Summary
International Black-capped Petrel Conservation Group
Activities at the BirdsCaribbean International Meeting,
Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, July 18-22, 2024

Jennifer Wheeler, Chair

The Black-capped Petrel, or Diablotin, was given a high level of visibility at the BirdsCaribbean International Conference in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic. This was fitting as the petrel's only confirmed breeding location is Hispaniola, and the local host of the conference, Grupo Jaragua, is the lead Dominican organization for petrel monitoring and conservation. The Group's objectives for the conference were to bring individuals interested in the conservation of the Black-capped Petrel together, to share updates, exchange ideas and celebrate accomplishments.

On the conference's opening day, Jennifer Wheeler, chair of the International Black-capped Petrel Conservation Group, presented "Mountain Top Strongholds: The Story of Haiti's Black-capped Petrel." She presented on behalf of Anderson Jean, as he could not attend due to travel restrictions. Delegates were deeply moved by a short film, *The Diablotin Festival*, which tells the heartwarming story of how the community of Boukan Chat, alongside a team of conservationists, humanitarians, and storytellers, has united to protect the endangered Black-capped Petrel.

The advances of petrel study and conservation on the Dominican Republic side of Hispaniola were reviewed by Grupo Jaragua's Hector Andújar during the conference's Seabird Symposium. "Thirteen Years of Research, Monitoring and Protecting Black-capped Petrel (*Pterodroma hasitata*) in Hispaniola." Co-author Ernst Rupp, who is the lead of the Grupo Jaragua petrel team, was also unable to attend the conference in-person but provided up-to-date information remotely.

Fortunately, four members of the Grupo Jaragua petrel team – Esteban Garrido, Geny Marcelo Feliz, Juan Pérez Vidal, Juan Pablo Montero – were in attendance and present to receive an Achievement Award presented at the BirdsCaribbean General Business Meeting. The logistical, physical and emotional challenges of the field work in remote and difficult terrain where petrels reside were described, and names of all members – Haitian and Dominican -- read aloud. All the members of the Haitian and Dominican field teams will be provided with Certificates of Achievement and rain-jackets meant to make future field expeditions just a bit more comfortable!

Certificates state: "Demonstrating a remarkable level of stamina and determination in the face of challenging logistics, difficult terrain and adverse weather, these individuals have contributed greatly to the world's scientific understanding and conservation of the Black-capped Petrel.

About two dozen individuals attended the 1.5-hour evening working group meeting on the fourth day of the conference. After introductions, the group took advantage of the field tech's presence to ask specific questions about the conditions at the breeding locations in the most recent field season. Predation was a particular concern and would be the subject of a talk "Heightened Security: Predator Control to Increase Petrel Reproductive Success"given by Geny Marcelo Feliz in the Invasives Symposium the following day.

We then discussed the funding challenges of the upcoming field season. Although the Black-capped Petrel was recently listed as Endangered under the U.S. Endangered Species Act, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the national wildlife agency, is unable to provide financial aid for monitoring and management for the coming field season. We

learned of the significant in-kind support provided by Grupo Jaragua over the years, and the toll that the program has taken on staff resources and vehicle condition. Grupo Jaragua is committed to continuing petrel work, but other sources of cash must be located. Tom White, with the USFWS Ecological Services office in Puerto Rico, attended the discussion. He will serve as the agency's lead biologist for the petrel (having compiled the Species Status Assessment which underpinned the listing), but noted that USFWS's further work on designating critical habitat and developing recovery plans, would be led by staff in the Raleigh, North Carolina office.

