

WHY ARE NATIVE BIRDS SO IMPORTANT?



ENDEMIC SPECIES

Native Hawaiian birds are unique and found nowhere else in the world. They are a vital part of Hawaii's natural heritage, representing millions of years of evolution in isolation.



ECOSYSTEM BALANCE

Many native birds have specialized feeding habits, targeting specific plant species or insects. By doing so, they help maintain the delicate balance between different organisms within the unique Hawaiian ecosystems.



SEED DISPERSERS

Native birds are essential seed dispersers, helping to spread seeds across the islands and contributing to forest regeneration and the establishment of new plant communities.



FOREST HEALTH

Native birds assist in controlling insect populations, reducing the impact of pests on native plants and trees. This contributes to the health and balance of the forest ecosystems.



POLLINATORS

Native Hawaiian birds, such as the 'i'iwi and 'ākohekohe, play a crucial role in pollinating native plants, ensuring their reproduction and the continuation of Hawaii's diverse flora.



INDICATOR SPECIES

The health and well-being of native Hawaiian bird populations serve as valuable indicators of the overall condition of the islands' ecosystems. Monitoring their populations helps detect environmental changes and potential threats.



AND WHY DO THEY MATTER TO ME?

Healthy forests/ecosystems filter pollutants and help maintain clean air and water, benefiting human health and reducing the need for costly water treatment and pollution control measures. Healthy ecosystems also play a significant role in mitigating climate change by acting as carbon sinks, absorbing and storing carbon dioxide, a greenhouse gas responsible for global warming. Most importantly, native Hawaiian birds hold deep cultural significance in Hawaiian traditions, stories, and hula performances.