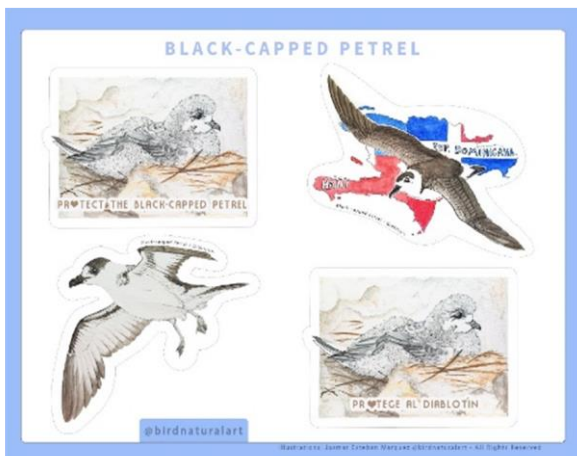




ANNUAL UPDATE ON ACTIVITIES May 2020

Usually, at this time of year, field studies and conservation activities focused on the Black-capped Petrel (aka Diablotin) are well underway. Unfortunately, this is a very strange year, with Covid19 curtailing field and community work for several weeks. Crews have begun to return to the field, but no one can say when things will be back to “normal.” Until then, it is a good opportunity to take a breath and reflect on a very full previous 12 months of petrel work. This time period is marked by some exciting firsts as well as gratifying progress on ongoing projects!

First some fun stuff:



(Left) Josmar Marquez, a Venezuelan artist and conservationist, has offered his talents to help with petrel conservation. Here is a sample of sticker art he is making available. Email: josmar.marquez@gmail.com

(Right) Jennifer Wheeler designed yarn pom-pom chicks for gifts and education; a craft guide is available on the [group website](#).



FINDING THE PETREL

FIRST-TIME CAPTURE AT SEA

In May 2019, a collaboration between American Bird Conservancy (ABC), Seabirding Pelagic Cruises, Northern New Zealand Seabird Trust and Clemson University/South Carolina Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit – U.S. Geological Survey accomplished an unprecedented feat: the capture and tracking of Black-capped Petrels at-sea. The goal of the project, in addition to successfully testing capture techniques, was to record at-sea movements of the petrels and attempt to locate unknown nesting areas. Eleven Black-capped Petrels were netted at sea offshore Cape Hatteras, North Carolina, USA and ten outfitted with solar-powered satellite transmitters.

An ABC news release reviews details of the capture event: <https://abcbirds.org/article/historic-first-for-mysterious-seabird-achieved-with-net-launcher-perseverance-and-chum/>. Another describes the findings after eight months of tracking: <https://abcbirds.org/article/milestone-black-capped-petrel-tracking-results>.



Team members prepare to launch a zodiac from which petrels will be captured with a net gun.

Credit: Jennifer Wheeler

Most of the tracked birds stayed in the northwest Atlantic, one traveling north into Canadian waters. Excitingly, two traveled inland on Hispaniola, with their movements consistent with breeding behavior (spending time in one location). Their destinations in the Cordillera Central area of the Dominican Republic (DR) and La Visite escarpment in Haiti are already known as nesting locations; however, the breakthrough was that one of the tracked birds was a light morph and arrived on Hispaniola in late September, two months earlier than dark morphs are known to do. Only nests of dark morphs have been found to date, with breeding behaviors commencing around December. The study findings, which will be described in an upcoming scientific article, provide new insights into a bird whose taxonomy has yet to be understood.

ON THE GROUND IN HISPANIOLA – SONG METERS AND NEST SEARCHING

As noted above, areas of DR’s Cordillera Central, particularly Valle Nuevo, are targeted for nest searching. The discovery of three new nests in Valle Nuevo was announced by Grupo Jaragua in April 2019 and since then, another four petrel nests have been confirmed. When the field team is able to return to the location, they will continue to investigate several more promising cavities, some with the use of climbing gear. If all show activity, the total known nests at Valle Nuevo would be up to 13, the first one being found in 2017.

The difficulty of finding nests is illustrated also in the border area known as Zapoten (north of Loma del Toro in the DR). In January 2019, the monitoring team documented calls during three nights of intensive direct listening in Zapoten and spent several long exploring the cracks and crevices of the promising terrain. To date, no nests have been found in the area but the team will continue their search as they are able.

