

## To Kill An `Elepaio Bird

The little `Elepaio bird woke up early in the morning, desperate and hungry for insects to eat. `Elepaio and his family had not eaten for days, afraid of the loud noises that were outside his nest. For weeks now, loud monsters had been tearing down trees and replacing green grass with strange black earth. If the birds were to leave, they thought, they would be killed.

Now the poor `Elepaio bird was starving. He hesitantly left his nest and flew to find food. When he found insects, he quickly hurried home. On his way, however, he heard noises and saw trees crashing to the ground. When he reached his home, the tree was gone. He looked for his family, but they were gone, too. He was too late.

The `Elepaio bird is only one of the many endangered native species of our islands. We have lost many beautiful birds to extinction because of habitat destruction. Seventy percent of Earth's species live in forests, and many cannot survive the loss of their habitats, mostly because they have no other safe-havens. To keep Hawaii's native species alive, we must use and recycle what we have before we destroy other habitats.

One of my ideas to stop deforestation is to eliminate the cutting down of forests so that we take only what we need. Every time we cut down trees, we should replace them with new ones. We should also encourage others to recycle paper, newspapers and magazines, and cardboard. This would reduce the need to cut down trees and would prevent further destruction of the habitats of our native species. Student groups could be organized to go out into the community and into the schools to educate others

about recycling. This would keep young people involved, and they, in turn, would influence their families.

Clarence T.C. Ching was a remarkable man. He contributed many outstanding things to our islands, such as Kukui Gardens and cultural plazas. Mr. Ching used his money to help schools prosper, including my own school. I appreciate everything he has done for us. He cared about our Hawaii and everything living in it. I am sure that a generous man like Mr. Ching would have wanted to support the native Hawaiian species of our islands and keep our beautiful trees growing and flourishing.