O'AHU 'AMAKIHI *Chlorodrepanis flavus*

Other names: Amakihi, Common Amakihi monotypic

native resident, endemic

The O'ahu 'Amakihi was split from other 'amakihis by the AOU (1995) and is endemic to the island of ***O'ahu***. It was originally thought to be most closely related to the Kaua'i 'Amakihi (Tarr and Fleisher 1993) but genetic reanalysis placed it closer to Hawai'i 'Amakihi (Fleisher et al. 1998); see Hawai'i 'Amakihi and Synonymies for more on the taxonomy of this species as related to other 'amakihis, including placement in *Chlorodrepanis*. The 'Oahu 'Amakihi was first collected in 1825 and named "*Nectarina flava*" by Bloxham (1827a) but this name was squelched in favor of "*chlorus*" (Cabanis 1851, Wilson 1889a), until Olson (1996a) set the record straight over 170 years after Bloxam collected his type specimen (see Synonymies). Bloxam's (1827a) "*Fringilla sandwichensis*" also refers apparently to O'ahu 'Amakihi but Olson (1996a) prioritized *flava* (now *flavus* due to the gender change of the genus name). 'Amakihi's are known from the fossil and subfossil record of O'ahu, dating back at least 200,000 yrs (Olson and James 1982b; James 1987).

Townsend (1839) and the ornithologists of the late 1800s all found O'ahu 'Amakihis to be common in forested regions throughout O'ahu (summarized by Banko 1979, 1984a), in particular the Wai'ane Mts and Nu'uanu Valley. Observations during the 1900s (e.g., Seale 1900, Bryan 1905b, Munro 1944) suggest that 'amakihis remained common on O'ahu through the 1940s. Banko (1984a) analyzed casual counts along Poamoho and Pe'ahinai'a trails in the nw. Ko'olau range and found that populations appeared to remain stable during 1947-1952 but declined sharply during 1953-1977 (see also *E* 27:96). Although Banko (1984a) concluded that trends in the sw. portion of the range above Honolulu seemed more stable, Christmas Bird Count data suggest a steady decline in this population here as well (Williams 1987; Graph). Otherwise, populations seemed to stabilize during the 1970s-mid 2010s in upper-elevation forests, uncommonly in the Wai'anae Range but fairly commonly in the s. Ko'olau Range where they also can be found as low as 30 m elevation in winter (Shallenberger 1977b, Shallenberger and Vaughn 1978, Jacobi and Atkinson 1995, Lindsey et al. 1998, Pratt 2005; BLI 2016; *E* 47:42, 53:79-80); Waipio Christmas Bird Count (Graph) suggest fluctuating populations, perhaps affected by flower phenology within the count circle, but no trend. Island-wide populations were estimated at 20-60,000 in 1991 (Ellis et al. 1992) and 52,000 (49,500 in the Ko'olau Range and 2,300 in the Waianae Range) in 2008 (Camp et al. *in* Gorresen et al. 2009). During 2010-2016, single-day counts of up to 25 were recorded at various upper-elevation areas, with high counts of 26 in the upper Nu'uanu Valley 4 Apr 2011, 33 along the Palikea Trail in the s. Waianae Range 3 Jan 2015, and 41 on the loop and ridge trails above Aiea 17 Feb 2011. In upper Manoa Valley (130-150 m elevation), O'ahu 'Amakihis have adapted to non-native vegetation (e.g., *E* 44:115-116, 57:125-126) and by the 1990-mid 2010s were being detected at lower elevations on O'ahu (*HFW* 6:2, *E* 57:125-126), perhaps signs of resistances to avian diseases (Shehata et al. 2001).

Acronyms and Abbreviations
Literature cited

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