Unfortunately, Grupo Jaragua was unable to deploy song meters this year due to coronavirus disruptions; the presence of calls helps focus search effort and monitor petrel activity.

FIRST RADAR STUDIES IN GUADELOUPE

Long-desired by petrel conservationists and island biologists, a first radar study for petrels was conducted on Guadeloupe in late January 2020 by Adam Brown, with Environmental Protection in the Caribbean (EPIC). Adam, and project champion Antoine Chabrolle, an environmental engineer now living in France, were supported by a partnership between Association des Mateurs Amicaux des Z’Oiseaux et de la Nature aux Antilles (AMAZONA) and Association pour l’Etude et la protection des Vertébrés et végétaux des petites Antilles (AEVA), supported by Parc National de la Guadeloupe (PNG). This is the same partnership that undertook extensive on-the-ground expeditions during the 2017 breeding season, which along with historic evidence, guided the selection of recent radar survey sites.



Antoine Chabrolle poses with radar equipment below La Soufrière, an active volcano on southern Basse-Terre island, Guadeloupe. *Credit: Adam Brown*

An article released by PNG (see <http://www.guadeloupe-parcnational.fr/fr/des-connaissances/les-missions-scientifiques/lactualite-scientifique/en-attente-du-petrel-diablotin?>) hints at the intriguing results of the surveys. As stated in the article, the data will be carefully studied to determine what was detected on the radar. Stay tuned for the formal report!

REPEAT OF RADAR SURVEYS IN DOMINICA

Following his time on Guadeloupe, Adam Brown (EPIC) transported his radar equipment to Dominica and spent two weeks there working with Stephen Durand, Machel Sulton, and other members of the Dominica Division of Forestry. It was always EPIC's goal to repeat every five years the radar surveys first conducted on Dominica in 2015, in order to gain insights on population changes over time. Additionally, there was a need to examine the effects of Hurricane Maria in 2017 – large swaths of toppled trees and extensive areas denuded by landslides – in relation to potential petrel nesting areas.

Eight nights of radar surveys were conducted: at seven sites visited in 2015 and at one new location. Gratifyingly, petrel-like targets were detected among all sites. EPIC's full report will soon be released with further details on the research and will be made available on the group website.

The radar surveys also stimulated ongoing work to locate nesting locations using song meters. Four song meters are now in place near four mountain tops in Dominica; Division of Forestry staff will work to collect these data and maintain accessibility to the deployment sites.

A LITTLE LOOKING IN CUBA

Biologists with the Cuban organization, BioEco, have long expressed an interest in continuing with the search for Diablotin in Cuba. Logistical challenges prevented a trip into the Sierra Madre mountains, but the group organized an evening coastal survey earlier this year. They observed between 16:30 and 23:00 and detected 5 individuals sitting at sea, about 1 km away from the coast. Then, they heard petrels calling for most of the night but mostly from 21:00 to 23:00. Additional images are posted here:



Observers with BioEco look and listen for Black-capped Petrels. *Credit: Caribbean Biological Corridor (CBC)*

<https://www.facebook.com/corredorbiologicoenelcaribe.3/posts/603232917196237>.

UNDERSTANDING THE PETREL AND ITS THREATS

ANOTHER FULL SEASON OF PETREL WORK IN LA VISITE

2019 marked the second season in which EPIC mentored a Haitian-led team to monitor an area along the La Visite ridge. Overseen by Anderson Jean, a team visited Parc National Naturel La Visite several times between March and July 2019, in order to monitor known nesting colonies near Tet Opak (French spelling is Tête Opaque). The team also attempted to locate new Diablotin nests in other areas of the La Visite ridge, but none were found.

