

TAXON SUMMARY

Black-winged Petrel

1	Family	Procellariidae
2	Scientific name	<i>Pterodroma nigripennis</i> (Rothschild, 1893)
3	Common name	Black-winged Petrel
4	Conservation status	
	Australian breeding population	Least Concern
	Population visiting Australian territory	Least Concern

5 Reasons for listing

There are at least three breeding colonies of the expanding Australian population (so not Vulnerable: D2). Although the population probably numbers no more than 3,000 mature individuals (Near Threatened: d), the current expansion in range means, of necessity, that there is genetic exchange with the extralimital population. This has a status of Least Concern, so the status of the Australian population is down-graded accordingly (as per Gärdenfors *et al.*, 1999).

Australian breeding colonies	Estimate	Reliability
Extent of occurrence	1,000,000 km ²	high
trend	stable	high
Area of occupancy	4 km ²	high
trend	stable	high
No. of breeding birds	3,000	low
trend	stable	low
No. of sub-populations	5	low
Largest sub-population	2,000	low
Generation time	10 years	low
Global population share	<1 %	high
Level of genetic exchange	high	high

6 Intraspecific taxa

None described.

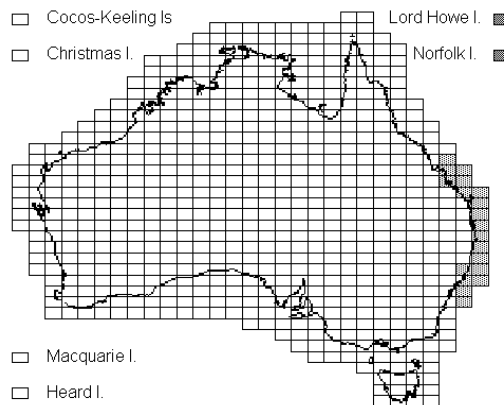
7 Past range and abundance

Within Australian territory, nesting recorded Norfolk, Nepean, Phillip and Lord Howe Is and Balls Pyramid. Has possibly bred Heron I. and Australian mainland. Extraliminally, nests Kermadec, Chatham and Three Kings Is (Marchant and Higgins, 1990). Believed to have colonised Lord Howe I. only after 1940 (Hutton, 1991). The species' range is generally restricted to the Tasman Sea and the south-west Pacific Ocean during the breeding season, after which it expands eastward, with birds being recorded off Japan, Hawaii, California and Central America (Marchant and Higgins, 1990).

8 Present range and abundance

As above. Although nests on Norfolk I., it is never successful. Breeding range apparently expanding

south-westward with behaviour typical of breeding observed intermittently at several sites off eastern Australian mainland (Marchant and Higgins, 1990). Most recent population estimates: Phillip I., several hundred birds (Hermes *et al.*, 1986), Lord Howe I.: up to 1,000 pairs (Fullagar and Disney, 1975), Ball's Pyramid 'in some strength' (Fullagar *et al.*, 1975).



9 Ecology

Black-winged Petrels nest in burrows or crevices amidst vegetation and mostly eat cephalopods and crustaceans taken from the open ocean (Marchant and Higgins, 1990).

10 Threats

The main threat is predation by feral cats (Marchant and Higgins, 1990). Over 40 birds attempting to breed at the coastal end of the Bird Rock Track in Norfolk Island National Park were predated by cats in the early 1990s (O. Evans). On Lord Howe I., removal of feral cats has improved breeding success (Hutton, 1991). Brown Rats *Rattus norvegicus* have been linked to a decline in the Kermadec Is (Marchant and Higgins, 1990).

11 Recommended actions

- 11.1 Census sub-population on Lord Howe I. and Ball's Pyramid every five years.
- 11.2 Census sub-population on Phillip and Nepean Is every three years.
- 11.3 Continue to impose strict quarantine on any vessels visiting Ball's Pyramid or Phillip I.

- 11.4 Establish cooperative rodent control programs throughout Norfolk I, with a view to rat eradication.
- 11.5 Eradicate rats from Lord Howe Is.
- 11.6 Continue to encourage responsible cat ownership, and the eradication of feral cats from Norfolk Island.

12 Bibliography

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