

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 also been named *H. stejnegeri* by Wilson (1889a; *cf.*, Olson and James 1988, Pratt 1989a). Within *Chlorodrepanis*, 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 2000s in the Kokee SP and Alakai Swamp region above 600-800 m elevation on Mt Wai'ale'ale and on Mt Makaleha (USFWS 1983c, Walther 1995, Denny 1999, Pratt 2005). 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 have not been conducted. During the [HFBS](#) in 1981, Scott et al. (1986) estimated a population of 2300 individuals in the central Alakai Swamp area, 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), indicating that populations had increased significantly since the surveys in 1981. It was found 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 restricted to the current range (*E* 21:13-14; Richardson and Bowles 1964). Because of its restricted range and vulnerability to threats (e.g., destruction of habitat by hurricanes) it has been listed as "Vulnerable" by BLI (2009).

[Acronyms and Abbreviations](#)

[Literature cited](#)

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