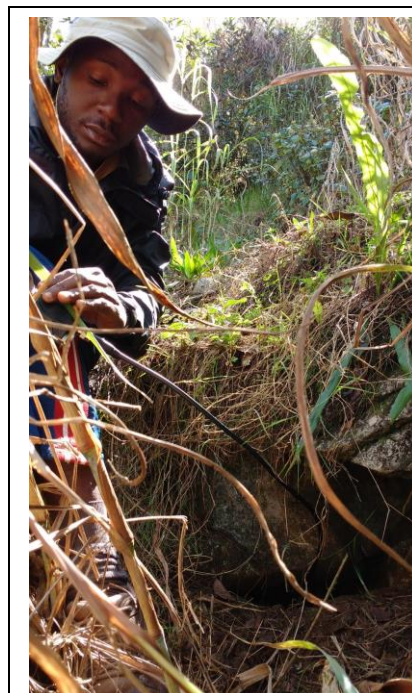
At Tet Opak, total of 42 Black-capped Petrel nest cavities were monitored: 29 of these had been located in 2018; 13 of the nests were newly located in 2019. During monthly visits between March and July, the team inspected each known nest cavity and recorded its contents and their status. The fate of the 42 nest cavities was as follows:

- 9 were blocked by tree fern cuttings prior to egg laying
- 33 were considered “active” (“active” = an egg and/or a chick were observed). Of these;
 - 15 chicks fledged successfully,
 - 13 nesting efforts failed due to predation,
 - 5 were abandoned for unknown reasons.

Using these figures, fledging success for the Tet Opak petrel colony was about 45%.

During the monitoring visits, the team identified numerous conservation threats to nesting petrels, including fires, tree fern cuttings, and introduced mammals.

- Multiple fires were documented throughout the breeding season, primarily due to farmers and ranchers using slash and burn techniques to clear forested areas nearby. One particularly disastrous fire, linked to a community celebration, reportedly attracted and killed more than a hundred adult Black-capped Petrels (petrels are attracted to bright lights, in a similar way to moths and other insects).
- As observed in 2018, tree fern harvest poses a threat to Diablotin in La Visite. This activity removes much-needed root systems as well as soil/water retention systems for the forest, and piles of ferns prior to transport have blocked nest cavity entrances.
- Camera traps were deployed at ten active nests within the colony. At all ten petrel nests, during each month, the presence of house cats, black rats, mongoose, and dogs was documented. Additionally, humans were documented nearby, but none were seen examining or disturbing nests.



Anderson Jean using an endoscope to check the contents of a Black-capped Petrel nest in La Visite National Park. *Credit: EPIC*



The full report for the 2019 breeding season is on the [group website](#). Plans for the 2020 field season at La Visite National Park included monitoring, trapping of non-native predators, managing aspects of the tree fern harvest, and exploration into the reduction of fires. Covid-19 has disrupted these plans, but there is hope for some reduced level of monitoring by local team members, cameras and song meters.

Fire in the forest adjacent to the petrel colony on Tet Opak. *Credit: EPIC*

NEST MONITORING ELSEWHERE ON HISPANIOLA

In 2019, Grupo Jaragua continued its program of monitoring at sites within the DR and along the Haiti-DR border. Teams visited nest sites about every 6 weeks during the months of October through July. In total, 58 nests in four locations were monitored.

- 48 active nest cavities were monitored along the border:
 - 31 in Loma del Toro (DR); 22 nests appeared to have fledged.
 - 17 monitored in Morne Vincent (Haiti); 13 appeared to have fledged.
- 4 nests were monitored in Valle Nuevo (DR), 3 appeared to have fledged.
- 6 nests monitored in Loma Quemada; 2 appear to have fledged.



An adult petrel is caught by camera trap as it makes its way towards its burrow on Morne Vincent. *Credit: Grupo Jaragua*

Threats observed in person or captured on camera during the last year remain similar to those seen in previous years. Working with border communities seem to be working in terms of halting agricultural encroachment, but birds remain threatened by non-native species, fire, and collisions and/or strandings around lighted structures. Some trapping was conducted to assess predator pressure; Tomahawk live traps were deployed for four days each at Loma del Toro and Valle Nuevo in January and February 2019, respectively. Just three rats were taken, all at Valle Nuevo. Fortunately, no notable fires occurred in the border area last year. Nor were any grounded birds reported near towers or in coastal communities in 2019.

Grupo Jaragua commenced field work for the 2020 season, ceased activities in February due to Covid19, and is now working to have teams return to the field.

