

died at the Olinda Captive Propagation Facility in 1987. Most were prepared as study skins, some as skeletons, some as both skins and skeletons, and a few as whole carcasses in alcohol. Sixteen eggs of Nene, Hawaiian Stilt and Hawaiian Crow were also received.

Reptile and mammal specimens from Hawaii accessioned in 1988 included a Hawksbill Sea Turtle, 12 small terrestrial reptiles, 3 whales and whole term whale fetus, a Monk Seal, 3 Hawaiian Bats, and a cow.

A few specimens went to the Museum's Education Department, but most went to the Vertebrate Zoology research collection for scientific and informative use.

Suggestions Wanted for Shell Marking Technique

December 1988

George H. Balazs, 943-1221
National Marine Fisheries
Service, NOAA

A simple marking system that provides easy visual recognition of individual sea turtles on the nesting beach, with minimal disturbance, can be a useful research tool for recording significant events such as within season re-nestings. Several workers, including myself, have spray painted numbers on the carapace for convenient, short-term identification in conjunction with long lasting metal flipper tags.

Unfortunately, all too often the paint wears off much sooner than is desirable. To find a more tenacious yet simple-to-apply marking technique, experiments are currently under way in Hawaii, using captive adult green

turtles at Sea Life Park. The goal is to find a paint, adhesive, or other substance that will stick for 8-12 weeks and is easy to use under field conditions. Drilling or other mutilation of the shell to meet this objective is not deemed acceptable.

Sea Life Park offers an ideal setting to conduct such experiments, since there is weekly access to the turtles when their display pool is drained and cleaned. I would welcome, and will fully test, any practical suggestions for marking that are offered by readers of the newsletter. An account of the results of this experimental work will be provided upon completion.

Hawaii Forest Birds
Flycatching Iiwis
March 19-26, 1988
Lenny Freed, 948-8617
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During a research trip to Hakalau Forest National Wildlife Refuge, my graduate seminar class and I (8 people total) noticed that iiwis were catching insects in the air after sallying from perches. To our knowledge, this is the first time that this flycatching behavior has been documented in any Hawaiian honeycreeper, even though iiwis and other nectarivores have been extensively studied. The behavior is unexpected, especially in iiwis, because these birds have a most inappropriate bill for this mode of foraging. Both adult and juveniles flycaught from perches ranging from fence posts, fence wire, fallen logs, and trees in the Pua Akala