

Recovery Plan for Hawaiian Forest Birds Released

A recovery plan that identifies individual species accounts and actions needed statewide to aid 21 species of forest birds in Hawai'i was released on September 28, 2006 by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The plan covers a group of species for which the threats and limiting factors are similar, and for which similar actions are needed for recovery.

"This plan represents a tremendous effort by a multitude of federal, state, and private partners," said Patrick Leonard, field supervisor for the Pacific Islands Fish and Wildlife Office. "Such a large-scale plan can only be successfully implemented through cooperative conservation."

Most of the species covered in this plan are now found only in the upper elevation rain forests above 4,000 feet on the islands of Hawai'i, Maui, and Kaua'i. Two exceptions are the palila, which is limited to dry upland forests on Mauna Kea on Hawai'i, and the O'ahu 'elepaio, which occurs in native and nonnative forests on O'ahu at elevations as low as 330 feet. Subfossil records and observations by early naturalists in the Hawaiian Islands indicate that most of the species once had much larger distributions and occurred at lower elevations.

Previous recovery efforts for Hawaiian forest birds have been guided by earlier recovery plans for Hawai'i forest birds, the palila, Kaua'i forest birds, and Maui-Moloka'i forest birds. Separate plans still guide recovery actions for the 'io or Hawaiian hawk, and 'alalā or Hawaiian crow.

Many of the recovery recommendations in this plan – including forest protection, forest restoration, predator control, fencing and removal of feral ungulates (pigs, goats, sheep, and deer), and the control of avian disease – will benefit the 'io and 'alalā, which use many of the same habitat areas found on the island of Hawai'i as some of the forest birds described in this plan.

The primary threats to Hawaiian forest birds are habitat loss and degradation by agriculture, urbanization, cattle grazing, browsing by feral ungulate species, timber harvesting, and

invasion of nonnative plant species into native-dominated plant communities; predation by alien mammals; and diseases carried by alien mosquitoes.

Several Hawaiian forest birds now occur in such low numbers and in restricted ranges that they are threatened by natural processes, such as inbreeding depression and skewed sex ratios, and by natural and man-made factors such as hurricanes, periodic vegetation die-back, and wildfires.

The plan contains criteria needed to downlist species from endangered to threatened status and for delisting or removing them from the list of federally protected species. The 21 species covered in this plan include:

- O'ahu 'elepaio (*Chasiempis sandwichensis ibidis*)
- Kāma'o or large Kaua'i thrush (*Myadestes myadestinus*)
- Oloma'o or Moloka'i thrush (*Myadestes lanaiensis rutha*)
- Puaiohi or small Kaua'i thrush (*Myadestes palmeri*)
- Kaua'i 'ō'ō (*Moho braccatus*)
- 'Ō'ū (*Psittirostra psittacea*)
- Palila (*Loxioides bailleui*)
- Maui parrotbill (*Pseudonestor xanthophrys*)
- Kaua'i 'akialoa (*Hemignathus procerus*)
- Kaua'i nukupu'u (*Hemignathus lucidus hanapepe*)
- Maui nukupu'u (*Hemignathus lucidus affinis*)
- 'Ākiapōlā'au (*Hemignathus munroi*)
- Hawai'i creeper (*Oreomystis mana*)
- O'ahu alauahio or O'ahu creeper (*Paroreomyza maculata*)
- Kākāwahie or Moloka'i creeper (*Paroreomyza flammea*)
- Hawai'i 'ākepa (*Loxops coccineus coccineus*)
- Maui 'ākepa (*Loxops coccineus ochraceus*)
- 'Ākohekohe or crested honeycreeper (*Palmeria dolei*)
- Po'ouli (*Melamprosops phaeosoma*)
- 'Ākikiki or Kaua'i creeper (*Oreomystis bairdi*)
- Bishop's 'ō'ō (*Moho bishopi*)

Photo by Tom Dove



'Ākiapōlā'au, male (*Hemignathus munroi*)

Photo by Tom Dove



'Ākohekohe or Crested Honeycreeper
(*Palmeria dolei*)

Photo by Tom Dove



Palila, male (*Loxioides bailleui*)

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A draft of the plan was released for public review and comment in October 2003. After the 60-day review period, comments from the public and scientific peer reviewers were considered and incorporated into the final plan.

Availability of the recovery plan was announced in the Federal Register on September 28, 2006. The recovery plan is currently available online through the Fish and Wildlife Service's website at <http://www.fws.gov/pacificislands/>. Additionally, electronic versions of the recovery plan are available on CD, and paper copies will be available in 4 to 6 weeks, and may be requested by calling the Fish and Wildlife Service's Honolulu office at (808) 792 9400.

