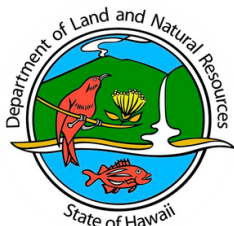


The Forest Jewels of Hawai'i

A coloring book featuring Hawai'i's unique
native forest birds



'Iwi



DLNR Forestry & Wildlife
dlnr.hawaii.gov/dofaw



Hawai'i lies in the middle of the Pacific, over 2,000 miles away from any large land mass. Species that we call **native** to Hawai'i arrived here without the help of humans. They arrived one of three ways:



Manu / Wings



Makani / Wind



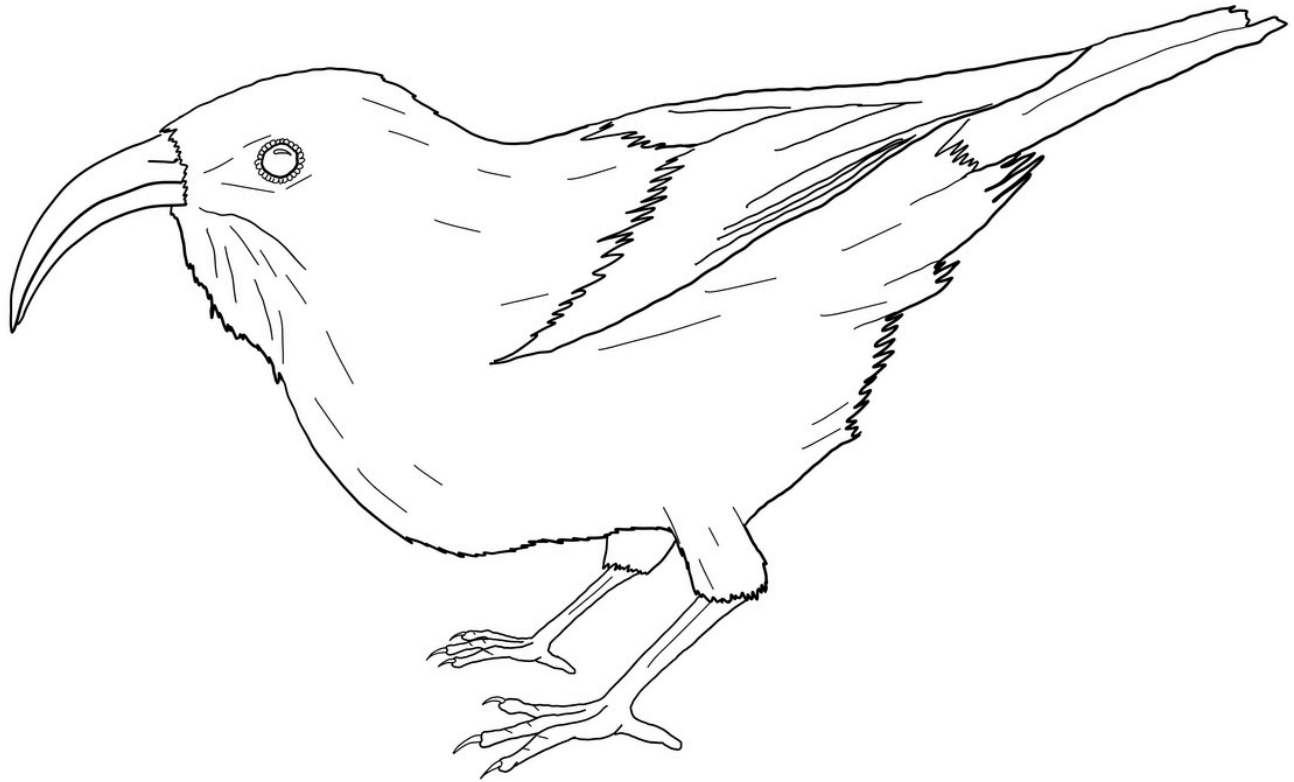
Moana / Waves

It is believed that a new species arrived and survived here at the rate of only one every 25-50,000 thousand years! Large land animals were unable to cross the ocean by themselves, so they were not part of ancient Hawai'i. It was strictly a land of birds, plants, insects, and small invertebrates, such as snails.

As these species arrived and settled in Hawai'i, they evolved to adapt to their new home. From one ancestor could spring many forms that had changed to fit the varied environments found on the islands. These new forms are known as **endemic** species (found only in Hawai'i). The forests of old Hawai'i ranged from the coast to the snow-capped mountains. They offered a rich mix of flowers, fruits, seeds, and insects to feed the multitudes of birds. These forest birds were vitally important to Native Hawaiians, providing food, materials for clothing, items of religious and royal significance, and were part of the framework upon which Hawaiian culture developed.

Our forests are very different today: following the introduction of **non-native** plants and animals and the destruction of forests for farming and modern residential areas, our native forests are often found only high on mountaintops. Our native birds have less habitat, and they are at risk from being eaten by cats, rats, and mongoose, or infected with diseases by mosquitoes. When a non-native species causes problems like this, we call it an **invasive species**.

