



SEMI-ANNUAL REPORT – MARCH 2010

NEW VOLUNTEER BANDING PROGRAM – GREAT SUCCESS

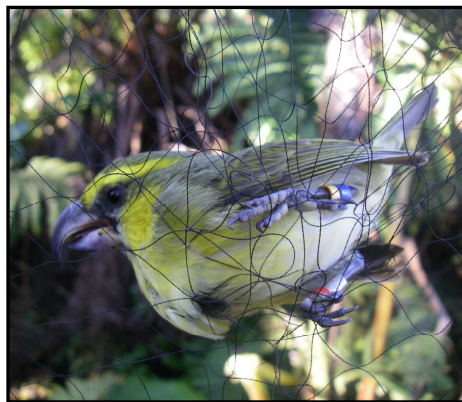
MFBRP first initiated a new volunteer program in 2009 with rare bird searches in Waikamoi Preserve. Looking for new ways to get more field work done with our small staff, we branched out in November and brought volunteers into Hanawi NAR to help with Maui Parrotbill capture efforts. These volunteers were very experienced field biologists with a lot of previous mist netting and banding experience under their belts before their arrival.

Our goal was to be able to operate mist nets passively with more personnel to check nets and process birds. We wanted to set-up nets in the home ranges of known unbanded parrotbill as well as pairs whom we knew had offspring at the end of last season. Most of the parrotbill that we capture in a given year are lured into nets using recorded bird songs. This has not been successful for young or non-territorial birds. As a result we have been unable to band very many hatch-year individuals in the past and have also had trouble with certain adults whom just don't seem attracted to the playback.

The first group of volunteers included Adam Beeler, Laura Glenister, Jennifer Lowry, and Peter Motyka who worked with us in November and December. Over the course of two field trips, they were able to set up more than 60 nets at each site, Po'ouli Camp and Frisbee Meadows. Five new Maui Parrotbill were caught and banded, including one called the "Christmas" female that we had been following since 2006 and had managed to sneak away from all previous mistnets. Even an 'Akohekohe was caught, a bird that spends much of its time in the canopy of the forest and often avoids lower nets.

Our second group of volunteers included Rachel Woodard, Colin Woolley and Ross Kresnik working with us in January. In their two field trips into Po'ouli Camp and Frisbee Meadows we captured 6 new Maui Parrotbill and 9 new 'Akohekohe.

The Maui Forest Bird Recovery Project is extremely grateful for the generous donation of time that each of these volunteers has given us. They allowed us to accomplish more fieldwork than would ever have been manageable with only our staff. We will have another volunteer program running this July, please see the posting below for additional information. You can also visit our website, www.mauiforestbird.org, for more information about the past and future trips and read thoughts left by our volunteers.



MFBRP VOLUNTEER POSITION:

RESEARCH VOLUNTEERS needed this July 2010 for banding efforts of Maui Parrotbill.

Primary field duties will include aiding staff with mist-netting and banding of Maui Parrotbill, 'Alauahio and other forest birds. Field duties are extremely physically challenging, working at 5,000-7,000 ft elevation, in extremely wet (annual rainfall up to 400 inches), cold, muddy and steep rainforest conditions.

Desirable Qualifications: (1) Mist-netting and banding experience with passerines, primarily set-up and handling of mist nets and extracting birds and (2) hiking in steep backcountry terrain.

Work schedule will include training on July 7th and 8th and 2 field trips July 9-16 and July 22-29 with a break in between for your own free time to explore Maui. Volunteers will provide their own food during their stay as well as transport to and from Kahului, Maui. The Maui Forest Bird Recovery Project is asking for a \$500 donation to help off-set the costs of helicopter transport and field supplies. (Donation may be subject to waiver depending upon North American Banding Council certification and experience). To apply please send a cover letter outlining your ornithological experience and expertise with special attention to mist netting experience to Hanna Mounce - mounce@hawaii.edu



NEW CREW 2010

The Maui Forest Bird Recovery Project brought on six new temporary research assistants to our team this February for the Maui Parrotbill breeding season, pictured here with full-time staff.

These folks will be re-sighting individuals and gathering data on breeding success until the end of June.

For the past four years, our field teams have focused mainly on Maui Parrotbill nest success in hopes of explaining this aspect of their population dynamics and possible decline. We accomplished this with intensive nest monitoring as a central duty during the parrotbill breeding season. After gathering some very useful data on causes of nest failures and parental investment, we decided to move away from the more specific nest studies this year and try to get a larger picture of reproductive success across the parrotbill population.

