MO (Moderate)Haemorhous mexicanus

Date assessed	2021-11-30
Year published	
Eicat category	MO (Moderate)
Justification for EICAT assessment	The House Finch is a host of avian malaria, which has also been detected in native bird species. Of the 2365 wild birds analyzed for blood parasites 7.8% were infected with Plasmodium (all of the native species were infected). The Apapane (Himatione sanguinea) population had the highest percentage of infected individuals. The House Finch population also had high percentages, although they were almost two-thirds lower than that of the Apapane. Malaria is currently one of the major factors affecting avian population patterns in the Hawaiian Islands has and has been one of many reasons for the decline of the native avifauna (van Ripper III et al. 1986).
Confidence rating	Low
Mechanism(s) of maximum impact	Transmission of diseases to native species
Countries of most severe impact	U.S.A.
Description of impact	The house finch competes with and transmits the mycoplasmal conjunctivitis to native bird species in the U.S.A.. It is also a host of malaria in Hawaii, which caused the decline of the native avifauna.
Assessor	Tom Allmert; Thomas Evans
Contributors	
Reviewers	
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