The species in this book are not as abundant as they once were, but with care and effort we can hopefully ensure a future for these birds to remain part of Hawai'i's forests. You can look up the colors of these birds on our website as you color and learn about these wonderful, unique birds.



'I'iwi

Drepanis coccinea

The bright red 'i'iwi with its long, curved bill is one of the most distinctive birds of the forest. It is about 5-6" long and has black wings with white patches. The legs and bill are salmon pink.

The beautiful 'i'iwi feathers were used extensively in Hawaiian featherwork, and the bird was often referred to in chants.

This species is found on Kaua'i, Maui, and Hawai'i Island. They are thought to be gone from O'ahu, Moloka'i, and Lāna'i.

You can learn more about 'i'iwi, see photos, and listen to its birdsong at <https://dlnr.hawaii.gov/wildlife/birds/iiwi/>

Artwork based on a photo by Zach Pezzillo





Palila

Loxioides bailleui

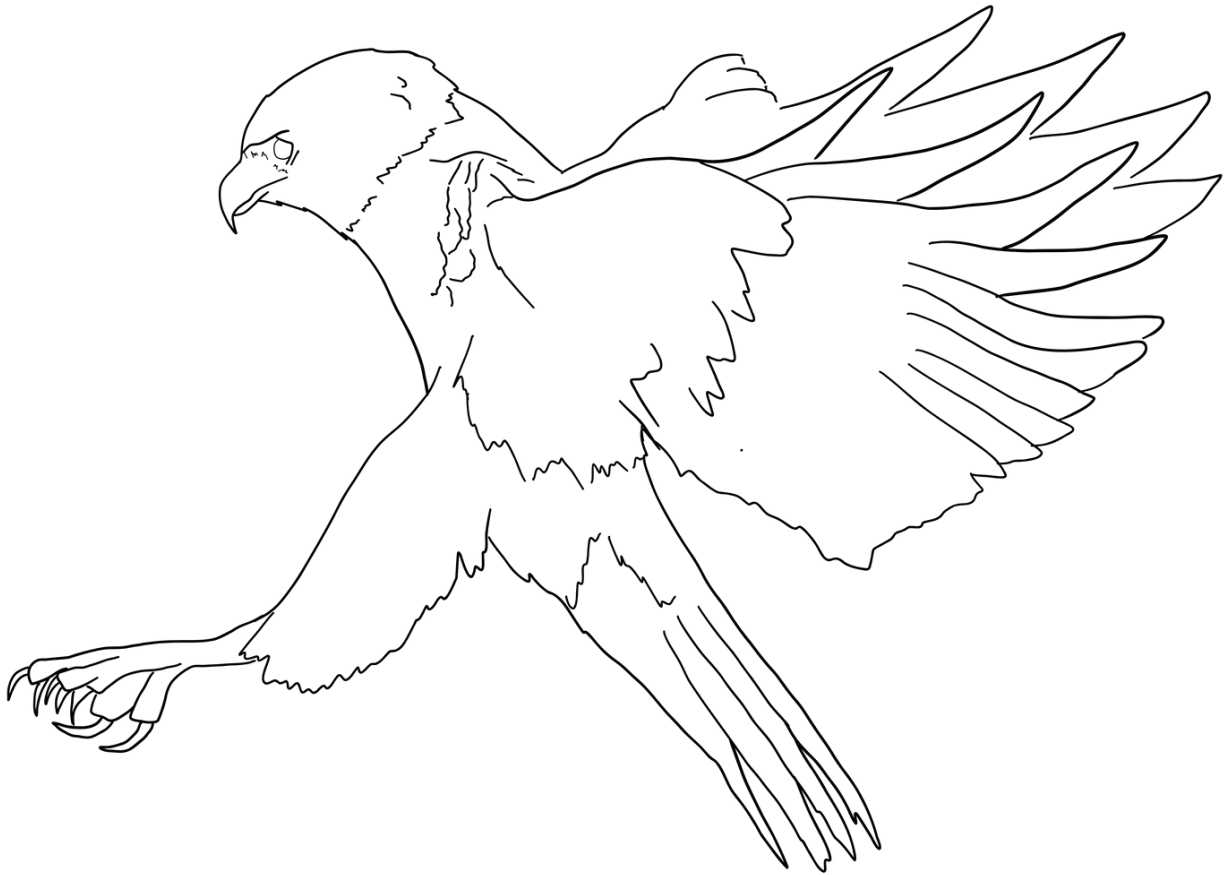
Palila are found on Hawai'i Island in the māmane and naio forests on the slopes of Mauna Kea.

They are about 6" long with a bright yellow head, silver-gray back and a white underside. The finch-like bill is especially suited for opening māmane seed pods, though it will also eat insects, naio berries, and māmane leaves and flowers.

