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An Albinistic Elepaio from Hawaii

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the significance of rabbit egg destruction on noddy breeding success. It probably has little impact on the population of Brown Noddies on Manana, but could be important locally. There are apparently no previous reports of rabbits destroying seabird eggs, but rabbits and seabirds occur together on many islands and this type of egg mortality is potentially widespread.

This paper is based upon a dissertation submitted by the author to the University of Hawaii in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the Ph.D. degree in Zoology. I thank Andrew J. Berger and John Dixon for their comments on this note, and the Hawaii State Division of Fish and Game for permission to work on Manana Island. This study was supported by the Department of Zoology of the University of Hawaii, by an NSF Graduate Fellowship, and by a Mount Holyoke College Faculty Grant to the author.—WILLIAM Y. BROWN, *Department of Biological Sciences, Mount Holyoke College, South Hadley, Massachusetts 01075*. Accepted 1 Nov. 73.

**An albinistic Elepaio from Hawaii.**—Few records exist of albinism in Hawaiian birds. Pekelo (1963, *Elepaio* 24: 17) described two Ricebirds (*Lonchura punctulata*) (an introduced species) on Molokai with all-white plumage. I can find no record of an endemic bird exhibiting this trait.

On the afternoon of 23 July 1973 I observed an albinistic Elepaio (*Chasiempis sandwichensis*) on the northwestern slope of Mauna Kea at an elevation of 6,950 ± feet. The bird seemed to be recently fledged as it was in the company of what appeared to be its parents. The plumage of the bird seemed entirely white. The bill was light colored, but the feet were not the pale pinkish color of a true albino. I was unable to record the eye color. The Elepaio appeared to have fully grown wing and tail feathers. One unusual aspect was the abnormal length of the rectrices; they seemed to be almost one-fifth again as long as those of the presumed parent birds.

Aside from the unusual tail length and lack of feather pigment, the bird appeared normal. It scolded repeatedly, using the "chit-chit" characteristic of the species, before flying away. I returned to the area on both 25 and 27 July but did not encounter the bird again.

The observations reported occurred during field work supported in part by the Hawaii Audubon Society, McInerny Foundation, and the International Council for Bird Preservation. I am indebted to Andrew J. Berger for reading the manuscript.—CHARLES VAN RIPER III, *Department of Zoology, University of Hawaii, Honolulu, Hawaii 96822*. Accepted 5 Nov. 73.

**Notes on the behavioral ecology of Couch's Mexican Jay.**—The U-shaped range of the Mexican Jay (*Aphelocoma ultramarina*) extends from southeastern Arizona and southwestern New Mexico south through the Sierra Occidental of Mexico, across mountain ranges at the southern part of the Mexican plateau, and thence north through the Sierra Oriental to the Chisos Mountains of Big Bend National Park in southwestern Texas (see Pitelka 1951, Figure 13). *A. u. arizonae* in Arizona and New Mexico and *A. u. couchii* in the Chisos Mountains represent the northern extremes of this U. Thus, although these two populations are separated geographically by only 400 miles, they are connected by a series of populations in Mexico that extend over a linear distance of about 1,800 miles. Recently Hardy (1961, 1969) and Brown (1963) have drawn attention to differences in morphology