

.17 hours (10 minutes) per response. As such, the total estimated reporting burden for completing Form 3-177 is approximately 26,832 hours [(80,400 × .25 hours = 20,100 hours) + (39,600 × .17 hours = 6,732 hours)]. The estimate of electronic responses we expect to receive is based upon a recent pilot program of eDecs. We anticipate that the use of eDecs will expand in the future, which would further reduce the burden on the public.

We invite comments concerning this renewal on: (1) Whether the collection of information is useful and necessary for us to do our job, (2) the accuracy of our estimate of the burden on the public to complete the form; (3) ways to enhance the quality and clarity of the information to be collected; and (4) ways to minimize the burden of the collection on respondents, including use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology. This information collection is part of a system of records covered by the Privacy Act (5 U.S.C. 552(a)).

Our practice is to make comments, including names and home addresses of respondents, available for public review during regular business hours. Individual respondents may request that we withhold their home addresses from the record, which we will honor to the extent allowable by law. There may also be limited circumstances in which we would withhold a respondent's identity from the rulemaking record, as allowable by law. If you wish us to withhold your name and/or address, you must state this clearly at the beginning of your comment. We will not consider anonymous comments. We generally make all submissions from organizations or businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses, available for public inspection in their entirety.

Dated: September 22, 2003.

Anissa Craghead,

Information Collection Officer, Fish and Wildlife Service.

[FR Doc. 03-26120 Filed 10-15-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-55-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

Draft Revised Recovery Plan for Hawaiian Forest Birds

AGENCY: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of document availability.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service ("we") announce the availability for public review and comment, the Draft Revised Recovery Plan for Hawaiian Forest Birds. There are 21 bird taxa included in this plan, 19 are listed as endangered, 1 is a candidate species for Federal listing, and 1 is a species of concern. These taxa are from four bird families, with the majority being Hawaiian Honeycreepers (subfamily Drepanidinae within Fringillidae). This is a new recovery plan for two of the listed birds.

DATES: Comments on the draft recovery plan received by December 15, 2003, will receive our consideration.

ADDRESSES: The document is available online at <http://www.rl.fws.gov/ecoservices/endangered/recovery/default.htm>. Copies of the draft revised recovery plan are available for inspection, by appointment, during normal business hours at the following location: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Pacific Islands Fish and Wildlife Office, 300 Ala Moana Boulevard, Room 3-122, P.O. Box 50088, Honolulu, Hawaii 96850 (phone: 808/541-3441) and Hawaii State Library, 478 S. King Street, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813. Requests for copies of the draft revised recovery plan and written comments and materials regarding this plan should be addressed to Paul Henson, Field Supervisor, Ecological Services, at the above U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Honolulu address.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Jay Nelson, Fish and Wildlife Biologist, at the above Honolulu address.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

Recovery of endangered or threatened animals and plants is a primary goal of our endangered species program and the Endangered Species Act (Act) (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*). Recovery means improvement of the status of listed species to the point at which listing is no longer appropriate under the criteria set out in section 4(a)(1) of the Act. Recovery plans describe actions considered necessary for the conservation of the species, establish criteria for downlisting or delisting listed species, and estimate time and cost for implementing the measures needed for recovery.

The Act requires the development of recovery plans for listed species unless such a plan would not promote the conservation of a particular species. Section 4(f) of the Act requires that public notice and an opportunity for

public review and comment be provided during recovery plan development. We will consider all information presented during a public comment period prior to approval of each new or revised recovery plan. We, along with other Federal agencies, will also take these comments into account in the course of implementing approved recovery plans. Individual responses to comments will not be provided.

This Draft Revised Recovery Plan for Hawaiian Forest Birds addresses 21 bird taxa. Three taxa are endemic to the island of Hawai'i, four taxa are endemic to the island of Maui, one taxon is endemic to the island of Moloka'i, two taxa are endemic to the island of O'ahu, and six taxa are endemic to the island of Kaua'i. Two taxa are endemic to all the major islands of Hawai'i, two taxa are endemic to the islands of Maui and Moloka'i, and one taxon is endemic to the islands of Moloka'i and Lā'i. The birds federally listed as endangered are: Maui nuku pu'u (*Hemignathus lucidus affinis*); Kaua'i nuku pu'u (*Hemignathus lucidus hanapepe*); Kaua'i 'akialoa (*Hemignathus procerus*); 'ō'ō'ā'ā or Kaua'i 'ō'ō Moho (*braccatus*); oloma'o or Moloka'i thrush (*Myadestes lanaiensis rutha*); kāmā'o or large Kaua'i thrush (*Myadestes myadestinus*); kākāwahie or Moloka'i creeper (*Paroreomyza flammea*); O'ahu 'ālaupaho or O'ahu creeper (*Paroreomyza maculata*); Maui 'ākepa (*Loxops coccineus ochraceus*); 'ō'ū (*Psittirostra psittacea*); po'ouli (*Melamprosops phaeosoma*); puaiohi or small Kaua'i thrush (*Myadestes palmeri*); Maui parrotbill (*Pseudonesor xanthophrys*); 'akia pōlā'au (*Hemignathus munroi*); palila (*Loxioides bailleui*); 'ā kohekohe or crested honeycreeper (*Palmeria dolei*); O'ahu 'elepaio (*Chasiempis sandwichensis ibidis*); Hawai'i 'ā kepa (*Loxops coccineus coccineus*); and Hawai'i creeper (*Oreomystis mana*). The candidate species is the Kaua'i creeper (*Oreomystis bairdi*), and the species of concern is the Bishop's 'ō'ō (*Moho bishopi*).

Most taxa are now found only in upper elevation rain forests on the islands of Hawai'i, Maui, and Kaua'i. The palila is limited to dryland forests on Mauna Kea volcano on the island of Hawai'i. The O'ahu 'elepaio occurs at elevations as low as 100 meters (330 feet) in non-native forests on the island of O'ahu. Sub-fossil records and observations by early naturalists to the Hawaiian islands indicate that most of the species included in this plan once occurred at lower elevations. These taxa and their habitats have been variously affected or are currently threatened by