Grupo internacional para la conservación del Diablotín

Comité international pour la conservation du Pétrel diablotin

International Black-capped Petrel Conservation Group

ANNUAL UPDATE ON ACTIVITIES
December 2023

The Conserving the Diablotin: Black-capped Petrel Conservation Update and Action Plan calls for nine strategies to enable conservation and address threats. Analysis suggests that no single strategy can result in a population increase but, by pursuing multiple strategies in synergy, we can achieve a positive population trajectory into the future. Our 10- to 20-year conservation goal is ensuring the long-term survival of a stable population of Black-capped Petrel whose conservation status has improved from Endangered to Near Threatened on the IUCN Red List.

Newsletter Contents

Breaking News! Diablotin to be Listed as Endangered under the U.S. Species Conservation Act

On 27 December 2023, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service finalized the listing of the black-capped petrel as an endangered species under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). Previously proposing the species threatened in 2018, the Service made its new determination based on information indicating threats to the species were very severe and imminent. The ESA's regulations extend only to people under the jurisdiction of the U.S.; however, the ESA listing can generate conservation benefits such as increased awareness of listed species, research efforts to address conservation needs, or funding for conservation of the species in its range countries. The ESA also provides for limited financial assistance to develop and manage programs to conserve listed species in foreign countries, encourages conservation programs for such species, and allows for assistance for programs, such as personnel and training. Additionally, the recent listing requires that the Service publish a proposed critical habitat within a year. This final rule will become effective on January 29, 2024. Supporting materials used in preparing this rule, such as the species status assessment report, are available at the USFWS Black-capped Petrel page.

STRATEGIES

Strategy 1: Build local capacity

Activities to build local capacity might include outreach to in-country partners, international grant support, training and relationship-building. Highlights from the previous year, include:

- Supplementing the in-kind contributions of partner organizations, funding from the **U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)** Migratory Bird Program continues to support the petrel program internationally. Grant support was also acquired from the U.S. Geological Survey-USFWS Quick Response Program to research attraction and acceptance of artificial burrows.

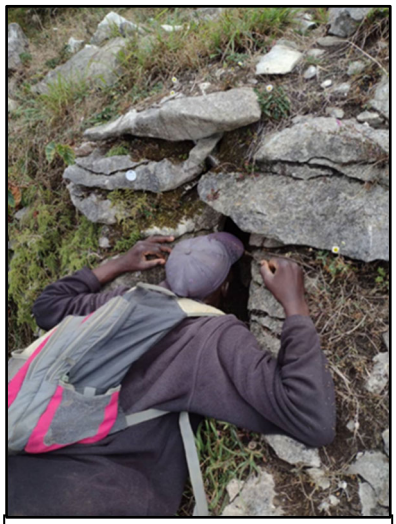
- **Action pour la Sauvegarde de l'Écologie en Haiti (ACSEH)** director, **Anderson Jean** is one of five Haitian environmental professionals selected as the first Yves Renard Fellows by the Caribbean Natural Resources Institute (CANARI). The nine-month fellowship supports their work strengthening sustainable livelihoods for biodiversity conservation. The fellowship involves training in Trinidad and Tobago, a micro-grant to implement an initiative back in Haiti, and ongoing networking and support.

- It is astounding and inspirational that any conservationist in Haiti continues to carry on given the extremely challenging conditions there. Haiti continues to be hindered by political instability, increasing violence, and unprecedented levels of insecurity. The risks to personal safety are lower in rural areas where petrels occur than in urban areas. However, the Haitian team members must deal with increased costs and shortages of fuel and supplies; financial insecurity due to bank closures; border closures and other travel restrictions.

- Vehicle and fuel costs are an expensive component of the field work on Hispaniola, and poor road conditions put stress on partners' vehicles. The capacity for staff from **Grupo Jaragua** to reach Valle Nuevo and other nesting sites was increased with the acquisition of two all-terrain motorbikes. These vehicles require less fuel, can better navigate the potholes, and have allowed for more frequent visits to sites as well as a more prolonged mongoose-trapping campaign.

