

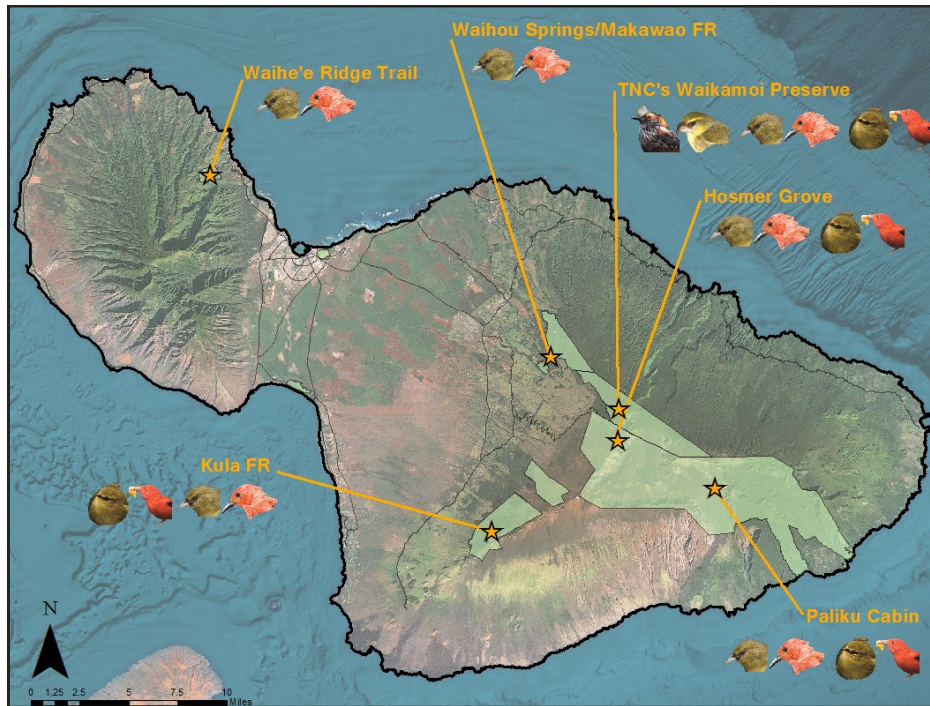


Kiwikiuu news

Native Forest Bird Sightings.

Visitors and locals alike often ask us, “Where can we see native birds on Maui?” This is a good question since many of them can be hard to find. Most native forest birds are found only at high elevations (above ~4500 feet). These areas are often fenced to protect the forest from ungulate (i.e. goats and pigs) damage, and often have fewer invasive plants but the most important feature of these areas is the high elevation itself. Disease-carrying mosquitos do not typically survive at these altitudes due to cooler temperatures, and the *plasmodium* (the virus) for avian malaria (arguably the number one limiting factor for native forest bird survival) does not typically develop. Despite these habitat restrictions, there are several places where you can find and access native forest birds on Maui.

Haleakala National Park (HNP) manages many of the places where native birds can be seen. Hiking into the crater along the Halemau’u Trail, Apapane and Hawaii Amakihi can be heard and once a hiker finally reaches Paliku Cabin at the far end of the crater, Iwi and sometimes Maui Alauahio. Also within HNP, Hosmer Grove is a well-known birding location on the island and one can find Apapane, Hawaii Amakihi and Iwi high up in the eucalyptus or low down in the mamane. Photographers are often staked out on the short nature loop, where Maui Alauahio can be seen occasionally. HNP’s education



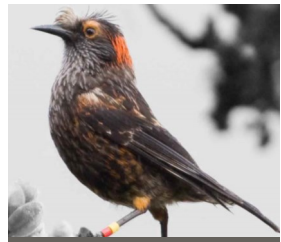
staff lead short, weekly hikes into The Nature Conservancy’s (TNC) Waikamoi Preserve, which is otherwise closed to the public. These hikes can be reserved at 808-572-4400 (<http://www.nps.gov/hale/planyourvisit/events.htm>). TNC docents also lead a longer hike once a month. For these, contact rmiller@tnc.org. Both of these hikes offer the best chance of seeing the rarer honeycreepers, Kiwikiuu and Akohekohe.

