

## KAUA'I 'AMAKIHI

## *Chlorodrepanis stejnegeri*

Other names: Amakihi, Common Amakihi

monotypic

### **native resident, endemic**

The Kaua'i 'Amakihi is the most distinctive of the three 'amakihi species (Conant et al. 1998, Fleisher et al. 1998, Pratt 2005), and also the most restricted in range. After being allied with other 'amakihis by Stejneger (1887a), Wilson (1889a) elevated it to species status, naming it (*Himatione stejnegeri*; see [Synonymies](#)) after the well-known taxonomist. The AOU (1998) and others have applied "*kauaiensis*" (Pratt 1989a), which would be needed if the 'amakihis were considered to be in *Hemignathus* (see [Hawai'i 'Amakihi](#)), because the Kaua'i subspecies of [Greater 'Akialoa](#) had earlier been named *H. stejnegeri* by Wilson (1889a; *cf.*, Olson and James 1988, Pratt 1989a). Within *Chlorodrepanis* (see [Hawai'i 'Amakihi](#) for placement in this genus), it retains Wilson's original name (see [Synonymies](#)).

The Kaua'i 'Amakihi is endemic to *Kaua'i*, where it was found fairly commonly through the mid-2010s in the Kokee SP and Alakai Plateau region above 600-800 m elevation on Mt Wai'ale'ale and on Mt Makaleha (USFWS 1983c, Walther 1995, Denny 1999, Pratt 2005). It was found commonly throughout the island at low elevations through the late 1800s (Rothschild 1900, Perkins 1903, Munro 1944, Banko 1984a) but by the early-to-mid 1900s they seemed to be getting scarcer (Bryan and Seale 1901, 1915; Munro 1944; *E* 4:12-13), such that by 1950 they had become more-or-less restricted to the current range (*E* 21:13-14; Richardson and Bowles 1964). The USFWS (1983c) estimated 10,743 individuals overall in 1968-1973 but only 8 on Mt Makaleha, a privately owned area in which further observations were conducted through the mid-2010s. During the [HFBS](#) in 1981, Scott et al. (1986) estimated a population of 2,300 individuals in the central Alakai Plateau, where the USFWS (1983c) estimated only 600 during 1968-1973, suggesting a population increase during this period (Scott and Kepler 1985, Jacobi and Atkinson 1995). Ellis et al. (1992) estimated a total population of 15-20,000; Foster et al. (2004) estimated a population of about 39,000 in 2000; and a population of 51,000 was estimated in 2008 (Camp et al. *in* Gorresen et al. 2009), suggesting that populations had increased significantly since the surveys in 1981. But Paxton et al. (2016) reanalyzed some of the same data and estimated a population of only 6,519 on the Alaka'i Plateau and that they had declined by 16% in the core area of the plateau during 1981-2012, by 91% in the same area during 2000-2012, and by 98% in exterior areas of the plateau during 2000-2012. During 2010-2016 small numbers (< 12) were regularly recorded on the Alaka'i Plateau, with a high count of 16 on 29 Feb 2012. Because of its restricted range and vulnerability to threats (e.g., destruction of habitat by hurricanes) it has been listed as "Vulnerable" by BLI (2016).

### [Acronyms and Abbreviations](#)

### [Literature cited](#)

Citation: Pyle, R.L., and P. Pyle. 2017. The Birds of the Hawaiian Islands: Occurrence, History, Distribution, and Status. B.P. Bishop Museum, Honolulu, HI, U.S.A. Version 2 (1 January 2017) <http://hbs.bishopmuseum.org/birds/rfp-monograph/>