

Pacific Seabirds Issue 50(1)

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PACIFIC SEABIRDS



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Welcome to the new Pacific Seabirds

By Anna Vallery

Welcome to the first installment of the new Pacific Seabirds! Pacific Seabirds is the official publication of the Pacific Seabird Group (PSG) and serves to provide members with recent news on financial reports, Annual Meetings, regional reports, conservation needs and outcomes, special events, awards, decisions of the PSG, and more, plus archive this information for all members. Over its history, Pacific Seabirds has taken many forms, changing based on the needs of our membership. This has included formats ranging from an informal, mailed newsletter to a more formal publication that was emailed out to PSG members twice a year.

Now, it's time for Pacific Seabirds' next update! This new version of the publication will be housed on the Pacific Seabird Group website and will take the form of a living webpage that will be updated twice yearly with new content including regional reports, PSG's budget, Annual Meeting reports, and content from our membership. PSG members (like you!) can submit stories, notes, equipment reviews, book reviews, updates, art, and more!

A small committee has been working hard to take Pacific Seabirds in this direction based on feedback from a survey of PSG membership conducted at the 2022 Annual Meeting. This committee has not only developed the new outline of Pacific Seabirds, but has developed the new format of the publication and a new submission system for content!

Regional Reports

Regional Reports have been a central component of Pacific Seabirds and were highlighted as an important aspect of this publication to members in the recent survey. Regional Reports have historically been compiled by Regional Representatives, then sent along to the Pacific Seabirds' Editor, who would painstakingly convert each report into the outlined formatting. During the 2022 survey, though, we heard from membership that formatting wasn't a high priority. Based on this feedback, the Pacific Seabirds committee has updated (and hopefully streamlined) the method for submitting Regional Reports!

One of the biggest changes to the Regional Report submission process is that anyone can now submit their work directly to Pacific Seabirds via a new online submission form! Regional Representatives will still serve as an important source of information and reminders for members of PSG in their respective regions. This updated process will hopefully help streamline not only the editing of Regional Reports, but allow for members who live in one region but do work in another to submit their updates to the appropriate region with less confusion. Reporters will also be able to easily submit multiple shorter reports if they have projects going on in multiple different regions. Finally, this new process will be available to seabird researchers and conservationists who aren't necessarily PSG members, allowing for the inclusion of more relevant information to PSG members.

For more information about the Regional Report submission process or to access the link to the submission form, [click here](#). Regional Reports will be due by March 15th of each year and come out in each spring issue of Pacific Seabirds!

Additional Content

Members are welcome and encouraged to submit content to each new issue of Pacific Seabirds! The committee is looking forward to receiving submissions related to anything members are currently working on, from reports to art, and recommendations to current events. The publication will also now support a few regular series, including committee updates, upcoming events, and more. We are especially excited about the new member updates series—a chance to celebrate achievements of our members and any other changes or moves members of PSG want to share. In this issue, for example, we're celebrating a thesis defense, our PSG Fulbright Scholars, and more! If you retire, get a promotion or new position, defend a thesis, or want to share another event, we want to know about it so we can share it with all of PSG!

To learn more about our content submission guidelines or to access the content submission link, [click here](#).

Looking Ahead

The entire Pacific Seabirds committee is excited to welcome you to this first issue of the new version of our organization's long-standing publication! We're also excited to continue working alongside PSG membership to deliver important news and relevant information in a new way! If you have feedback or ideas, we would love your input. Please email editor@pacificseabirdgroup.org with those ideas or with any questions. Enjoy!