- Local conservation depends on individual or organizational champions. We want to thank **Gabriel Naudet** for becoming involved in petrel research. Gabriel works with the environmental consultancy **Biotope** in the French Antilles, and he is also part of the Martinique-based non-profit **Bivouac Naturaliste**. Following **Antoine Chabrolle**'s advice (Antoine is with the **Marine Station of the French National Museum of Natural History**), Gabriel did the hard job of deploying and recovering songmeters in Guadeloupe in his free time.

- A public outreach effort was coordinated in parallel with the February 2023 petrel search effort in Dominica, coordinated by **Jeanelle Brisbane** (Dominica's **Forestry, Wildlife & Parks Division** and **Wild Dominique)**, **Sea McKeon** (**American Bird Conservancy**) and **Jennifer Wheeler** (**BirdsCaribbean**). Through visits to schools, and interviews on local TV and radio, they raised awareness of the Diablotin on Dominica and increased the number of students and other citizens willing to lend their eyes and ears to the search for this special bird. Read the BC Blog Post.



Bazil Jonel conducting nest monitoring at La Visite National Park, Haiti. *Credit: ACSEH*

Strategy 2: Locate and characterize nest sites

A goal of the action plan is that, by 2025, all suspected sites on Hispaniola have received comprehensive search and at least one probable or suspected island has been explored more thoroughly. Hispaniola, Guadeloupe and Dominica received attention in 2022 and 2023.

Hispaniola

The team working in La Visite Ridge in Haiti was able to dedicate one day each month searching for new nests along the escarpment, typically around the known nesting sites in the Tet Opak area. No new nesting sites were found in 2023. However, new burrows were located at two of the confirmed breeding locations. In Morne Vincent, Haiti, nine new burrows were located during the 2022-2023 breeding season, most in a cluster southwest of the previously identified burrows. In Valle Nuevo, DR, five new burrows were located within the known colony area. Resources and staff were inadequate to undertake searches in most of the probable or suspected sites on Hispaniola: Macaya and Pic de la Selle in Haiti, and Zapoten, Neiba, and the Central and Northern Range in the Dominican Republic. Field reports are posted on the working group website.

Dominica

During February 2023, a team used multiple methods to locate Black-capped Petrels on Dominica. These included audio-visual surveys on mountain tops near suspected breeding and/or courtship areas, searches for nesting sites with a 5-year-old conservation scent dog named África; and a boat trip along the Atlantic coast to search for petrels at sea. During almost 70 hours of audio-visual surveys at nine survey locations, petrels were not seen or heard. During almost 40 dog-hours covering 59km and 219ha, four potential nesting sites were located (three on Morne Micotrin, one on Morne Diablotin). However, to date, no petrels were observed in camera traps deployed at those sites. Fieldwork was led by **Yvan Satgé** (**EPIC**, **Clemson University**; expedition leader) and **Jacob Gonzalez-Solis** (**University of Barcelona**; dog handler and petrel expert), working with **Stephen Durand** (independent; local expedition lead), **Jeanelle Brisbane** (**Dominica Forestry, Wildlife & Parks Division**; local biologist), and **Jennifer Wheeler** (**BirdsCaribbean**; field assistance).

As noted in the Dominica expedition report, the limited results of the 2022 and 2023 surveys make it even more urgent to locate Black-capped Petrel nesting areas in Dominica and to assess and address threats that may affect a remaining population. To improve odds of detection, the following steps are recommended: Improve or create trails, deploy more acoustic recorders, conduct more outreach with guards and workers, perform sea-watch surveys, undertake new surveys of human communities and outreach to marine researchers working in the waters around Dominica.

Guadeloupe

Five songmeters were deployed in late 2022 and early 2023 in five locations in the suspected location of Nez Cassé/Soufrière. Unfortunately, there were no petrel detections over the about 2,400 hours of audio data. The data are summarized in a Conservation Metrics report.