Source: USFWS News Release, September 28, 2006
Contact: Ken Foote (808) 792-9535 or (808) 282-9442

Volunteers Needed for Annual Mailing

Sunday, November 19th, 10 am to 4 pm at the HAS Office

Please lend a hand with our annual mailing; help to stuff and seal envelopes so that you and your fellow members can receive Board election ballots, local membership renewals, and the Annual Appeal. Arrive and depart at any time between 10 am and 4 pm; any amount of time you can commit would be a big help! Volunteers will be rewarded with lunch and other refreshments, good company, lots of bird talk, and endless gratitude! Please call Lydi Morgan at the HAS office, 528-1432, or email hiaudsoc@pixi.com, and let us know that you plan to participate. The HAS office is located in downtown Honolulu at 850 Richards Street, Suite 505, on the corner of Richards St. and Merchant St. across from the main Post Office. Thank you!

Hawai'i Aquatics Conference 2006 "Fish For the Future, How Do We Get There?"

November 4 & 5, 2006

Gateway Center, Natural Energy Laboratory of Hawai'i, Keāhole Point, North Kona

The Fourth Conference will continue the resource management dialogue begun in 1999 on how aquatics resource management based on traditional Hawaiian moku and ahupua'a (community-based) management approaches can be meshed with western-style methods to restore and sustainably manage Hawai'i's aquatic resources. The Conference will present updates on current research in both marine and freshwater ecosystems, debate fish replenishment areas, present the pros and cons of community-based resource management, and feature discussions of aquatics management problems and possible solutions.

The Hawai'i Aquatics Conferences arose from the realization that aquatics research, management, education, and policy planning consist of many individual and generally uncoordinated efforts by people who rarely interact with one another. Holding a statewide meeting every two years provides a regular forum for managers, fishermen, educators, conservationists, policy makers and the general public to share information and ideas on better ways to manage integrated aquatic systems (streams and riparian areas, wetlands, estuaries, lagoons, coral reefs, near-shore and offshore waters).

Registration Fee: \$45

(Includes conference materials, continental breakfast and bento lunch on Saturday & Sunday, and the reception on Saturday night)

For further information contact:

Linda Paul, Hawaii Audubon Society, linpaul@aloha.net;

Dr. Bill Walsh, Division of Aquatic Resources,
darkona@hawaiiintel.net;

Rick Gaffney, Hawaii Fishing and Boating Assoc.,
captrick@aloha.net;

Sara Peck, U.H. Seagrant College Program,
peck@hawaii.edu.

To register please contact Lydi Morgan,
Hawaii Audubon Society (808)528-1432 or
email hiaudsoc@pixi.com

For hotel information, contact Marni Herkes
at (808) 987-2171.

'Elepaio

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Audubon's 107th Annual Christmas Bird Count: December 15, 2006 – January 5, 2007

Each year, over 50,000 volunteers from all 50 states, every Canadian province, parts of Central and South America, Bermuda, the West Indies, and Pacific islands count and record every individual bird and bird species seen in a specified area during one 24-hour period between mid-December and early January.

Join the Hawaii Audubon Society for this year's Christmas Bird Count, the 62nd annual count for Hawai'i! People of all levels of birding experience are welcome to participate, from the beginner to the expert. Participants are asked to donate \$5 each to support the cost of compiling and storing the data, maintaining the database, analyzing data, and publishing the results.

Each participant will receive a copy of the 2006 American Birds Christmas Bird Count issue with information on all the count results from across the US and internationally. There is no fee for children 18 years and younger.

Contact the following individuals and agencies for information on a count near you.

Count results from 1900 to the present are available through National Audubon's website, www.audubon.org/bird/cbc. Come out this year and help to collect valuable data for Hawai'i; contact a coordinator today!

| Island | Area | Count Date | Contact | Phone | Email |
|----------------|-----------|-----------------------|-------------------------------|----------------|--------------------------|
| O'ahu | Honolulu | December 17, Sunday | Arlene Buchholz | (808) 988-9806 | snovakz@juno.com |
| | Waipi'o | December 30, Saturday | Dave Bremer | (808) 623-7613 | bremerd001@hawaii.rr.com |
| Kaua'i | Waimea | December 23, Saturday | Koke'e Natural History Museum | (808) 335-9975 | kokee@aloha.net |
| | Kapa'a | December 15, Friday | Brenda Zaun | (808) 828-1413 | Brenda_z aun@fws.gov |
| Maui | | TBA | | | |
| Moloka'i | Kalaupapa | December 18, Monday | Arleone Dibben-Young | (808) 553-5992 | nene@aloha.net |
| | Kualapu'u | December 18, Monday | Arleone Dibben-Young | (808) 553-5992 | nene@aloha.net |
| Hawai'i Island | Volcano | December 16, Saturday | Eldridge Naboa | none | enaboa@tnc.org |

HAS Program Meetings

Program Meetings are held from 6:30pm to 8:30pm on the third Monday of every other month at UH Manoa's St. John lab building (Botany Building), in room 011 in the ground floor auditorium. The address is 3190 Maile Way. Refreshments will be served and products will be available for purchase. Attendance is free and open to the public.