Upcoming events and conferences

Compiled by the Pacific Seabirds Committee



Title: [Road to Recovery Workshop: "Sustainable Recovery of North American Birds"](#)

Location: National Conservation Training Center, Shepherdstown, WV, USA

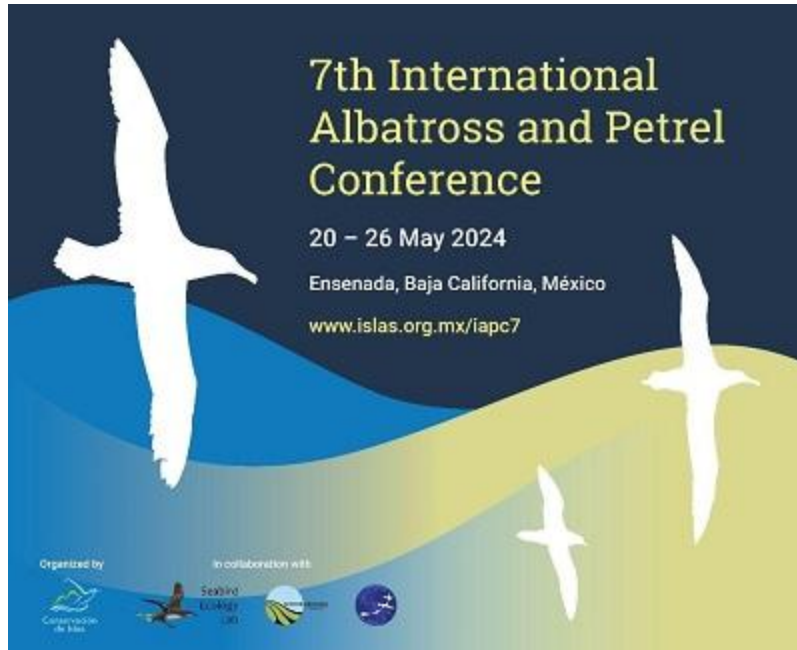
Date: January 17-19, 2024



Title: [51st Annual Meeting of the Pacific Seabird Group](#)

Location: Seattle, Washington, USA

Date: February 21-23, 2024



Title: [7th International and Albatross Petrel Conference](#)

Location: Ensenada, Baja California, Mexico

Date: May 20-26, 2024



Title: [16th International Seabird Group Conference](#)

Location: Coimbra, Portugal

Date: September 2-6, 2024



Title: [2024 Oceania Seabirds: Talking, Listening & Hands-on](#)

Location: Noumea, New Caledonia

Date: September 23-26, 2024



Title: [PICES 2024 Annual Meeting](#)

Location: Honolulu, HI, USA

Date: October 26 to November 1, 2024

Committee updates

Conservation Committee Updates

By Lindsay Adrean

On October 31st, 2023, the Conservation Committee [submitted a comment letter](#) regarding the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management's draft wind energy areas in Oregon. With input from various PSG members and including the North Pacific Albatross Working Group, we provided information on Short-tailed Albatross and Leach's Storm-Petrel presence in the proposed wind energy areas (WEAs) that had not been accounted for in the spatial suitability model that was used to identify the WEAs. We also highlighted data gaps for those species along with the Marbled Murrelet, Tufted Puffin, and other seabirds more generally that should receive attention before finalizing lease sites.

Equity, Inclusion, and Diversity Committee Updates

By Katie Stoner and Sarah Guitart

The Equity, Inclusion and Diversity Committee was formally created in June 2021 by Derek Harvey and Katie Stoner in response to a member-wide request that PSG EID efforts be organized into a dedicated committee. Since its formation, the committee organized EID-focused workshops at the 2022 and 2023 Pacific Seabird Group Annual Meetings (*Inclusive Communication and Leadership: Continuing the Equity, Inclusion, and Diversity Conversation* and *FieldFutures Training: Preventing Sexual Harassment & Assault in Fieldwork*, respectively), distributed a member Demographic Survey, generated the Indigenous Names for Birds and Places as a working reference document for PSG and the marine ornithological community at large, reviewed and assisted in the Seabirds and Indigenous Cultures sessions for the 2022 and 2023 annual meetings, and assisted the HELPS committee with hosting their biannual USAJobs training. In late spring of 2023, Derek Harvey stepped down from his formal role and Sarah Guitart started her service as committee co-chair alongside Katie Stoner. Looking forward, we are excited to continue our commitment to equity, inclusion, and diversity efforts within the Pacific Seabird Group and can't wait to see what this next chapter of the committee will bring.

