

From: [Zachary Warnow](#)
To: [McChesney, Gerry](#)
Cc: [Nadav Nur](#); [Cordell, Doug](#); [Pete Warzybok](#); [Jaime Jahncke](#)
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] New ASSP/BUOW research published today
Date: Monday, October 7, 2019 12:33:34 PM
Importance: High

I believe Jaime spoke to Peter about it a few weeks ago when they were on the ACCESS research cruise together then I worked with Peter last week to get him info on the study.

I've shared the release with other reporters, including a handful who covered the mouse story earlier this year.

--Zach

From: McChesney, Gerry [mailto:gerry_mcchesney@fws.gov]
Sent: Monday, October 7, 2019 12:31 PM
To: Zachary Warnow <zwarnow@pointblue.org>
Cc: Nadav Nur <nnur@pointblue.org>; Doug_Cordell (Doug_Cordell@fws.gov) <Doug_Cordell@fws.gov>; Pete Warzybok <pwarzybok@pointblue.org>; Jaime Jahncke <jjahncke@pointblue.org>
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] New ASSP/BUOW research published today

How did the Chronicle find out about it?

Gerry McChesney

Gerry McChesney
Manager, Farallon Islands National Wildlife Refuge and
Common Murre Restoration Project
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge Complex
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On Mon, Oct 7, 2019 at 11:02 AM Zachary Warnow <zwarnow@pointblue.org> wrote:

And here's the SF Chronicle article on the study. The article goes into eradication more broadly with, from my perspective, a good clear explanation of the nuances of the issue:
<https://www.sfchronicle.com/environment/article/Exterminating-mice-would-protect-rare-sea-birds-14494371.php#photo-17828115>

From: Nadav Nur
Sent: Monday, October 7, 2019 9:21 AM
To: McChesney, Gerry <gerry_mcchesney@fws.gov>; Zachary Warnow <zwarnow@pointblue.org>
Cc: Doug_Cordell (Doug_Cordell@fws.gov) <Doug_Cordell@fws.gov>; Pete Warzybok <pwarzybok@pointblue.org>; Jaime Jahncke <jjahncke@pointblue.org>
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] New ASSP/BUOW research published today

Thanks, Gerry, and thanks for your continued long-term support & contribution to the effort.

Best,

Nadav

Nadav Nur, Ph.D.

Quantitative Ecology Program Director

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From: McChesney, Gerry [mailto:gerry_mcchesney@fws.gov]

Sent: Monday, October 07, 2019 9:17 AM

To: Zachary Warnow <zwarnow@pointblue.org>

Cc: Doug_Cordell (Doug_Cordell@fws.gov) <Doug_Cordell@fws.gov>; Pete Warzybok <pwarzybok@pointblue.org>; Jaime Jahncke <jjahncke@pointblue.org>; Nadav Nur <nnur@pointblue.org>

Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] New ASSP/BUOW research published today

Great news! Thanks, Zach. Congrats on getting this very important paper out.

Gerry McChesney

Gerry McChesney
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On Mon, Oct 7, 2019 at 8:50 AM Zachary Warnow <zwarnow@pointblue.org> wrote:

Hi Gerry and Doug,

Just wanted you to be aware that the Point Blue paper on ashy storm-petrels and owls was [published today](#) in *Ecosphere*. The paper models impacts to the petrel population if owl abundance was reduced via eradication of the mice. I think we shared the headline conclusion already but, basically, models show a stable or increasing petrel population if owl abundance is reduced by 80%. Title/abstract below.

You can see our publication brief on the paper [here](#). We are sharing with press and while it's always hard to predict how much interest there will be in a scientific paper, there's a

chance you'll be contacted.

Congrats to Nadav and the team on this one. Hope it helps make a stronger case for eradication.

--Zach

Evaluating population impacts of predation by owls on storm petrels in relation to proposed island mouse eradication

Nadav Nur Russell W. Bradley Leo Salas Pete Warzybok Jaime Jahncke

First published: 07 October 2019 <https://doi.org/10.1002/ecs2.2878>

Abstract

We quantify the expected demographic benefit to a seabird of conservation concern, the ashly storm-petrel *Oceanodroma homochroa*, from the proposed eradication of introduced house mice *Mus musculus* on the South Farallon Islands, California. A key objective of the eradication is to reduce storm petrel predation by burrowing owls *Athene cunicularia*, which stopover on the island during their fall migration. Mouse trapping and field surveys of both owls and depredated storm petrel carcasses conducted during 2000–2012 reveal a strongly seasonal, inter-related pattern among the three species: When owls arrive during the fall, mice are super-abundant and the overwhelming choice of prey for those owls that remain. In the winter, the mouse population crashes just as storm petrels begin to arrive in large numbers; owls that remain on the island switch to preying upon storm petrels until May, when they depart to breed. Capture–recapture analyses of storm petrels showed (1) annual adult survival was inversely related to owl abundance, especially during January–April, and (2) storm petrels demonstrated a declining trend in abundance 2006–2012. The latter was associated with low rates of adult survival, high abundance of overwintering burrowing owls, and high incidence of depredated storm petrels. To evaluate projected impacts to storm petrels of a change in owl predation, we developed a Leslie matrix model, incorporating environmental stochasticity. We modeled future storm petrel population trajectories, allowing for different levels of owl-mediated predation. Our results suggest that a reduction in owl abundance, a projected consequence of the elimination of mice, has the potential to substantially reduce overall storm petrel mortality, thereby reducing storm petrel declines and increasing the likelihood of stable trends in the future. While long-term benefits to storm petrels of mouse eradication are apparent, the risk of increased predation due to prey-switching by owls also needs to be addressed. This study highlights uncertainty of outcomes, which must be considered in evaluating management impacts. This study demonstrates the value of concurrent, continuous, long-term datasets in providing a quantitative basis for management to aid the conservation of species of concern.

Zachary Warnow (he/his), *Director of Communications*

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