You can learn more about palila, see photos, and listen to its birdsong at <https://dlnr.hawaii.gov/wildlife/birds/palila/>

Artwork based on a photo by DLNR





‘Io

Buteo solitarius

The ‘io, also known as the Hawaiian Hawk, is found only on Hawai‘i Island. It is regarded by some as an ‘aumakua, or family god. Because of its lofty flight the ‘io signified royalty in Hawaiian legend.

A large bird, about 16-18", ‘io feed on rodents, insects, and small birds. The coloring of ‘io can range from solid dark brown, to white with dark streaks.

You can learn more about palila, see photos, and listen to its birdsong at <https://dlnr.hawaii.gov/wildlife/birds/io>

Artwork based on a photo by Bret Mossman





‘Ākepa

Loxops coccineus

‘Ākepa are found on Hawai‘i Island. There were once O‘ahu and Maui ‘ākepa, but these species are extinct. There is a Kaua‘i ‘ākepa, better known as the ‘akeke‘e. Hawai‘i ‘ākepa are about 4-5" long, with conical bills and a long, notched tail. The male is bright red-orange, and the female is greenish-yellow. ‘Ākepa use their bills to pry open ‘ōhi‘a buds and seed pods in search of insects and spiders.

You can learn more about ‘ākepa, see photos, and listen to its birdsong at <https://dlnr.hawaii.gov/wildlife/birds/hawaii-akepa/>

Artwork based on a photo by Bret Mossman





Puaiohi

Myadestes palmeri

The Puaiohi is found only on Kaua'i in the eastern section of the Alaka'i Wilderness above 4,000 feet in elevation. It is also known as the small Kaua'i thrush. It is a dark brown bird, about 7" long, with a gray underside and pinkish legs. Puaiohi feed primarily on fruits and insects.

You can learn more about puaiohi, see photos, and listen to its birdsong at <https://dlnr.hawaii.gov/wildlife/birds/puaiohi/>

Artwork based on a photo by Lucas Behnke





Kiwikiu

Pseudonestor xanthophrys

The kiwikiu, or Maui parrotbill, is found only on East Maui on the north slope of Haleakalā from 5,000-7,000 feet in elevation. They are 4-5" long with a large parrot-like beak. The males are olive-green with a yellow throat and a yellow stripe over the eye. Females are not as brightly colored and have smaller bills. The strong beak of the kiwikiu is used to break apart wood. The upper bill and tongue are used to pry out insect larvae.

You can learn more about kiwikiu, see photos, and listen to its birdsong at <https://dlnr.hawaii.gov/wildlife/birds/kiwikiu>

