

Hawai'i's Irreplaceable Native Forest Birds Are Critically Endangered.

ACT NOW TO SAVE THESE AMAZING SPECIES

Hawai'i is widely known as a place of extraordinary speciation but also a global hot spot for bird extinctions. Of the 84 endemic forest bird species known from Hawai'i, an astonishing 58 species have gone extinct. Of the 26 species that remain today, 24 are listed by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature as vulnerable, threatened, endangered, or critically endangered.

This year, our annual campaign to raise funds for our "Hakalau Forest Refuge Management Endowment" is focused on one of the most iconic birds found at Hakalau Forest, the 'Akiapōlā'au.

The principal threat to all the native forest birds is the expanding presence of invasive mosquitoes which carry deadly avian diseases to which native honeycreepers have little or no defense. In tandem with avian disease is the continued loss or damage to native forest due primarily to introduced ungulates, and the spread of invasive plants.



ENDANGERED SPECIES



'Akiapōlā'au



'Ākepa



'Alawī

THREATENED SPECIES

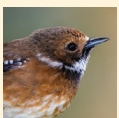


'I'iwi

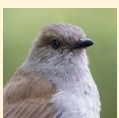


Nēnē

VULNERABLE SPECIES



Hawai'i 'Elepaio



'Ōma'o

Status of the 'Akiapōlā'au Today

This distinctive species, endemic to the island of Hawai'i, is critically endangered with an estimated remaining population of fewer than 2,000 individuals. Based on survey data from 1987 through 2019, 'Akiapōlā'au populations vary from year to year but are most robust on Hakalau Forest NWR. Hakalau Forest is home to an estimated 61% of the global population of 'Akiapōlā'au. The threats to the 'Akiapōlā'au and other native Hawaiian forest birds are significant and escalating.

The Habitat

Hakalau Forest has spectacular Koa-Ohia forest, with at least 5,000 acres of former pastureland that have been planted with 600,000 trees by hundreds of volunteers over the last 35 years. These restored forests at higher elevations are in an area where mosquitoes are currently absent or uncommon, providing vitally important new habitat. Previously very difficult to find during birding tours at the refuge, 'Akiapōlā'au can now be seen regularly. Habitat restoration is extremely valuable for recovery of endangered species, and it is effective!

What is this Bird?

The 'Akiapōlā'au is one of the most distinctive species of native honeycreepers in Hawai'i. It feeds primarily on native insect larvae, which are found only in Koa trees, typically the larger, mature trees. It has the longest parental care of any songbird in the world (+9 months), and often lays only one egg every other year. 'Akiapōlā'au typically feed with their mouth open, pecking with their lower stout-straight bill into the Koa bark looking for the long-horned beetle larvae that burrow and feed in the wood of dead and dying Koa branches. The 'Akiapōlā'au then use their long curved upper bill to reach into the pecked hole to pull out the larvae.



The Need

Habitat restoration work at Hakalau Forest is expensive and laborious but is imperative until threats can be permanently eliminated. The many management needs have motivated us to establish an endowment to provide a steady stream of funding because the current funding to mitigate or eliminate threats to endangered forest birds and their habitats is insufficient.

The Endowment

This Management Endowment is managed by the Hawai'i Community Foundation. The Endowment was started in 2015 and has grown to \$1.5 million today. 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 'Akiapōlā'au by supporting Hakalau Forest National Wildlife Refuge Endowment with a contribution today.



HOW TO DONATE

THE HAWAII COMMUNITY FOUNDATION IS A 501(C)(3) ORGANIZATION AND YOUR DONATION IS TAX DEDUCTIBLE.

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

- 1). www.hawaiicommunityfoundation.org/hakalau-forest-refuge-management-endowment-fund
- 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 "Hawai'i Community Foundation" (be sure to note "Hakalau Forest Endowment" on the check) and mail it to:

Hawai'i Community Foundation
827 Fort Street Mall
Honolulu, HI 96813

