LANA'I HOOKBILL

native resident, endemic, extinct

monotypic

The Lana'i Hookbill is known from a single specimen collected 22 Feb 1913 at about 600 m elevation in the Kaiholena Valley, Lana'i, by Munro (1944, 2007). Munro reported additional observations of 2-3 birds 16 Mar 1916 and a single individual 12 Aug 1918 in Kaiholena Valley but these were not confirmed to species (Perkins 1919). Munro thought the collected individual to be a female 'O'u but noted the white supercilium, pale margins to the secondaries, and unusual hooked and extended upper mandible, the basis for which Perkins (1919) described it as a new genus and species. Greenway (1939) examined the specimen and concluded that it was an aberrant first-year 'O'u with its deformed bill affecting its molt and health, an opinion followed by Bryan and Greenway (1944), Amadon (1950), Greenway (1968), and (by default) others but not Bryan (1958). James et al. (1989) removed the skull, analyzed bill and jaw morphology, and determined that the Lana'i Hookbill was, indeed, a unique genus and species, and it was added to official checklists by Pyle (1988) and the AOU (1991). No other subfossil evidence of Dysmorodrepanis has been located in the Hawaiian Islands (James et al. 1989, Snetsinger et. al 1998). Munro (1927, 1944) felt that it depended on an extensive forest of Euphorbia (E. lorifolia) that was present on Lana'i before becoming cleared for pineapple fields.

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/