

Subject: Re: feral cat info**Date:** Mon, 28 Feb 2000 15:26:07 -0800**From:** "Dr. Fern P. Duvall II" <mawildl@aloha.net>**To:** pt@hear.org

Dear Mr. Philip Thomas:

I hope you can use this small bit of data about recent impacts that cats have had on two native Hawaiian seabirds on the island of Maui. I do not have too much time now to go into greatest of detail, but send you a short synopsis of outcomes I recorded in the past, 1999, breeding season at a few onshore nesting locations. All locations were not very far from, some immediately adjacent to, maintained cat colonies.

We had lots of birds cat-killed at seabird colonies I frequently worked with on Maui at Waiehu, at near Hookipa, at Pauwalu and near but east of Kuau. All had feral cat colonies approximately \leq .4mi.away. At Waiehu in the 1999 season the Wedge-tailed Shearwater colony lost a total of 23 adult birds of a pair total estimated at 55 pairs; at Hookipa had 74 pairs on eggs, and lost 59 adults, and only 27 burrows fledged chicks; at east of Kuau a new small colony in 1999 lost (all ?) birds (6 dead adults), and thus mortality caused failure at the five of five burrows. At Pauwalu this, as each of last 3 years, remains of chicks of Bulwer's Petrels have been found near to a small colony(est. 5-10 pairs try annually)...essentially no proof of a successful fledge of this species has been seen there.

All of the predation is attributed to cats due to:

- Cat hairs at site and on remains,
- cat feces at the site,
- tooth-cut patterns to bones,
- the cat-kill "typical beheading", or "the removal of the cranium only", with no actual feeding on the birds' bodies,
- and finally the predation occurs at night.

There were no diurnal kills, no rodent chew signs, no feces, no extensive feeding (just killing), no ripped up bodies, disjunct extremities, no saliva smears on carcasses, etc., that would involve rodent, mongoose or dog kills respectively.

Well, enough for now Philip. Hope you can use it.

Aloha!

Fern

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