CONTINUED PREDICTIVE HABITAT MODELLING

Over the last year, Yvan Satgé, with the South Carolina Cooperative Research Unit - Clemson University, tested and expanded a preliminary model for predicting suitable nesting habitat for petrels. The model should help focus nest-search efforts and assess land-based threats. Working with Ernst Rupp, Adam Brown and Patrick Jodice, Yvan analyzed the environmental characteristics of known nesting habitats and developed the predictors of suitable nesting habitat: high altitude, relatively close to the coast, and in forests of medium tree cover and density.

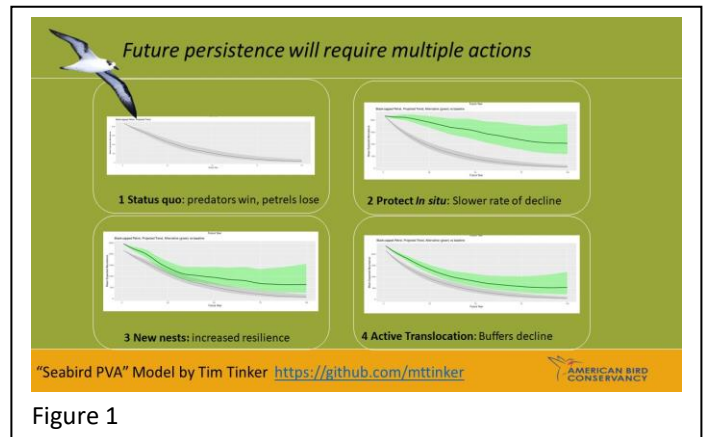
Suitability maps for Hispaniola were updated and then developed for the whole Caribbean region. On Hispaniola, the model correctly highlighted the areas where petrels are known to nest, but also identified possible nesting areas in locations not expected to be suitable. The maps allowed for an estimation of the total area of suitable nesting habitat on Hispaniola and found that forest loss due to hurricanes (especially Hurricane Matthew in 2016), forest fires, and encroachment from agriculture have severely decreased petrel habitat between 2000 and 2018. Offsetting these distressing findings, the model indicates that possible nesting habitat exists in the mountains of southeastern Cuba, Jamaica, Dominica and Saint Vincent, in areas where threats of deforestation are less severe.

A manuscript describing the methods used is forthcoming in Birds Conservation International.

META-POPULATION VIABILITY ANALYSIS

In collaboration with other group members, Hannah Nevins (American Bird Conservancy) is evaluating the relative long-term effects of overarching conservation strategies using meta-population viability analysis program (Seabirds mPVA). Newly developed in the Coastal Conservation Lab, University of California at Santa Cruz, this model provides a quantitative assessment of alternate management actions by evaluating projected future population trajectories and quasi-extinction risk (QE) within the next 50 years. [Quasi-extinction is a threshold value that reflects the fact that a population with fewer than 50 individuals will become functionally extinct].

Scenarios that were initially modeled include 1) current baseline conditions, 2) protection from predators at known sites, 3) discovery of new unprotected site(s), and 4) creation of a protected site (i.e., a fenced area or predator-free island) (Figure 1, inset). An analysis of baseline conditions suggests a high probability (73%) of QE within the next 100 years (confidence interval 47%-90%). Results also suggest that all active management actions (scenarios 2 to 4) will slow and buffer the rate of decline and QE. For example, if all known nest sites were protected from predators, this addition would greatly lessen extinction risk.



The model is also being used to explore outcomes based on deteriorating conditions, or conversely, based on reducing various threats. Variables related to predation, loss of habitat, mortality from light attraction or collisions, losses at sea, as well as establishment of new sites were examined. The results point to predation as a primary driver of QE risk, followed by habitat availability and number of sites.

Model results are based on imperfect knowledge about the petrel's life history and its threats. For example, there is no actual data for mortalities at sea, but on land, we know collision/fires could be as much as 100+ petrels in a given year. Despite uncertainties, population viability analysis assists in evaluating the relative benefits of alternate strategies as well as identifying key information gaps. The research group will continue to refine these analyses and integrate the results into conservation action prioritization.

RESEARCH TIDBITS

Yet To Come: Diet Analysis Using Fecal DNA

Yvan Satgé collected fecal samples from nesting petrels in April 2018, but import into the U.S. was delayed. Samples arrived in December 2019, Yvan extracted DNA, and sent it on to Dr. Gemma Clucas of Cornell University. Unfortunately, analysis is delayed by the Covid19-caused closure of her lab.