Ekip Diablotén /Team Diablotin, an international group of partners sought out the Black-capped Petrel in Dominica in February 2020. *Credit: J. Wheeler*

Strategy 3: Explore restoration methods

The Black-capped Petrel action plan calls for a full feasibility study of restoration methods to be completed by 2025, with recommendations for pilot projects; and by 2030, any necessary restoration projects have started.

An important consideration when exploring the possibility of luring or moving petrels to threat-free areas is the degree to which the Diablotin will use human-made nest cavities. Following the disastrous dog depredations in Loma del Toro during the 2021-2022 breeding season, **Grupo Jaragua** began installing wooden boxes as artificial nest cavities. These nest boxes follow the dimensions and schematics of boxes used for Hawaiian petrels (*Pterodroma sandwichensis*) -- 70 cm (length) x 40 cm (width) x 30 cm (height).

Six boxes were placed where existing Loma del Toro burrows had been damaged or destroyed. Five of six of these have been accepted and frequented by petrels during both the 2021-2022 and 2022-2023 seasons. It appears that chicks fledged from two of them in the 2022-2023 season. Three boxes built in the DR were recently provided to the Haitian team to be placed in nests destroyed by dogs at Morne Vincent.

Wooden nest boxes were also deployed in novel locations within the Loma del Toro colony area. That is, boxes were dug into locations near or next to known burrows, creating new cavities never used by petrels. Eleven of these artificial burrows were in place for the 2022-2023 season. Six more have been installed for the 2023-2024 season, bringing the total number to 17. To date, only one box in a new location has been occupied (by an adult who stayed until mid-Spring).

The use of all boxes is monitored by cameras. A USGS-USFWS Quick Response Program grant is funding **Yvan Satgé**'s analysis of the camera trap data to research attraction and acceptance of artificial burrows. Field reports are posted on the working group website.

Wooden nest boxes were constructed and installed for use by petrels. Boxes were placed where burrows had been damaged or destroyed, as well as novel locations. *Credit: Grupo Jaragua*

Another element of seabird restoration is to see if social attraction methods can be effective in luring birds to new, safer breeding areas. **Brad Keitt** from **American Bird Conservancy** worked with Puerto Rican partners to add petrel vocalizations to the mix of tern, booby and shearwater vocalizations already being played on Desecheo National Wildlife Refuge. This 358-acre island is recovering ecologically after a long campaign to rid the island of invasive predators and herbivores. Biologists have been broadcasting the sounds of active seabird colonies over a solar-powered, automatic amplified sound system in hopes of attracting breeders. There is no historical record of Black-capped Petrels breeding on Desecheo, but the island is along the route the birds take from their nesting grounds to their wider Atlantic range. The hope is that petrels in transit might hear the sounds of a colony and go to investigate. Read the details of the Desecheo trip.

The major elements of a similar sound system have been obtained for Grupo Jaragua to test if broadcast can encourage petrels to investigate the artificial burrows at Loma del Toro. Grupo Jaragua deployed Autonomous Recording Units (ARUs) last season to collect newer petrel vocalizations for these social attraction broadcasts.

Strategy 4: Reduce predator pressure

Controlling predators will allow reproductive output and adult survival to increase. Eradication is impossible at the known breeding sites on the Hispaniola mainland. Control methods that vary among locations and with predator-type are used to reduce depredation. These include trapping, burrow enhancements, and most recently, remote surveillance.

In the 2022-2023 season, trapping techniques and their results were similar to those of the previous season. In short, many rats were taken by traps, but mongoose control was not effective enough to prevent depredations. Field reports are posted on the working group website.

Mongoose have been documented to take eggs, chicks and adults, but experience in the Valle Nuevo breeding location, where mongoose depredations are the most problematic, shows that the chicks are most vulnerable. In the coming season, Grupo Jaragua field team aims to live-trap mongoose almost continually during the period when chicks are in the nest (February to April). This will require increased time and travel, but it is necessary to ensure that the traps remain open and re-baited as necessary.