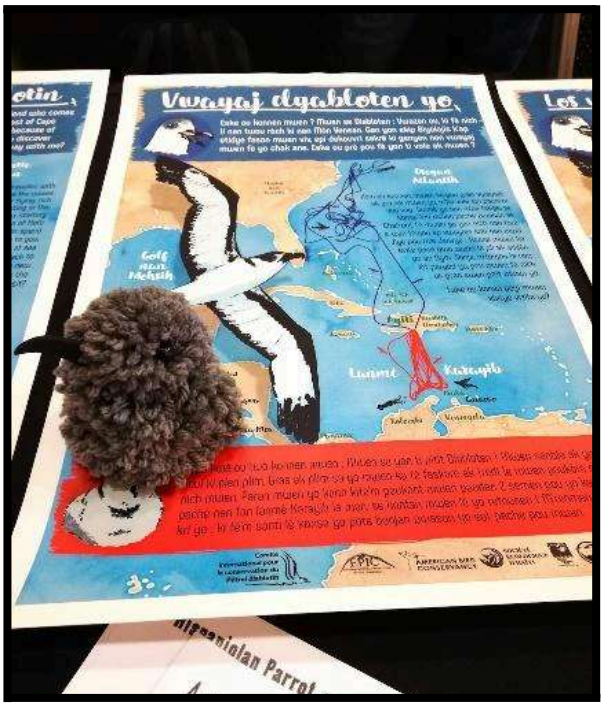
We then turned our attention to suspected petrel breeding in Cuba. Nicasio Viña talked at length about ideas for continuing searches in Cuba. Describing the suspected sites for Black-capped Petrel in the Sierra Maestra as "very hard and steep," he explained that a logical next step would be to try to capture petrels on the coast, using spotlights and mist nets. The lead for this project will be Carmen Plasencia with BioEco. In the Seabird Symposium, Carmen would present the "Phenology of Vocalizations of *Pterodroma hasitata* (Aves: Procellariidae) in La Bruja, Santiago de Cuba" describing the results of listening surveys conducted in previous years. Nicasio also discussed aspirations for an expedition to learn more about the area between Cuba, Jamaica and Hispaniola, motivated by the "30x30" international push for 30% of marine areas in MPAs by 2030. During the Seabird Symposium, a talk by Lucas Bernier described the numerous sightings of Black-capped Petrels in a recent at-sea expedition, "Filling the Gap: Seabird Monitoring on the Beata Ridge." In discussion funding, Nicasio noted that the Caribbean Biological Corridor program does not currently have any funding for work on Hispaniola.

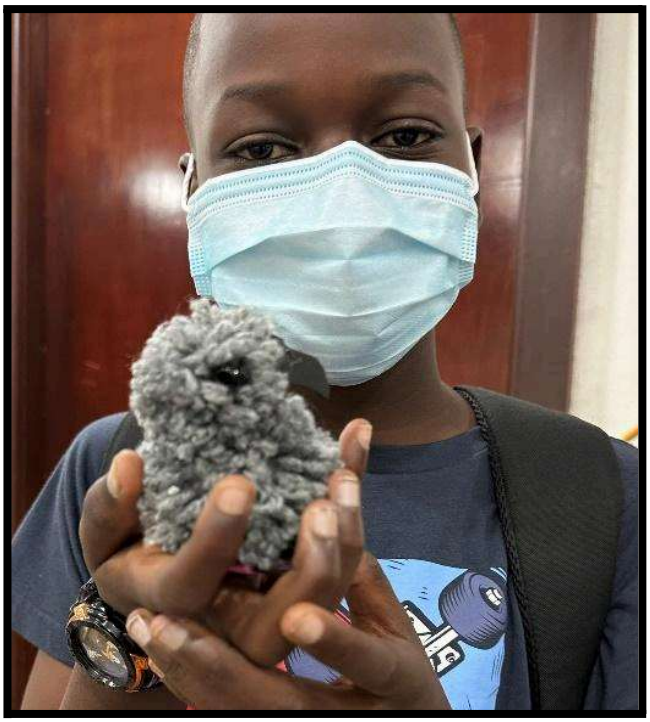
Brad Keitt with American Bird Conservancy was asked to describe possible restoration opportunities for Black-capped Petrel. He explained that funding had been obtained from the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF) to conduct an invasives species eradication (rats, cats and goats) on Alto Velo, a 1.02 square-kilometer island off the southern coast of the DR. An island free of mammalian predators might provide a refuge for Black-capped Petrels in the future. Brad described how social attraction techniques, such as decoys and sound recordings, might encourage seabirds like the Black-capped Petrel to colonize the island. Luis Ramos was asked to describe how petrel vocalizations are being broadcast from Desecheo Island, Puerto Rico, cleared of predators in recent years.

