

## Kermadec Petrel (western subspecies) (*Pterodroma neglecta neglecta*)

### Description

Variable colour with light, dark and intermediate phases. Dark underwing with white shafts to primaries in upper wing. The darker form is characteristic at Lord Howe. The tail is short and square-cut.

### Conservation Status

Listed as Vulnerable under the NSW TSC Act 1995 and Vulnerable under the Commonwealth EPBC Act.

### Distribution

The Kermadec Petrel breeds on Islands across the south Pacific Ocean. In the Lord Howe Island Group it breeds on Ball's Pyramid. It also breeds on Phillip Island, near Norfolk Island.

### Ecology

**Breeding:** On Ball's Pyramid from November to May, one white egg laid. Adults share nest building, incubation and care of young. Incubation c. 52 days, fledging takes at least three months.

**Nest:** In a crevice among rocks.

**Diet:** Squid and crustaceans.

**Foraging Behaviour:** No detailed description. Behaviour appears to be similar to the Providence Petrel where surface seizing and dipping dominate (Hutton pers obs).

### Population Data/Health

Fullagar and Disney (1975) estimated the Ball's Pyramid population to consist of less than 100 pairs.

### Habitat

Marine, pelagic in waters 15-25°C.

The Kermadec Petrel breeds only on the higher more inaccessible parts of Ball's Pyramid among rocks and vegetation, and forages far out to sea.

### Threats

A small population of Kermadec Petrels was observed nesting on the southern end of Mount Gower in 1914 by Roy Bell. Bell subsequently

collected several of the birds and also noted that cats predated on the petrel (Hindwood 1940). It is assumed that their extinction on Lord Howe Island was attributed to the accidental introduction of the black rat in 1918.

Ball's Pyramid is currently a rat free environment, no threats are known for this location.

### Impacts Upon Other Species

Not known.

### References

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