Predation by dogs is a concern throughout Hispaniola. Though not as devastating as that which occurred during the 2020-2021 season in Loma del Toro, there have been losses to dogs in the past two seasons. In Tet Opak, La Visite, Haiti two chicks were lost to dog depredations and up to 13 burrows appear to have been destroyed by digging mammals. To make burrows more secure and able to withstand digging by dogs and other animals, nest boxes with tunnels are being deployed (as described for Strategy 3). Also, teams are also using rocks, wood stakes and wood tunnels to reinforce and/or narrow burrow entrances. The petrels do not seem to be put off by these improvements to their burrows.

As always, predator control effectiveness is done by tracking the fate of as many nests as possible at each site using a combination of camera traps and manual nest monitoring. Camera trap data are studied carefully to identify problem dogs. That way, teams can focus on specific animals as well as working in the broader community to address the threat.

The control of dogs and other predators could be even more effective with cameras that send almost real time images. Often field teams are only able to visit sites a few days each month. By knowing right away if problem animals appear within colonies, local partners such as community members or guards can be alerted to take action if field teams are away. The working group has been testing low-cost options and is seeking funds for better equipment.

Mongoose with Black-capped Petrel chick. Picture taken by camera trap at Valle Nuevo, nest site on 16 March 2023. *Credit: Grupo Jaragua.*

Strategy 5: Reduce collisions and groundings

The action plan recommends several actions to combat losses due to collisions and groundings. These include advocacy to regulators of infrastructure; providing tower owners with recommendations and tools to minimize collisions; and outreach to communities with high levels of light pollution.

As noted in the February 2023 Dominica expedition report, the team became aware of bright lights associated with construction work for geothermal electrical production near suspected breeding areas, as well as plans for power lines along most of the western coast. Flyers were created and shared with staff at the geothermal facilities to make them aware of possible petrel groundings and the steps to recover and release birds. The plans for the power lines are quite worrisome: they appear to pose a great risk of collision for any remaining petrels and could greatly affect the species' viability on Dominica. Local partners were provided with information about the level of potential harm, and recommendations for monitoring, reducing, and mitigating these risks were included in ecological assessments.

Outreach to locals has increased the reporting of grounded petrels on Hispaniola, and often times, their successful release. During the 2022-2023 season, three bird collisions were reported by guards at the communications tower array near the Loma del Toro colony. These were all presumably adults, given the birds were found in November, February and March. Two seemed unharmed and were successfully released. The bird found in February was dead, the feathers full of petroleum from one of the diesel engines which power the communication towers. At the beginning of the 2023-2024 season, two more birds were found. One was dead with injuries to the wing and head, another was only wounded superficially and released.

Petrel grounded at the telecommunications facility near the colony of Loma del Toro, in the DR. This bird was recovered and released. Staff at the facility are alert for such groundings. *Credit: Grupo Jaragua*

The field team in Haiti received the report of a grounding in April 2022. Two children found a Black-capped Petrel in the area of Kenskoff and Furcy, north of La Visite. The bird likely was disoriented by the lights at the communication towers in this area and was grounded when it struck a portion of the tower. Callers were instructed in the release protocol and successfully released the bird that night.

Little progress in preventing collisions has occurred in the last year. The tallest of the towers near the Loma del Toro actually fell down due to lack of maintenance (fortunately no staff were injured). Unfortunately, the replacement tower is even higher and has more steel cables than the one before. Conservationists' recommendations to the DR Ministry of the Environment about removing guy wires and adjusting lighting at the Loma del Toro communications tower array were not heeded. Additionally, Grupo Jaragua has not been able to extend its intensive outreach program about light attraction risks to petrels in coastal communities beyond the Rio Perdenales flyway. (See the Collisions study report). Such risks will increase with coastal development. Of current concern are major hotel and dock developments in Cabo Rojo, about 15 kilometers from the Perdenales river flyway.