The final portion of the discussion focused on the disturbing level of mortalities caused by a large, guy-wired antenna adjacent to the Loma del Toro colony in Sierra de Bahoruco, DR. This threat has been discussed numerous times, but no avoidance measures have yet been put in place. Kirsty Swinerton offered a number of possibilities which could be explored. Collisions are just one of the anthropogenic threats facing Black-capped Petrels. Elsewhere in the conference, the likelihood of increased offshore wind energy infrastructure was noted. In the Seabird Symposium, Yvan Satgé noted that petrels were highly exposed to mercury in his presentation "Foraging Areas and Diet Link to High Mercury Levels in the Endangered Black-capped Petrel."

Attendees at the Working Group meeting, BirdsCaribbean International Conference (left to right):
Luis Ramos Vazquez, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; Nahira Arocho-Hernandez, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Andrea Thomen, Grupo Jaragua; Chris Rimmer, Vermont Center for Ecostudies; Susan Stine, U.S. Forest Service, Carmen Plasencia Leon, BioEco; Yolanda Leon, Juan Pablo Montero, Geny Marcelo Feliz, Juan Pérez Vidal, all Grupo Jaragua; Will Mackin, independent; Brad Keitt, Holly Robertson, American Bird Conservancy; Jorge Brocca, SOH; Nicasio Vina, CBC; Tom White, USFWS; Kirsty Swinnerton, Kent Wildlife Trust, Shivam Mahadeo, T&T Bird Observatory, Yvan Satgé, Clemson University. (Not shown, photographer, Jennifer Wheeler.

Finally, we raised the profile of the Black-capped Petrel by making sure hand-made yarn chicks were crafted and distributed during the conference. Bearing an uncanny resemblance to the real thing, these little chicks were a favorite of the young-at-heart and seabirds at the conference. Directions for making these yard chicks can be found at https://www.birdscaribbean.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/PomPomPetrelChickInstructions.pdf





ORAL PRESENTATIONS IN SESSION:

MOUNTAIN TOP STRONGHOLDS: THE STORY OF HAITI'S BLACK-CAPPED PETREL. Anderson Jean*, Rene Jeune*, Samuel Nossirel*, Tinio Louis*, Renozier Victome*, Maxon Fildor*, Jephtanie Francois*, Lionel Raymond*, Bazil Jonel*, Julcene Raymond*, Adam Brown** and Jennifer Wheeler***. *Action pour la Sauvegarde de l'Écologie en Haïti (ACSEH), Les Cayes, Haiti, **Environmental Protection in the Caribbean, Florida, USA, ***BirdsCaribbean, USA. E-Mail: Jennifer.Wheeler@birdscaribbean.org .

FILLING THE GAP: SEABIRD MONITORING ON THE BEATA RIDGE. Lucas Bernier, Jeffrey Bernus. Caribbean Cetacean Society. e-mail: lucas.bernier@ccs-ngo.com

PHENOLOGY OF VOCALIZATIONS OF PTERODROMA HASITATA (AVES: PROCELLARIIDAE) IN LA BRUJA, SANTIAGO DE CUBA. Flavia Alvarez Denis *, Carmen Plasencia León*, Leydis Sánchez Saldívar*, Nicasio Viña Dávila**, Freddy Rodríguez Santana*, Yasit Segovia Vega*. * Centro Oriental de Ecosistemas y Biodiversidad (BIOECO), Santiago de Cuba, Cuba; ** Secretaría del Corredor Biológico en el Caribe (CBC), República Dominicana. e-mail: flavia.alvarez@bioeco.cu

