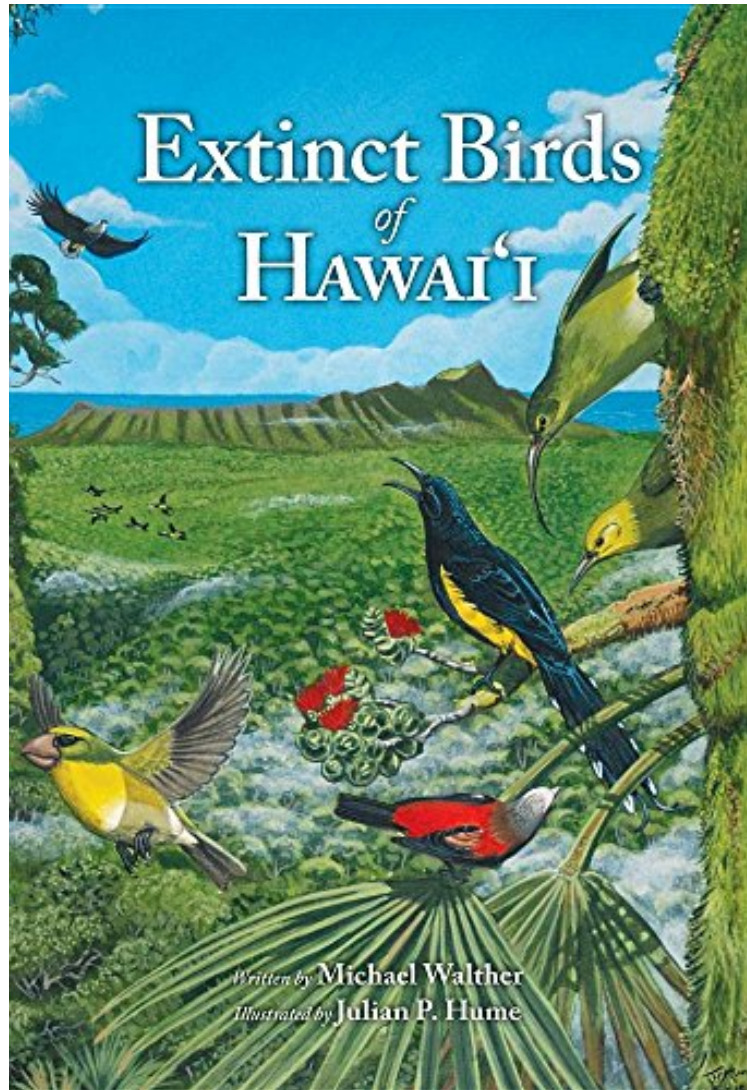


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Extinct Birds of Hawaii

Michael Walther

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Michael Walther : Extinct Birds of Hawaii before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Extinct Birds of Hawaii:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. A must read for anyone interesting in birding Hawaii. By Jim C For anyone interested in Hawaii's birds, this book is a must read. Thanks to the author for researching and writing this book. It is shocking and stunning what we have lost. Way too many of Hawaii's native birds have gone extinct or are on the precipice of extinction. I encourage birders interested in birding Hawaii to read this book and share the sad story of Hawaii's native birds and ongoing extinctions with their friends. This book is very timely as things are getting worse and not better for Hawaii's birds, and maybe more knowledge will help people and the government to save the

native birds that remain. The illustrations are amazing - Hawaii was a bird "Jurassic park". When I look at the illustrations, they are emotionally powerful showing a world we will never see and enjoy - and much of it disappeared relatively recently. But that in itself is a reason to buy this book. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. As Strong An Ecological Warning As They Come By Rebecca I was somewhat disappointed in this book - I had hoped for more information concerning last sightings, flora integral to the survival of the species, etc. but many entries were very short. Perhaps it is an accurate depiction of how little we knew of these birds before they were gone. I was sad to see that so many species are gone forever from Hawaii and it has confirmed that more needs to be done to protect what is left. 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By Bobbie Spencer pictures and information were well done

Extinct Birds of Hawai'i captures the vanishing world of unique bird species that has slipped away in the Islands mostly due to human frivolity and unconcern. Richly illustrated, including paintings by Julian P. Hume (many painted specifically for this volume), it enables us to enjoy vicariously avian life unique to Hawai'i that exists no longer.

