Luring Songbirds Up a Mountain

Ensuring the survival of several types of Hawaiian songbirds has meant reforesting Mauna Kea, a long dormant volcano. But an invasive mosquito now threatens the birds, and as the climate warms, scientists want to restore habitats higher up the mountain where cooler temperatures could keep the insects away.

Mauna Kea State Forest Reserve
(8,000 to 12,000 feet elevation)
Mostly shrubland and subalpine forests up to 9,500 feet. Above that, cinder and ash.

Mauna Kea
(East side of mountain)

Mosquito line at 4,000 feet

Kanakaleonui Bird Corridor
(6,200 feet to 8,000 feet elevation) A narrow 1.8-mile-long stretch that connects the forests of the Hakalau to those of the Mauna Kea higher up. Comprised of former pastureland and a scattering of native trees. Salesforce is helping plant 20 acres of koa trees and understory plants here.

Hakalau Forest National Wildlife Refuge
(3,600 to 6,400 feet elevation) A combination of forest, pasture and marshlands. American Forests helped plant more than 165,000 trees here in the 1990s.

Source: Bird and National Wildlife Refuge Complex (USFWS); Hakalau Forest National Wildlife Refuge (USFWS); Mauna Kea Watershed Alliance