FORAGING AREAS AND DIET LINK TO HIGH MERCURY LEVELS IN THE ENDANGERED DIABLOTIN BLACK-CAPPED PETREL. Yvan Satgé*, Patrick Jodice**, Ernst Rupp †, Brad Keitt ††, Gemma Clucas ‡, Sarah Janssen ‡‡.*Clemson University, Clemson, USA; **U.S. Geological Survey South Carolina Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit, Clemson, USA; † Grupo Jaragua, Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic; †† American Bird Conservancy, Santa Cruz, USA; ‡ Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Ithaca, USA; ‡‡ U.S. Geological Survey Upper Midwest Water Science Center, Middleton, USA. e-mail: ySatgé@clemson.edu

THIRTEEN YEARS OF RESEARCH, MONITORING AND PROTECTING BLACK-CAPPED PETREL (Pterodroma hasitata) IN HISPANIOLA. Ernst Rupp, Esteban Garrido, Hector Andújar*, Jairo Matos, Jose Castillo, Jerson Feliz, Rene Jeune, Tinio Louis, Samuel Nossirel, Pierre Sanon, Geny Feliz, Juan Pablo Montero, Juan Vidal, Andrea Thomen, Yolanda Leon. Grupo Jaragua, Santo Domingo, DR. Email: ernst.rupp@grupojaragua.org.do.

HEIGHTENED SECURITY: PREDATOR CONTROL TO INCREASE PETREL REPRODUCTIVE SUCCESS. Ernst Rupp*, Anderson Jean** and Jennifer Wheeler***. *Grupo Jaragua, Santo Domingo, DR, **Action pour la Sauvegarde de l'Écologie en Haiti (ACSEH), Les Cayes, Haiti, ***BirdsCaribbean, USA. E-Mail: Jennifer.Wheeler@birdscaribbean.org

APPENDIX – Full Abstracts of Oral Presentations

MOUNTAIN TOP STRONGHOLDS: THE STORY OF HAITI'S BLACK-CAPPED PETREL.
Anderson Jean*, Rene Jeune*, Samuel Nossirel*, Tinio Louis*, Renozier Victome*, Maxon Fildor*, Jephtanie Francois*, Lionel Raymond*, Bazil Jonel*, Julcene Raymond*, Adam Brown** and Jennifer Wheeler***. *Action pour la Sauvegarde de l'Écologie en Haïti (ACSEH), Les Cayes, Haiti, **Environmental Protection in the Caribbean, Florida, USA, ***BirdsCaribbean, USA. E-Mail: Jennifer.Wheeler@birdscaribbean.org.

Haiti continues to host the greatest number of known Black-capped Petrel (Pterodroma hasitata) nests of any nation. Since its rediscovery in Haiti in 1963, the petrel has stood as a symbol of enduring nature in a country with tremendous environmental challenges. Nest monitoring has been conducted in Morne Vincent since 2011 and La Visite ridge since 2017, locations at either end of the Massif de la Selle. Nest success has been high (>80%) in many years, but it has dropped to ~40% in some years due to mammalian predation and nest destruction and disturbance. All nesting sites in Haiti are subject to habitat loss due to agricultural encroachment; fatal attraction to fires and anthropogenic light threaten fledgling and adult petrels. Threats are being addressed through a combination of strategies, including predator control, outreach about collisions, sustainable agriculture programs, and local community engagement. All activities are coordinated and supported by an international team in keeping with the 2021 Conservation Action Plan for the species. We highlight the abilities of field teams to persevere under difficult field conditions.

