

**A PRELIMINARY CATALOGUE OF THE  
BERNICE PAUHI BISHOP MUSEUM  
OF POLYNESIAN ETHNOLOGY AND  
NATURAL HISTORY, PART IV. THE  
NATURAL HISTORY COLLECTION**

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A Preliminary Catalogue of the Bernice Pauahi Bishop Museum of Polynesian Ethnology and Natural history, part IV. The natural history collection by Bernice Pauahi Bishop Museum

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# **BERNICE PAUAHI BISHOP MUSEUM**

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A PRELIMINARY

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OF THE

BERNICE PAUHI BISHOP MUSEUM

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HISTORY.

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PART IV.

The Natural History Collections.

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HONOLULU, HAWAIIAN ISLANDS.  
1893.

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It is hoped that in time the Catalogue of the Bishop Museum may be an epitome of the Natural History of these Islands, if not of all Polynesia. At present this may not be, and on the part of science it were of little use to print the meagre lists of what the Museum now possesses, but on the other hand the opportunity to make known to the Hawaiian public our wants, and to call attention to the very interesting specimens that we now have in our collection, seems an excuse for presenting the fourth part of this Catalogue. It was in the mind of the Curator to print at large lists of all the described species in each department, checking those now represented here, but the impossibility of getting access to scientific records in this remote place, and the fact that the respectable library of the late W. H. Pease, now the property of the Hawaiian Government, but at present in the hands of private parties, is temporarily inaccessible to those who might profit by its use, make an accurate determination of species impossible.

Moreover by the active explorations of Messrs. Henry C. Palmer and R. C. L. Perkins, both of England, new species are being added to our lists almost weekly, the former having discovered several most interesting species of birds, while the latter has nearly doubled the number of species in our insect fauna. By Mr. Perkins' collecting this Museum will eventually be enriched; and other museums, if not this, will profit by the work of Mr. Palmer. The birds at present on our shelves were for the most part the collection of Mr. J. Mills of Hilo, Hawaii, and were collected more than thirty years ago. Others have been added by the kindness of Messrs. W. F. Thrum, Albert F. Judd, Jr., and others whose names will appear in the Catalogue.

The principal collection of land shells has come to the Museum by purchase from Mr. D. D. Baldwin of Maui, who is about to publish a complete list of described species. The names attached to the specimens are generally his, but it may safely be said that there is no part of the Hawaiian fauna that requires such complete re-examination and recasting of species. Beautiful as are many of the genus *Achatinella*, their study is greatly impeded by the confused and unauthoritative nomenclature, no two collections that the Curator has yet examined agreeing in the names of a very considerable

minority of species. The marine shells are mainly from the Government collection, but many indigenous species are from Mr. Baldwin.

The only fishes in the Museum are those kindly presented by Charles H. Townsend of the U. S. Steamer *Albatros*, and perhaps half a dozen specimens given by other friends. In a group of islands where curious fish abound on the reefs and along the shores, this condition should soon be changed.

It is within the plan of the Curator to procure a collection of human crania and skeletons where possible from all parts of Polynesia, but at present we have but a dozen Hawaiian skulls.

The corals of the Pacific yield in beauty and interest to those of no other region, and when it becomes possible to study the rich treasures of Fiji, Tahiti, and Micronesia in one grand collection on the shelves of this Museum by the side of all that are found on the Hawaiian reefs, science as well as curiosity will be attracted to our halls.

Of the vegetable kingdom we have a better account. The labors of the late Horace Mann were so thorough that in the quarter of a century since his death only half a dozen species have been added to the Hawaiian Flora, while his own and the Curator's explorations in 1864-65, included no less than seventy-five new species, and five new genera of flowering plants. Specimens of these will soon be on the Museum lists, as the Curator possesses the type specimens named by Mr. Mann. Of the woods of these Islands, the Messrs. Meyer of Molokai have furnished admirable specimens of those growing on that island, and we hope soon to have all the indigenous varieties, as well as those of foreign introduction that are of value or interest. Weaving was unknown to the Hawaiians, and so the many valuable vegetable fibres were spun into lines, or beaten into kapa, but never fully utilized: these should find a place here. Indeed the economic botany of the Hawaiian Islands, will finally fill many cases in our collection. The woods and ferns of New Zealand are well represented.

