support this once in a generation legislation when it gets introduced to into the House.

Message from the President of the Board

by Colleen Heyer

Aloha, everyone. It has been another busy year of fulfilling our mission of “protecting native Hawaiian plants, animals and ecosystems for future generations.” Here are some highlights of our work during 2022:

Manu-o-Kū Festival: After a two-year hiatus due to COVID, we were back in person on the historic Coronation Lawn at the 'Iolani Palace. The day-long event was organized with our festival partners, the National Wildlife Federation and the Hui Manu-o-Kū. We had many vendor tents, as well as musical and hula performances, arts and crafts, and a spotting scope to observe nesting Manu-o-Kū (white fairy tern). In addition to the Palace grounds festival, we hosted a week-long series of events at the International Marketplace in Waikiki. The famous banyan tree at the shopping center is home to many nesting Manu-o-Kū, which we were able to point out to shoppers.

Hawai'i Island Bird Walks: Our board member, Bret Mossman, started monthly bird walks on Hawai'i island, which have been very popular for viewing endangered, native Hawaiian bird species. See our accompanying article for more on this topic. Watch for upcoming sign up for a date in 2023 on our Eventbrite page if you would like to participate.

Hawaiian Monk Seal Outreach: We continued to support our partner, Hawaiian Monk Seal Preservation 'Ohana, with their outreach booths placed at various beaches on O'ahu and also at Sea Life Park, educating the public about our precious, endangered state marine mammal. In July, Rocky the monk seal gave birth for the second time at Kaimana Beach. When an attack incident happened between Rocky and a swimmer, we were part of a coalition of marine conservation and environmental groups that united to send a strong message to DLNR to step up and prevent further attacks. We were successful in our efforts and DLNR enforced a 150 foot barrier around mom and her pup, both on the beach and in the water, for the remainder of the nursing period.



*Colleen
Heyer*

by Chris McDonough



Manu o Kū

by Kim Starr



*'Īlio-holo-i-
ka-uaua
(Hawaiian
Monk Seal)*

by Kathleen Ho



'Ua'u

by DLW

'Ua'u of Maui: CCH, along with Earthjustice and the Center for Biological Diversity, successfully settled litigation against the Grand Wailea Resort on Maui regarding the endangered 'ua'u, or Hawaiian petrel who have an established flyway over the hotel property. All parties worked cooperatively to identify measures that will help reduce the risk of seabirds being attracted to and grounded by artificial lights at the resort. Additionally, the hotel has agreed to monitoring by dedicated and trained seabird searchers who will verify whether the resort's lighting minimization measures are sufficient to prevent future harm.

President's message - cont'd

Oceanic white tip shark: CCH, along with Mike Nakachi and Earthjustice, continue litigation against National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) to take promised action to finish their biological assessments and render a final biological opinion in order to determine appropriate fishing levels and practices in areas around Hawai'i and American Samoa to reduce their impact on the oceanic white tip shark population. We are making headway on this and continue to push the issue.

We are in our 72nd year of advocating for the protection of Hawai'i's native wildlife and wildlands. We could not do this work without you, both financially and emotionally. Mahalo nui loa for your membership and continued support of Conservation Council for Hawai'i as we look towards 2023.



by Kaikea Nakachi

New leadership at CCH

by Colleen Heyer



by Chris McDonough



by Debbie Evans

Dear CCH Members, I, along with the rest of the Board of Directors, am very excited to announce to you the appointment of Jonnetta "Jonee" Peters as our new Executive Director, effective January 1, 2023. Most of you are already quite familiar with Jonee, since she has been with CCH for twelve years now, and was also a long time volunteer before taking an official position with the organization. During that time, Jonee worked closely with Marjorie Ziegler. Most recently, Jonee was CCH's Operations and Events Director, managing the office and organizing our public events, such as the Manu O Kū Festival and our annual meetings. Jonee brings to her new position a deep knowledge of CCH's history, and extensive contacts within the conservation community, both skills which are a tremendous asset as we continue to fight for Hawai'i's native species. Congratulations Jonee!





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Editor: Wayne Tanaka

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Kim Starr and Nate Yuen*

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Mailing Address: P.O. Box 2923 Honolulu, Hawai'i 96802

Phone/Fax: (224) 338-6511

Email: info@conservehi.org

Website: www.conservehawaii.org

Facebook: [https://www.facebook.com/Conservation.](https://www.facebook.com/Conservation.Council.for.Hawaii)

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Kōlea

by Kim Starr

Leaving a Legacy

*Leave a Legacy and Keep Them Singing!
When considering your will, please consider
making a bequest to the Conservation
Council for Hawai'i, and leave a legacy to
protect our native species for future
generations. Your bequest can be as simple
as the following statement in your will or
trust: "I bequeath \$____ (or ____ percent
of my estate) to the Conservation Council
for Hawai'i."*

*Support our efforts to recover critically
endangered Hawaiian plants and animals.
Help protect our natural resources and
perpetuate the Native Hawaiian culture.
Help prevent invasive species from taking
over our islands. Help us make sure
government agencies and elected officials
consider future generations in their
decision-making. Your gift does all this and
more!*

*Consult your attorney and contact Jonee
Peters at 224 338-6511 or
jp@conservehi.org for more information.*



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Conservation Council for Hawai'i

Hawai'i's Voice for Wildlife
Kō Hawai'i leo no nā holoholona lōhiu



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'Iolani Palace Coronation Lawn
Free and Open to the Public