CIMAS DE MONTAÑA CLAVE: LA HISTORIA DEL DIABLOTIN EN HAITÍ.
Haití sigue albergando el mayor número de nidos conocidos del diablotín (Pterodroma hasitata) de cualquier nación. Desde su redescubrimiento en Haití en 1963, este petrel ha sido un símbolo de la naturaleza perdurable en un país con enormes desafíos ambientales. El monitoreo de nidos se ha llevado a cabo en Morne Vincent desde 2011 y en la cresta de La Visite desde 2017, ubicadas en ambos extremos del Massif de la Selle. El éxito de los nidos ha sido alto (>80%) en muchos años, pero ha caído a ~40% en algunos años debido a la depredación por mamíferos y la destrucción y perturbación de los nidos. Todos los sitios de anidación en Haití están sujetos a la pérdida de hábitat debido a la invasión agrícola; las fatalidades por la atracción hacia los incendios y hacia la luz antropogénica amenazan a los petreles jóvenes y adultos. Las amenazas se están abordando mediante una combinación de estrategias, incluyendo el control de depredadores, la concienciación sobre las colisiones, programas de agricultura sostenible y la participación de la comunidad local. Todas las actividades están coordinadas y apoyadas por un equipo internacional en consonancia con el Plan de Acción de Conservación de 2021 para la especie. Destacamos las habilidades de los equipos de campo para perseverar en condiciones de campo difíciles.

FILLING THE GAP: SEABIRD MONITORING ON THE BEATA RIDGE.

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Seabirds represent one of the most threatened groups of birds globally and there is a significant gap in knowledge regarding their distribution at sea. In February 2024, a three-week-long megafauna expedition was conducted in the Beata Ridge area, in waters of the Caribbean Sea south of the Dominican Republic. The expedition aimed to identify seabird species, record their presence, behavior, and life stages. A total of 15 bird species were identified, comprising both resident and migratory species, thereby establishing a baseline for seasonal presence. Not all species were encountered in pelagic waters, as five seabird species were clustered within a 15km radius from the coast. Overall, the Bridled/Sooty Terns (Onychoprion sp.) were the most abundant in terms of individual counts, while the Black-capped Petrel (Pterodroma hasitata) was the most frequently encountered. Of particular significance, the expedition yielded 80 confirmed sightings of the endemic and endangered Black-capped Petrel, totaling 101 individuals. Utilizing distance sampling methods, preliminary estimations suggest a mean of 2,500 (500 lower estimate) individuals using the area. Observations of feeding behavior were also documented. Currently, only a few nesting areas remain in the mountains of Hispaniola, with the IUCN estimating a maximum population size of 4,000 individuals. The Beata Ridge likely represents an important feeding area for this species.

RELLENANDO EL VACÍO: MONITOREO DE AVES MARINAS EN LA CRESTA DE BEATA

Las aves marinas representan uno de los grupos de especies de aves más amenazados a nivel mundial y existe una brecha significativa de conocimiento con respecto a su distribución en el mar. En febrero de 2024, se llevó a cabo una expedición de tres semanas de duración en megafauna en el área de la Cresta de Beata, en el sur de la República Dominicana. La expedición tuvo como objetivo identificar especies de aves marinas, registrar su presencia, comportamiento y etapas de vida. Se identificaron un total de 15 especies de aves, que incluyen tanto especies residentes como migratorias, estableciendo así una línea de base para la presencia estacional. No todas las especies se encontraron en aguas pelágicas, ya que cinco especies de aves marinas se agruparon dentro de un radio de 15 km de la costa. En general, Onychoprion anaethetus y O. fuscatus fueron los más abundantes en número de individuales, mientras que Pterodroma hasitata fue el más frecuentemente avistado. De particular importancia, la expedición produjo 80 avistamientos confirmados de P. hasitata, que está endémico y en peligro de extinción, totalizando 101 individuos. Utilizando métodos de muestreo de distancia, las estimaciones preliminares sugieren una media de 2,500 (estimación inferior de 500) individuos utilizando el área. También se documentaron observaciones del comportamiento de alimentación. Actualmente, solo quedan unas pocas áreas de anidación en las montañas de La Española, con la UICN estimando un tamaño máximo de población de 4,000 individuos. La Cordillera de Beata probablemente representa un área de alimentación importante para esta especie.

