# SECRETS OF THE ʻAPAPANE

**9:30a.m.-10:30a.m.** **Meet At Kīlauea Visitor Center** **Kindergarten**

Photo credit: Lynda J Goff

An ʻapapane nestled in a ʻōhiʻa lehua

**Essential Question**: Why is the ʻapapane such a special bird?

**Photo Analysis:**

What do you see in this photo?

How are ʻapapane just like people?

(they nest, have families, feed babies, sing, play, etc.)

What questions do you have about ʻapapane?

Photo Credit: David Boyle

Credit: H.Douglas Pratt

**Setting the Stage**

‘Apapane are found only in Hawai‘i. They are in the Honeycreeper family. Here is a picture of different types of honeycreepers. (Show large image.)

There are many of them in the park for us to enjoy.

Why do these birds have such different beaks? (the different types of beaks help different species of bird eat their favorite foods.)

Talk about how beaks are like spoons, forks and straws. (Some beaks help a bird to sip nectar, some beaks help to pry out a favorite yummy bug, some beaks can crack open tasty seeds, some can scoop out fruit.)

**Activity 1:** Walk with students to the front and Ka‘ū side of Volcano House Hotel (on the grassy area looking at Kīlauea Caldera) so children can listen and look for birds. Find a group of ‘ōhi‘a lehua trees to sit under and talk about the birds.

What special animals do you think live in the park? (birds, mongoose, bugs, snails, beetles, etc.)

Ask children to close their eyes for a moment. What do you hear? (birds, cars, wind in the trees)

What are the birds doing? (singing, eating, flying)

‘Apapane sing many different songs – let’s listen again.

Can you see any birds?

What color is the ‘apapane? (red, white, black.) Show large photo.

What do you think the ‘apapane eat? (Nectar from the flowers (from ohia, manane trees) (children roll their tongues to imitate how the birds eat. Make “slurpy” noises.)

Why do birds like the ‘apapane sing? (to talk to each other)

What are they singing about do you think?

How does the ‘apapane fly? (flapping their wings)

What special sound do the wings make? (Whirling/fluttering – children imitate the sound)

Where do the ‘apapane live in the park? (in the trees)

**<u>Activity 2</u>:** Color the ʻapapane drawing (see below) and sing a song. (Crayon and copies of the coloring page can be picked up at the education center or students can also take the pictures home and color at school.)

**Song: ʻApapane by Auntie Kathy Dambley**

C G7

ʻApapane, ʻapapane come fly away with me

C

To the forest we'll wander, you're so beautiful to see

F C F C

Your colors, ʻulaʻula, keʻokeʻo, ʻeleʻele

G7 C

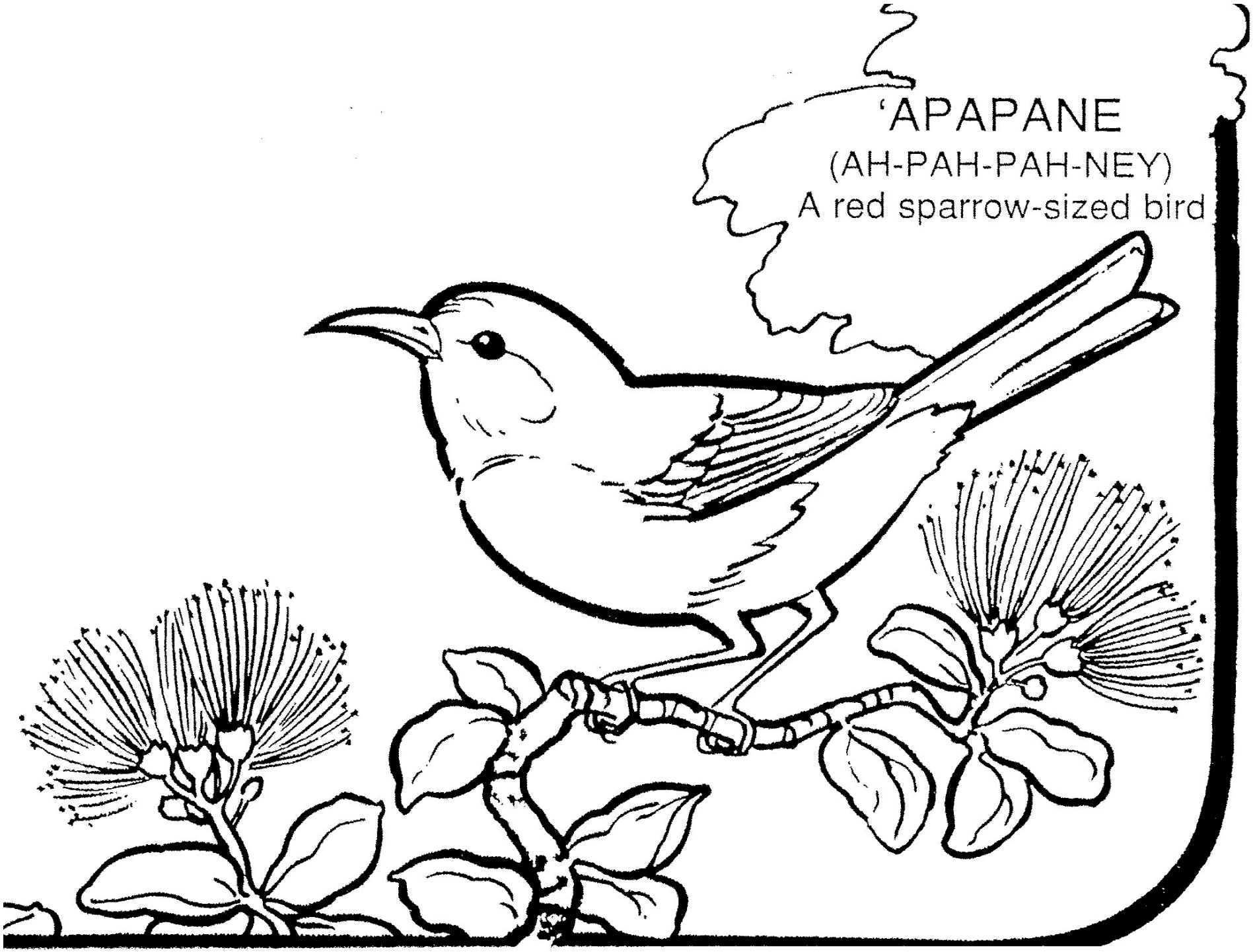
ʻApapane, aloha, a hui hou.

Photo credit: Don Roberson

**<u>Closing</u>:**

**Revisit the Essential Question.**

ʻApapane are very special because they are found only in Hawaiʻi. If you walk quietly through the forest, you will begin to hear their many songs and the whirling sound of their wings. ʻApapane live on the ʻōhiʻa lehua trees and sip the nectar from the red flowers (and other plants with nectar). ʻApapane are small, beautiful, red, white, and black birds. We can help take care of them by reminding our ʻohana and friends to empty containers that have water in them where mosquitoes live. Also, we can help to save the trees of their forest home


'APAPANE
(AH-PAH-PAH-NEY)
A red sparrow-sized bird