

Midway Atoll NWR Bird List and Seabird Population Estimates

Updated December 24, 2006 J. Klavitter

Summary of all birds found at Midway. Symbols used for species status:

1) Resident (R), present all year, but not necessarily breeding; 2) Migratory Breeder (M), breeds at Midway, but departs for the rest of the year; 3) Visitor (V), includes passage migrants as well as vagrants; 4) Winter Resident (W), resident at Midway Atoll during the nonbreeding season; 5) Introduced (I); currently nests on Midway; 6) Endangered (E); and 7) Extinct/Extirpated on Midway (X).

FAMILY & COMMON NAME	SCIENTIFIC NAME	STATUS
ALBATROSS	DIOMEDIEDAE	
Laysan Albatross	<i>Phoebastria immutabilis</i>	M
Black-footed Albatross	<i>Phoebastria nigripes</i>	M
Short-tailed Albatross	<i>Phoebastria albatrus</i>	M, E
Salvins Albatross	<i>Thalassarche salvini</i>	V
PETRELS & SHEARWATERS	PROCELLARIIDAE	
Northern Fulmar	<i>Fulmarus glacialis</i>	V
Bonin Petrel	<i>Pterodroma hypoleuca</i>	M
Bulwer's Petrel	<i>Bulweria bulwerii</i>	V
Jouanin's Petrel	<i>Bulweria fallax</i>	V
Flesh-footed Shearwater	<i>Puffinus carneipes</i>	V
Wedge-tailed Shearwater	<i>Puffinus pacificus</i>	M
Buller's Shearwater	<i>Puffinus bulleri</i>	V
Christmas Shearwater	<i>Puffinus nativitatis</i>	M
Newell's Shearwater	<i>Puffinus (auricularis) newelli</i>	V
Sooty Shearwater	<i>Puffinus griseus</i>	V
Little Shearwater	<i>Puffinus assimilis</i>	V
STORM-PETRELS	HYDROBATIDAE	
Leach's Storm-petrel	<i>Oceanodroma leucorhoa</i>	V
Tristram's (Sooty) Storm-petrel	<i>Oceanodroma tristrami</i>	V
TROPICBIRDS	PHAETHONTIDAE	
White-tailed Tropicbird	<i>Phaethon lepturus</i>	R
Red-tailed Tropicbird	<i>Phaethon rubricauda</i>	R
BOOBIES	SULIDAE	
Masked Booby	<i>Sula dactylatra</i>	M
Brown Booby	<i>Sula leucogaster</i>	M
Red-footed Booby	<i>Sula sula</i>	M
CORMORANTS	PHALACROCORACIDAE	
Pelagic Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax pelagicus</i>	V
FRIGATEBIRDS	FREGATIDAE	
Great Frigatebird	<i>Fregata minor</i>	R
Lesser Frigatebird	<i>Fregata ariel</i>	V

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HERONS, EGRETS		
Cattle Egret	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>	V
Intermediate Egret	<i>Egretta intermedia</i>	V
SWANS, GEESE, DUCKS ANATIDAE		
Greater White-fronted Goose	<i>Anser albifrons</i>	V
Emperor Goose	<i>Chen canagica</i>	V
Snow Goose	<i>Chen caerulescens</i>	V
Canada Goose	<i>Branta canadensis minimus</i>	V
Tundra Swan	<i>Cygnus columbianus</i>	V
Gadwall	<i>Anas strepera</i>	V
Eurasian Wigeon	<i>Anas penepole</i>	V
American Wigeon	<i>Anas americana</i>	V
Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	V
Blue-winged Teal	<i>Anas discors</i>	V
Northern Shoveler	<i>Anas clypeata</i>	V
Northern Pintail	<i>Anas acuta</i>	V
Garganey	<i>Anas querquedula</i>	V
Eurasian Green-winged Teal	<i>Anas crecca crecca</i>	V
American Green-winged Teal	<i>Anas crecca carolinensis</i>	V
Redhead	<i>Aythya americana</i>	V
Common Pochard	<i>Aythya ferina</i>	V
Tufted Duck	<i>Aythya fuligula</i>	V
Greater Scaup	<i>Aythya marila</i>	V
Lesser Scaup	<i>Aythya affinis</i>	V
Harlequin Duck	<i>Histrionicus histrionicus</i>	V
Long-tailed Duck	<i>Clangula hyemalis</i>	V
Black Scoter	<i>Melanitta nigra</i>	V
Bufflehead	<i>Bucephala albeola</i>	V
Common Goldeneye	<i>Bucephala clangula</i>	V
Merganser species	<i>Mergus sp.</i>	V
Laysan Duck	<i>Anas laysanensis</i>	I
OSPREY PANDIONINAE		
Osprey	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>	V
HAWKS, KITES, EAGLES ACCIPITRIDAE		
Black Kite	<i>Milvus migrans</i>	V
Steller's Sea Eagle	<i>Haliaeetus pelagicus</i>	V
Red-tailed Hawk	<i>Buteo jamaicensis</i>	V
Northern Harrier	<i>Circus cyaneus</i>	V
CARACARAS, FALCONS FALCANIDAE		
Peregrine Falcon	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>	V
Merlin	<i>Falco columbarius</i>	V
RAILS, COOTS RALLIDAE		
Laysan Rail	<i>Poranual palmeri</i>	I, X
Common Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>	V
American Coot	<i>Fulica americana</i>	V