PHENOLOGY OF VOCALIZATIONS OF PTERODROMA HASITATA (AVES: PROCELLARIIDAE) IN LA BRUJA, SANTIAGO DE CUBA.

Flavia Alvarez Denis *, Carmen Plasencia León*, Leydis Sánchez Saldívar*, Nicasio Viña Dávila**, Freddy Rodríguez Santana*, Yasit Segovia Vega*. * Centro Oriental de Ecosistemas y Biodiversidad (BIOECO), Santiago de Cuba, Cuba; ** Secretaría del Corredor Biológico en el Caribe (CBC), República Dominicana. e-mail: flavia.alvarez@bioeco.cu

The Black-capped Petrel (Pterodroma hasitata) is the only species of its genus that nests in the Caribbean region. Listed as "Endangered" on the IUCN Red List, the species faces numerous threats. In Cuba, the first known report of the Black-capped Petrel was made in 1977 at La Bruja cove on the southern coast of the Sierra Maestra. This site is one of the few terrestrial locations where petrels can be regularly seen or heard. The aim of this study was to confirm the presence of the petrel and determine the phenology of nocturnal vocalizations at this site. To confirm presence, we surveyed at a fixed location for 12-hour periods, noting the time range when the species was detected and whether it was observed or heard. We recorded 656 detections through vocalizations over approximately 72 hours of sampling. In 99.5% of cases, we identified groups based on the number of vocalizations (more than one) coming from a specific direction. Three time ranges showed high vocalizing activity, with the highest number of detections occurring between 00:01 and 1:00. Further studies are recommended to increase knowledge about the species' distribution and nesting behavior in the region.

FENOLOGÍA DE LAS VOCALIZACIONES DE PTERODROMA HASITATA (AVES: PROCELLARIIDAE) EN LA BRUJA, SANTIAGO DE CUBA.

Pterodroma hasitata es la única especie de este género que nidifica en la región del Caribe. La especie se encuentra categorizada como “En peligro” de acuerdo con la lista roja de la IUCN debido a que enfrenta múltiples amenazas. En Cuba el primer reporte data de 1977 en la ensenada La Bruja, costa sur de la Sierra Maestra. Este es uno de los escasos sitios conocidos donde P. hasitata puede ser visto o escuchado desde tierra. El estudio tuvo como objetivos confirmar la presencia de P. hasitata y determinar la fenología de las vocalizaciones nocturnas en esta localidad. Con este fin se utilizó el método de conteo en punto fijo durante periodos de 12 horas, anotando el intervalo de tiempo en el que se detectaba la especie y si era observada u oída. Se realizaron 656 detecciones mediante vocalizaciones en aproximadamente 72 horas de muestreo. El 99,5% de los casos se identificaron como grupos por el número de vocalizaciones (mayor que uno) que provenían de una dirección específica. Se observan tres rangos horarios con altos valores de actividad de canto. La hora con mayor número de detecciones fue entre las 00:01 y la 1:00. Se recomienda la realización de estudios posteriores que incrementen el conocimiento sobre la distribución especie y su nidificación en la región.

FORAGING AREAS AND DIET LINK TO HIGH MERCURY LEVELS IN THE ENDANGERED DIABLOTIN BLACK-CAPPED PETREL.