Membership Committee Updates

By Jenn Urmston and Lauren Lescure

We are excited to welcome Lauren Lescure as the new Membership Committee Coordinator. She will be working alongside Jenn Urmston over the next year as she transitions into this position. Lauren has a Master's degree in Biological Sciences from the University of



Manitoba, where she studied predator-prey dynamics of alcids in Newfoundland. While currently residing on the East Coast, she has been involved with PSG since 2017 and has worked multiple field seasons in the Pacific enjoying Caspian Terns, Rhinoceros Auklets, and Pigeon Guillemots. She looks forward to learning more about PSG through working in this position and helping PSG members throughout the year.

Member updates

Compiled by the Pacific Seabirds Committee

Lilamarie Bowen

Lilamarie Bowen successfully defended her Master's thesis in November 2023, titled "Western Gulls' Reproductive and Behavioral Responses to Human Disturbance." She was advised by Dan C. Barton within the Cal Poly Humboldt College of Natural Resources, Department of Wildlife. Lila has been a PSG member and PSG HELPS recipient since 2020. She was awarded funding to travel to the 2023 Annual Meeting in San Diego where she volunteered and presented her thesis research.



Corresponding Member Update: Javier Quiñones

Javier's main research and Ph.D. thesis was focused on jellyfish occurrence and its relationship with environmental variability in Peru but since 2018 his research focus has shifted to the spatial distribution, foraging ecology, and habitat of migratory seabirds, specially albatrosses and petrels, in Peru. Javier has actively participated in research cruises on pelagic seabirds along the entire Peruvian coast as well on 11 campaigns to Antarctica. He is working on surveys attaching satellite transmitters with GPS on Chatham and Buller Albatrosses in offshore southern Peru, sponsored by ACAP. In addition, he is currently collaborating with the Conservation of New Zealand regarding habitat use of Salvin's and Black Petrels in Peru. Javier has more than 35 indexed scientific publications.



During 2023, Javier worked as the head of the Top Predators department of the Peruvian Marine Research Institute (IMARPE) in Callao, Peru. During 2023, he published 4 papers on Black-browed Albatross and Buller's Albatross (to access all of Javier's papers, click [here](#)). Javier was also was an ACAP secondee in the Department of Conservation in New Zealand, where he worked on addressing distribution data gaps of Chatham, Buller's, and Salvin's Albatrosses, and Black Petrels and their overlap with the artisanal fishing effort of Peruvian longline, drift gillnet, and coastal gillnet fisheries. Javier seeks to learn about mitigation and fisheries outreach techniques used in New Zealand that can be adapted and applied to the artisanal fisheries of Peru. (WMIL) New Zealand. More recently, Javier served as a representative for the Peruvian Marine Research Institute together with Johannes Fisher and Igor Debski from the Department of Conservation of New Zealand to develop a project for by-catch mitigation of albatrosses and petrels in the Peruvian artisanal longline fishery targeting sharks. In addition, Javier assisted on a Black Petrel (*Procellaria parkinsoni*) project on the Great Barrier Island nesting area, together with Elizabeth Bell from Wildlife Management International Ltd. Contact Javier at jquinones@imarpe.gob.pe or javierantonioquinones@gmail.com.

Mark Rauzon

Mark Rauzon recently completed a year-long fellowship with Stanford University's Educational Partnership to Internationalize Curriculum (EPIC) with nine other California community college professors. The goal of the EPIC fellowship is to develop a global curriculum to share. "Breaking Up in the Bering Sea" is about Russia/US/climate chaos and the effect on international politics, Native communities, and Bering Sea ecology. Mark expresses thanks to Liz Labunski of the USFWS for placement on an icebreaker headed to the Chukchi Sea for work on his program, the product of which is a set of four ArcGIS Storymaps:

[History](#)

[Energy](#)

[Ecology](#)

[Psychology](#)

Any comments and collaborations welcome; please email mrauon@peralta.edu.