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LAPWINGS, PLOVERS CHARADRIIDAE		
Black-bellied Plover	<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>	V
Pacific Golden-Plover	<i>Pluvialis fulva</i>	W
Mongolian Plover	<i>Charadrius mongolus</i>	V
Semipalmated Plover	<i>Charadrius semipalmatus</i>	V
Common Ringed-Plover	<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>	V
STILTS AND AVOCETS RECURVIROSTRIDAE		
Black-necked (Hawaiian) Stilt	<i>Himantopus mexicanus</i>	V,E
SANDPIPERS, PHALAROPES SCOLOPACIDAE		
Greater Yellowlegs	<i>Tringa melanoleuca</i>	V
Lesser Yellowlegs	<i>Tringa flavipes</i>	V
Marsh Sandpiper	<i>Tringa stagnatilis</i>	V
Wood Sandpiper	<i>Tringa glareola</i>	V
Wandering Tattler	<i>Heteroscelus incanus</i>	W
Grey-tailed (Polynesian) Tattler	<i>Heteroscelus brevipes</i>	V
Spotted Sandpiper	<i>Actitis macularia</i>	V
Whimbrel	<i>Numenius phaeopus</i>	V
Bristle-thighed Curlew	<i>Numenius tahitiensis</i>	W
Bar-tailed Godwit	<i>Limosa limosa</i>	V
Ruddy Turnstone	<i>Arenaria interpres</i>	W
Red Knot	<i>Calidris canutus</i>	V
Sanderling	<i>Calidris alba</i>	W
Western Sandpiper	<i>Calidris mauri</i>	V
Long-toed Stint	<i>Calidris subminuta</i>	V
Pectoral Sandpiper	<i>Calidris melanotos</i>	V
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	<i>Calidris acuminata</i>	V
Dunlin	<i>Calidris alpina</i>	V
Buff-breasted Sandpiper	<i>Tryngites subruficollis</i>	V
Ruff	<i>Philomachus pugnax</i>	V
Long-billed Dowitcher	<i>Limnodromus scolopaceus</i>	V
Common Snipe	<i>Gallinago gallinago</i>	V
SKUAS, GULLS, TERNS, SKIMMERS LARIDAE		
Laughing Gull	<i>Larus atricilla</i>	V
Franklin's Gull	<i>Larus pipixcan</i>	V
Black-headed Gull	<i>Larus ridibundus</i>	V
Bonaparte's Gull	<i>Larus philadelphia</i>	V
Herring Gull	<i>Larus argentatus</i>	V
Slaty-backed Gull	<i>Larus schistisagus</i>	V
Silver Gull	<i>Larus novaehollandiae</i>	V
Glaucous-winged Gull	<i>Larus glaucenscens</i>	V
Glaucous Gull	<i>Larus hyperboreus</i>	V
Black-legged Kittiwake	<i>Rissa tridactyla</i>	V
Arctic Tern	<i>Sterna paradisaea</i>	V
Little Tern	<i>Sterna albifrons</i>	M
Least Tern	<i>Sterna antillarum</i>	M
Gray-backed Tern	<i>Sterna lunata</i>	M
Sooty Tern	<i>Sterna fuscata</i>	M
Black Tern	<i>Chlidonias niger</i>	V
Brown (Common) Noddy	<i>Anous stolidus</i>	R
Black (Hawaiian) Noddy	<i>Anous minutus</i>	R
White (Fairy) Tern	<i>Gygis alba rothchildi</i>	R