Artwork based on a photo by Zach Pezzillo





Pueo

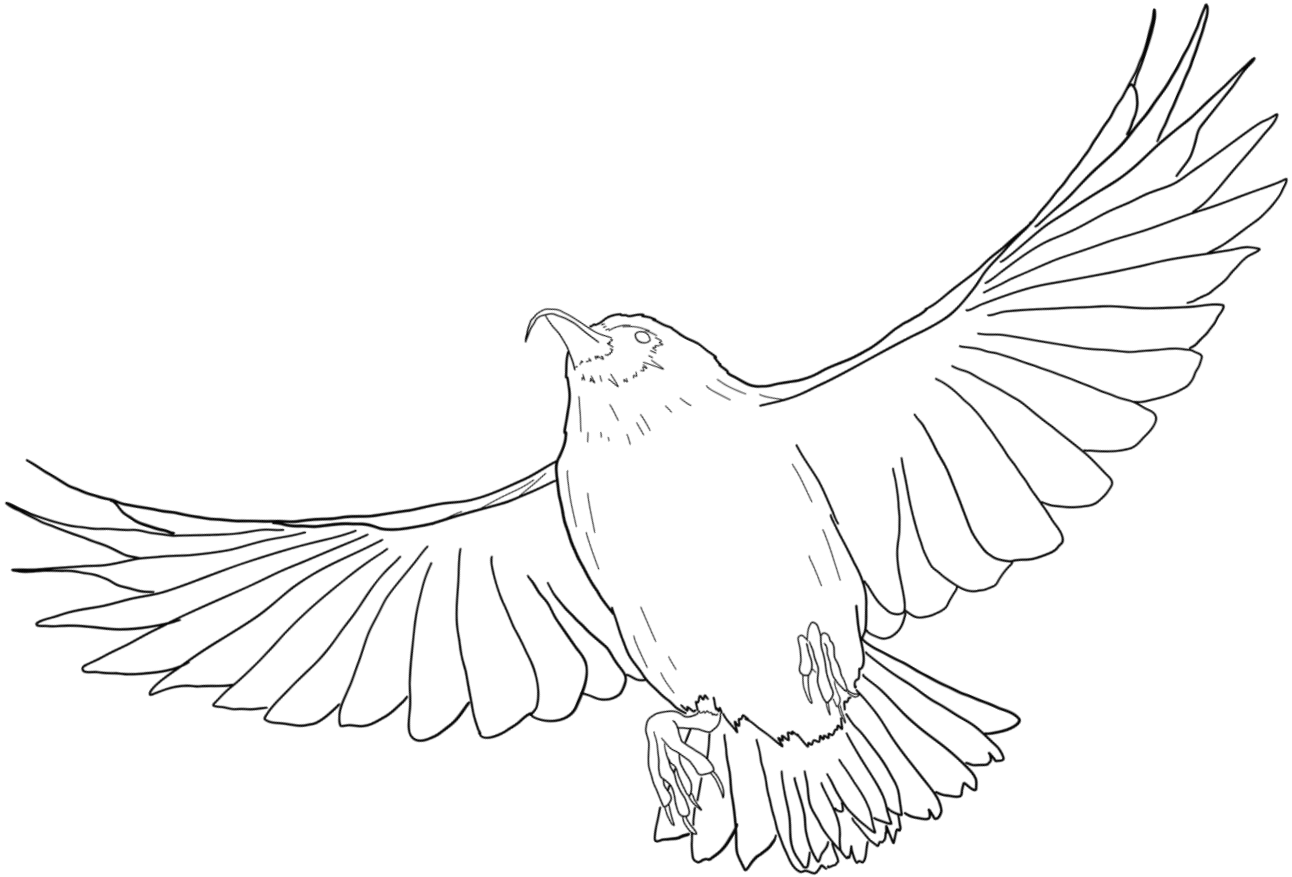
Asio flammeneus sandwichensis

Also known as the Hawaiian owl, the pueo is found on all of the main Hawaiian Islands. Pueo are 13-17" long and have dark brown, tan, and white feathers. They have a round face with a black mask, black bill, and yellow eyes. The legs and feet are feathered. Pueo hunt from dawn to dusk, searching for rodents, insects, and sometimes small birds. Pueo build their nests on the ground in dry forests and rainforests, but are usually seen hunting in grasslands. The pueo was worshipped as a god and is an 'aumakua, or protective spirit, to many Hawaiian people.

You can learn more about pueo, see photos, and listen to its birdsong at <https://dlnr.hawaii.gov/wildlife/birds/pueo>

Artwork based on a photo by Javier Cotin





‘Akiapōlā‘au

Hemignathus wilsoni

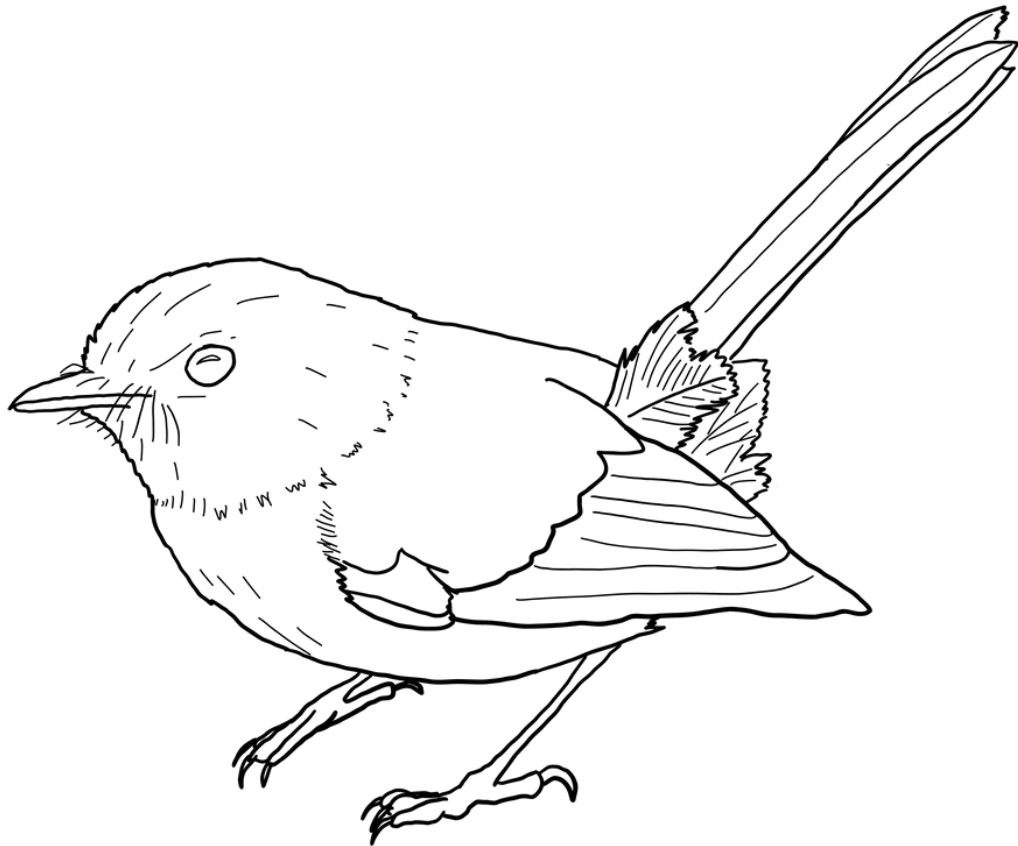
‘Akiapōlā‘au are found only on Hawai‘i Island in the koa and ‘ōhi‘a forests above 3,500 feet in elevation on the slopes of Mauna Loa, Mauna Kea, and central Kona. The male birds are about 5" long, with olive-green bodies and yellow heads. The females are smaller and not as brightly colored. ‘Akiapōlā‘au have a unique, multipurpose bill. The lower beak is used to dig at bark, while the long, curved part is used to extract bugs and larvae.