The Kula Forest Reserve also offers a lesser known opportunity to observe Maui’s native forest birds. A 3.5 mile hike will bring you through a variety of different habitats, from tropical ash and eucalyptus trees to a variety of cypress, cedar, pine, and even giant redwoods (all non-native dominated forest with some native plants dispersed throughout the understory). This loop includes the Haleakala Ridge Trail, Plum Trail, Tie Trail and Redwood Trail and one can observe Iwi, Apapane, Hawaii Amakihi, and Maui Alauahio. The southwestern portion of the hike, along the Haleakala Ridge Trail offers your best opportunity to see, hear, and/or photograph all of these birds. On some occasions, MFBRP technicians have observed all four species immediately upon exiting their vehicle in the parking lot!

Beyond East Maui, there are a few trails on West Maui where birders can see Apapane, Hawaii Amakihi and possibly an Iwi, which are very rare on West Maui. Check out the Waihee Ridge trail, the Kapalua Trails or even Iao Valley.



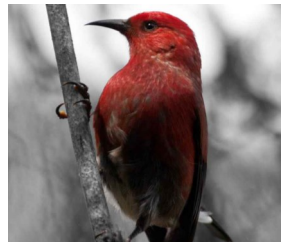
Kiwikiuu



Akohekohe



Alauahio



Apapane



Hawaii Amakihi



Iwi

Avian Research & Management *Update*



Kula Forest Reserve.



January Banding Success

In January, MFBRP caught over 500 birds during two banding trips in The Nature Conservancy's Waikamoi Preserve. This total represents nine species, including 19 Akohekohe, 84 liwi, 77 Maui Alauahio and 2 Kiwikiu. Volunteers Aaron Spidal, Erin Kiely, Sam Jordan, Ian Bordenave, Teia Schweizer, and Keith Burnett, and graduate student Alex Wang assisted MFBRP in this very successful start to the 2014 breeding season!

Color banding allows MFBRP to monitor wild forest bird populations. In addition to assigning unique color combinations to individuals, data is collected on the birds' health, reproductive status, age, and morphological measurements.

Graduate students at MFBRP are wrapping up their fieldwork.

Alex Wang (UH-Hilo) and Peter Motyka (NAU) are continuing their graduate studies with the MFBRP team this year. Alex and his crew (Lynn Zhang and Emily Jeffries) are putting transmitters on Akohekohe and detailing their habits and movements. Peter Motyka and his crew (Aaron Spidal and Jie Kim) are studying native forest bird populations in non-native habitat within Kula Forest Reserve. Stay in touch through Facebook and our website for forthcoming research results and publications!

It's the Breeding Season! MFBRP's 3rd season in Waikamoi.

All of those newly color-banded birds will be re-sighted over the next few months by our research biologists. In February, we welcomed Liza Olson, Wes Homoya, and Emily Cook. Together with Chris Warren, Laura Berthold, and Christa Seidl, this field team will be searching for Kiwikiu, their hatch-years, and nests. The team has already found several hatch-year Kiwikiu! Keep up with MFBRP's field crew by "liking" MFBRP on Facebook!

New Publications

Mounce, H. L., K. J. Iknayan, D. L. Leonard, K. J. Swinnerton, and J. J. Goombridge. Management implications derived from long term re-sight data: annual survival of the Maui Parrotbill *Pseudonestor xanthophrys*. Bird Conservation International, available on CJO2013. doi:10.1017/S0959270913000476.

Visit www.mauiforestbirds.org to access all MFBRP publications.

Nakula Forest Restoration Update

Fall 2013 marked our first forest restoration planting season in the Nakula Natural Area Reserve. Trial restoration began with experimental manipulations aimed at assessing the most efficient and cost effective ways to spur regeneration of this forest preceding reintroduction of the endangered Kiwīkiu.



"Volunteering for MFBRP was an amazing experience for me and an exciting change from my day job. We were helicoptered into a remote area of Maui that most people will never get to go to and camped out for five days. We planted ~1300 native trees with the intention of creating additional bird habitat for the endangered Maui Parrotbill. I feel honored and privileged to be able to give back to the environment which has given so much to us."

—Restoration Volunteer, Bryan Berkowitz



Between October 2013 and January 2014, MFBRP led 6 restoration trips accompanied by hard-working and dedicated volunteers. The focus of these trips was plot manipulation, planting, and seed collection.