PSG Fulbright Members

- PSG's Special Achievement Award (2016) winner **Dr. Lindsay Young** has received a Fulbright Scholarship [to work in the Philippines on Coastal Blue Carbon](#). Congratulations!
- **Jacob Ligorria** (who presented his undergraduate senior thesis research on Common Tern foraging in the Gulf of Maine at the last PSG meeting) has received a Fulbright grant and a National Geographic award [to study dovebies breeding on Spitsbergen](#) with Prof. Wojczulanis-Jakubas at the University of Gdansk! Congratulations!
- **Michelle Kissling**, a University of Montana Ph.D. student studying wildlife biology, will soon begin her Fulbright Scholarship [to study the Greater Kafue Ecosystem in Zambia](#). She will develop an analytical framework to estimate wildlife population dynamics and evaluate efficacy of interventions in sub-Saharan Africa. Previously, Michelle has completed important research on Marbled Murrelets. Congratulations!

PSG 2024 Annual Meeting

By Anna Vallery

The countdown to our favorite conference is on! We are only three months away from the 51st Annual Meeting of the Pacific Seabird Group (PSG) in Seattle, Washington! This year's meeting is shaping up to be another excellent event with plenty of exciting

workshops, symposiums, presentations, and more. We're thrilled to give you a summary of meeting details and events that you can look forward to at the PSG Annual Meeting from February 21–23, 2024.

This year's Annual Meeting is taking place in Seattle, Washington, not far from Issaquah, where the first official Annual Meeting of the Pacific Seabird Group was held in December 1974 (attended by more than 100 individuals!). The 51st Annual Meeting will be held at the [Grand Hyatt Seattle](#), located within walking distance of Seattle's Pike Place Market, Paramount Theater, Space Needle, and a vibrant waterfront. The Local Committee is taking advantage of all Seattle has to offer and has planned many events, including a kick-off social at [Flatstick on South Lake Union](#). They also have some incredible field trips options planned, from behind-the-scenes tours of the Seattle Aquarium and the Burke Museum, as well as an opportunity to get out on the Puget Sound for some birding by boat!

The theme for the 51st Annual Meeting will shine a spotlight on the humans of PSG—Faces of Seabird Conservation—and we need your help celebrating! Do you have a favorite established or aspiring seabird scientist you'd like everyone to know more about? How about a dedicated volunteer, logistics coordinator, or local community member who goes the extra mile for seabirds but has never attended a PSG Annual Meeting? Grab a camera, ask them a few questions, and send us a [Faces of Seabird Conservation profile](#) telling us who they are! Not sure where to start? Check out some profiles from [Humans of New York](#).

The Scientific Program is packed with a variety of presentations and workshops. Of note, there will be a symposium focused on Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza and workshops on falconry abatement, seabird habitat creation, and myths and misconceptions about bird banding. The Equity, Inclusion, and Diversity (EID) committee is also planning a workshop on inclusive hiring practices. Plenary talks by Sarah Converse of the University of Washington, Natalie Ban of the University of British Columbia, and Gemma Clucas of Cornell University (presenting the EARS Plenary) will examine seabird conservation and its human dimensions from the Seattle area to remote Pacific Islands, to the Antarctic, and beyond.

This year's Annual Meeting will also feature an art exhibit featuring Faces of Seabird Conservation profiles and local seabird-related art, notably a nine-foot mural of bottle caps in the shape of an albatross created by residents of Pacific County, Washington to raise awareness about marine plastic pollution.

Finally, you'll be able to participate in some of our favorite Annual Meeting events! The mentoring session is always a popular and memorable event for our students and early career scientists. If you haven't already signed up to be a mentor or mentee, be sure to do that when you register (or email us to be added to this event)! The Silent AUktion is also back this year, raising money for Student Travel Awards. This year's AUktion will be back to in-person bidding only. If you have an item to donate, please email the Local Committee at locochair@pacificseabirdgroup.org. We already have an eight-pound block of Beecher's Flagship cheese (a Seattle favorite), donated and ready to go home to the highest bidder!