You can learn more about ‘akiapōlā‘au, see photos, and listen to its birdsong at

<https://dlnr.hawaii.gov/wildlife/birds/akiapolau>

Artwork based on a photo by Bret Mossman





'Elepaio

Chasiempis spp.

The 'elepaio is a friendly little bird that will often follow hikers through the forest. It was believed to be the goddess of canoe makers since a tree with an 'elepaio pecking at it indicated it was full of insects, and therefore not suitable for a canoe. There are three species of 'elepaio: Kaua'i 'elepaio, O'ahu 'elepaio, and Hawai'i 'elepaio. The birds are about 5-6" long and vary in color from a dark to grayish-brown, with white markings on their tails and wings. They have a white rump.

You can learn more about the kinds of 'elepaio, see photos, and listen to its birdsong at <https://dlnr.hawaii.gov/wildlife/birds/>

Artwork based on a photo by DLNR





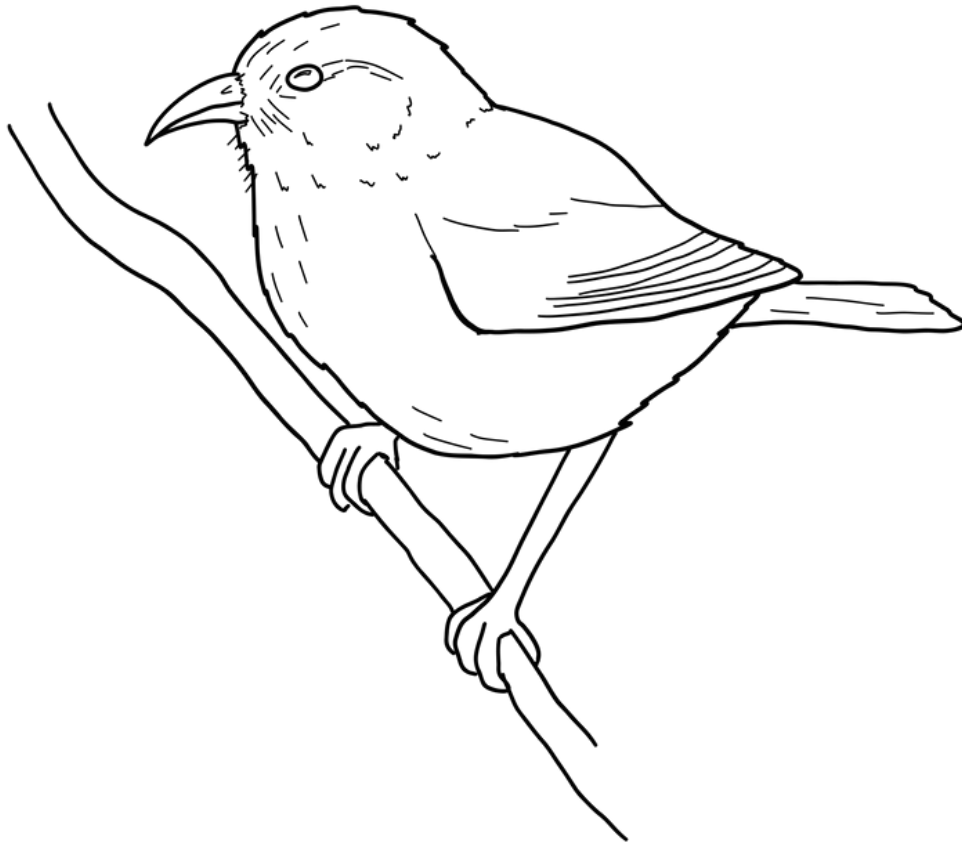
‘Ōma‘o

Myadestes obscurus

The ‘ōma‘o lives only on Hawai‘i Island in native forests above 3,000 feet in elevation. It is also known as the Hawaiian thrush. ‘Ōma‘o are about 7" long. They are a dark gray-brown, with a pale gray underside and brown edging on the wings. The bill and legs are dark. They have a habit of quivering their drooped wings, like a young bird begging for food. ‘Ōma‘o feed mostly on fruits, berries, seeds, and insects, and they nest in koa and ‘ōhi‘a trees.