December 4th, 6:30pm

Annual Membership/Program Meeting

Bird Identification Lecture and Slide Show in Preparation for the Christmas Bird Count

Board member Ron Walker will give a presentation on common (and uncommon) birds found in Hawaii. This will be a perfect opportunity to brush up on your avian identification skills in time for the upcoming Christmas Bird Count. Ron's legendary knowledge will make for an exciting and informative event! Christmas Bird Count information will be available at the program meeting.

Contributing to the 'Elepaio

Hawaii Audubon Society welcomes the submission of peer-reviewed scientific papers, as well as short articles about interesting bird sightings and other conservation issues, to be considered for publication in the 'Elepaio. If you are interested in contributing relevant material, please contact the HAS office, 528-1432 or hiaudsoc@pixi.com.

Cleaning Our Coasts

By Lydi Morgan

On September 16, 2006, thousands of people around the globe took part in The Ocean Conservancy's annual "International Coastal Cleanup" Day, the world's largest volunteer effort for the marine environment. During this event, also known as "Get the Drift and Bag It", tons of trash are cleared from coastlines, rivers and lakes, and volunteers record every piece of trash collected. The Ocean Conservancy analyzes the marine debris data and uses it to design campaigns for the prevention of marine debris at its source.

Over the 21 years that the International Coastal Cleanup Day has been held, over 6 million volunteers have taken part in the cleanup of 100 million pounds of trash along 170,000 miles of shoreline.

On O'ahu, Arlene Buchholz, HAS Board of Directors member, and Lydi Morgan, HAS Office Manager were part of a group of 12 volunteers that collected approximately 500 pounds of marine debris from just a half-mile length of beach in front of the James Campbell National Wildlife Refuge in Kahuku. Several Kahuku High School students also participated in the outing that was organized by the Sierra Club. Cleanups were also planned for 30 other beaches on O'ahu, and 30 beaches on the Big Island, 24 on Maui, two on Moloka'i, and one on Kaua'i.

In 2005 in Hawai'i, 2,206 volunteers cleaned 87 miles of shoreline and collected 118,883 debris items weighing 36,288 pounds (18 tons). According to the data compiled by The Ocean Conservancy, sources of the debris break down as follows:

- Shoreline/recreational activities: 50% (compared to 58% globally)
- Smoking related: 37% (compared to 30% globally)

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Upcoming Events at Waimea Valley Audubon Center

For reservations and more information call (808) 638-9199. The Center is run by the National Audubon Society.

Friday, November 3

Moonwalk 7:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.

Take an evening stroll and experience the sights and sounds of Waimea Valley. Bring a flashlight, comfortable walking shoes, and a sense of adventure for this 1.5 mile walk. Ticket sales begin at 7:30 p.m. Be on time! Gates close promptly at 8:00 p.m. Adult \$5; Child (4-12 yrs) \$3

Saturday, November 4

Annual Plant Sale and HECO Arbor Day Get a Tree for Free! 9 a.m. - Till they're all gone!

Join us for the HECO/Kaulunani Partnership presents: An Arbor Day Tree Giveaway. Pick up a free tree on Arbor Day (one per family) while supplies last. Staff experts will be on hand to help you select the right tree for the right place. We'll also explain how to plant and care for your free tree! Then with the money you've saved visit the Waimea Valley Arboretum Annual plant sale. Purchase beautiful unique hibiscus, and difficult to find Native Hawaiian plants.

Saturday, November 11

Family Hike 9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Join us for an adventurous trek through the Northern portion of Waimea Valley. Climb to the top of Kalahe'e Ridge, following a switchback trail through a mixed forest of exotic and native plants. Bring a camera, the view from the top is breathtaking! Approximately 2 miles round trip, easy to moderate hike. For ages 7yrs and up (must be accompanied by an adult). Program Fee: \$3 plus admission. **Reservations required.**

Friday, November 17

Scoping out the Stars 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

Spend an evening exploring the night sky in Waimea Valley. Discover astronomy basics; view Makali'i a tiny group of stars

know as Pleiades. Telescopes provided by Stargazers of Hawaii. Sign up early for this popular program! Bring a flashlight, a blanket/mat and a picnic dinner! All ages welcome. Program fee: \$8 Adults, \$6 Children (4-12) (\$3 for Annual Pass Holders and 20+ hour volunteers, Adults and Children) Cash only. **Reservations required.**

Saturday, November 18

Ancient Roots 10 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

Grab a bottle of water and join our archaeologist for a visit to the Valley's agricultural sites. Learn how the ancient Hawaiians produced food and what was grown in Waimea. **All ages welcome. Program free with admission. Meet at the admissions gate.**

WINTER BREAK DAY CAMP

December 21, 22, 26, 27, 28, 29

Ages 5 to 10 years, 8:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Waimea Exploration Team: Experience hiking, fishing, wildlife, Hawaiian culture, history, and nature art in Waimea Valley!

