

O'AHU 'O'O

Moho apicalis

native resident, endemic, extinct

monotypic

The O'ahu 'O'o, known only from *O'ahu*, is one of Hawaii's least-known endemic birds, being last collected in 1837 and not described until 1860 (Gould 1860), perhaps after it had already become extinct. Dole (1869, 1879) refers it to the island of Hawai'i, apparently in error, perhaps confusing it with a specimen of a juvenile or female [Hawai'i 'O'o](#) in the Mills collection. By 1825 Bloxam (1827b) had noticed that the O'ahu 'O'o was rare, having observed none and securing only one specimen from native Hawaiians during a month's stay in Honolulu (Olson 1996a). Only ten specimens are known to exist (Wilson and Evans 1899; Banko 1979, 1981a; Olson and James 1994a; Lepson 1998; Sykes et al. 2000), at AMNH(2), FMNH, MCZ, and in four European collections(6), the first two taken in 1786-1787 during the Dixon-Portlock expedition and illustrated by Dixon (1789), three of them likely taken in Nu'uauu Valley in 1837 by Townsend and Deppe (Townsend 1839, Bangs 1910, Olson and James 1994a, Sykes et al. 2000), and the remainder probably secured in the vicinity of Honolulu. Heavily prompted by Newton (*in* Evenhuis 2007), Perkins (1903, 1913) searched for them in vain in the Ko'olau range during the winter of 1892-1893, and a few reports from the 1900s (e.g., *E* 5:31, 14:76, 23:56) are almost certainly erroneous. Olson and James (1982b) found subfossil evidence of this genus at Barber's Point, indicating that it may have been widespread on O'ahu, as with other species of *Moho* on other islands.

In 2008 the 'o'os were moved from the Australasian family Melaphigidae to their own family, Mohoidae, of North American origin (Fleischer et al. 2008; see [Kaua'i 'O'o](#)). See [Synonymies](#) for the nomenclatural history (genus and species) of O'ahu 'O'o.

[Acronyms and Abbreviations](#)

[Literature cited](#)

Citation: Pyle, R.L., and P. Pyle. 2009. The Birds of the Hawaiian Islands: Occurrence, History, Distribution, and Status. B.P. Bishop Museum, Honolulu, HI, U.S.A. Version 1 (31 December 2009) <http://hbs.bishopmuseum.org/birds/rlp-monograph/>