You can learn more about ‘ōma‘o, see photos, and listen to its birdsong at <https://dlnr.hawaii.gov/wildlife/birds/omao>





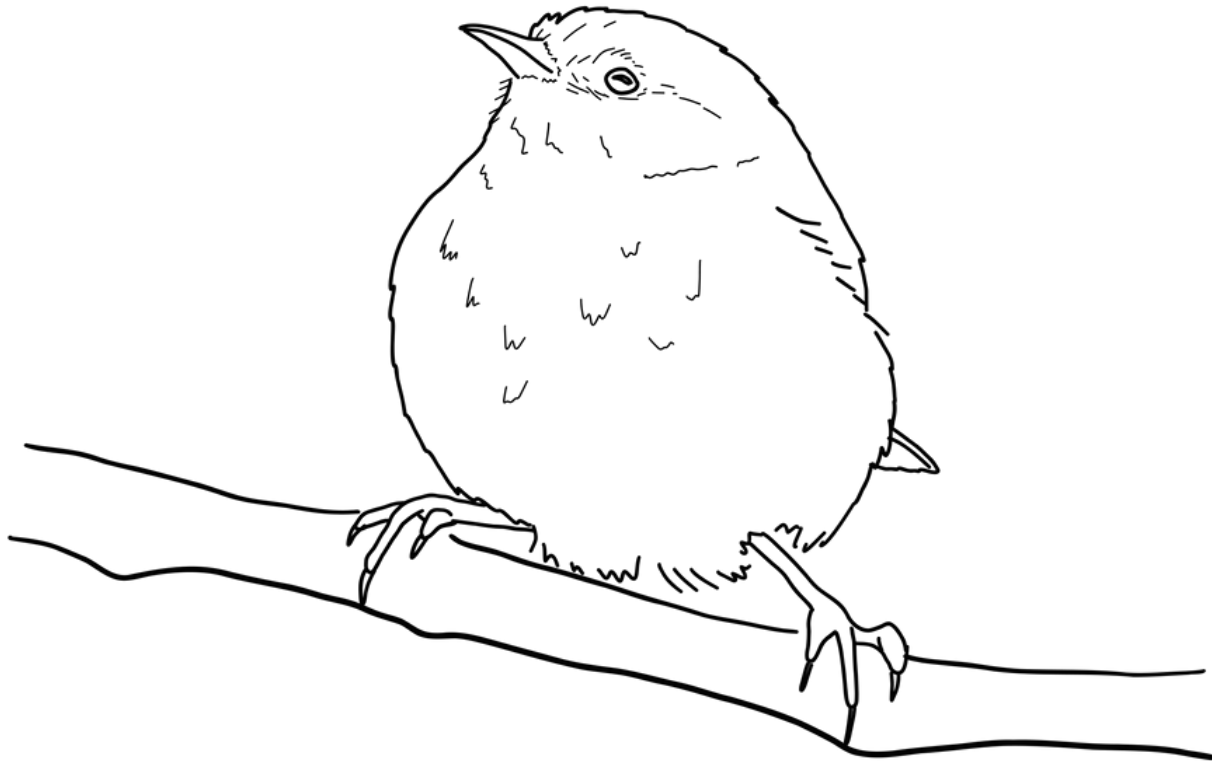
‘Anianiau

Magumma parva

Found only on Kaua‘i, the ‘anianaiau is found in native forests above 3,000 feet in elevation. It is about 4" long and the smallest of the Hawaiian honeycreepers. The male is a bright yellow-green with a white rump. The females are smaller and less bright in color. The legs and bill are a pale yellowish-gray. The pointed beak of the ‘anianaiau is used for feeding on nectar, and searching leaves and bark for insects.

You can learn more about ‘anianaiau, see photos, and listen to its birdsong at <https://dlnr.hawaii.gov/wildlife/birds/anianaiau>





‘Alauahio

Paroreomyza montana newtoni

Also known as the Maui Creeper, this small, 4-5" bird is found only on East Maui, where it is found in native forests above 4,500 feet in elevation. The males are bright yellow and the females a grayish-green. The sharp, pointed beak is used for finding insects among the leaves and branches. Creepers on Moloka‘i and Lāna‘i are considered extinct. The O‘ahu ‘alauahio is presumed extinct. It was last seen in 1985.

You can learn more about ‘alauahio, see photos, and listen to its birdsong at <https://dlnr.hawaii.gov/wildlife/birds/maui-alauahio>