Strategy 6: Support community development in Boukan Chat, Haiti

The town of Boukan Chat lies to the north of the Morne Vincent nesting site and expanding agriculture is an imminent threat to the colony. The strategies in place to slow or stop expansion into forests involve agroecological programs to improve existing farm yields and foster tree crops, as well as community outreach and education.

The Haitian partner **ACSEH** wrapped up a grant from Biodiversity and Protected Areas Management (BIOPAMA) Programme in 2022. BIOPAMA funds, along with support from EPIC, helped continue the farmer trainings led by partner Plant With Purpose.

Petrels do not recognize national borders, so **Ernst Rupp** with the Dominican partner, **Grupo Jaragua**, has always offered to assist where possible across the Haiti-DR border. To support monitoring and conservation at the Morne Vincent site, this DR organization has delivered supplies and funds, and arranged cross-border training and logistical support for staff. Both ACSEH and Grupo Jaragua have been able to route some modest support to the nurseries in Boucan Chat, with the goal that tree crops replace row crops in the fields adjacent to the forest.

Conservationists also continue to engage with the coordinator of the local youth soccer program (for which the Diablotin serves as mascot) to organize talks and trips to engage youth and local leaders in environmental concerns. Modest support has also been available to provide as-needed supplies to address urgent community needs (water in the schools).

Maintaining a positive relationship between conservationists and the community pays off: This last spring there was a fire near the Morne Vincent colony, but thanks to the quick action of dedicated locals in Boucan Chat and nearby Anse-en-Pitre, it did not reach any nests.

Strategy 7: Undertake study of socio-economic drivers of threats at La Visite, Haiti

La Visite ridge hosts the greatest density of petrels, but the socio-economic and political situation encourages the unsustainable use of natural resources by local communities. A scoping study would help understand the specificities of this area and better inform socioeconomic and environmental interventions needed to reduce the impacts of poverty and preserve natural resources.

The **ACSEH** team continues to monitor the human users of the La Visite Ridge. Field reports are posted on the working group website.

In early 2023, they observed tree removal and grading in areas within two of the three subsites making up the Tet Opak Black-capped Petrel colony. The team spoke with the farmers and suggested they leave the areas directly around the colony undisturbed. The farmers complied and the area was no longer cleared or used during the period of nest monitoring.

Last year, the **ACSEH** team also implemented formal outreach programs for the first time in La Visite. Regarding environmental education, two local schools were visited each month between January and August. Students received presentations on Black-capped Petrel conservation, bird migration, soil conservation, water cycle, and recycling.

Meetings with farmers focused on sustainable agriculture. Team members met with approximately 25 farmers each month between February and August. Participants received information on soil conservation, water conservation, and forest/farm interface. This program culminated in the construction of a soil conservation wall above Black-capped Petrel nesting colony #1.

Loss of forest cover remains a critical threat in La Visite. Of the 55 nests monitored monthly during the 2022-2023 season, six nest cavities were destroyed due to agricultural encroachment (two resulting in deaths of chicks).

Staff and farmers on soil conservation wall they built above Black-capped Petrel nest colony at La Visite National Park, Haiti. *Credit: ACSEH*

Strategy 8: Engage Dominican government to plan and strengthen oversight of parks

All confirmed and suspected nesting sites in the Dominican Republic fall within national parks. Local partners will foster collaboration with park administrators for expertise on petrels and petrel habitat; seek public engagement to gain public backing; and showcase habitat restoration projects to park administrators.

Grupo Jaragua has an ongoing engagement with the Ministry of Environment. It seeks participation of Ministry staff in proactive conservation and raises issues of conservation concern to authorities. Unfortunately, since the murder of Minister Mera in June 2022, there has been much staff turnover and it has been difficult to advance activities, even with prior commitment by the Ministry. For example, the illegal cash-crop (strawberries) agricultural fields that were created within 300 m of the Valle Nuevo colony still remain even though the Ministry of the Environment previously committed to removing them.