Register per day: \$40 per day or \$30 per day for Annual Pass Holders. Sign up for 4 days and get the fourth day FREE.

Kama'aina Admission Rates: Adult \$5; Child (4-12 yrs) \$3; Child (under 4 yrs) FREE.

General Admission Rates: Adult \$8; Child (4-12 yrs) \$5; Child (under 4 yrs) FREE.

Special Senior (60 yrs and older) and Military rates available. Annual Pass Holders and Volunteers with 20+ hours FREE.

59-864 Kamehameha Hwy, Hale'iwa, HI 96712, Phone (808) 638-9199, Fax (808) 638-9197

Cleaning Our Coasts *continued from previous page*

- Ocean/waterway activities: 10% (compared to 8% globally)
- Dumping: 2.4% (compared to 3% globally)
- Medical/personal hygiene: 0.6% (compared to 1% globally)

The single most abundant item collected was cigarette butts at 39,913 pieces, almost 34% of the total. Other top ten items were, in order of descending abundance: caps and lids, food wrappers, glass beverage bottles, cups, plates, and utensils, bags, plastic beverage bottles, beverage cans, fishing line, and straws and stirrers. Last year's cleanup showed a drop in the number of glass and plastic bottles, which is likely the result of Hawai'i's new HI-5 bottle law, implemented January 1, 2005.

While perhaps not as abundant as other items, certain types of debris pose a much more serious threat to marine wildlife through entanglement or ingestion. According to The Ocean Conservancy, these are some of the items along with the total number of each item found during the cleanup, worldwide,

between 2000 and 2005:

- Fishing line/Nets: 551,883
- Balloons: 356,199
- Six-pack holders: 191,789
- Lobster/Fish traps: 70,279
- Syringes: 43,343

The Plastic Plague

Other alarming discoveries by scientists show that in part of the North Pacific Ocean, plastic debris is now 6 to 10 times more abundant than zooplankton, the populous animal plankton that forms the base of the aquatic food chain. In the ocean, plastic acts as a "toxic sponge", soaking up pollutants such as PCBs and DDT from the surrounding water, with up to one million times the concentration. Most types of plastic in use today do not biodegrade; instead, they break down into tiny pieces, and are easily ingested by marine animals and birds. Plastics and the toxins they carry accumulate in the bodies of animals, and

continued on next page

increase in concentration toward the top of the food chain.

The valuable data collected from these annual coastal cleanups shows that a majority of marine debris comes from recreational activities – something we all take part in here in Hawai‘i. Each one of us should consider how we personally contribute to this problem, and how we might take steps to be part of the solution. Consider making an effort to avoid excess packaging, to purchase reusable instead of throwaway items, to recycle whenever possible, and to choose biodegradable options. Put trash in its place, and even if it’s not yours, pick it up! Come out next year and be a part of the global effort to clean up our coastlines. Be it a once a year event or an every-day decision, you can make a difference!

Visit The Ocean Conservancy on the web: www.oceanconservancy.org

Top Photo:

Volunteers at the Kahuku cleanup tally the types of debris collected, as part of The Ocean Conservancy’s effort to determine the source of the trash. Photo by Lydi Morgan

Photo at Right:

The littered shoreline in front of the James Campbell National Wildlife Refuge in Kahuku on O‘ahu. Photo by Lydi Morgan



Membership in Hawaii Audubon Society

Regular US Member \$ 20.00
 Junior Members (18 and under)..... \$ 15.00
 Supporting Member \$100.00

Foreign Membership (Airmail)

Mexico..... \$ 26.00
 Canada..... \$ 28.00
 All other countries..... \$ 33.00

*These are annual membership dues, valid January 1 through December 31.
 Donations are tax deductible and gratefully accepted.*

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Country, Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

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New Membership ☐ Renewal ☐

Please make checks payable to Hawaii Audubon Society and mail to us at 850 Richards St., #505, Honolulu, HI 96813.
 PLEASE LET US KNOW IF YOUR ADDRESS CHANGES.



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Calendar of Events

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Saturday, November 4
Waimea Valley, Annual Plant Sale and Tree Giveaway.
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November 4 & 5
Hawai'i Aquatics Conference
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Saturday, November 11
Waimea Valley, Family Hike. *See page 60*

Friday, November 17
Waimea Valley, Scoping out the Stars. *See page 60*

Saturday, November 18
Waimea Valley, Ancient Roots. *See page 60*

Sunday, November 19
HAS Annual Mailing (Volunteers Needed!) *See page 58*

Monday, December 4
HAS Annual Membership/Program Meeting *See page 59*

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