

In October , November and December of each year, young seabirds leave their nests to fly to ocean feeding grounds. During their first flight to the sea, 'Ua'u (Hawaiian petrels), 'Ua'u kani (Wedge-tailed shearwaters), and other types of seabird, are thought to use stars to navigate out to sea. The birds sometimes collide with power lines, and tall towers or become disoriented by urban lights, fly in circles around the lights, become tired and fall to the ground. These "grounded" seabirds are often found in areas with bright lights such as hotels, golf courses, stadiums and yards lit by floodlights, or on roadways under wires and highway lamps. Groundings occur more frequently during the dark nights of the new moon when bright lights may additionally distract birds.

"Seabirds" that show up as "grounded" on Maui, Molokai, and Lanai are easily recognizable:

- They ***always*** have webbed feet
- Their beak is hooked at the tip
- Young seabirds often have tufts of down on heads or back

Each year Haleakala National Park and the State Department of Land and Natural Resources cooperate to recover these seabirds. The public can also play an important role in assisting and protecting these native birds. **What to do if a grounded seabird is seen?**

1. **Protect it from hazards such as cars, dogs and cats. Place it in a covered, well-ventilated cardboard box and keep it in a cool or shaded place. Do not give it food or water. Be careful when handling the bird. It may bite.**
2. **Immediately call Haleakala National Park at 264-5317 (Resources Management cell phone) anytime; or State Division of Forestry and Wildlife at 984-8100, Monday through Friday, 7:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. After hours please call the NON-EMERGENCY Police Dispatch (Maui: 244-6400, Molokai 553-5355, Lanai 565-6428) Please provide your name, phone number, when and where the bird was found and any other pertinent information. Messages are checked regularly.**
3. **Do not release the seabird by yourself. Trained wildlife specialists will inspect the bird for injuries, and release it safely.**

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‘Ua‘u (Hawaiian petrels) are gray-and-white seabirds, white encircles the base of their beak, with black tipped webbed feet and pink legs. They measure approximately 17 inches from beak to tail and have a wingspan of about three feet. These endangered native birds, found only in Hawai‘i, nest on the slopes of Haleakala, West Maui, Lanai and probably also Molokai.



Hawaiian Petrel

‘A‘o (Newell’s Shearwaters) are not so commonly grounded in Maui County. ‘A‘o are smaller than Petrels, they measure 13 inches, are jet-black and white seabirds, legs and toes are black but have pink toe-webbing. These are threatened native birds that nest on fern covered mountain slopes.



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'Ua'u kani (wedge-tailed shearwaters) are gray or gray and white seabirds that look similar to the 'ua'u. They measure about 17 inches from beak to tail and have a wingspan of 43 inches. 'Ua'u kani nest on banks, dunes and cliffs near the shore. There are several locations of nesting colonies along coastal beach areas of all islands of Maui County, 'ua'u-kani are numerous on Maui's 22 offshore islets.



All of these native birds are threatened with by habitat loss and predators such as feral cats, dogs, mongooses and rats. The seabirds are protected by federal and State laws, under the Endangered Species Act, Migratory Bird Treaty Act and other rules and regulations.

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