

# The Craig S. Harrison Conservation Fund for Pacific Seabirds

In mid-2007, the Pacific Seabird Group (PSG) initiated the Craig S. Harrison Conservation Fund for small grants. The Conservation Fund provides funds or supplies to individuals from developing countries along the Pacific Ocean (1) for conservation and restoration activities that benefit seabirds; and (2) to help develop within-country seabird expertise in developing countries.

The size of grants is usually between \$250 and \$2,000 and proposals are reviewed by a Conservation Fund Committee composed of seabird experts. We believe that small grants, well spent, are some of the most powerful tools in conservation. Please visit <http://tinyurl.com/birdgrants> for more information and application instructions. Donations can be made on the PSG website, or by check to PSG Conservation Fund. Mail checks to Ron LeValley, Treasurer, Pacific Seabird Group, P.O. Box 324, Little River, CA 95456.

## Previous Awardees

In 2008, the Fund supported four projects throughout the Pacific.

**Rat Eradication, Mabualau Island, Fiji.** Mabualau is a tiny uninhabited island that has been listed by Fiji National Biodiversity and Action Plan as a Site of National Significance. In the summer of 2008, a team of biologists from BirdLife International collaborated with local groups from the coastal communities in an island restoration project to improve habitat for native seabirds. Their work was successfully completed in July 2008, and we are eagerly awaiting the chance to evaluate the project during the next nesting season.



Red-footed Booby  
Photo: Daniel J. Lebbin



Magellan's Penguin chick: Cristián G. Suazo

**Seabird bycatch in southern Chile.** Cristián G. Suazo, of Chile's Austral University, conducted an analysis of human/seabird interactions in the rocky fjords of Patagonia's Chono archipelago. This study represented one of the first attempts to form baseline information to inform management of the area's rich resources. Cristián found groups of up to 10 Black-browed albatrosses following fishing boats, but witnessed only one mortality. Cristián also found widespread human consumption of Magellan's Penguin, and that many of the tiny islets of the area had wild dogs and introduced mink on them, which seemed to pose serious problems for nesting seabirds.



Black-browed Albatross: ClipArt.com



Mabualau Island, Fiji: Elenoa Seniloli, BirdLife International-Fiji

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– [www.pacificseabirdgroup.org](http://www.pacificseabirdgroup.org) –



L to R: Guatemalan researchers Vanessa Davila, Raquel Siguenza de Micheo and Pilar Velasquez.  
Photo: Rachel Rodas

**Fisherman Outreach in Guatemala.** PSG also supported a team of Guatemalan researchers working in small-scale fisheries. Species richness and distribution of seabirds is just recently being generated for Guatemala, so incidental catch of these birds in fisheries has never been examined. Researchers visited communities in the Guatemalan Pacific Coasts, the region of the most intensive fishing, to make a first pass at prioritizing fisheries and areas that might have bycatch problems.

**Seabirds of the Sunda Strait, Indonesia.** Dr. Nick Brickle is investigating the use of the Sunda Strait by pelagic birds, both as a migration route and foraging area, for the first time with PSG support. The area is under increasing human pressure, and likely to be of major importance to several species, such as the endangered Mascarene Petrel (*Pterodroma aterrima*). One of the most immediate threats is a proposal to construct a bridge across the strait, between Java and Sumatra.



Golden's White-tailed Tropicbird is endemic to Christmas Island in the Indian Ocean.  
Photo: Jeff Blincow.

## Pacific Seabird Group



Founded in 1972, Pacific Seabird Group ([www.pacificseabirdgroup.org](http://www.pacificseabirdgroup.org)) is a society of researchers, managers, and other professionals dedicated to the study and conservation of seabirds.

The principal goals of PSG are: to increase the quality and quantity of seabird research, identify and assess the importance of threats to seabird populations, and provide expert advice on managing those threats and populations. PSG is incorporated in the state of California as a non-profit and is an IRS 501(c)(3) organization. It is an all-volunteer organization that does not incur office expenses, so contributions are devoted 100% to conserving seabirds in developing parts of the Pacific.



Craig S. Harrison and his dog Tater:  
Photo by Marina Chang Harrison

Craig S. Harrison is a former Chair of PSG and has been the Vice-Chair for Conservation for PSG from 1992 to present. He also is an expert on tropical seabirds, one of the founders of American Bird Conservancy, and a lawyer

who specializes in environmental law. Because of his long-standing contributions to seabird conservation, especially those on behalf of PSG, we are honored to be able to name the former Conservation Small Grants Program after him.



American Bird Conservancy ([www.abcbirds.org](http://www.abcbirds.org)) has been an active participant in seabird conservation with the PSG since ABC was founded in 1994.