There have been positive developments with the Ministry regarding restoration of humid forest. **Grupo Jaragua** recently completed a workshop on forest fires (supported by **US Forest Service**) with excellent participation by forest fire brigades and park rangers. **Grupo Jaragua** is presently involved in the repair and remodeling of park ranger stations in Sierra de Bahoruco National Park, the location of two confirmed breeding sites.

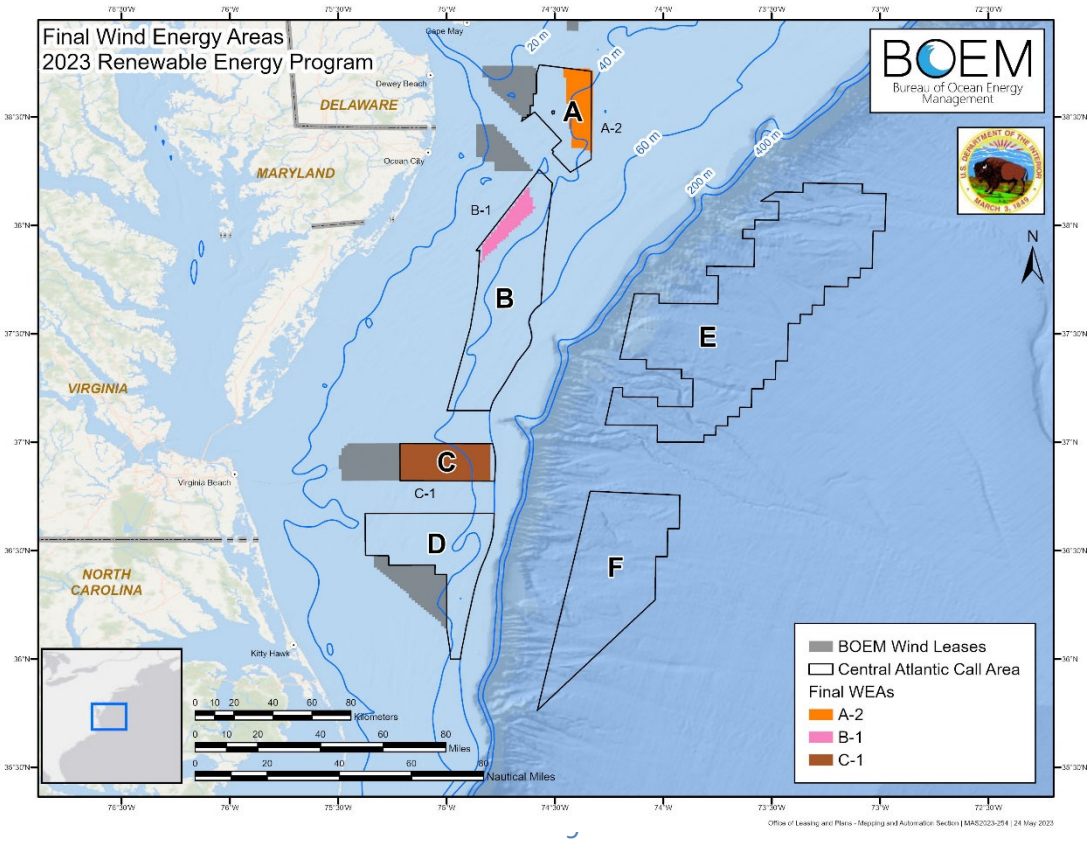
Images from the November 2023 Forest Fire Prevention Worshop held in Pedernales, DR. *Credit: Grupo Jaragua*

Strategy 9: Address threats at sea through advocacy

Given the scope of marine threats (reduced prey availability, plastics and other pollutants, oil spills), the most effective and feasible interventions will be to advocate for the species' interest in the realm of marine policies, by highlighting the Black-capped Petrel in science/policy forums and contributing data to regulatory agencies.

