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ALALA
(HAWAIIAN CROW)

Advertiser Sketch

The Hawaiian crow: on edge of extinction?

Hawaiian crow becoming scarce

The State Animal Species Advisory Commission will meet Friday to consider the plight of the endangered Hawaiian crow, which lives exclusively on the grassy uplands of Kona and Ka'u on the Big Island.

A recent wildlife survey found only 23 remaining crows in their native habitat, and the commission wants to know why the once-common crow, also called the alala, is not reproducing.

Commission member Alan Zeigler said Hawaii has lost 26 species of birds to extinction in this century. More than half of Hawaii's remaining species are high on the national list of endangered birds, he said.

Dr. Zeigler, a vertebrate zoologist with the Bishop Museum, said the State Division of Fish and Game has done a commendable job of protecting local bird life. But members of the commission believe some action must be taken now to study and save yet another Hawaiian bird heading towards extinction.

THE COMMISSION WILL MEET at 1 p.m. Friday in the Lieutenant Governor's conference room on the fifth floor of the State Capitol. The public is invited.

The 10-member commission also will recommend a study of the Hawaiian hawk, another endangered bird. Zeigler said the hawk does not face "immediate extinction" but that research now could prevent the hawk population from reaching "the critical stage."

Another item on the commission's agenda is the green sea turtle, a common seafood delicacy.

"There are no restrictions on catching green sea turtles here and we are curious to know how they are doing," Zeigler said.

"The turtle is an endangered animal in other parts of the world. We want to know if certain precautions are necessary to insure its continued existence here."