



Bonjour Comité, Hola Grupo, Hello Group:

I'm writing to share news Related to the Black-capped Petrel since March 2012. There's a lot to tell!

Organizing Emails Through YahooGroups

A Diablotin YahooGroup has been created to facilitate communications among the many individuals interested in the Diablotin. The ~100 people on our contact list created over the past few years have all been added to the YahooGroup at <http://tech.groups.yahoo.com/group/Diablotin/>

To Post a general message to everyone in the group:

Diablotin@yahoogroups.com

To Unsubscribe:

Diablotin-unsubscribe@yahoogroups.com

To Subscribe:

Diablotin-subscribe@yahoogroups.com

Please share with others!

Up Close and Personal with a Black-capped Petrel Fledgling

Philippe Bayard, President of Société Audubon Haiti, has long-supported Black-capped Petrel conservation, but recently it took on a very personal twist when he hosted a young bird in his home! The rescue and release of a young bird – christened Gaston – found on the balcony of Haiti's Central Bank is joyously told by local writer Amandine Guerre. See the article posted at http://www.fws.gov/birds/waterbirds/petrel/pdfs/BCPE_Central_Bank.pdf with a detailed timeline of events provided by Philippe at http://www.fws.gov/birds/waterbirds/petrel/pdfs/BCPE_Rescue_Timeline.pdf.

Finding More Petrel Nests

Gaston was not the only young Black-capped Petrel caught on camera recently. This breeding season, the Grupo Jaragua team led by Ernst Rupp used camera traps to follow the development of over 20 chicks, almost all of which fledged! Images of one youngster caught on camera stretching his wings are posted at <http://www.fws.gov/birds/waterbirds/petrel/>. Also posted is an interim field report from April 2012 describing Grupo Jaragua's second full

season of field work near Loma del Toro. A complete field report, documenting techniques (including the use of radar and thermal imagery) and findings is under development.

ABC's New Seabird Program Director

On behalf of the whole group, we would like to thank Jessica Hardesty Norris for her exceptional dedication and outstanding contributions to establishing and organizing our group, and pulling together the Conservation Action Plan, among many other accomplishments that will continue to benefit our efforts to conserve the Black-capped Petrel. We wish her all the best in her future pursuits from her new home in Charleston, South Carolina, US. Naturally, American Bird Conservancy (ABC) will continue to support petrel conservation activities such as Grupo Jaragua's work in Hispaniola, with funding through U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and others.

Also on behalf of our entire group, we would like to extend a warm welcome Jessica's successor, Holly Freifeld, who began work with ABC in July. Holly is a highly accomplished biologist with a wealth of experience in the conservation of other petrels and island seabirds. She is eager to begin working closely our group and supporting our work in the Caribbean.

Progress on Conserving La Visite's Forests

Based on current knowledge of the Black-capped Petrel's distribution, the 7 km of forested escarpment on Massif de la Hotte, in La Visite National Park, Haiti, is likely the single most important site for breeding Black-capped Petrels. This and adjacent areas of broadleaf cloud forest support Bicknell's Thrush and other Neotropical migrant birds, as well as surprisingly rich endemic biodiversity. To advance conservation there, Candian Wildlife Service and BirdLife International sponsored a study under the aegis of the Société Audubon Haiti (SAH) to assess recent and current development activities financed by foreign-assistance and to recommend ways to meet conservation goals by addressing key institutional, cultural and socio-economic factors. In cooperation with SAH, Joel Timyan, Jim Goetz and Juan Carlos Martínez authored the report posted at

http://www.fws.gov/birds/waterbirds/petrel/pdfs/SAH_BITH_La%20Visite_Report_2012.pdf/.

The US Fish and Wildlife Service has awarded Vermont Center for Ecostudies (VCE) a grant through its Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act program to work with local Haitian NGO partner, Fondation Seguin, to undertake a two year project in La Visite National Park to protect intact forest areas and to restore forest areas degraded by clearing, grazing and agriculture. The pilot project will provide direct, conditional incentives as part of a payment for ecosystem services (PES) framework. This project is focused on Bèrak Valley, but ideally lessons learned from this project will have broader-scale effects that enhance both local livelihoods and Black-capped Petrel conservation. Notably, Jim Goetz, one of the authors of the Conservation Action Plan for the Black-capped Petrel, will work with VCE to lead this project.

Plan de Acción en español

Ahora el Plan de Acción para la Conservación del Diablotín es disponible en español en línea:

<http://www.fws.gov/birds/waterbirds/petrel/pdfs/PlanFinalSpanish.pdf>

And More

A publication of interest:

(Open Access at <http://www.int-res.com/abstracts/meps/v454/p251-261/>):

T. Hass, J. Hyman, B. X. Semmens. 2012. Climate change, heightened hurricane activity, and extinction risk for an endangered tropical seabird, the black-capped petrel *Pterodroma hasitata*. (Mar Ecol Prog Ser). Vol. 454: 251–261, 2012.

The 90-day Finding for Petition to List under the US Endangered Species Act came out on June 12, 2012. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service found that the petition presented substantial information indicating that listing the black-capped petrel may be warranted.

<http://www.fws.gov/caribbean/cappedpetrel.html> The Service will now undertake a comprehensive review.

How Can You Help?

First, keep sharing news about this bird and its conservation. Interest and excitement are important drivers for conservation!

This newsletter compiled by Jennifer Wheeler, [Jennifer A Wheeler@fws.gov](mailto:Jennifer.A.Wheeler@fws.gov), with assistance from many, particularly Jim Goetz. Distributed August 16, 2012.