Yvan Satgé*, Patrick Jodice**, Ernst Rupp †, Brad Keitt ††, Gemma Clucas ‡, Sarah Janssen ‡‡.*Clemson University, Clemson, USA; **U.S. Geological Survey South Carolina Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit, Clemson, USA; † Grupo Jaragua, Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic; †† American Bird Conservancy, Santa Cruz, USA; ‡ Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Ithaca, USA; ‡‡ U.S. Geological Survey Upper Midwest Water Science Center, Middleton, USA. e-mail: ySatgé@clemson.edu

The Diablotin (Black-capped Petrel Pterodroma hasitata) is an endangered pelagic seabird endemic to the Caribbean, with a population estimated at 2,000 pairs. We measured mercury burdens in feathers of adult petrels sampled at nesting areas in the Dominican Republic, and at sea offshore North Carolina, USA. We also used fecal DNA metabarcoding to compare diets. We found high concentrations of total mercury, with mean concentrations of 30.3 ± 11.1 ppm dry weight (range: 15.2-53.9 ppm dry weight; n = 20). Fish dominated the diet, including a high proportion of mesopelagic groups such as myctophids, and fishes of interest to artisanal and commercial Caribbean fisheries. These results confirm that Diablotin is highly exposed to mercury through its mesopelagic diet.

LAS ZONAS DE ALIMENTACIÓN Y LA DIETA SE RELACIONAN CON LOS ALTOS NIVELES DE MERCURIO EN PTERODROMA HASITATA.

Pterodroma hasitata es un ave marina pelágica en peligro de extinción endémica del Caribe, con una población estimada en 2.000 parejas. Medimos la carga de mercurio en las plumas de adultos muestreados en zonas de nidificación de la República Dominicana y en el mar frente a las costas de Carolina del Norte (EE.UU.). También utilizamos metabarcodificación de ADN fecal para comparar dietas. Encontramos altas concentraciones de mercurio total, con concentraciones medias de 30,3 ± 11,1 ppm de peso seco (rango: 15,2-53,9 ppm de peso seco; n = 20). Los peces dominaron la dieta, incluyendo una alta proporción de grupos mesopelágicos como los mictófidos, y peces de interés para las pesquerías artesanales y comerciales del Caribe. Estos resultados confirman que P. hasitata está altamente expuesto al mercurio a través de su dieta mesopelágica.

THIRTEEN YEARS OF RESEARCH, MONITORING AND PROTECTING BLACK-CAPPED PETREL (Pterodroma hasitata) IN HISPANIOLA.

Ernst Rupp, Esteban Garrido, Hector Andújar*, Jairo Matos, Jose Castillo, Jerson Feliz, Rene Jeune, Tinio Louis, Samuel Nossirel, Pierre Sanon, Geny Feliz, Juan Pablo Montero, Juan Vidal, Andrea Thomen, Yolanda Leon. Grupo Jaragua, Santo Domingo, DR. Email: ernst.rupp@grupojaragua.org.do.

Hispaniola hosts all currently known breeding locations for the endangered Black-capped Petrel (Pterodroma hasitata). Here we compile results from conducting intensive nest searches during the breeding season in Sierra de Bahoruco and Valle Nuevo national parks in the Dominican Republic (Dominican Republic) and Foret de Pins (Haiti). Since 2011, yearly fledging success at Loma del Toro site (Bahoruco) ranged from 56 to 84% prior to the 2020-21 season, and drastically declined to below 20% in subsequent seasons due to predation by feral dogs. Since its discovery in 2017 the Valle Nuevo site has also shown low fledging rates due to mongoose predation. Novel active management efforts to reduce predator damage include the use of artificial nest boxes and camera surveillance. We highlight the need to establish an effective invasive species control program, to improve fire prevention and reduce deforestation within key protected areas, and to maintain outreach efforts at key communities.

TRECE AÑOS DE INVESTIGACIÓN, MONITOREO Y PROTECCIÓN DEL DIABLOTÍN (PTERODROMA HASITATA) EN LA ESPAÑOLA.