Insects Collected in Petrel Burrows

In 2018, a cocoon incorporating petrel feathers was collected from a burrow in Loma del Toro, DR. Mike Caterino, entomologist at Clemson University, sequenced DNA to determine that the best match was the lepidoptera family Tineidae. Yvan plans to write a short note about that, from a natural history standpoint.

Mike also sequenced a fly that field team member Pirrin Jairo Matos noted in an active burrow. DNA revealed it to be a 'small dung fly' in the genus *Fannia* (Family Fanniidae). There are only two species in this genus reported from Hispaniola (<http://www.lucioPesce.net/pdf12/haiti.pdf>), neither of which the fly resembled, thus it is likely to be an additional species on the island never reported.

AT SEA UNDERSTANDING

Petrels spend the majority of their life at sea, and knowledge of their movements and habits gives insights to potential threats they face there. These threats might result in direct mortalities or affect the birds' health and success over the long term. Additionally, based on emerging information, there is interest in a revision of the at-sea range maps typically given for the Black-capped Petrel.

Gulf of Mexico Sightings

New data from vessel surveys in the Gulf of Mexico GoMMAPPS program report ~30 records of Diablotin between 2017-2019 and show that the species use the entire east-west span of Gulf of Mexico. The Gulf hosts extensive oil and gas activity, presenting threats to a foraging seabird that is attracted to anthropogenic light. The GoMMAPPS program was developed to conduct broad-scale surveys to assess species distribution and abundance for marine mammals, sea turtles, and seabirds from near shore to the U.S. EEZ in the northern Gulf of Mexico. Pamela Michael and Pat Jodice (Clemson University/South Carolina Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit – U.S. Geological Survey) and others are working on a paper about the Black-capped Petrel's distribution in the Gulf.

Tracking Studies

The USGS preliminary report on the 2018 tracking of petrels with GPS came out in April 2019 and is on the group website and at <https://www.atlanticseabirds.org/publications>.

USGS hopes to publish an article by the end of the year on satellite tracking of the 10 petrels captured along the western edge of the Gulf Stream east of Cape Hatteras, North Carolina in May 2019. Until then, principal investigators have released the basic information: Of the 10 captured birds, three were female and seven birds were males (based on genetic analyses); six birds were classified as dark morphs, and four birds were classified as light morphs. Birds were equipped with 8 g solar-powered satellite tags set on a 6 hour on/28 hour off duty cycle. The tags transmitted from May to January and showed that all individuals ranged from 28 – 43 degrees latitude, with substantial levels of activity east of the Gulf Stream. Compared to birds tracked from breeding sites in 2014 and 2018, the current use areas appear similar to use areas during post-breeding periods, but dissimilar to use areas from 15 trips recorded during known breeding periods.



Measurements are taken on a Black-capped Petrel captured at sea and fitted with a satellite transmitter.
Credit: Jennifer Wheeler

New Records in the Caribbean Sea

The following is an abstract from a publication in *Marine Ornithology* last year (Leopold, M. F., Geelhoed, S. C. V., Scheidat, M., Cremer, J., Debrot, A. O., & Van Halewijn, R. (2019). A review of records of the black-capped petrel *Pterodroma hasitata* in the Caribbean sea. *Marine Ornithology*, 47(2), 235-241): "We compiled a database of at-sea sightings of Black-capped Petrels in the Caribbean Sea from 1953 to 2018 by thoroughly reviewing published and unpublished records; here, we add to the literature 12 new records from a research cruise conducted in February 2018 across the Caribbean Sea. Our database was augmented with recently published information from three birds that were fitted with tracking devices. Based on the collected information, we argue that the existing distribution

maps of Black-capped Petrels need adjustments. We show that Black-capped Petrels have been recorded throughout the central parts of the Caribbean, from the known breeding sites in the north down to coastal waters off Panama, Colombia, and Venezuela. However, the birds probably forage only in small parts of the Caribbean Sea (i.e., the coastal upwelling zones off Hispaniola and Cuba in the north and off the South American mainland in the south). The waters in between (i.e., in the central Caribbean Sea) appear to be mainly used as a corridor, while the eastern and western parts are unimportant. This indicates that certain hotspots within the Caribbean Sea may be more important to this endangered species than previously thought.”