The Local Committee is so excited to welcome everyone to Seattle and continue PSG's tradition of hosting excellent and informative meetings! As we near the Annual Meeting, be sure to mark your calendar with these important dates:

November 28, 2023

- Abstract submission closes. Find more information about abstract submissions [here](#).
- Travel award applications are due. To find more information or submit your travel award application, click [here](#).

January 5, 2024

- Early Bird registration closes; register [here](#).

January 6–12, 2024

- Late registration opens. Make sure to register [here](#) before the 12th!

January 26, 2024

- Last day to reserve a room in the PSG room block at the Grand Hyatt Seattle. Limited rooms are available, so be sure to reserve your room soon [here](#).

February 20, 2024

- PSG Committee meeting day in Seattle, WA.

February 21–23, 2024

- 51st Annual Meeting of the Pacific Seabird Group in Seattle, WA. Check out the draft agenda [here](#).

February 24, 2024

- Field trips—more details to come!

Faces of Seabird Conservation

By Juliet Lamb

For the [2024 Pacific Seabird Group Annual Meeting](#), we're shining a spotlight on the humans that love seabirds. We have been collecting profiles of the human community engaged in seabird science and conservation, with the goal of creating a gallery of photos and stories to display at the 2024 Annual Meeting.

Here are three sneak peak profiles that will be a part of the upcoming Faces of Seabird Conservation exhibit at the meeting in Seattle, Washington, USA. If you have someone in mind that you would like to profile, check out the [instructions](#) for details on how to create a Faces of Seabird Conservation profile and—when you're ready—submit your profile [here](#). All submissions received on or before 31 December 2023 will be considered for inclusion in the exhibit at the 2024 Annual Meeting. Please contact Juliet (programchair@pacificseabirdgroup.org) with any questions.

'Auli'i Mahuna



“As a kānaka maoli (native Hawaiian), the reciprocal relationship between humans and the natural world is quite literally in my DNA. Native Hawaiians have an innate physical, spiritual, mental, and emotional relationship with

the honua (the world) and ‘aumakua (ancestral guardians), and these relationships are sustained through the care of these animals and their habitats in a multitude of ways. Understanding that these beings are my kūpuna (ancestors) gives me an even greater sense of kuleana (responsibility) to preserve and protect the many species of manu (birds) that make Hawai‘i, Hawai‘i. The majority of, if not all, manu kai (seabirds) are

mentioned in the Kumulipo (Hawaiian creation chant) in coexistence with a plant or animal from the ‘āina (land), representing the importance of balance and duality—reaffirming that their continued presence and resilience is symbolic to the creation and existence of the pae ‘āina o Hawai‘i (Hawaiian archipelago) and kānaka maoli.

Hawai‘i is the Endangered Species Capital of the World, so being involved in rehabilitating our native Hawaiian seabirds at the Hawai‘i Wildlife Center is a small way that I am able to care for ‘aumakua and practice my culture while contributing to the restoration of the native environment. Unfortunately, we have already lost so many of our native Hawaiian birds, so any that are able to be successfully rehabilitated and released back into the wild is immensely special.”

Katie Propp



“I wanted to study marsupials, really, I did! It just so happened that the professor took sabbatical my senior year so I ended up in ornithology and waterfowl ecology and management classes instead. This was a happy accident since now I’m the COO of a penguin non-profit organization, Penguins International, and seabirds mean the world to me! As marine sentinels, we can tell a lot about the ocean’s health thanks to penguins. Whenever something doesn’t go to plan, I am reminded that there’s something to learn and that it’s OK to chase curiosities. Seabirds have so much to teach us about our beautiful planet and I’m thrilled to go down the rabbit hole of discovering more about them.”

Tim Halloran

“In the spring, it’s always exciting as the time approaches when the puffins return to Haystack Rock. I visit the rock during the winter and come in early April hoping to see the first puffins. Then, I begin monitoring in mid-May and continue through the beginning

of September. But in recent years, the numbers that I see have been decreasing. It's sad to see that this particular colony is declining.



