

## RECOVERY OUTLINE

# White-bellied Storm-Petrel (Tasman Sea)

1	Family	Hydrobatidae
2	Scientific name	<i>Fregetta grallaria grallaria</i> (Vieillot, 1817)
3	Common name	White-bellied Storm-Petrel (Tasman Sea)
4	Conservation status	Vulnerable: D2

### 5 Reasons for listing

Within Australian territory, the subspecies has a very restricted distribution, breeding at only two locations (Vulnerable: D2). Global status also Vulnerable: D2.

Australian breeding colonies	Estimate	Reliability
Extent of occurrence	20 km <sup>2</sup>	high
trend	stable	high
Area of occupancy	3 km <sup>2</sup>	high
trend	stable	high
No. of breeding birds	1,000	low
trend	stable	high
No. of sub-populations	2	medium
Largest sub-population	700	low
Generation time	10 years	low
Global population share	40 %	low
Level of genetic exchange	low	low

### 6 Intraspecific taxa

The other two subspecies, *F. g. leucogaster* (Tristan da Cunha, Amsterdam I., Isle St Paul) and *F. g. segethi* (Juan Fernandez I.), both occur outside Australian territory. Globally, the species is Least Concern.

### 7 Past range and abundance

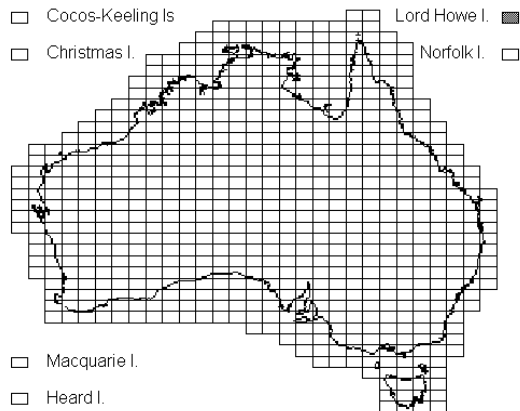
In Australian territory, breeding recorded Lord Howe I. and nearby islands (Roach I., Ball's Pyramid, Muttonbird I. and possibly Blackburn I.; Hindwood, 1940, Hutton, 1991). Also breeding on Curtis and Macauley I. (Kermadec Is), north of New Zealand. When not breeding, apparently disperses over Tasman Sea and possibly Coral Sea (Marchant and Higgins, 1990).

### 8 Present range and abundance

Extinct from Lord Howe I. since 1913 (Hindwood, 1940), but breeding continues on nearby islands (Marchant and Higgins, 1990, Hutton, 1991).

### 9 Ecology

White-bellied Storm-Petrels breed in rock crevices on islands and forage far out to sea. They feed pelagically on squid and crustaceans (Hutton, 1991).



### 10 Threats

Having been eliminated from Lord Howe I. within a year of the arrival of Black Rats *Rattus rattus* (Hindwood, 1940, Fullagar and Disney, 1975), White-bellied Storm-Petrels are likely to be vulnerable to accidental introduction of rats to their refuges.

### 11 Information required

11.1 Develop a measure of population size that can be used to indicate trends in abundance.

### 12 Recovery objectives

12.1 Maintain numbers on islands currently used for nesting.

12.2 Enable expansion of sub-population to Lord Howe I.

### 13 Actions completed or under way

13.1 Strict quarantine is maintained on any vessels visiting Roach I. and Ball's Pyramid.

### 14 Management actions required

14.1 Census sub-population on Roach I. and Ball's Pyramid, or measure an indicator of population size, at least once every five years.

14.2 Eradicate rats from Lord Howe I.

### 15 Organisations responsible for conservation

New South Wales National Parks and Wildlife Service.

### 16 Other organisations involved

None.

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

Staff resources required 2001-2005

0.05

Project Officer<sup>1</sup>

Financial resources required 2001-2005

<i>Action</i>	<b>Conservation agencies</b>	<b>Other funding sources</b>	<i>Total</i>
<i>Develop census techniques</i>	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$20,000
<i>Monitoring Lord Howe I.<sup>1</sup></i>	\$8,000	\$0	\$8,000
<i>Rat eradication Lord Howe I.<sup>2</sup></i>	\$100,000	\$0	\$100,000
<b>Total</b>	\$118,000	\$10,000	\$128,000

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, Little Shearwater, White-bellied Storm-Petrel and Grey Ternlet.

18 Bibliography

Fullagar, P. J. and Disney, H. J. de S. 1975. The birds of Lord Howe Island: a report on the rare and endangered species. *ICBP Bull.* 12:187-202.

Hindwood, K. A. 1940. The birds of Lord Howe Island. *Emu* 40:1-86.

Hutton, I. 1991. *Birds of Lord Howe Island, Past and Present*. The Author, Coffs Harbour.

Marchant, S. and Higgins, P. J. (eds) 1990. *The Handbook of Australian, New Zealand and Antarctic Birds*. Oxford University Press, Melbourne.

Comments received from

Barry Baker, David Priddel.