It will naturally be expected, that the volcanic products will be in full force in our cases, and in fact we have a fairly representative collection. More specimens are needed of the soils and other products of the decomposition of lavas.

*Birds of the Hawaiian Islands.*

While awaiting the completion of Mr. Scott B. Wilson's work on the Hawaiian birds, we are unfortunately obliged to retain specific names that will probably, if we may judge by the changes already made, be replaced by others. In some cases no name is given. The constant change of names by each succeeding writer on grounds often of the most trivial nature, tends to cast discredit on science, and discourage those of the laity interested in the pursuit of Nature, quite as much as the undoubtedly excellent work of these writers excites the reader to further enquiries in this very delightful field. It is now common to give a page of synonyms to a few lines of useful description. The Hawaiian birds are in a case in the Kahili Room.

- 5450-5453 *Drepanis pacifica*, *Mamo*. This bird, which furnished the orange feathers for the cloaks and leis has of late years become very rare; several have been caught by Mr. Palmer, and the Curator saw three on a sandalwood tree beneath which he was encamped on the slopes of Hualalai in 1890. The present specimens were all obtained by Mills at Oloo, Hawaii, some thirty years ago.
- 5454-5462 *Acroloercus nobilis*, *Oo*. This is the source of the yellow feathers used in the majority of the feather cloaks and helmets. The tufts [not single feathers] are found in the axillæ. The male alone of this species has the peculiarly curly tail which gives the inappropriate name to the genus. Hawaii.
- 5463-5465 *Acroloercus braccatus*, *Oo aa*. This species has small yellow feathers on the thigh, but none under the wings. Kauai.
- 5466-5467 *Chaetoptila angustipluma*. An exceedingly rare bird, not more than six specimens being known. Hawaii. Mills.
- 5468 *Fringilla anna*, *Ulaaihawane*. Named by Sanford B. Dole. A rare bird, and one of the most beautiful. Hawaii.



- 5469-5470 *Pennula ecaudata*, *Moho*. No specimen has been collected for many years, and the bird is supposed to be extinct. These were collected by Mills thirty years ago, in the forests back of Hilo, Hawaii. Although called "wingless," the better term is "flightless," for they have rudimentary wings, quite sufficient to put their heads under when asleep; they have no tails. A study of the remarkably similar form from Laysan Id. shows a curious habit of standing on one leg, the power of flying from the floor to a chair seat, and remarkable muscular development of the leg; although much larger than a canary, they pass readily through the bars of an ordinary cage. They were seen omnivorous, even eating greedily parts of their dead companions, and drinking a great deal of water.
- 5471 *Bernicla sandwicensis*, *Nene*. This Hawaiian goose was presented by Scott B. Wilson.
- 5472 *Numenius tahitiensis*, *Kioea*. This curlew was shot and presented by S. Edw. Damon, near Moanalua, Oahu.
- 5473 *Corvus hawaiiensis*, *Alala*. Hawaiian crow from the Mills collection. S. Kona, Hawaii.
- 5474 *Loxioides balleui*. Mr. Wilson gives *Palila* as the native name, but I know of no authority for it. Mr. Wilson's native names are often wrong, as he accepted names from natives who no longer retain the careful nomenclature of the ancients. This bird is called *ou*, as often as anything. Hawaii. Mills.
- 5475-5481 *Vestiaria coccinea*, *Iiwi* or *Iiwi polena*. According to Mr. F. Gay it is also called *Olokele* on Kauai. Found on all the islands of the group, it is not strange that the name should vary, but in the songs and legends, the more common *Iiwi* is always used. Apparently on Kauai the natives have applied the name of the well known valley to the bird found in it. The young and the female differ greatly from the mature male. Hawaii. Mills.
- 5482-5483 *Vestiaria coccinea*. Lanai. Presented by Mr. F. H. Hayselden. The color has been largely destroyed by the alcohol in which the birds were preserved.

