

Ulūlu Niau

Developed by the PMNM Native Hawaiian Cultural Working Group

Description

The population of ulūlu (*Acrocephalus familiaris kingi*) that have been relocated to Laysan Island in 2011 and 2012 and their future generations have received the additional name “niau” from the PMNM Native Hawaiian Cultural Working Group. In the Hawaiian language, the word “niau” means “moving smoothly, swiftly, silently, and peacefully; flowing or sailing thus.” It was added to the ulūlu of Laysan in recognition of their successful and smooth translocation from Nihoa to Laysan— a journey of over 650 miles. The translocation effort is an attempt to restore a vital piece to the ecosystem on Laysan, while creating population security for the species.



1



2



3



4

Meaning

- » **Ulūlu:** 1. Reduplication of ulu 1; growing things. Pōnalo ihola ka uluulu, the growing plants swarmed with flies⁵...
- » **Niau:** Moving smoothly, swiftly, silently, peacefully; flowing or sailing thus; to pass on, glide⁶.

Description of Species

- » **Location:** Laysan Island (approx. 1,000 acres in size)
- » **Habitat:** Terrestrial, Groundcover. Nearly all the birds in naupaka bushes on the island’s northwest side.
- » **Population:** 121 (September 2012)
- » **Size:** adults roughly 5 inches in length (12.7 centimeters)
- » **Sound/Call:** Resembles a “kio” call in the Hawaiian culture. It is also described as a buzzy warble with some rattle notes.
- » **Use:** The ulūlu is an endangered species, and there is no current known material use for the ulūlu in Hawaiian culture.
- » **Food Source:** a variety of insects
- » **Color (states):** dark above, with a light belly
- » **Other Names:** Nihoa Millerbird
- » **Mo’olelo Associated with Species:** none known

¹ Robby Kohley – American Bird Conservancy/USFWS

² Robby Kohley – American Bird Conservancy/USFWS

³ Megan Dalton – American Bird Conservancy/USFWS

⁴ George Wallace – American Bird Conservancy/USFWS

⁵ Pukui, Mary K., & Elbert, Samuel. (1986). *Hawaiian Dictionary*. University of Hawaii Press: Honolulu.

⁶ Pukui, Mary K., & Elbert, Samuel. (1986). *Hawaiian Dictionary*. University of Hawaii Press: Honolulu.