

C. A. R. E.

To protect our Hawaiian birds, many of which are found nowhere else in the world, all you have to do is CARE. C A R E.

C = Connect. Connect with nature. Get out and see these native species. Very few live in our urban environments, so go into the mountains to Aiea Loop Trail or Hawaii Loa Ridge and hear and see our 'Apapane, 'Amakihi and 'Elepaio. It will take some effort, but I promise it will be worth it.

A = Act. Take action. It is up to all of us to take action to create, support and assist efforts to reverse declines in our native bird populations. Get involved by volunteering with local organizations that are protecting and restoring habitat like Hawaii Department of Land and Natural Resources or North Shore Community Land Trust or Ka Iwi Coalition. Transition from watching habitat degradation to reversing it! Start a non-profit or become a biologist or advocate for conservation in any career you choose.

R = Raise Awareness of the effects of introduced predators (eg. Cats, mongooses, rats) and introduced insects like mosquitoes that spread avian malaria, which decimates forest bird populations. Cats, mongooses, rats and mosquitoes are not native to the Hawaiian islands, so support predator control. Keep cats indoors, help eliminate feral cat colonies and support mosquito control and eradication.

E = Educate yourselves, your 'ohana, your friends and your local politicians. If there is one powerful thing you can do today, it is take what you learned, and share it with the people around you. And vote and influence others that vote. We want to elect people who understand the threats to Hawaii's native ecosystems, and will support conservation measures to protect them.

So, if you want to help, all you have to do is Connect with nature, Act, Raise awareness and Educate yourselves & others. All you have to do is CARE