FAMILY & COMMON NAME	SCIENTIFIC NAME	STATUS
AUKS, PUFFINS, MURRES ALCIDAE		
Parakeet Auklet	<i>Aethia psittacula</i>	V
Horned Puffin	<i>Fratercula corniculata</i>	V
Japanese Murrelet	<i>Synthliborsmphus wumizusume</i>	V
DOVES, PIGEONS COLUMBIDAE		
Rock Dove (Domestic Pigeon)	<i>Columba livia</i>	I, E
CUCKOOS, ROADRUNNERS, ANIS CUCULIDAE		
Oriental Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus saturatus</i>	V
BARN OWLS TYTONIDAE		
Barn Owl	<i>Tyto alba</i>	V
TYPICAL OWLS STRIGIDAE		
Short-eared Owl	<i>Asio flammeus</i>	V
SWIFTS APODIDAE		
Fork-tailed Swift	<i>Apus pacificus</i>	V
LARKS ALAUDIDAE		
Eurasian Skylark	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>	V
SWALLOWS HIRUNDINIDAE		
Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	V
THURSHES TURDIDAE		
Eye-browed Thrush	<i>Turdus obscurus</i>	V
STARLINGS STURNIDAE		
Common Myna	<i>Acridotheres tristis</i>	I
EMBERIZIDS EMBERIZIDAE		
Snow Bunting	<i>Plectrophenax nivalis</i>	V
FINCHES CARDUELINAE, DREPANIDINAE		
Common Redpoll	<i>Caruelis flammea</i>	V
Common Canary	<i>Serinus carius</i>	I
Laysan Finch	<i>Telespyza cantans</i>	I, E, X
OLD WORLD SPARROWS PASSERIDAE		
House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	I, E

Table 3. Midway Atoll resident and migratory breeding bird species, population estimates, average nesting density estimates, weights, wingspans, and time of day when the bird is most active (day verses night).

Species	Population estimate (nesting pairs)	Total population estimate (Pyle 2001)	Average nesting density. All habitats combined. (nests/ha)	Wingspan (m) (Harrison 1983)	Peak flight activity (day verses night)
Laysan Albatross (<i>Diomedea immutabilis</i>)	487,527 ¹ (2005)	1,462,581	1180	2.0	Day
Black-footed Albatross (<i>Diomedea nigripes</i>)	24,085 ¹ (2005)	72,255	55	1.9 - 2.1	Day
Short-tailed Albatross (<i>Diomedea albatrus</i>)	0 ¹ (2002)	2	0	2.1 - 2.3	Day
Bonin Petrel (<i>Pterodroma hypoleuca</i>)	32,066 ²	96,198	86	0.6 – 0.7	Night
Wedge-tailed Shearwater (<i>Puffinus pacificus</i>)	1,000 ³	3,000	3	1.0	Night
White-tailed Tropicbird (<i>Phaethon lepturus</i>)	6 ¹	18	< 1	0.9 - 1.0	day
Red-tailed Tropicbird (<i>Phaethon rubricauda</i>)	5,000 ³	15,000	13	1.0	day
Masked Booby (<i>Sula dactlyatra</i>)	2 ¹	5	< 1	1.5	day
Brown Booby (<i>Sula leucogaster</i>)	1 ¹	3	< 1	1.3 – 1.5	day
Red-footed Booby (<i>Sula sula</i>)	563 ⁴	1,689	2	0.9 – 1.0	day
Great Frigatebird (<i>Fregata ariel</i>)	87 ⁴	261	< 1	2.1 – 2.3	day
Gray-backed Tern (<i>Sterna lunata</i>)	315-487 ⁴	945-1,461	1	0.7 – 0.8	day
Sooty Tern (<i>Sterna fuscata</i>)	45,000 ³	135,000	120	0.9	day
Little Tern (<i>Sterna albifrons</i>)	NA	NA	NA	0.5 – 0.6	day
Brown Noddy (<i>Anous stolidus</i>)	1,000 ³	3,000	3	0.8 – 0.9	day
Black Noddy (<i>Anous minutus</i>)	6,000 ³	18,000	16	0.7	day
White Tern (<i>Gygis alba</i>)	7,500 ³	22,500	20	0.7 – 0.8	Day
Laysan Duck (<i>Anas laysanensis</i>)	NA	102 Dec 2006			Night

¹ Population estimates determined from mean incubation counts.

² Breeding population based on direct counts.

³ Population estimates were taken from Fefer et al. (1984).

⁴ Breeding population was calculated through burrow occupancy density estimates.
NA – no information available.