



Kiwikiu news

American Bird Conservancy: **making a difference in Hawaii.**

By Chris Farmer, PhD., Science Coordinator for ABC Hawaiian Birds program

American Bird Conservancy, working with the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, is a significant supporter of bird conservation projects throughout the Hawaiian archipelago – from the Island of Hawai'i through Laysan. We successfully work with federal, state, and non-governmental agencies to protect the highly endangered and special birds of Hawai'i. This includes such efforts as:



Photo by Robby Kohley.

- Translocating Millerbirds (Ulūlu niau, photo, left) from Nihoa to Laysan with the USFWS. After moving 50 birds to Laysan in 2011 and 2012, where they were extirpated in the early 1900s, the new population has more than tripled to over 160 birds.
- Restoring and protecting the māmane forest to benefit Palila with Mauna Kea Forest Restoration Project on Hawai'i.
- Searching for and protecting nests of Puaiohi, 'Akikiki and 'Akeke'e on the Alaka'i Plateau with Kaua'i Forest Bird Recovery Project.
- Completed a predator-proof fence to provide safe nesting habitat for Newell's Shearwaters and Hawaiian Petrels with Kīlauea Point NWR.
- Working with Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park, we are constructing a cat-proof fence to protect an important Hawaiian Petrel nesting site.

One of our focal species is the Kiwikiu, and we have been supporting Maui Forest Bird Recovery Project since 2009. The main objective is the eventual translocation and creation of a new population of Kiwikiu in Nakula Natural Area Reserve. We were one of the leads in writing the Nakula trial restoration plan, and ABC is firmly committed to the long-term habitat restoration of the area. We are continuing to collaborate with MFBRP, Hawai'i Division of Forestry and Wildlife, and the Zoological Society of San Diego to write the Kiwikiu translocation plan.

These are just the highlights, and we will continue to increase the scope of our work in Hawai'i to meet our state's avian conservation challenges. American Bird Conservancy and its numerous incredible partners are making a significant difference here, and are excited to continue to meet these challenges in the future. Check out www.abcbirds.org for more information.

KIWIKIU FOR SALE!!

Help spread the word about Kiwikiu awareness through our new MFBRP exclusive plush toy.

Birds are for sale for \$15, contact mounce@mauiforestbirds.org or visit our website.

Want Kiwikiu in your store or business?
Birds are available at wholesale prices to retailers!!



Avian Research & Management *Update*

Kiwikiu Breeding Season Results

The 2014 breeding season marked MFBRP's third year intensely monitoring Kiwikiu in The Nature Conservancy's (TNC) Waikamoi Preserve.

Time period: February to June. Research hours: 7200

25 individual Kiwikiu were re-sighted and 8 were newly banded. Overall, 23 Kiwikiu pairs were located and 10 of them were seen with hatch-year (or juvenile) birds, a reproductive success of 43.5%. We also monitored one nest in the incubation stage at the end of the season.

Graduate Students Wrap Up

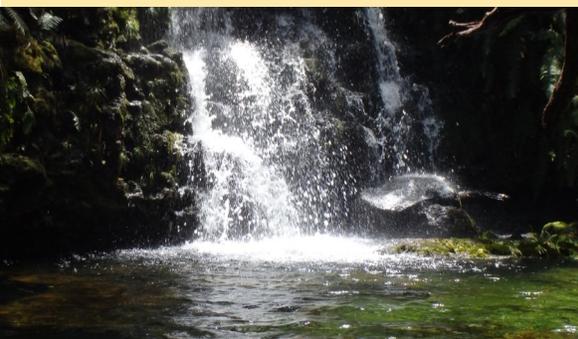
Alex Wang's 'Ākohekohe movement study:

36 'Ākohekohe were caught and banded. Of these, 25 were fit with transmitters. These birds were tracked from January until July. Transmitters last about 2 months. An additional 12 color-banded birds were monitored

Peter Motyka's native bird use of non-native forest study:

179 point counts were conducted to estimate densities of native forest birds within the Kula Forest Reserve. Resights of 58 individual Maui Alauahio were collected and 38 Maui Alauahio nests were found.

We are looking forward to analysis and publications soon!



Growing Waikamoi

One of the areas that MFBRP works in is The Nature Conservancy's (TNC) Waikamoi Preserve (Waikamoi). Waikamoi is located on land that's been owned by Haleakalā Ranch Company since 1888. TNC has been managing Waikamoi through a permanent conservation easement since 1983. A historic agreement occurred earlier this year nearly doubling the preserve. East Maui Irrigation Company, Limited (EMI) (a subsidiary of Alexander & Baldwin, Inc.) granted 3,721 acres of East Maui rainforest to TNC. Joined together, these two properties create the largest private nature reserve in the state—nearly 9,000 acres of rainforest under conservation management.

TNC will preserve this remote and largely pristine native rainforest, high on the eastern slopes of Haleakalā. It is home to 20 threatened or endangered native plants, and two endangered forest birds, the 'Ākohekohe and Kiwikiu. The preserve protects part of the 100,000-acre East Maui Watershed, which provides 60 billion gallons of clean surface water annually to Maui's residents, businesses, and agricultural community.