Selected as one of the best bird books of 2016: Ian Paulsen BIRDBOOKER REPORT Hawai'i is the bird extinction capital of the world. A sobering new book by Michael Walther summarizes the natural history, field notes and observations, and provides new paintings of these lost species - 77 overall. One of these, the Kaua'i " ", was last heard in 1987. "Extinct Birds of Hawai'i" also includes Walther's personal searches for some of these birds, highlights the ongoing conservation problems that face Hawai'i's remaining native birds, and discusses the urgent actions that American Bird Conservancy and other conservation organizations are taking to save them. George E. Wallace, PhD Vice President, Oceans Islands Division American Bird Conservancy Got my copy today. I must say, I am very satisfied, many extinct birds (e.g. the Hawaiian harrier, the Hawaiian eagle, the stilt owls, and many rails) are illustrated for the very first time. In the last chapter Michael Walther (a well-known bird photographer and tour leader from Oahu) gives a perspective on the endangered bird species of Hawaii. Melanie Kassel, Germany New book commemorates isles' extinct birds In Hawaii forests the air is enlivened by the songs of birds, a treat that's easy to take for granted until it's gone. Such is the case on Guam, where, due to the predations of the brown tree snake, native birds have gone extinct and left the forests silent. The good news: While alien species take a grave toll on native Hawaiian birds, we don't have brown tree snakes -- yet. The bad news: We've been serving up a potent bird-extinction cocktail with multiple ingredients. Our islands, where 77 bird species and subspecies have become extinct, are "the setting of an ongoing bird catastrophe," Michael Walther writes in "Extinct Birds of Hawai'i," a book whose beautiful contemporary illustrations by Julian P. Hume, along with historical art by Frederick W. Frohawk and Johannes G. Keulemans, make the loss all the more poignant. The book is well organized, with birds pictured by type -- crakes, crows, finches, honeycreepers, rails -- along with each one's description, measurements, geographic range, time of first and last observation, and notes by naturalists. It produces something of the nostalgia of leafing through dinosaur books as a child, except that most of these extinctions took place over the past few centuries, not millions of years. Hawaii's endemic birds had few predators until humans arrived. The book quotes naturalist H.W. Henshaw's 1902 observation of the oo, whose yellow wing feathers were coveted for helmets, capes and lei: "When feeding ... and with their young, the calls of the o-o [sic] are almost incessant ... which has led to the easy destruction of the species. The poor bird has yet to learn that its appreciation of the joyousness of existence and its love for its mate and young can be expressed only at the cost of its very life." In addition to colorful honeycreepers like the oo, the islands once had singing thrushes; these plain brown birds weren't hunted for their feathers, but perished from diseases transmitted by introduced mosquitoes and poultry as towns such as Lanai City grew, observed George C. Munro in 1944. "When singing the head is always thrown well back, the throat full and free. ... Once heard its character will live in the memory for years," wrote William A. Bryan of the Molokai thrush in 1908. By 1944, Munro noted, it was gone. Walther lists the factors decimating Hawaii's native birds: "Predation by introduced rats, mongoose and feral house cats; competition with non-native bird species; destruction of forests by introduced cattle, sheep, goats and pigs; collection of bird feathers for making feather capes ... mosquitoes spreading avian malaria ... shooting of rare species by museum collectors between 1890-1910; and non-native vegetation displacing native vegetation." A concluding chapter focuses on our remaining birds, with photos by Walther, who worked with Hawaii native bird survey teams in the 1990s and now operates O'ahu Nature Tours. Twenty-four Hawaii bird species are on the federal endangered species list, and some "have less than 150 individuals remaining," he notes. Perhaps the World Conservation Congress, to be held in Honolulu in September, will help us save what we've got so our children's children might see and hear these winged barometers of our forests' health. by Mindy Pennybacker Honolulu Star-Advertiser