

Photo of Band-rumped storm
petrel

Seabirds

**'Ake'ake or
Band-rumped Storm-Petrel**

Oceanodroma castro

SPECIES STATUS:

State listed as Endangered
State recognized as indigenous

SPECIES INFORMATION: Very little is known about the breeding populations in the Hawaiian Islands. Eggs are laid in May-June with chicks hatching in August and fledging in October. They do not reach breeding age until 3-7 years old.

DISTRIBUTION: Historically abundant and widespread throughout the Hawaiian Islands, currently Band-rumped Storm-Petrels have been seen off of Kaua'i and the island of Hawai'i during breeding season. Their range covers the main islands through the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands. They are highly pelagic during non-breeding season. 12 sites are known on Kaua'i at elevations around 610 m (2,000 ft), both on Maui and the island of Hawai'i above 1,200 m (3,936 ft), and from Lehua off of Ni'ihau.

Map of Band-rumped Storm-Petrel distribution

ABUNDANCE: Population in the Hawaiian Islands is currently unknown, but suspected to be critically low with breeding populations on Kaua'i estimated at only 171-122 pairs.

LOCATION AND CONDITION OF KEY HABITAT: On Kaua'i, this species is known to nest in very steep hanging valleys (e.g. Pohakuao) vegetated with shrubs and grasses, while on both Maui and the island of Hawai'i they nest on barren lava flows at high elevations. On Maui the sites are lower; they have presumed to nest at sea level in Ahihi-kina'u and on 'Ale'ale seastack off Ka-ho'olawe. Marine Habitat is pelagic. They excavate burrows or find natural cavities for nesting.

THREATS: Mammalian predators as well as power lines and street lights along coastlines pose threat to current populations.

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 include predator control at Haleakala National Park and Mauna Loa in Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park. In addition to common state-wide and island conservation actions, specific actions include:

- Establish population status (e.g. size, status, and distribution) in the Hawaiian Islands;
- Determine other potential habitat for new population establishment;
- Continue to control for mammalian predators, particularly Lehua where potential habitat exists;
- Determine if current colonies need active management particularly as the Hawaiian population is potentially isolated from other breeding populations.

MONITORING:

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

RESEARCH PRIORITIES:

- Determine nesting and habitat needs;
- Determine feeding habitats and diet requirements;
- Determine mortality affects of power lines at high elevations as well as street lights located along coastlines;
- Identify factors limiting populations.

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.

Slotterback, John W. 2002. Band-rumped Storm-Petrel (*Oceandroma castro*). In the Birds of North America, No. 673 (A. Poole and F. Gill, eds). The Academy of Natural Sciences, Philadelphia, PA and The American Ornithologists' Union, Washington, D.C.