



Endemic Birds of the Haleakalā Summit

Millions of years ago, the first birds either flew to Hawai‘i or were blown off course. In this isolated island environment, largely free from predators, these colonizers evolved into today’s endemic birds of Hawai‘i, found nowhere else on earth.

As people settled here, bringing non-native plant and animal species, the birds declined due to habitat loss and predation. Today, as higher elevations get warmer due to climate change, birds are impacted by disease-carrying mosquitos, which now breed in areas that were formerly too cool.

Conservationists work to safeguard the remaining endemic Hawaiian birds. Places like Haleakalā National Park provide the birds’ best remaining habitats. You can help by staying on the trail, driving carefully, not littering, and enjoying these birds from a distance.



‘Apapane

Himatione sanguinea
Not threatened.

White “underpants” and a distinctive whirring sound in flight identify this red and black beauty.



‘I‘iwi

Vestiara coccinea
Threatened.

Look for the bird’s distinctive curved beak, which allows this red jewel to sip nectar from curved flowers.



‘Amakihi

Chlorodrepanis virens
Not threatened.

The “bandit mask” over the eye and curved bill distinguish the ‘amakihi.



‘Alauahio

Paroreomyza montana
Endangered. Endemic to East Maui.

A small, yellow-green forest bird with a straight bill and yellow blush on its forehead, face, and belly.



Michael R. Neal

Kiwikiu (Maui Parrotbill)

Pseudonestor xanthophrys
Critically endangered, ~312 remain. Endemic to Haleakalā.

A strong and curved bill, sharp and serious, identifies this extremely rare treasure.



Nēnē

Branta sandvicensis
Endangered.

The “stripes” on the elegant neck of this ground-nesting goose mark it as distinct from any other goose.



Pueo (Hawaiian Short-Eared Owl)

Asio flammeus sandwichensis Endangered.

The brilliant yellow eyes of this Hawaiian owl glow from brown and gold feathers. See them at dusk and dawn.



Jim Denny

‘Ua‘u (Hawaiian Petrel)

Pterodromo sandwichensis
Endangered.

A grey head, back and wings contrast with a snowy underside on this seabird, which only returns to land to nest.