SECURING THE PETREL

CARRYING ON COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT IN BOUKAN CHAT

The following paragraphs are excerpts from the March 2020 report “Black-Capped Petrel Conservation Through Poverty Alleviation in a Haitian Community” submitted by EPIC to the Betty Petersen Conservation Fund of BirdsCaribbean. The full report is available on the [group website](#).

The year 2019 was full of successes and challenges for the Black-capped Petrel conservation program in Boukan Chat, a town on the DR-Haiti border. The country of Haiti was working through major political unrest. This unrest was associated with violence through much of the country, economic instability, gas and food shortages, and travel restrictions for many. This instability limited travel to Haiti for many of the foreign members of the conservation team. These travel restrictions limited the import of conservation equipment for the team as well as limited some aspects of the conservation activity that was to be undertaken by foreign members.

With these aforementioned challenges, additional expectations and tasks were placed on in-Haiti staff and partners. These staff members and partners, despite the wide-ranging challenges, were able to take on the added responsibilities and successfully carry out almost all aspects of the conservation effort. Anderson Jean, the Haiti Project Manager, Grupo Jaragua, and Plant with Purpose, were all able to lead efforts in youth education, sustainable farming, petrel research, and the pride campaign. Overall, our program grew in many aspects through 2019, and all this despite the challenges associated with the unrest throughout Haiti.

The Black-capped Petrel conservation program has become a fixture in Boukan Chat, Haiti. With aspects of the conservation program integrated into the education system, the main economy, the recreation, and the entertainment, the petrel conservation has touched most members of the community in one way or another. The high breeding success rate of the Black-capped Petrel nest colony immediately adjacent to the farms



2019 FILM: [THE DIABLOTIN FESTIVAL](#)

In case you have not already seen it, there is a new short film out on the Black-capped Petrel conservation efforts in Boukan Chat. It portrays the now-annual festival and is extremely moving. The film was created by Soulcraft Allstars, produced by EPIC, and narrated by Haitian biologist Anderson Jean.

where we implement our sustainable agriculture program, speaks of the positive impact that the programs are having on the petrels as well as their forest habitat. As a comparison of petrel breeding success, the petrel colony that is monitored in La Visite National Park, 56km to the west in Haiti, had half the success than was observed near Boukan Chat. The agricultural practices in La Visite National Park are not managed for sustainability nor is there a youth education or pride campaign, as there is in Boukan Chat.

NO UPDATE ON U.S. ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT LISTING

In October 2018, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) released a Proposed Rule for the Black-capped Petrel's Listing on the U.S. Endangered Species Act. A number of public comments were submitted on the proposed rule, including those compiled by the International Black-capped Petrel Conservation. Documents are viewable at www.regulations.gov, search under Docket [FWS-R4-ES-2018-0043](https://www.regulations.gov/docket/FWS-R4-ES-2018-0043). There has been no update on this issue in the last year.

WORKING GROUP CONSIDERATIONS

WORKING GROUP MEETING AT BIRDSCARIBBEAN INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

We had a great turnout: 28 people from 10 countries/territories participated in the working group meeting held at the BirdsCaribbean International Conference in Guadeloupe in July 2019. Participants made some new contacts and friends, identified capacity and opportunities, and shared the current state of work among areas and next steps for petrel conservation in their countries. This built on ten petrel-related presentations by various participants during the conference. A special focus of the discussion was given to areas of interest within the Lesser Antilles: Guadeloupe, Martinique and Dominica. It was also noteworthy that a Cuban delegation was interested in pursuing work to locate petrels in their country.

Full notes are on the Black-capped Petrel group website.



Petrel conservationists and enthusiasts meet at BirdsCaribbean's International Conference in Guadeloupe.
Credit Jennifer Wheeler.

BIRDSCARIBBEAN SEABIRD WORKING GROUP

The International Black-capped Petrel Conservation Group is just one of the working groups hosted by BirdsCaribbean, an organization that seeks to support and connect individuals and entities working in and around the Caribbean to conserve birds and their habitats.