Based on a photo by Zach Pezzillo





‘Ākohekohe

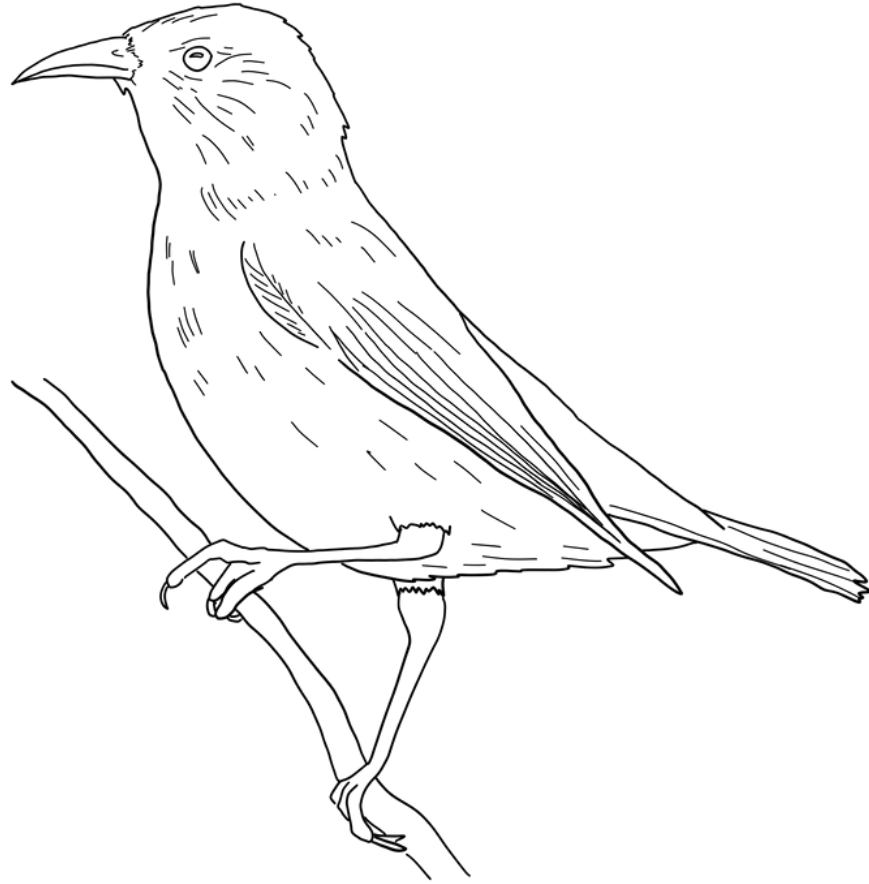
Palmeria dolei

Also known as the crested honeybreeper, the ‘ākohekohe used to be found on Moloka‘i and other parts of Maui, but are now only found on the windward slope of Haleakalā from 4,500-6,500 feet in elevation. They are the most showy of the Hawaiian forest birds, with their black feathers tipped with gray and orange, orange on the back of their necks, and distinctive white or golden crests of feathers above their shiny black beaks. ‘Ākohekohe feed primarily on the nectar from ‘ōhi‘a blossoms, but will also take nectar from other plants and eat insects. They are endangered.

You can learn more about ‘ākohekohe, see photos, and listen to its birdsong at <https://dlnr.hawaii.gov/wildlife/birds/akohekohe>

Based on a photo by Alex Wang





'Apapane

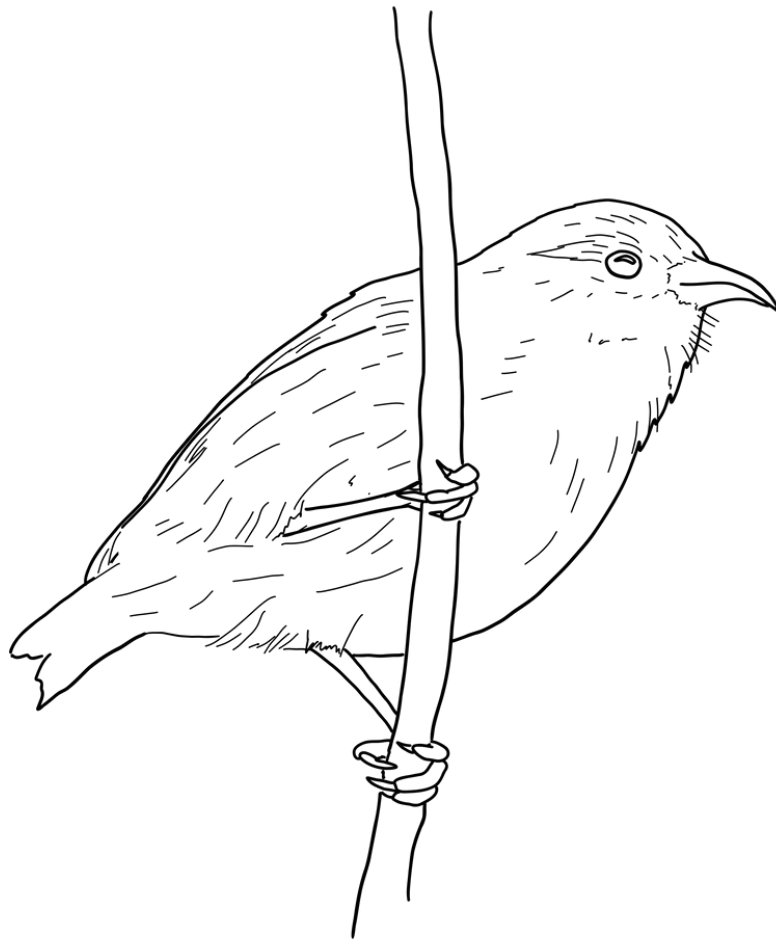
Himatione sanguinea

'Apapane are found on all the main Hawaiian Islands, although they are rare on Lāna'i. They have a bright red body with black wings and tail, and a white patch under the tail. The bill is black and slightly curved for eating nectar and insects. The feathers were sometimes used for Hawaiian featherwork. The 'apapane is about 5" long and a very active and quick bird. The wings make a whirring noise in flight. Its varied calls and songs differ on each island, as isolated populations of 'apapane have developed distinct dialects.