The U.S. Bureau of Ocean Energy Management released a draft proposal for wind energy lease areas along the mid-Atlantic coast in November 2022. Representatives of the International Black-capped Petrel Conservation Group (IBPCG) submitted concerns about the proposal for Central Atlantic Outer Continental Shelf (CAOCS) call areas, and (2) provided recommendations for mitigating impacts of offshore wind energy on the Black-capped Petrel in the future (read full letter). The Black-capped Petrel was given high consideration in the process to revise the siting of wind energy areas; in fact, it seems like BCPE was the only avian species to be considered in the siting process. In July 2023, BOEM published the final wind energy areas in the US Central Atlantic. The three final areas (shown below) are all on the continental shelf. They do not fall within the main part of Black-capped Petrel habitat.

In May 2023, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) re-opened its proposed rule regarding Black-capped Petrel's status under the U.S. Endangered Species Act (ESA). Proposed rule 83 FR 50560: **Endangered and Threatened Species: Status for Black-Capped Petrel with a Section 4(d) Rule** was originally released in 2018. In response, several members of the IBPCG provided individual comments or signed on to a letter to USFWS prepared on behalf of the entire group. The USFWS stated that it reopened the comment period to present updated information that reflects a higher degree of threats acting on the species (having revised the Species Status Assessment in 2022. We are gratified that the USFWS did this, and we submitted another letter to USFWS to raise renewed concerns about the proposed rule and clarify details on the recent developments.



MONITORING, RESEARCH, AND COMMUNICATIONS ACTIVITIES

Monitoring

The 2021 Conserving the Diablotin: Black-capped Petrel Conservation Update and Action Plan relies on Key Ecological Attributes (KEAs) to comprise the basic elements of a monitoring plan for the species. KEAs are aspects of the species biology or ecology that define the health of the species.

The Black-capped Petrel KEAs relate to demographic parameters (i.e., population size, productivity, survival) and to its nesting habitat (i.e., distribution, intactness and management).

As of December 2023, full or partial data are available for some KEAs; for others, a baseline has yet to be developed.

- Flyway Population Index
    - Flyway surveys. Baseline data are available, but radar surveys need to be repeated. The goal to repeat surveys every five years has not been met for Hispaniola due to political unrest, lack of funds and staff time). Funding for 2024 needs to be raised.

- Breeding Vocal Activity
    - Vocalizations. Data from the Autonomous Recording Devices placed at Loma del Toro could form the basis of an audio index of population. However, funds need to be raised to develop standardized protocols, repeat deployment, and cover analyses.

- Colony Occupancy
    - Active versus Total Nests. As data quality and consistency improves, we are close to being able to develop a baseline for most colonies.

- Reproductive Success
    - Fledged chicks versus Active Nests. This is tracked each year. A detailed database with the fate of each monitored burrow will allow for more in-depth analysis.

- Breeder Return Rate
    - Yet to develop baseline. Needed data requires banding adult birds. Improvements in technology and the installation of artificial burrows (making adult capture much easier) will help develop this KEA.

- Habitat Intactness
    - Burrow condition. Currently, can assess this using visual observation/opinion about nest impacts. Ideally, a partner for high resolution mapping can be found.

- Breeding Distribution
    - Strength of evidence. Discovery of a burrow at Pic La Selle, and aural detection in Guadeloupe allows us to upgrade the status of two breeding areas (to confirmed, and probable, respectively).

Research Links

Stable Isotope and Mercury Analysis of Black-capped Petrel (*Pterodroma hasitata*) Feathers to Investigate Trophic Position and Foraging Areas of Light, Dark, and Intermediate Forms
Presentation at the Waterbird Society, 2023 Annual Conference, Fort Lauderdale, FL
Kate Sutherland Cahow1101@gmail.com

