



Report sightings of banded Hawaiian Stilts

The endangered Hawaiian Stilt, called ae'o, has been banded for scientific study since 1978 to track movements and learn about their habitat use, life span, and breeding biology. Four bands are typically used — two color bands on one leg and on the opposite leg one color band over or under a U.S. Geological Service metal band.

The ae'o can be observed on Molokai at low tide on the south shore mudflats, aquaculture ponds, reservoirs, and reclaimed wastewater ponds such as those at Kaluakoi, Maunaloa, and Kaunakakai. Occasionally it can be seen foraging at Kaunakakai Stream.

How to read bird bands

Bird bands are read and reported as if reading a book — bird's left leg top to bottom, then bird's right leg top and bottom. The bird in the photo to the left would be read as yellow, white, green, metal. It can be tricky to determine if the leg of a stilt is left or right and bands are sometimes dirty and the color difficult to verify, but even the ID of one color and the leg the color or metal band is on can provide valuable information.

Report bands

Please contact Arleone and Aaron if a banded stilt is sighted. Provide observer name, location, date and any other details such as bird's behavior, is injured, or is with other birds and how many.

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