

Seabirds

Photo of Bonin petrel



Bonin Petrel

Pterodroma hypoleuca

SPECIES STATUS:
State recognized as indigenous

SPECIES INFORMATION: Breed in Hawai'i with some individuals staying during non-breeding season. Nocturnal and monogamous, this species is a winter breeder. Eggs are laid from mid-January and both sexes incubate. Diet consists mainly of fish, particularly lanternfish and hatchetfish; however, they do also consume squid. Believed to feed at night since most of the species consumed rise to the surface at this time.

DISTRIBUTION: Historically found in both the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands and the main Hawaiian Islands, nesting populations are now only found in the NWHI from French Frigate Shoals to Kure with the main breeding populations found at Lisianski (150-250,000 pairs), Laysan (50-75,000 pairs), and Midway (70,000 pairs).

Map of Bonin Petrel distribution



ABUNDANCE: Population in Hawai'i is estimated at ?.

LOCATION AND CONDITION OF KEY HABITAT: Excavate burrows in sandy soil.
Marine Habitat is pelagic.

THREATS: Historically rat predation has led to extirpation with introduced rabbit populations degrading nesting habitat on Lisianski and Laysan. Current threats include disorientation due to artificial lighting, introduced plants such as golden crown-beard and sandbur degrading nesting sites, as well as introduced ants attaching nestlings and degrading habitat. Late fledgling chicks may also be forcibly evicted or killed by Wedge-tailed Shearwaters returning to breed.

CONSERVATION ACTIONS: The goals of conservation actions are to not only protect current populations, but to also establish further populations to reduce the risk of extinction. In addition to common state-wide and island conservation actions, specific actions include:

- Eradicate golden crown-beard on Pearl and Hermes Reef and Midway, with prevention measure established for introduction on other islands;
- Develop and implement a monitoring program, particularly to track recovering populations at Midway and Kure post rat eradication.

MONITORING:

- Continue surveys of population and distribution in known and likely habitats,

RESEARCH PRIORITIES:

- Conduct long-term demographic studies to determine population trends, survival rates, reproductive success, and estimate breeding populations;
- Determine affect of ants to species survival and potential ant control methods.

References:

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. 2005. Regional Seabird Conservation Plan, Pacific Region. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Migratory Birds and Habitat Programs, Pacific Region. Portland, Oregon.

Seto, Naanette W.H., and Donna O'Daniel. 1999. Bonin Petrel (*Pterodroma hypoleuca*). In the Birds of North America, No. 385 (A. Poole and F. Gill, eds). The Academy of Natural Sciences, Philadelphia, PA and The American Ornithologists' Union, Washington, D.C.