- 5484 *Chasiempis sandwichensis*, *Elepaio*. There are five specimens of *elepaio* in the collection, all from  
 5485 " " " " " "  
 5486 " " " " " " Hawaii. Mills. As the names are likely to  
 5487 " " " " " " be changed by Mr. Wilson, they have been  
 5488 " " " " " " left under the old name; the natives make no  
 distinction of species in this genus, which has  
 always been distinguished in Hawaiian song  
 and myth.
- 5489 *Chasiempis gayi*. Nuuanu Valley, Oahu. Presented by  
 F. C. L. Perkins.
- 5490 *Phaeornis obscura*, *Amaui*. Mr. Wilson calls this bird  
 5491 " " " " " " *Omau*, but I believe that to be a  
 5492 " " " " " " corruption of the original name.  
 " " " " " " Hawaii. Mills.  
 5493 " " " " " " F. C. L. Perkins.
- 5494 *Phaeornis lanaiensis*. Lanai. F. H. Hayselden.
- 5495 " " " " " " "  
 5496 " " " " " " " Young.
- 5497 *Chloridops kona*. Hawaii. F. C. L. Perkins.
- 5498 *Himatione sanguinea*, *Apapane*. The bird common all  
 over the group, which furnishes the crimson feathers for  
 decorative purposes. Hawaii. Mills. Female. Also  
 called *Akakane*.
- 5499 *Himatione sanguinea*. Hawaii. Mills.  
 5500 " " " " " "  
 5501 " " " " " "  
 5502 " " " " " "  
 5503 " " " " " "  
 5504 " " " " " "  
 5505 " " " " " "  
 5506 " " " " " "  
 5507 " " " " " " with nest.  
 5508 " " " " " " " "  
 5509-11 " " " " " "
- 5512 *Ardea exilis*, *Auku*. V. Knudsen, Kauai.  
 5513 " " " " " " James F. Judd, Koolau, Oahu.
- 5514 *Nycticorax nycticorax griseus*, *Auku kohili*. Oahu. Rev.  
 C. M. Hyde.

- 5515 *Nycticorax nycticorax griseus*.
- 5516 *Loxops coccinea*, *Akepa*. One of the rare birds. Wilson gives the name with much assurance as *Akepeue*, a name probably manufactured for his especial benefit. This author seems determined to impose new native names, as well as new ornithological appellations.
- 5517 *Phaeton aetherius*, *Koae*. Tropic bird.
- 5518 " " James F. Judd, Oahu.
- 5519 *Phaeton rubricauda*, *Kone Ula*, or simply *Ula*. Red-tailed tropic bird.
- 5520 *Phaeton rubricauda*.
- 5521 *Buteo solitarius*, *Io*. Hawk. Hawaii. Mills.
- 5522 " " male. Hawaii, 7,000 ft. W. F. Thrum.
- 5523 " " female. " " "
- 5524 " " male. " " " Young.
- 5525 *Psittirostra psittacea*, *Ou*, male. Hawaii. Mills.
- 5526 " " " " "
- 5527 " " female. " "
- 5528 " " male. " "
- 5529 " " female. " "
- 5530 " " male. " "
- 5531 " " female. " "
- 5532 " " male. Lanai. Hayselden.
- 5533 " " female. " "
- 5534 " " " " "
- 5535 " " " " "
- 5536 *Gallinula chloropus*, *Alae*. Mud-hen, with nest and eggs. Hawaii. Mills.
- 5537 *Gallinula chloropus*, *Alae*.
- 5538 *Fulica alae*, *Alae keokeo* or *Alae kea*. Coot. Oahu. A. F. Judd, Jr.
- 5539 *Totanus incanus*, *Ulii*. Oahu.
- 5540 " " " " "
- 5541 *Himatione virens*, *Kamau* on Kauai.
- 5542 " " Hawaii. Mills.
- 5543 " " " "
- 5544 " " " "
- 5545 " " " "