

# ‘Apapane (*Himatione sanguinea*)

Iulai (July) 2024

## Description

- The ‘apapane is a small, widespread nectarivorous honeycreeper.
- Abundant but restricted to forested habitats and dependent on nectar sources. Often found on ‘ōhi‘a, they can also utilize non-native species like black wattle and pick insects from moss and lichen.<sup>1</sup>
- Adults are bright crimson with dark wings and tail; head is usually brighter than the rest of the plumage.
- Juveniles are yellow-brown with white undertail coverts.



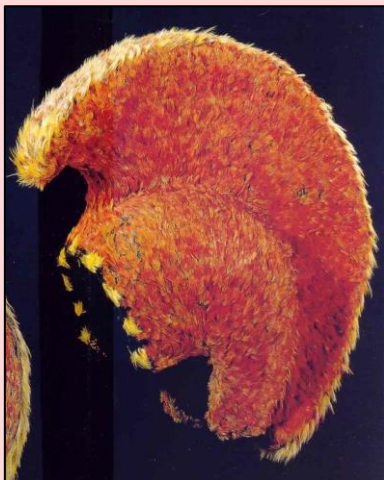
## Distribution

- ‘Apapane are common in mesic and wet forests above 1,000 m elevation.
- ‘Apapane are the most abundant native forest bird in the Hawaiian Islands. Found on all main islands, they are abundant on Hawai‘i, Maui, and Kaua‘i. Found more locally on O‘ahu.<sup>2</sup>
- Recent increased detections of ‘apapane in lower elevations suggest that they may be developing a resistance to avian malaria.<sup>1</sup>



## Cultural Significance

- ‘Apapane, like ‘i‘iwi, are known for their crimson red feathers and were often incorporated into various feather work crafts.
- ‘Apapane often appeared in various mo‘olelo and was a kinolau (body form) for many Hawaiian deities.

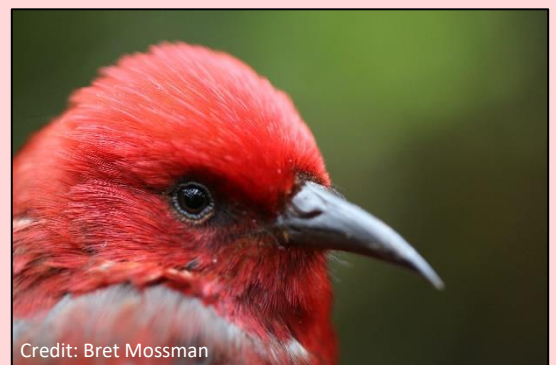


## Kumulipo

*Hanau ka Alae ka makua.  
Puka kana keiki ka Apapane, lele.*

**Born was the Mudhen, the parent.  
Out came its child an Apapane bird and flew.**

Lines 303-304 of the Kumulipo (Hawaiian creation chant).<sup>3</sup>



<sup>1</sup>Maui Forest Bird Recovery Project <sup>2</sup>dlnr.hawaii.gov/ <sup>3</sup>blogs.ksbe.edu/adakina/files/2008/02/kumulipo-text.pdf