

Photo

Forest Birds

Oloma'ō

Myadestes lanaiensis

SPECIES STATUS:

Federally Listed as Endangered

State Listed as Endangered

State recognized as endemic

Hawaii Natural Heritage Ranking GH—Known only from historical occurrences

SPECIES INFORMATION: The oloma'ō, or Moloka'i thrush, is a medium-sized solitaire that lives alone or in pairs, seldom leaving its home range. The diet consists of small fruits and insects. Breeding biology is presumed to be similar to the 'ōma'ō (*Myadestes obscurus*).

DISTRIBUTION: The historic range of the oloma'ō included the mountains of East Moloka'i and La-na'i. Prehistoric distribution may have included O'ahu and Maui, where many fossils of Hawaiian solitaires have been found.

Map distribution

ABUNDANCE: Oloma'ō have been detected on a dozen occasions since 1907, most recently in 1988. The Hawaiian Forest Bird Survey, conducted in 1979 and 1980, estimated 19 ± 38 birds.

No oloma'ō were detected during surveys in the late 1980's and 1990's. If it exists at all, the current population of oloma'ō is undetected.

LOCATION AND CONDITION OF KEY HABITAT: Oloma'ō prefer closed forest. They were common in both wet and dry forests, in lowlands as well as at the highest elevations on Moloka'i and La-na'i. Areas where birds have been detected in the last half-century are managed by the state of Hawaii as Forest Reserve or Natural Area Reserve or by the Nature Conservancy. Although the condition of these forests varies from intact to degraded, management can be considered stable.

THREATS: Avian disease was implicated in the demise of the La-na'i population and probably played a major role in the decline on Moloka'i as well. Other threats are presumably those shared by other forest birds: habitat loss and degradation, predation by and competition with introduced vertebrates. The remaining oloma'ō population, if one exists, is likely to be genetically impoverished.

CONSERVATION ACTIONS: Conservation actions to date include regular surveys and habitat protection. Ungulate and weed control have been the focus of habitat protection

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activities. Should this species be rediscovered, the Rare Bird Recovery Protocol contained in the USFWS Recovery Plan for Hawaiian Forest Birds would be enacted.

MONITORING:

- Continue regular surveys of Moloka'i forest bird populations and habitat conditions.
- Include oloma'o in future efforts to survey rare Hawaii forest birds.

RESEARCH PRIORITIES:

- None at this time.

References:

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. 2003. Draft Revised Recovery Plan for Hawaiian Forest Birds, Region 1, Portland, OR. 428pp.