

Hakalau Forest National Wildlife Refuge's Native Birds Are Critically Endangered

Sadly, Hawaii is known as “the bird extinction capital of the world”, with 95 species having disappeared since human settlement of the islands.

Climate change is driving mosquito habitat higher on each island, thereby making previously protected native birds especially vulnerable. Their numbers have been decimated in recent years by avian malaria, habitat loss and invasive species. Today, 26 of the islands' surviving 38 native bird species are listed on the Endangered Species List with three not seen for decades and are likely extinct.

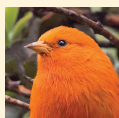
At Hakalau Forest National Wildlife Refuge five species of native birds are listed as Endangered or Threatened, with two additionally listed as Vulnerable by International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN).



ENDANGERED SPECIES



'Akiapōlā'au

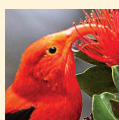


Ākepa



'Alawī

THREATENED SPECIES



'Iiwi

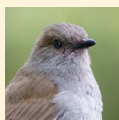


Nēnē

VULNERABLE SPECIES



Hawai'i 'Elepaio



'Ōma'o

Starting in 2023, the Friends of Hakalau Forest National Wildlife Refuge will focus their annual fundraising efforts on a specific imperiled Hawaiian native bird — this is **The Year of the 'Iiwi** ...

Status of The 'Iiwi Today

Once found abundantly in native forests from upper elevations to sea level, the bright red 'Iiwi, one of Hawaii's iconic honeycreepers, is now restricted to high-elevation forested areas, such as **Hakalau Forest National Wildlife Refuge**, due to mosquito-borne diseases including avian malaria, and other factors.

The Habitat

According to recent bird surveys, 20% of the 'Iiwi alive today live within the borders of **Hakalau Forest National Wildlife Refuge**.

It is essential that conservation efforts there continue to focus on forest management and restoration, both of which can and do make a difference.

Forest management at Hakalau Forest includes outplanting canopy and under-canopy species, eliminating mosquito habitat by removing ungulates (miles of fencing), and controlling invasive plants.



The Need

The 'I'iwi was listed as Threatened under the **Endangered Species Act in 2017** and the 'I'iwi are worth saving!

'I'iwi are important pollinators, especially for the critically endangered *Lobelia*, *Clermontia* *pyrularia* at Hakalau Forest. As the birds gather the sweet nectar from the curved flowers with their appropriately curved beaks (the result of centuries of co-evolution with native plants), the pollen that falls on to their heads during that process is transferred to subsequent flowers, completing the fertilization process. But 'I'iwi are also important pollinators of tree species lacking these specialized flower shapes including ōhi'a and koa. Many closed canopy forests are dominated by native ōhi'a and koa trees and depend on 'I'iwi to pollinate them. Refuge volunteers have planted hundreds of these native plant species to ensure their survival at Hakalau Forest.



The Cost

Habitat restoration work at Hakalau Forest is expensive and laborious but must be continued until threats can be permanently eliminated. The many management needs have motivated us to establish an endowment to provide a steady stream of funding.

The Endowment

Hakalau Forest National Wildlife Refuge Endowment managed by the Hawaii Community Foundation was started eight years ago in 2015 and has reached \$1 million in donated funds. Our long-term goal is to raise \$3.5 million to support multiple conservation activities at Hakalau Forest with ongoing annual disbursements.

Help save the 'I'iwi by supporting Hakalau Forest National Wildlife Refuge Endowment with a contribution today.

HOW TO DONATE

FRIENDS OF HAKALAU FOREST NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE IS A 501c(3) ORGANIZATION AND YOUR DONATION WILL BE TAX DEDUCTIBLE.

If you would like to donate online, please visit ONE of the following websites;

- 1). hawaiicommunityfoundation.org/give/hakalau-forest-management-endowment-fund?
Or go to hawaiicommunityfoundation.org and search for "Hakalau"
- 2). friendsofhakalauforest.org/endowment/
- 3). or click on this QR Code which will take you directly to our Endowment donation page



If you would like to contribute by CHECK, please make the check out to "Hawaii Community Foundation" (be sure to note "Hakalau Forest Endowment" on the check) and mail it to:

Hawaii Community Foundation
827 Fort Street Mall
Honolulu, HI 96813

