



Hawai'i Volcanoes News Release

December 20, 2007

Mother Goose and Gosling Killed by Car

Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park is asking motorists to slow down and look out for nene when driving on Crater Rim Drive, Chain of Craters Road, and Highway-11.

On Wednesday evening, a female nene and her gosling were struck and killed by a car while crossing Highway-11 near the park's Ka'u boundary. Her mate escaped harm but remains in the area.

"This 11-year old nene successfully raised several broods," said park wildlife biologist Kathleen Misajon.

Misajon expects the male will linger near where his mate and gosling were killed for several days or weeks.

Today, Misajon listened as the gander called in vain for his mate. "It's a mournful sound, said Misajon. Truly heart-wrenching."

Goslings can't fly. Therefore, the family must walk to find food and avoid predators until their young fledge at about four months old.

Surprisingly, nene are quite active in the late evening and early morning and this is the time when most road kills occur.

Nene Crossing signs are posted along roadsides in places nene frequent most often and visitors should be extra vigilant when driving through those areas. But geese can be anywhere from sea level to the slopes of Mauna Loa.

The gosling and mother goose are the first geese killed in the park by a car this breeding season, a season that extends from October thru May.



The last photo taken of the gosling and mother goose (wearing green band) with the gander. By Ron McDow

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