

DIAGNOSTIC CASE REPORT

U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY-BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES DIVISION
NATIONAL WILDLIFE HEALTH CENTER-HONOLULU FIELD STATION
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Case Number: 25131

Submitter Name:

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Species submitted (n):

Albatross: Short-tailed (1)

Location:	East Island-Midway	DateCollected:	12/13/2014
Area:	Midway	DateSubmitted:	12/19/2014
State:	Hawaii	DateReceived:	12/22/2014
Country:	United States	DateExamined:	12/22/2014

SPECIMENS SUBMITTED: Tissue-Fixed formalin

History: This bird was found dead on Eastern Island Midway Atoll on 13 December 2014 within 12 hours of death based on daily video monitoring. It was found lying in a prone position with wings partially outstretched and feet underneath. The bird was refrigerated and necropsied the following day by USFWS staff on Midway.

A male adult had been observed on the refuge since 2008 and that animal mated with a female in Winter 2010 and produced a chick in 2011. The male was banded but there was no verification since 2011 that the band was still on the bird. There was suspicion that perhaps this was the same male and that somehow the band fell off.

Findings: Accession 1-short-tailed albatross immature male in good body condition. No lesions indicative of cause of death were seen either on gross or microscopic examination of tissues. Liver lead levels were below limits of detection.

Final diagnosis: Accession 1-Undetermined.

Comments: Gross necropsy revealed a bird in good body condition with no evident lesions suggesting sudden death. Histology and laboratory analyses failed to reveal any lesions that could explain the cause of death. There was no evidence of infectious or toxic agents. The lack of mature sperm in testes indicated this was an immature bird, so this was not the same male (reproductive) that was observed between 2008 and 2011.

Management: Absent further clues, cause of death is sudden and unexplained. Tissues will be stored frozen should we need to return to them for additional tests.

Report Date (mm/dd/yyyy): 1/14/2015

Necropsy report: Available upon request

Copies of this report sent to:

Ms. Kristi Young (USFWS)
Mr. Bryan Landry (USFWS)



If you have questions regarding this case, contact Thierry M. Work MS, DVM, MPVM at 808-792-9520. Include above Case Number. Diagnostic findings may not be used for publication without the pathologist's knowledge and consent.

NOTE: Information in this report supersedes any information from previous reports regarding this case