

Attention - Oahu Arborists

Help Protect the Official Bird of Honolulu!



- **Look, listen and locate trees with nesting White Terns.**
- **Do Not trim branches or remove trees with nesting White Terns.**
- **Leave a nesting tree or branch alone for at least 80 days from when the egg is laid.**

Interesting Facts

- In the main Hawaiian Islands, White Terns are found only on Oahu, where they can be seen nesting in urban parks and residential areas from Hawaii Kai to Hickam Air Force Base.
- White Terns (Manu o Ku) are native to our islands and continue to serve as an important wayfinder and guide for traditional Hawaiian navigators.
- Unlike most birds, White Terns do not build nests; instead they lay a single egg directly on a ledge, tree branch, or other suitable location.
- A White Tern egg will hatch after about 35 days of incubation. From the day an egg hatches, it takes approximately 45 days for the chick to be mature enough to leave the nest on its own.

The Law

- Under State and/or Federal law, no person shall or attempt to pursue, hunt, take, capture, kill, possess or transport any White Tern adult, egg, or chick, nor remove, damage, or disturb a White Tern nest.
- Under Hawaii State law, the penalty for a first violation is a fine of not less than \$250, imprisonment or both. In addition, the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) may impose an administrative fine of up to \$5,000 per specimen.
- Under the Federal law penalties can range from \$150 up to \$15,000 and may include imprisonment.

What can I do?

- Examine all trees slated to be cut to determine if there are any birds nesting in them.
- Prior to trimming, perform a quick check of the ground underneath a tree for “whitewash” (pure, white odorless droppings) or white feathers - both signs indicate that a White Tern may be nesting in the tree.
- Contact the Hawaii Division of Forestry and Wildlife (808 587-0166), or the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Office of Law Enforcement (808 861-8525) before trimming trees containing White Tern chicks or eggs.
- If you find a White Tern chick on the ground beneath its branch, quickly place the chick back EXACTLY on the spot of the same branch from which it fell (i.e., where it was hatched). If the chick appears injured call the Hawaii Division of Forestry and Wildlife.
- If you observe human activity that may be threatening an active White Tern nest, please call the DLNR Division of Conservation and Resource Enforcement 24-hour hotline at (808 643-DLNR) or the Office of Law Enforcement of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

