

## **Full-Lesson #15: Saving the Hawaiian Forest Birds**

### **Overview of Outcomes**

In this lesson, students will work together in groups to brainstorm conservation strategies for protecting Hawaiian forest birds. By this point they should be familiar with the threats faced by these species; consequently, the management strategies they create should effectively safeguard these endemic species from further harm. Students will be prompted not only to think about ways to protect the actual species from extinction, but also to think of ways to promote awareness of our native forest birds and eco-friendly behavior in their everyday lives.

### **Materials**

Teachers should determine the best method for their classes to visualize conservation strategies. Younger grades may benefit from drawing out their plans on large pieces of paper, while older students may benefit from basic graphic organizers that categorically address parameters such as cost-effectiveness, feasibility, and potential impact of their conservation strategies.

### **Activity Directions**

- 1) Teachers will begin the class with a review of the extent and severity of the imminent Hawaiian forest bird extinction crisis. They should also introduce the purpose of conservation strategies (e.g. creation of the endangered species list, establishing protected areas like forest reserves, captive breeding programs). Teachers may choose to talk about success stories in global conservation (e.g. restrictions on whaling, species reintroductions), but should refrain from talking about current management strategies for Hawaiian forest birds until the end of the lesson (15 minutes).
- 2) Classes will be divided into groups, with each group tasked with creating the most effective management strategy for Hawaiian forest birds. This activity calls upon their newly acquired knowledge of the birds' preferred habitats and life histories, as well as the threats to those species' survival (15 minutes).
- 3) Groups will present their management strategies to the class, and provide reasons for why they think their method will be the most effective means to protect our native forest birds (5 minutes).
- 4) Teachers should bring the class conversation back to what they can do as students to promote forest bird conservation in Hawaii. Options should be discussed and assessed in an open dialogue between groups to identify the effectiveness of these strategies (15 minutes).