La Española alberga todos los lugares de cría actualmente conocidos para el amenazado Diablotín (Pterodroma hasitata). Aquí recopilamos los resultados de la búsqueda intensiva de nidos durante la temporada de cría en los parques nacionales de Sierra de Bahoruco y Valle Nuevo en la República Dominicana (República Dominicana) y Foret de Pins (Haití). Desde 2011, el éxito anual de reproducción en el sitio de Loma del Toro (Bahoruco) osciló entre el 56% y el 84% antes de la temporada 2020-21, y disminuyó drásticamente por debajo del 20% en las temporadas posteriores debido a la depredación por perros asilvestrados. Desde su descubrimiento en 2017, el sitio de Valle Nuevo también ha mostrado bajas tasas de reproducción debido a la depredación por mangostas. Los nuevos esfuerzos de gestión activa para reducir el daño de los depredadores incluyen el uso de nidos artificiales y la vigilancia con cámara trampas. Destacamos la necesidad de establecer un programa eficaz de control de especies invasoras, mejorar la prevención de incendios y reducir la deforestación dentro de las áreas protegidas clave, y mantener los esfuerzos de divulgación en las comunidades clave.

HEIGHTENED SECURITY: PREDATOR CONTROL TO INCREASE PETREL REPRODUCTIVE SUCCESS. Ernst Rupp*, Anderson Jean** and Jennifer Wheeler***. *Grupo Jaragua, Santo Dominigo, DR, **Action pour la Sauvegarde de l'Écologie en Haiti (ACSEH), Les Cayes, Haiti, ***BirdsCaribbean, USA. E-Mail: Jennifer.Wheeler@birdscaribbean.org

Introduced mammals known to prey on Black-capped Petrel (Pterodroma hasitata) are present at all confirmed, probable and suspected nesting sites within the Caribbean region. In Hispaniola, Norway rats (Rattus norvegicus), black rats (Rattus rattus), Indian mongoose (Urva auropunctata), domestic dogs (Canis familiaris), domestic cats (Felis catus), and feral pigs (Sus scrofa) are common within or near colonies. Reproductive success at some colonies in some years has been high (>80%) but mongoose and dogs have been documented as the cause of widespread nest failure in other years, through adult abandonment, and egg, chick, or adult mortality. Under the species Conservation Action Plan, predator control has been intensified. Field teams have deployed various traps for rats, cats and mongoose, with mixed success. Dog depredations require case-by-case community outreach; this threat is also reduced by the installation of reinforced artificial burrows. Field teams are testing low-costvoptions for cameras which send real-time images, allowing predation events to be quickly managed. Meanwhile, nest monitoring and research provide the natural history informationvthat is necessary for any future restoration activities (e.g., translocation).

MAYOR SEGURIDAD: CONTROL DE DEPREDADORES PARA AUMENTAR EL ÉXITO REPRODUCTOR DEL PETREL.

Los mamíferos introducidos que depredan el Diablotín (Pterodroma hasitata) están presentes en todos los lugares de nidificación del Caribe. En La Española, la rata noruega (Rattus norvegicus), la rata negra (Rattus rattus), la mangosta india (Urva auropunctata), los perros domésticos (Canis familiaris), los gatos domésticos (Felis catus) y los jabalíes (Sus scrofa) son comunes dentro o cerca de las colonias. El éxito reproductivo en algunos años ha sido alto (>80%), pero se ha documentado que las mangostas y los perros son la causa del fracaso generalizado de los nidos en las colonias en otros años, por abandono de adultos y mortalidad de huevos, polluelos o adultos. En el marco del Plan de Acción para la Conservación de la especie, se ha intensificado el control de depredadores. Los equipos de campo despliegan diversas trampas para ratas, gatos y mangostas, con éxito desigual. Las depredaciones por perros requieren una sensibilización comunitaria caso por caso; esta amenaza también se reduce con la instalación de madrigueras artificiales reforzadas. Los equipos de campo están probando cámaras de bajo coste que envían imágenes en tiempo real, lo que permite gestionar rápidamente los casos de depredación. Mientras tanto, el seguimiento de los nidos y la investigación proporcionan la información sobre la historia natural necesaria para cualquier actividad futura de restauración.