BirdsCaribbean's Seabird Working Group (SWG) is comprised of seabird practitioners, researchers, conservationists, and educators working to better understand and conserve populations of the full suite of breeding and migrating seabirds that use the Caribbean.

The SWG is currently re-grouping under two new co-Chairs and they are seeking input from members and potential members. Let them know who you are, what you do, where your activities take place, and/or how the SWG can help you.

PLEASE FILL OUT THE SEABIRD WORKING GROUP SURVEY!

English version: <https://forms.gle/J11E84mqm8KVYqL6A>

Spanish version: <https://forms.gle/96M2DIUUL245jtdy6>

French version: <https://forms.gle/S4QBc8qQbSrUz1JW8>



WORLD SEABIRD UNION AND CONFERENCE



It was anticipated that the Diablotin would have good visibility at the Third World Seabird Conference later this year. Unfortunately, due to the increasing global spread of the coronavirus, consequent increased number of international travel restrictions along with changing public health measures globally, organizers decided to postpone the meeting. New dates have been secured at the Hotel Grand Chancellor in Hobart, Australia for October 4 - 8, 2021 and organizers will be providing more information on postponement arrangements soon.

The Diablotin and related subjects did have high visibility during the recent 6th World Seabird Twitter Conference, May 4-6, 2020. Check out these "talks" posted on Twitter at [#WSTC6](https://twitter.com/WSTC6) – along with many others on seabird ecology, biology, conservation, management, education and art from around the world.

- Patrick Jodice [@WSUChair](https://twitter.com/WSUChair) May 4 19:30 GMT: Revising the marine range of the endangered black-capped petrel (*Pterodroma hasitata*)
- Yvan Satge [@YvanSatge](https://twitter.com/YvanSatge) May 5 06:45 GMT: Looking for the devil's nest: Modelling the nesting habitat of the endangered black-capped petrel (*Pterodroma hasitata*) in the Caribbean
- Pamela E Michael [@FardelaGringa](https://twitter.com/FardelaGringa) May 5 20:45 GMT: Flying without a passport: northern Gulf of Mexico exemplifies multi-national use with uncertain origin of seabirds
- Letizia Campioni [@letiziacampion1](https://twitter.com/letiziacampion1) May 5 07:00 GMT: Investigating the foraging ecology and exposure to mercury of the globally endangered Bermuda petrel (*Pterodroma cahow*) in relation to hatching failure
- Hannah Nevins/Jordan Rutter [@ABCbird](https://twitter.com/ABCbird) [@seabird_nerd](https://twitter.com/seabird_nerd) May 6 13:30 GMT: Seabirds in a crystal ball: predicting future outcomes of black-capped petrel (*Pterodroma hasitata*) conservation strategies using a new user-friendly modelling tool

WORKING GROUP TOOLS

Listserv: Group members can stay in touch with one another using the Diablotin@yahoogroups.com list. All interested parties are invited to join. Go to <http://groups.yahoo.com>, search under “Diablotin” and sign up. You need not have a Yahoo account.

Website: The [website for the working group](#) is hosted by BirdsCaribbean and includes a library of unpublished documents related to the Black-capped Petrel project. The website library now includes the unpublished reports noted in this newsletter as well as links to open access educational materials.

Please visit www.BirdsCaribbean.org, and search under “Petrel” or go directly to <https://www.birdscaribbean.org/our-work/black-capped-petrel-working-group/>



One six specimens collected by Dr. Nicasio Viña Bayes on 28 January 1977 at sea near the village of “Las Brujas” along the coast below Pico Turquino, in the Sierra Maestra mountains, Cuba. The image was taken in 2005 at the Museo de Historia Natural - Joaquin Fernandez de la Vara Pi, in Gibara, Holguin, Cuba. In Cuba, the Black-capped Petrel is called “Pajaro Bruja” or “Pampero de las Brujas.”

Newsletter prepared by Jennifer Wheeler (Jennifer.Wheeler@BirdsCaribbean.org), with contributions from Adam Brown, EPIC; Ernst Rupp, Grupo Jaragua; Hannah Nevins and Brad Keitt, American Bird Conservancy, and Yvan Satgé and Pat Jodice (South Carolina Cooperative Research Unit - Clemson University).