ʻOʻahu ʻAmakihi



In my younger days, I photographed birds and painted them on wearable art. I still have a T-shirt I hand-painted of a female Oʻahu ʻamakihi, based on this photo I took through the picture window of my mom's house in upper Mānoa Valley. At the time, I was expecting to see a green mejiro (Japanese white-eye). How amazed I was to spot this endemic Hawaiian honeycreeper instead! I later learned that ʻamakihi sometimes forage in neighborhoods below the forest line, where most native honeycreepers cannot venture. Unlike many other Hawaiian honeycreepers, ʻamakihi have developed some resistance to mosquito-borne avian malaria and avian pox, allowing them to survive in lower-elevation areas where mosquitoes are present.