To this end, our team is focused on re-sighting banded parrotbill, mapping territories for banded and unbanded individuals and following these pairs through the season to see if they fledge a hatch-year or not in 2010. We hope that this is going to give us a much larger sample size for assessing productivity in the wild and will continue to expand our knowledge of parrotbill life-history.

Here the crew is pictured hiking out of Hanawi after their first trip (l-r) Devon Anderson, Richard Aracil, Adam Elzinga, Ehren Banfield, Charissa Rujanavech, Kelly Iknayan, Laura Berthold, Jenny Hazelhurst and Hanna Mounce.



MAUI BREWING COMPANY BENEFIT NIGHTS

On four upcoming evenings at the MBC, a percentage of the proceeds from all pints and pizza will be donated to the Maui Forest Bird Recovery Project. Please join us on from 6-midnight on **March 12th, June 11th, September 10th & December 10th.**



Kahana Gateway Center
4405 Honoapiilani Highway
Past Lahaina as you head to Napili

Please join us and help support the recovery of Maui's native forest birds!!

WALK and HIKE WRAP-UP

The Maui Forest Bird Recovery Project led a lecture and hike series at the end of 2009 and into 2010 sponsored by the Hawaii Tourism Authority and the County of Maui. The program consisted of four different lecture dates and attracted 87 attendees. Our five hikes hosted 48 participants.

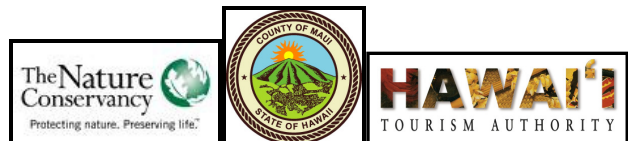
Many thanks to the Kihei Whale Sanctuary, the Fairmont Kea Lani, the Pacific Whale Foundation and Friends of Haleakala National Park for hosting the presentations and The Nature Conservancy for access into the Waikamoi Preserve.



While this wraps-up our official presentation and hike program, our staff is willing to make arrangements for presentations for individual groups or organizations as well as host hikes when possible.

If you would like to discuss a presentation or hike possibility, please call out office @ 808-573-0280.

Many thanks to Hank Oppenheimer for leading our January hike!



RECENT MAUI FOREST BIRD RECOVERY PROJECT PUBLICATION ACCEPTANCE:

Coming soon in *Endangered Species Research* @ www.int-res.com

“Nest Success and Parental Investment in the Endangered Maui Parrotbill (*Pseudonestor xanthophrys*) with Implications for Recovery”

MAUI FOREST BIRD RECOVERY PROJECT – 2465 OLINDA ROAD MAKAWAO, HI 96768
808.573.0280 www.mauiforestbirds.org info@mauiforestbirds.org

AN OLD MAUI ALAUAHIO AT FRISBEE MEADOWS – LOOKIN GOOD AT 16+

On January 27th 2010 during one of our volunteer banding trips at Frisbee Meadows, someone brought back a Maui Alauahio saying “this bird has some really faded bands”. When we took the creeper out of it’s bag and saw the lime and mauve colors on its legs, we knew he was old! There were no other signs of poor health or age. The bird was a bright yellow and had very good feather condition.

When we returned to the office after the trip and looked up the band #, we found out that a new record had been set for the oldest ‘alauahio!

This bird had originally been banded on June 23rd 1994 by R. Cummings in Frisbee Meadows 277 meters from where we recaptured it. It was aged unknown at the time, so we can’t be exactly sure how old it really is. While the bird had been re-sights regularly after initially banded (5 times in 1995 and 2 times in 1996) our MFBRP team has not seen this bird at all since 1996 until he flew into the net in January.

We were very excited to see an ‘alauahio living out there this long and hope that that means there are other birds in this age class as well.

While this bird was not able to be sexed either time it was caught based on any breeding condition but based on a our newly developed discriminate function analysis for alauahio, we think that it is a clear male.



The research team at Frisbee Meadows is going to be on the lookout for this guy in 2010 in the hopes of determining whether or not he is still breeding.

IT'S FOR THE BIRDS 2010



Many thanks to all of those who enjoyed our first “It’s For the Birds” event in November 2009. It would not have been nearly as big of a success without all of the kind donations, volunteered time and attendants!!

We are starting to think about a gala for 2010 and we would like get some feedback from the 2009 event and see how you think it went?

We are also starting to explore possible keynote speakers and performers and would love some suggestions from you all on that as well. Additionally, we are looking for any corporate sponsors that might be able to off-set the rental costs of an outdoor tent in exchange for some advertising.

Please email any suggestions or comments to info@mauiforestbirds.org. MAHALO!!