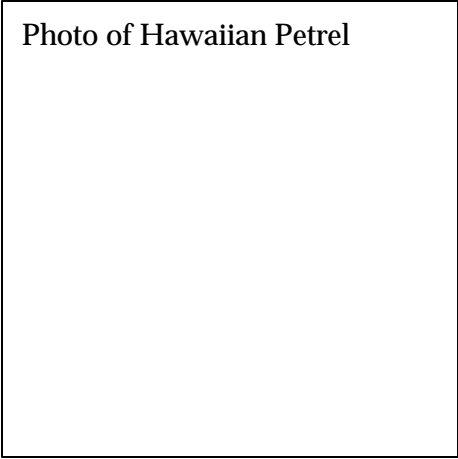


Photo of Hawaiian Petrel



Seabirds

**‘Ua‘u or
Hawaiian Petrel**
Pterodroma sandwichensis

SPECIES STATUS:

Federally Listed as Endangered
State Listed as Endangered
State recognized as indigenous
IUCN Red List Ranking-Vulnerable

SPECIES INFORMATION: Nest in Hawai‘i and are nocturnal. They are monogamous with high nest-site fidelity. Both sexes incubate eggs. They feed by dipping, pattering, and surface – seizing/scavenging of tuna or similar subsurface predators. Squid make-up the majority of their diet with fish (e.g. goatfish and lantern fish) and crustaceans supplementing.

DISTRIBUTION: Historically found to be common at all elevations on the main Hawaiian Islands until the arrival of humans. Currently small populations exist on Maui, Kaua‘i, and Hawai‘i with suspected populations on Moloka‘i, La-na‘i, Lehua and sea stacks off Ka-ho‘olawe.

Map of Hawaiian Petrel distribution



ABUNDANCE: Breeding population estimates are 4,500-5,000 pairs, with juveniles and subadults estimated at 20,000. 1,000 pairs nest in Haleakala National Park on Maui with small colonies on Mauna Loa on the island of Hawai‘i.

LOCATION AND CONDITION OF KEY HABITAT: On the islands of Hawai‘i and Maui, populations are at the limits of their habitat in the cold, xeric environment above 2,500 m (8,200 ft) in national parks. On La-na‘i the birds are nesting in dense vegetation near Pu‘u ‘Ali‘i approximately 850 meters (2,690 ft) in Kaiholena Gulch. On Kaua‘i, habitat is found at lower

elevations in densely vegetated wet environments. Prefer to nest in burrows (1-9 m deep), crevices in lava, or under ferns. Marine habitat is pelagic.

THREATS: Historically human induced changes, particularly the introduction of rats and consequent predation has led to decline of populations. Current threats include predation by introduced mammalian predators, trampling of burrows by feral goats and possibly axis deer, bright lights causing disorientation in fledglings, collision with power lines, and human activities. Due to the remote nature of certain nesting sites (e.g. Mauna Loa), predator control is extremely difficult and make these colonies particularly vulnerable.

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. Past actions included fencing to control mammalian predation and shielding of lights. In addition to common state-wide and island conservation actions, specific actions include:

- Continue to control for mammalian predators and ungulates;
- Develop a monitoring program;
- Maintain a program to shield lights;
- Determine potential habitat sites for repopulation such as Lehua;
- Rescue and rehabilitation of chicks due to fallout from lighting sources.

MONITORING:

- Continue surveys of population and distribution in known and likely habitats;
- Survey for presence of mammalian predators and ungulates;

RESEARCH PRIORITIES:

- Conduct research and development into powerline mitigation measures;
- Survey La-na'i and Ka-ho'olawe to determine if nesting is occurring;
- Locate and determine size of Kaua'i colonies;
- Understand the physiological adaptations of the egg and developing embryo on high-altitude nesting sites.

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.

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Simons, Theodore R. and Cathleen N. Hodges. 1998. Dark-rumped Petrel (*Pterodroma phaeopygia*). In the Birds of North America, No. 345 (A. Poole and F. Gill, eds). The Academy of Natural Sciences, Philadelphia, PA and The American Ornithologists' Union, Washington, D.C.