Hawaiian Endangered Animals Coloring Book
`i`iwi

Vestiaria 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 a salmon pink.

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

Although fairly common on Kaua`i, Maui, and the Big Island, `i`iwi are endangered on O`ahu and Moloka`i, and extinct on Lana`i.

`Elepaio

Chasiempis sandwichensis

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 insect-ridden, and therefore, not suitable for a canoe.

There are three distinct subspecies, one each on Kaua`i, O`ahu, and the Big Island. They are common in the forests of Kaua`i and the Big Island, but rare on O`ahu.

The birds are about 5" - 6" long and vary in color, from a dark to grayish-brown, with white wing markings and tail spots, and a white rump. All `elepaio display a distinct cocked-tail posture.
Also known as the Crested Honeycreeper, the ʻākohekohe used to be found on Molokaʻi and other parts of Maui, but are now only on the windward slope of Haleakalā from 4,500′ to 6,500′.

They are the most showy of the Hawaiian forest birds, with their black feathers tipped with gray and orange, the orange back of its neck, and the distinctive white or golden crest of feathers above the shiny black beak.

ʻĀkohekohe feed primarily on the nectar from ʻōhīa blossoms, but will also take nectar from other plants and eat insects.

Molokaʻi ʻākohekohe are extinct, and Mauʻi ʻākohekohe are endangered.

Also known as the Maui Creeper, this small (4" - 5") bird is found only on East Maui, where it is common in native forests above 4,500′. 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 Molokaʻi and Lanaʻi are considered extinct, and the Oʻahu Creeper is endangered.
`Åkepa

Loxops coccineus

`Åkepa are found on the Big Island, and less commonly on Maui. They are about 4" - 5" long, with conical bills and a long, notched tail. The Hawai`i male is a bright red-orange, the Maui male is a dull yellow. The females from both islands are a greenish yellow.

`Åkepa use their bills to pry open `ōhi`a buds and seed pods in search of insects and spiders.

The `akeke`e is of the same species as the `åkepa, but found only on Kaua`i. Both the males and females are an olive-green with a bright yellow crown and a black stripe over the eyes.

Both the `åkepa and the `akeke`e are endangered.

Palila

Loxioides bailleui

Palila are found on the Big Island in the māmame-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 māmame seed pods, though it will also eat insects, naio berries, and māmame leaves and flowers.

The palila is endangered.
The `io, also known as the Hawaiian Hawk, is found only on the Big 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", it feeds on rodents, insects, and small birds. The coloring of `io can range from solid dark brown, to white with dark streaks.

`Io are endangered.

Found only on Kaua`i, the `anianiau is fairly common in native forests above 3,000'.

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 duller in color. The legs and bill are a pale yellowish-gray.

The pointed beak of the `anianiau is used for feeding on nectar, and searching leaves and bark for insects.
Pueo
Aiao quadridactylus samuelssoni

Also known as the Hawaiian Owl, the pueo is found on all 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.

The pueo should not be confused with the non-native barn owl which has a white heart-shaped face, pale bill, dark eyes, and tan feathers.

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 aumākua, or protective spirit to many Hawaiian people.

Pueo are listed as endangered on the island of Oʻahu.

`Amakihi
Hemignathus virens

The `amakihi is one of the most abundant birds in the Hawaiian forests, but unlike its rainforest relatives, it prefers drier forests, and can be seen at lower elevations searching for insects and nectar.

Although there are four distinct subspecies, they are somewhat similar in appearance. In general, male `amakihi are about 5” long, and yellowish-green with a black stripe over the eye. The bill is gray and slightly curved. Females are a duller color.

Apparently resistant to the diseases that decimated other native birds, the `amakihi is a hopeful sign for native wildlife.
`Akiapōlā`au are found only on the Big Island in the koa-ʻōhiʻa forests above 3,500' 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 multi-purpose bill. The lower beak is used to dig at bark, while the long curved part is used to extract the bugs and larvae.

`Akiapōlā`au are endangered.

The puaiohi is found only on Kauaʻi in the eastern section of the Alakaʻi Swamp above 4,000'. It is also known as the Small Kauaʻi Thrush.

It is a dark brown bird, about 7" long, with a gray underside and pinkish legs. Puaiohi feed primarily on fruits and insects.

The Kāmaʻo is another thrush species, also found only on Kauaʻi in the Alakaʻi Swamp. It is the largest of the Hawaiian thrushes.

Both the puaiohi and the kāmaʻo are endangered.
Parrotbills are found only on East Maui on the north slope of Haleakala from 5,000' - 7,000'. 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 Maui Parrotbills is used to break apart wood, then the upper bill and tongue are used to pry out insect larvae.

Maui Parrotbills are endangered.

`Apapane are found on all the main Hawaiian Islands, although rare on Lāna`i. They have a crimson 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 occasionally used for Hawaiian featherwork.

The `apapane is about 5" long, and a very active and quick-moving 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.
The `alalā, or Hawaiian crow is found only on the Big Island on the southeast slopes of Mauna Loa and Hualalai.

It is a large bird, about 18" - 20", and solid black. The eyes of baby `alalā are blue, but change to brown as adults.

`Alalā are extremely rare in the wild, and birds are being raised in captivity to keep the species from becoming extinct.

`Alalā are critically endangered.

The `Ōma`o lives only on the Big Island in native forests above 3,000'. 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.
Po`ouli
Melampyrosops phaeosoma

The po`ouli was discovered as recently as 1973 in upper Hana rainforest of Maui.

The birds are about 5" long, with brown bodies and pale gray undersides. The bill is black, and the legs are long and pale. Po`ouli have a black mask that extends from the forehead to a point behind the eye.

Po`ouli use their short bill to tear at bark in search of small snails and insect larvae.

Po`ouli are critically endangered. Perhaps only as few as six birds still exist.

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