

What is a SEABIRD?



The 'a'o is one of eleven species of seabirds known to breed on the island of Maui.

Seabirds spend their entire lives at sea, returning to land only to breed and raise chicks.

They feed on fish and squid, and bring important marine nutrients to island habitats.

They serve important roles in native ecosystems and Hawaiian culture.

Maui Nui Seabird Recovery Project



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'A'o Newell's Shearwater



Seabirds face many threats

Introduced mammals like feral cats, mongooses, rats, and pigs prey on seabirds and their chicks.

Artificial light at night distracts seabirds causing them to “fallout” on land, putting them at risk of collisions and predation.

Seabirds collide with power lines as they fly to and from the sea.

Development, introduced ungulates like pigs & goats, and rising sea levels threaten and degrade native seabird breeding habitats.



Brenda Zaun

‘A‘o quick facts

Newell's Shearwater

Scientific name: *Puffinus newelli*

- **Endemic to Hawai'i** (found nowhere else!)
- **Critically endangered**
- **Coloration is black with white underparts**
- **Sharply curved bills help them catch fish and squid**
- **They nest in mountainside burrows**
- **90% breed on Kaua'i. They are also found on Maui, Molokai, and Hawai'i**



Bryan Berkowitz



On Maui, social attraction methods are used to bring ‘a‘o into predator-free exclosures at Makamaka‘ole on the slopes of Mauna Kahalawai. Here they breed in protected artificial nest boxes, a refuge for the west Maui population.