The Black-capped Petrel (*Pterodroma hasitata*) is a threatened seabird with two color forms whose only documented nesting sites are in the mountains of Hispaniola in the Caribbean, and whose foraging range extends from the Caribbean and Gulf of Mexico northward to the northwestern Atlantic. These birds are incredibly difficult to study at sea or at their nesting locales, so I investigated the historical foraging ecology of these two forms and an intermediary by analyzing breast feathers from historic museum specimens at the North Carolina Museum of Natural Sciences collected between 1978 – 1989 for three stable isotope ratios (δ13C, δ15N, and 34S) and total mercury (THg) concentrations. There were no significant differences among the color forms of Black-capped Petrel, but significant differences in δ15N did exist by sex with females having a lower value than males. Average values of THg varied from 3.87 +/- 0.37 µg/g (NCSM 9507) to 81.45 +/- 2.10 µg/g (NCSM 9491) with high variability among feathers of individuals. This study provides a baseline for investigating stable isotopes and THg levels in Black-capped Petrels and other species of *Pterodroma* in the north Atlantic. More research is needed within the Gulf Stream's dynamic ecosystem to unravel these isotopic relationships, but the results from these specimens collected at different times over an 11-year period are consistent indicating a distinct foraging ecology in this species. I recommend that future studies focusing on levels of THg in seabirds, especially those using body feathers, use analysis of multiple feathers due to high intra-individual variation. These high THg levels have been confirmed in a contemporary study by Yvan Satgé and colleagues in petrels captured at nesting sites in 2018 and at sea in 2019 (article under review).

Is Black-capped Petrel breeding in the Western Palearctic?
Observations by Peter Stronach, BirdGuides.com
The current thinking is that Black-capped Petrel – or 'Little Devil' as it is colloquially named – is a rare vagrant to Cape Verde and the wider Western Palearctic from West Atlantic haunts and Caribbean breeding grounds. At times, this bird was flying right over the land and along the cliffs during broad daylight. Its targeting of tropicbirds was deliberate; after it had parasitized one it flew back out to intercept another knowing full well another would be incoming to the colony. Would a vagrant seabird engage in this behavior? To me, it felt that it knew that coast and used that knowledge to maximize the food it stole. Maybe it was just a vagrant, perhaps its hunting technique was a spur-of-the-moment decision. Either way, it was enough to get me thinking: is there a chance that Black-capped Petrels breed in Cape Verde? Read Full article.

Research Publications

Satgé YG, Keitt BS, Gaskin CP, Patteson JB, Jodice PGR (2023) Spatial segregation between phenotypes of the diablotin black-capped petrel *Pterodroma hasitata* during the non-breeding period. Endang Species Res 51:183-201. https://doi.org/10.3354/esr01254

Communications

Revised Birds of the World account for Black-capped Petrel released April 2023

Replacing a 2010 version, this revised account provides detailed information on the Diablotin, including a revision of its range map, measurements, and discussions of taxonomy, distribution, and conservation status. *Birds of the World* is an ornithological research platform hosted by the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology. It combines scholarly accounts with eBird observations and Macaulay Library materials. Visit Birds of the World website to subscribe; note that Birds of the World is free to many users in the Caribbean! If you are unable to access the new account, please contact any one of the authors.

Working Group Tools

Listserv: Visit BirdsCaribbean.groups.io/g/Diablotin to subscribe to our discussion group for the people interested in *Pterodroma hasitata* conservation. We use the Groups.IO platform provided by BirdsCaribbean to take advantage of the regional organization's reach, influence and administrative support.

Website: The website for the working group is hosted by BirdsCaribbean and includes a library of unpublished documents related to the Black-capped Petrel project. The website library includes the new conservation action plan, the unpublished reports noted in this newsletter, links to open access educational materials, and copies of presentations (slides, posters) to communicate to the conservation community.

Please visit www.BirdsCaribbean.org, and search under "Petrel" or go directly to https://www.birdscaribbean.org/our-work/black-capped-petrel-working-group/

This newsletter was prepared by Jennifer Wheeler (Jennifer.Wheeler@BirdsCaribbean.org), with contributions from many others.

Adult Black-capped Petrel incubating egg at La Visite National Park, Haiti. *Credit: ACSEH*