

RECOVERY OUTLINE

Soft-plumaged Petrel (northern)

1	Family	Procellariidae
2	Scientific name	<i>Pterodroma mollis deceptornis</i> Mathews, 1934
3	Common name	Soft-plumaged Petrel (northern)
4	Conservation status	Critically Endangered: D

5 Reasons for listing

The Australian breeding population must number fewer than 50 mature adults (Critically Endangered: D). Global status of subspecies is also Critically Endangered (A1ac, B1+2e, C2a, D).

Australian breeding colonies	Estimate	Reliability
Extent of occurrence	500,000 km ²	low
trend	stable	low
Area of occupancy	2 km ²	low
trend	stable	low
No. of breeding birds	20	low
trend	stable	low
No. of sub-populations	2	low
Largest sub-population	10	low
Generation time	10 years	low
Global population share	20 %	low
Level of genetic exchange	low	low

6 Intraspecific taxa

The taxonomy of this species is confusing and subspecific status of neither Australian population has been confirmed (Bretagnolle, 1995). *P. m. dubia* (Marion, Crozet and Kerguelen Is) and *P. m. mollis* (Gough I., Antipodes Is) both probably visit Australian waters. The species status is Least Concern.

7 Past range and abundance

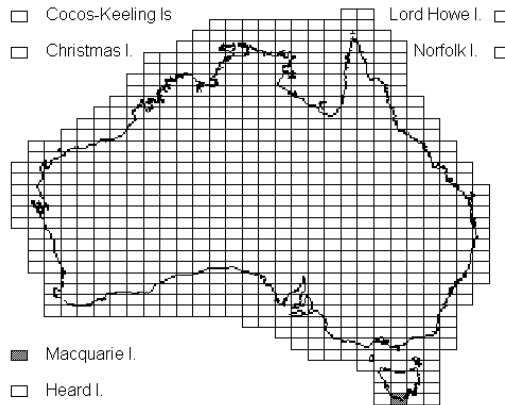
In Australian territory, possibly breeding on Maatsuyker I., where seen emerging from tussocks and present nearby throughout year. Habitat suitable for breeding on nearby islands has not been surveyed (N. Brothers). Visits Macquarie I., where 3 birds found dead and a pair of courting birds spotlighted in 1989 (N. Brothers), so assumed to breed there. Elsewhere, breeding only on Amsterdam I. where birds also appear to be resident (V. Bretagnolle). No estimates of population size.

8 Present range and abundance

As above, but no recent data.

9 Ecology

The Soft-plumaged Petrel probably breeds among rocks and tussocks on Maatsuyker I. or Macquarie I., and forages for squid in nearby waters.



10 Threats

Very small numbers of Soft-plumaged Petrels breed in Australian territory. The only potential threat on Maatsuyker I. is the accidental introduction of predators (Milledge, 1972). Introduced predators, including cats, rats and Wekas *Gallirallus australis*, have probably been responsible for the petrel's scarcity on Macquarie I. (N. Brothers). On Amsterdam I., Soft-Plumaged Petrels are frequently taken by feral cats (Roux and Martinez, 1987) and are almost extinct (V. Bretagnolle).

11 Information required

- 11.1 Determine breeding sites, population size and management needs.
- 11.2 Confirm subspecies status.

12 Recovery objectives

- 12.1 Maintain existing population.

13 Actions completed or under way

- 13.1 Feral animal control on Macquarie I. is ongoing.

14 Management actions required

Unknown.

15 Organisations responsible for conservation

Tasmanian Parks and Wildlife Service.

16 Other organisations involved

None.