You can learn more about 'apapane, see photos, and listen to its birdsong at <https://dlnr.hawaii.gov/wildlife/birds/apapane>

Based on a photo by Zach Pezzillo





‘Amakihi

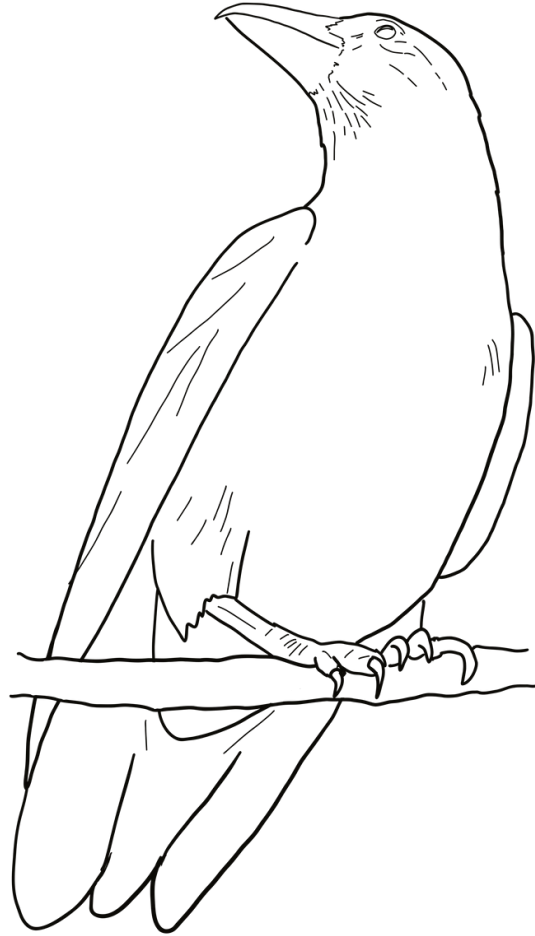
Hemignathus spp.

‘There are multiple species of ‘amakihi across Hawai‘i: the Hawai‘i ‘amakihi lives on Hawai‘i Island and Maui, and O‘ahu and Kaua‘i each have their own species of ‘amakihi. For each of these, the male is about 5" long and yellowish-green with a black stripe over the eye. The bill is gray and slightly curved. The females are similar but less colorful. There was also a greater ‘amakihi known as nukupololei, but it is now extinct. Hawai‘i ‘amakihi is one of the most abundant native birds. It prefers drier forests and eats insects and nectar.

You can learn more about the kinds of ‘amakihi, see photos, and listen to its birdsong at <https://dlnr.hawaii.gov/wildlife/birds/>

Based on a photo by Christiana Hetzel





‘Alalā

Corvus hawaiiensis

‘The ‘alalā, or Hawaiian crow, lived in the forests of Hawai‘i Island and Maui. It became extinct in the wild around 2002. ‘Alalā are currently raised in special care centers and some ‘alala were released on Hawai‘i Island in the late 2010s. Those birds did not survive. In 2024, ‘alalā was released into the wild on east Maui. ‘Alalā are large, black birds with black beaks. The eyes of baby ‘alalā are blue, but change to brown as adults. They have a loud, fascinating call, and can eat a wide variety of fruits, seeds, and animals.

You can learn more about ‘alalā, see photos, and listen to its birdsong at <https://dlnr.hawaii.gov/wildlife/birds/alala>

Based on a photo by Jacob Drucker



Few people in Hawai'i have seen these forest birds, or even know they exist. Many of these birds are only found in the most remote forests of Hawai'i where there are no roads or trails. Many of these forest treasures are endangered, and some so rare that only a few individuals are all that remain.

The purpose of this book is to raise awareness of these unique and beautiful creatures that are found only in Hawai'i and nowhere else on Earth. By enlisting the support of the public for the protection and preservation of these birds and their habitat, it is hoped that these "jewels of the forest" will be able to thrive and once again fill the forests with their songs.

This coloring book was originally produced in November 1996 by the Department of Land & Natural Resources, Division of Forestry & Wildlife, with funding from the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, with illustrations © Michael Furuya. It was updated in 2024 with new artwork, text, and links. Artwork is either based on the original illustrations or on photos as noted.



E mālama kākou i ka 'āina
Let's care for the land together