

Seabirds

Photo of Tristram's storm
petrel

Tristram's (Sooty) Storm-Petrel

Oceanodroma tristrami

SPECIES STATUS:

State recognized as indigenous

SPECIES INFORMATION: Nest in the Hawaiian Islands. They are winter breeders that are nocturnal. Nest sites are colonial. Eggs are laid between December through February with both sexes incubating the egg. Diet consists of small fish and squid with occasional planktonic insects and crustaceans.

DISTRIBUTION: Historically found in the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands. Currently, populations continue to be found there with the exception of Midway and Kure where they have been extirpated.

Map of Tristram's Storm-Petrel distribution

ABUNDANCE: Population in the Hawaiian Islands is currently estimated at less than 10,000 pairs, with the largest colonies on Laysan, Nihoa, and Pearl and Hermes Reef.

LOCATION AND CONDITION OF KEY HABITAT: Prefer recesses in rock scree, under mined guano piles, or burrows excavated under vegetation. Marine habitat is pelagic.

THREATS: Due to their ground nesting nature, mammalian predators pose a large threat to current populations. It is thought that black rats caused the extirpation from Midway and Kure. A potential threat is the invasive weed golden crown-beard on Pearl and Hermes Reef and Kure.

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:

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- Establish potential habitat at Midway through eradication of mammalian predators;
- Eradicate golden crown-beard on Pearl and Hermes Reef, Midway, and Kure.

MONITORING:

- Continue surveys of population and distribution in known and likely habitats, particularly any potential recolonization at Midway;

RESEARCH PRIORITIES:

- Determine size, status, and trends of population in Hawai'i while at the same time designing a reliable monitoring program;
- Determine the affects of ants in limiting population sizes;
- Research basic life history traits, demography, and population limiting factors.

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.