- Overall, 6,709 plants were put in the ground!
- Species planted: mamane, ohia, koa, iliahi, aalii, akala, pilo, mamaki, ohelo, and kawau.
- Seeds were collected from olapa, koa, ohia, aalii, and kawau for propagation of new plants that will be planted late 2014.
- In January, we scattered seeds in some of our plots. The mixture of seeds included akala, ohia, kawau, olomea, kolea, koa, mamane, and ohelo.
- Vegetation monitoring started in January. We will continue to monitor all plots every six months for the next 2 years.



THANK YOU!

Supporters of native forest bird recovery and habitat restoration sponsored 1,314 of the trees planted last Fall! These trees play an important role in Nakula. They are planted in corridors that will connect protected gulches, where in-tact areas of native forest exist. Everyone can be a part of forest restoration on Maui! Visit www.razoo.com/Nakula.



Project Support & Partnerships

Thank you, MFBRP volunteers!

We would not have been able to get all the plants in the ground without such dedication and hard work from our volunteers. Preston Sheaks and Sam Jordan, MFBRP restoration assistants, joined staff this fall to help with planting. We also had 3-4 volunteers join us for each trip. We would like to thank the following all-star volunteers for their hard work: Teia Schweizer, Lisa Munger, Chris Farmer, Lance Tanino, Vic Stout, John Comcowich, Bryan Berkowitz, Terez Amato-Lindsey, Jennifer Higashino, Peter Luscomb, Monte Tudor-Long, Gary Ditzel, Michelle Smith, Russell Reinertson, Naomi Pang, Dave McPherson, and James Fleming.



Thank you, Hawaiian Airlines!

Supporters donated 489,020 HawaiianMiles to MFBRP in 2013 and Hawaiian Airlines generously matched these miles 100%. MFBRP uses donated miles to attend inter-island meetings and scientific conferences, to participate in a work-exchange with Kauai Forest Bird Recovery Project, and to support our volunteer program.

www.hawaiianairlines.com/hawaiianmiles/donate-miles

Thank you, Fred Baldwin Memorial Foundation!

The Fred Baldwin Memorial Foundation has awarded a grant to MFBRP for outreach education and conservation awareness. If you know a teacher in grades 5-8 on Maui who would welcome a presentation about native forest birds and forest restoration, please email jenn@mauiforestbirds.org.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- ▶ **Walk with us on May 10th! Or support the MFBRP team at Charity Walk by donating.**
Email laura@mauiforestbirds.org for more information or to sign up or donate!
- ▶ **Earth Day at Whole Foods Market.** Sunday, April 27.
- ▶ **Pint Night for the Birds** at Maui Brewing Company. Friday, May 30. 6—10pm.
- ▶ **Ola Ka Honua** at Maui Nui Botanical Gardens. Saturday, June 28.



Our Neighbor, the 'Alalā A word from research biologist, Wes Homoya.

Many of us have experienced the distinct “pleasure” of a long-distance flight with a bawling baby, or have sat in a waiting room that contained a crying child, or perhaps even shared an apartment wall with a tantrum-throwing toddler. I venture to assume no one found these experiences pleasurable at all.

The 'Alalā, aka the “Hawaiian Crow,” was so named because its incessant, raucous vocalizations were thought to recall a slightly more nuanced version of the auditory assault of a newborn *Homo sapiens*. For those of us temporary MFBRP employees living next to the Maui Bird Conservation Center where the 'Alalā are housed, their cries and caws are a permanent fixture. However instead of cursing under our breath as we might in the aforementioned scenarios, we consider ourselves lucky to need only step outside in order to hear the evocative calls of *Corvus hawaiiensis*.

There is only one other place in the world where you can hear an 'Alalā – the Keauhou Bird Conservation Center on the Big Island, which is the Maui Bird Conservation Center's sister facility. These highly intelligent birds are extinct in the wild, which is about as rare as it gets. So my colleagues and I savor the honor of the survivors' sounds, which in light of their importance, transcend from cacophony to symphony.

We all hope and pray that the 'Alalā may someday return to its home on the slopes of Mauna Loa. In the meantime, we cherish its incantations from next door. They serve as a constant reminder and encouragement to us to continue working hard, and that we might keep Maui's forest birds where they belong – in the forest.

Maui Bird Conservation Center on Maui and Keauhou Bird Conservation Center on Hawaii are run by the Zoological Society of San Diego. They have been working to protect the 'Alalā for many years. Learn more about their project here:

<http://blog.sandiegozooglobal.org/category/conservation/hawaiian-birds/> Photo by Susan Culliney and San Diego Zoo Global