Despite its isolation, the land is threatened by a range of invasive species, from feral pigs and axis deer to strawberry guava, pampas grass and Himalayan ginger. Controlling those threats will create safe new habitat for the birds. The first conservation move is to establish a three-mile, \$600,000 fence to block pig and cattle access on the EMI land. The Nature Conservancy (TNC) is a leading conservation organization working around the world to conserve the lands and waters on which all life depends. The Conservancy and its more than 1 million members have protected nearly 120 million acres worldwide. **For more information, go to www.nature.org.**

Nakula Forest Restoration

Update

MFBRP continues efforts to restore the forest in Nakula NAR for the future reintroduction of Kiwikiu. Experimental restoration trials are now completed. The goal of this research is to determine the most effective and cost efficient ways to restore the forest. Some of these plots reached the 12-month mark in July 2014. By 12-months we are seeing amazing natural regeneration of several native tree species, particularly `a`ali`i and koa.

It is truly remarkable what can happen by removing invasive ungulates from these areas. This success is a credit to all the hard work of our partners, the state's Department of Forestry and Wildlife and Natural Areas Reserve staff (NARs). However many native species are regenerating very slowly or not at all. Because of this MFBRP and NARs are planting thousands of native seedlings.

In the past few months MFBRP staff and volunteers have been busy preparing "corridors" for future outplantings. Because goats and cows spent most of their time on flat areas and ridges, much of the remaining vegetation is limited to big drainages with steep slopes. The outplanting corridors are designed to connect these separated vertical stripes of forest to eventually allow birds to move more freely throughout the site. Because many of these plants are adapted to be pollinated and dispersed by birds, this will aid in the natural regeneration of the forest across the landscape. We are now planting thousands of trees and shrubs in these corridors!

THANK YOU!

We have had many hard working volunteers come out with us May through November. Mahalo to Janel Hull, Colin Sayre, and Kyle Alreck who have been volunteering with us for 3 months(!), as well as Cory Foyt, Dan Foyt, Ken Lickout, Delphine Berbigier, Kekai Krael, Janis Matsunga, Patrick Conant, and Ian Bordenave.

A big thank you to Mauna Kea Forest Restoration Project who came out to help plant, monitor, and see our site this summer. Mahalo Rob Stephens, Cheyanne Rapoza, Aaron Osorio, Kaysee Buchanan. MKFBRP is restoring land on the Big Island for Paplila, another endangered bird. Visit dlnr.hawaii.gov/restoremaunakea/

If you would like to volunteer, please sign up for our email list on our website at www.mauiforestbirds.org. Indicate that you are interested in restoration volunteer work.



Recent Presentations and New Publications

Visit www.mauiforestbirds.org to access all MFBRP

- **Now available online:** Mounce, *et al.* Using genetic information to design reintroductions: examining alternative strategies using spatial genetic architecture in the critically-endangered Maui Parrotbill (*Pseudonestor xanthophrys*). Conservation Genetics. 10.1007/s10592-014-0641-9
- Warren, Chris and Mounce, Hanna. Home-range Patterns of Kiwikiu (*Pseudonestor xanthophrys*) and Maui 'Alauahio (*Paroreomyza montana*). July 2014. Presentation at Island Biology and Hawaii Conservation Conference in Honolulu.
- Wang, Alex. The presence of an ecological trap in the juvenile dispersal of the Akohekohe (*Palmeria dolei*), a population-limiting life stage?. Poster presentation at Hawaii Conservation Conference. Best Student Poster Presentation Award Winner.
- Motyka, Peter. Native Hawaiian forest birds using non-native habitat on Maui. Presentation at Hawaii Conservation Conference.

Project Support & Partnerships

MAHALO to the LUSH Charitable Giving's Program for their generous grant to support forest restoration work this winter!!



To support this program, you can purchase "Charity Pot" lotions at any LUSH retailer.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- ▶ Time is running out to get your **VIP Shopping Pass** for Kahala Mall's first ever The Very Merry Event on **December 5-7**. All proceeds from your \$5 donation directly supports our conservation work. Check out our Facebook page for details on participating merchants.
- ▶ Join us at Maui Brewing Co **Friday, November 28th 6-10pm**, percentage of proceeds benefit MFBRP

One more Month to Donate Hawaiian Airlines Miles!

MFBRP is still a Hawaiian Airlines Charity Organization through the end of the year. Please help support MFBRP by donating HA frequent flyer miles and help us reach our 500,000 mile goal before December 31st!!

www.hawaiianairlines.com/hawaiianmiles/donate-miles



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Mahalo to Maui Charity Walk supporters, organizers, and walkers this spring, our Foodland Give Aloha supporters and organizers, and to Steve Altshuld and Chris Johns for their design expertise and our new brochures and outreach boards!

New Additions to the flock... MFBRP welcomes Nolan Te Kahurangi Davidson (son of Coordinator Hanna Mounce - right) and Gage Frederick Meckel-Warren (son of Research/GIS Tech Chris Warren - left).

