

Forest Birds

Bishop's 'O'o

Moho bishopi

SPECIES STATUS:

State recognized as endemic

Hawaii Natural Heritage Ranking GH—Known only from historic records

SPECIES INFORMATION: Bishop's 'o'o was a large, vociferous honeyeater (family *Melaphagidae*) that was known only from Moloka'i. 'O'O were nectarivores, preferring flowers from Hawaiian lobelia species. Nothing is known about its nesting biology.

DISTRIBUTION: Unknown. Probably extinct. Historic range is thought to have included all forested areas of Moloka'i. This species may have occurred on Maui as well.

ABUNDANCE: Probably extinct. Last detected in 1904.

LOCATION AND CONDITION OF KEY HABITAT: Unknown. Bishop's 'o'o were reported in montane forests of eastern Moloka'i. The areas where last seen are managed by the state as Natural Area Reserve or by private landowners for conservation purposes. These are considered stable, except for the presence of disease-vector mosquitoes and feral ungulates in unfenced areas.

THREATS: Causes of the decline of this species are unknown. Bishop's 'o'o would have encountered the same threats as other Hawaiian forest birds: habitat loss and degradation, predation by introduced mammals, and avian disease. Additionally, 'o'o were exploited for their feathers, which were used in Hawaiian featherwork articles such as capes and kahili.

CONSERVATION ACTIONS: No actions specifically target Bishop's 'o'o. If they exist, they likely benefit from management actions undertaken on behalf of other forest birds on eastern Moloka'i. Should this species be rediscovered, the Rare Bird Recovery Protocol contained in the USFWS Recovery Plan for Hawaiian Forest Birds would be enacted.

MONITORING:

- Continue population and habitat condition surveys on Moloka'i.

RESEARCH PRIORITIES:

- None at this time.

References:

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. 2003. Draft Revised Recovery Plan for Hawaiian Forest Birds. Region 1, Portland, OR. 428pp.

Sykes, P. W., Jr., A. K. Kepler, C. B. Kepler, and J. M. Scott. 2000. Kaua'i O`o (*Moho braccatus*), O`ahu `O`o (*Moho apicalis*), Bishop's `O`o (*Moho bishopi*), Hawai`iii `O`o (*Moho nobilis*), and Kioea (*Chaetoptila angustipluma*). In *The Birds of North America*, No. 535 (A. Poole and F. Gill, eds.). The Birds of North America, Inc., Philadelphia, PA.