

RECOVERY OUTLINE

Kermadec Petrel (western)

1	Family	Procellariidae
2	Scientific name	<i>Pterodroma neglecta neglecta</i> (Schlegel, 1863)
3	Common name	Kermadec Petrel (western)
4	Conservation status	
	Australian breeding population	Critically Endangered: D
	Population visiting Australian territory	Near Threatened: c

5 Reasons for listing

The subspecies has a very small population (Critically Endangered: D). Though the extent of breeding colonies of the population visiting Australian waters has not changed, their population size has more than halved (Near Threatened: c). Even if genetic exchange is extensive, down-grading of the Australian status to match the global status (as per Gärdenfors *et al.*, 1999), is not warranted because of threats to extralimital sub-populations.

Australian breeding colonies	Estimate	Reliability
Extent of occurrence	1,000,000 km ²	low
trend	stable	high
Area of occupancy	2 km ²	high
trend	stable	high
No. of breeding birds	40	medium
trend	stable	low
No. of sub-populations	2	high
Largest sub-population	20	medium
Generation time	10 years	low
Global population share	< 1 %	high
Level of genetic exchange	low	low

6 Intraspecific taxa

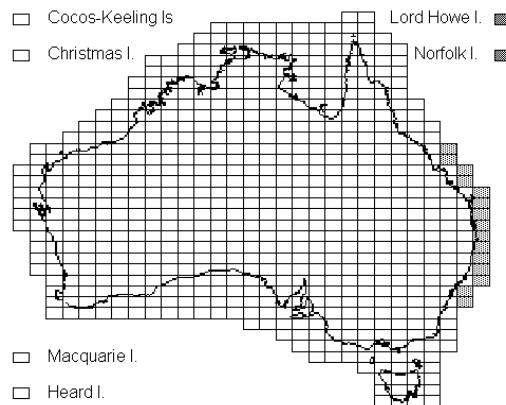
The only other subspecies, *P. n. juana* (eastern Pacific), is not found in Australian territory. Globally the species is Least Concern.

7 Past range and abundance

Breeding on islands across southern Pacific Ocean from Easter I. west to Lord Howe I. Foraging in tropical and subtropical Pacific Ocean, both north and south of equator. No historical estimates of population size in Australian territory, but sub-population on Raoul I., N. Z. was estimated at 500,000 in 1908, and is now virtually extinct (Marchant and Higgins, 1990).

8 Present range and abundance

Extinct from Lord Howe I. (Fullagar and Disney, 1975). A few pairs nest on Ball's Pyramid, south of Lord Howe I. (Brown, 1979) and on Phillip Island near Norfolk I. (Woods, 1988); oceanic distribution as above.



9 Ecology

The Kermadec Petrel breeds on high islands among rocks and vegetation, and forages far out to sea, taking cephalopods and crustaceans from waters of 15-25°C (Marchant and Higgins, 1990). Its nests are generally on the ground, so are particularly vulnerable to predation (Merton, 1970).

10 Threats

In Australian territory, breeding colonies of Kermadec Petrels are confined to two islets, and their small numbers are vulnerable to catastrophe, such as the accidental introduction of the Black Rat *Rattus rattus* that occurs on the larger islands nearby. Black Rats caused the petrel's extinction on Lord Howe I. (Fullagar and Disney, 1975) and probably prevent colonisation of Norfolk I. On Phillip I., Nankeen Kestrels *Falco cenchroides* have been reported preying on adult petrels (O. Evans). Further information is required to determine whether the species is affected by longline fishing.

11 Information required

- 11.1 Assess the need to control Nankeen Kestrels on Norfolk I. and nearby islands.

12 Recovery objectives

- 12.1 Maintain protection for current breeding population so they can expand.
- 12.2 Expansion of population to main islands.

- 13 Actions completed or under way
- 13.1 The Phillip I. breeding sub-population is monitored by the Norfolk Island Flora and Fauna Society.
- 13.2 Strict quarantine is maintained on any vessels visiting Ball's Pyramid or Phillip I.
- 13.3 Rat baiting and cat trapping is occurring in Norfolk Island National Park.
- 13.4 Responsible cat ownership on Norfolk I. is being encouraged through sponsorship of a cat de-sexing clinic, and a ban on the importation of reproductively-competent cats is being supported.
- 14 Management actions required
- 14.1 Census sub-population on Ball's Pyramid every five years.
- 14.2 Census sub-population on Phillip I. every three years.
- 14.3 Establish cooperative rodent control programs throughout Norfolk I, with a view to rat eradication.
- 14.4 Eradicate rats from Lord Howe I.
- 14.5 Enhance rat baiting and cat trapping on Norfolk I. and monitor its efficacy.
- 15 Organisations responsible for conservation
Environment Australia, New South Wales National Parks and Wildlife Service.
- 16 Other organisations involved
Norfolk Island Flora and Fauna Society.

17 Staff and financial resources required for recovery to be carried out

Staff resources required 2001-2005

0.05	Project Officer ¹
0.05	Technical Officer ²

Financial resources required 2001-2005

Action	Conservation agencies	Other funding sources	Total
Monitoring Lord Howe I. ¹	\$8,000	\$0	\$8,000
Monitoring Phillip I. ²	\$2,500	\$500	\$3,000
Rat baiting in Norfolk Island National Park ³	\$10,000	\$0	\$10,000
Cooperative rodent control on Norfolk I. ³	\$10,000	\$0	\$10,000
Rat eradication Lord Howe I. ⁴	\$100,000	\$0	\$100,000
Cat trapping Norfolk I. ³	\$5,000	\$0	\$5,000
Encourage responsible cat ownership on Norfolk I. ³	\$2,000	\$0	\$2,000
Eliminate Nankeen Kestrels from Norfolk and nearby islands ⁵	\$3,000	\$0	\$3,000
Total	\$140,500	\$500	\$141,000

1. Cost divided among Providence Petrel, Kermadec Petrel, Little Shearwater, White-bellied Storm-Petrel, Masked Booby, Woodhen, Grey Ternlet and Pied Currawong
2. Cost divided among Providence Petrel, Kermadec Petrel, White-necked Petrel, Little Shearwater, Masked Booby and Grey Ternlet
3. Cost divided among threatened taxa on Norfolk I.
4. Cost divided among Providence Petrel, Kermadec Petrel, Little Shearwater, White-bellied Storm-Petrel and Grey Ternlet
5. Cost divided between Kermadec Petrel and Grey Ternlet

18 Bibliography

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- Marchant, S. and Higgins, P. J. (eds) 1990. *The Handbook of Australian, New Zealand and Antarctic Birds*. Oxford University Press, Melbourne.
- Merton, D. V. 1970. Kermadec Island expedition reports: a general account of birdlife. *Notornis* 17:147-199.
- Woods, S. 1988. Kermadec Petrel. *Norfolk Nature Notes* 4:276-277.
- Comments received from:
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