But each year I keep coming back, wanting to solve the mystery of how many will return. It is fascinating to see the pairs occupied at their burrows, standing guard—especially when they are bringing food in to their young! Their interactions with each other and with the other birds on Haystack Rock are fascinating. I've seen many examples of competition from passive-aggressiveness to outright fighting. Sometimes it seems like they're going to kill each other, but I have never seen that happen! Still, those episodes of aggression are rare and tolerance seems to be the order of most days.

I just completed my 12th summer volunteering with the puffin monitoring project. As each season ends, and we see if there are fewer puffins on the rock, I always have the question: what will happen next year? And I can't wait to get back to learn the answer.”

Oikonos teams with scientific illustrators to highlight breeding seabirds at Año Nuevo Island, California

By Oikonos

Conservation invites people from all walks of life to collaborate and discover innovative solutions for pressing environmental challenges. In the coastal town of Santa Cruz, California, four remarkable artists—Lizzie Schafer, Constance Speer, Hannah Kanne, and Bridget Bailey—have chosen to help nature through scientific illustration, demonstrating that there's more than one avenue to promote conservation! Art serves as a powerful medium for science communication in numerous ways. It transcends language barriers, raises awareness about environmental issues, and renders complex scientific ideas understandable. Art is not merely science's whimsical sidekick, but an indispensable tool for communicating scientific knowledge.

Año Nuevo Island is a 9-acre island located between San Francisco and Santa Cruz in central California. Adjacent to Monterey Bay and just one kilometer offshore, Año Nuevo Island's location offers over 10,000 breeding seabirds access to both nearshore resources and nearby submarine canyon feeding hotspots. Historically, lighthouse operations and unrestricted public access disturbed the wildlife population on the island. Today, the island is protected as part of the Año Nuevo State Reserve and closed to the public to protect breeding seabirds and marine mammals.

Seven breeding seabirds have been researched at Año Nuevo Island annually for the past 30 years. Point Blue Conservation Science initiated the project in the 1990s, and Oikonos Ecosystem Knowledge has led this project for the past 15 years. The project has expanded in scope over the years, incorporating working with artists and designers to create interdisciplinary habitat restoration to sustain the island's seabird species, including an innovative sea lion exclusion structure to prevent damage to auklet nesting burrows and new ceramic artificial nest designs for auklets.

In 2023, Oikonos invited scientific illustrators to join researchers on the island to completely immerse themselves in the ecological marvels of Año Nuevo Island. Artists Lizzie, Constance, Bridget, and Hannah embarked on a creative and adventurous journey, boating across to the island in an inflatable zodiac and spending several days and nights drawing the island inhabitants from real life. Each artist later produced final pieces highlighting seabird ecology at the breeding colony through their unique styles and perspectives.

These art pieces were displayed in July at an exhibition hosted at the Seymour Center Marine Discovery Center in Santa Cruz, bringing the wonders of the seabird breeding colony to the local community. Below, the artists speak to their experiences on the island and share their final art pieces.

Bridget Bailey

Bridget graduated from California State University, Monterey Bay (CSUMB) with a certificate in scientific illustration in 2022 and has been working as a freelance scientific illustrator and designer since.

“Nature has often inspired my art, and I think that by working in collaboration with the science community, art can inspire engagement with the natural world and encourage further action to conserve it.”

Bridget’s experience at Año Nuevo Island

“It was exhilarating to land on an island I’d never been to and come face-to-face with a bird that was also completely new to me, the Pigeon Guillemot. [...] The best experience for me was getting to see a Cassin’s Auklet chick! The opportunity to see the methods used to research seabird chicks was truly eye-opening for me.”

“I learned that if I stayed quiet and still, the gulls and cormorants would let me make sketches that captured their behavior, interactions, and even how they build nests.” The first of Bridget’s pieces is a detailed ink rendition of a Western Gull nest, highlighting the beautiful chaos of a nest with various nesting materials gathered on the island. The second of Bridget’s pieces is a gouache landscape of the islands’ cliffs, featuring Brandt’s Cormorants, California Brown Pelicans, Northern Elephant Seals, and Western Gulls interacting with the beautiful yet harsh coastal environment.





Lizzie Schafer

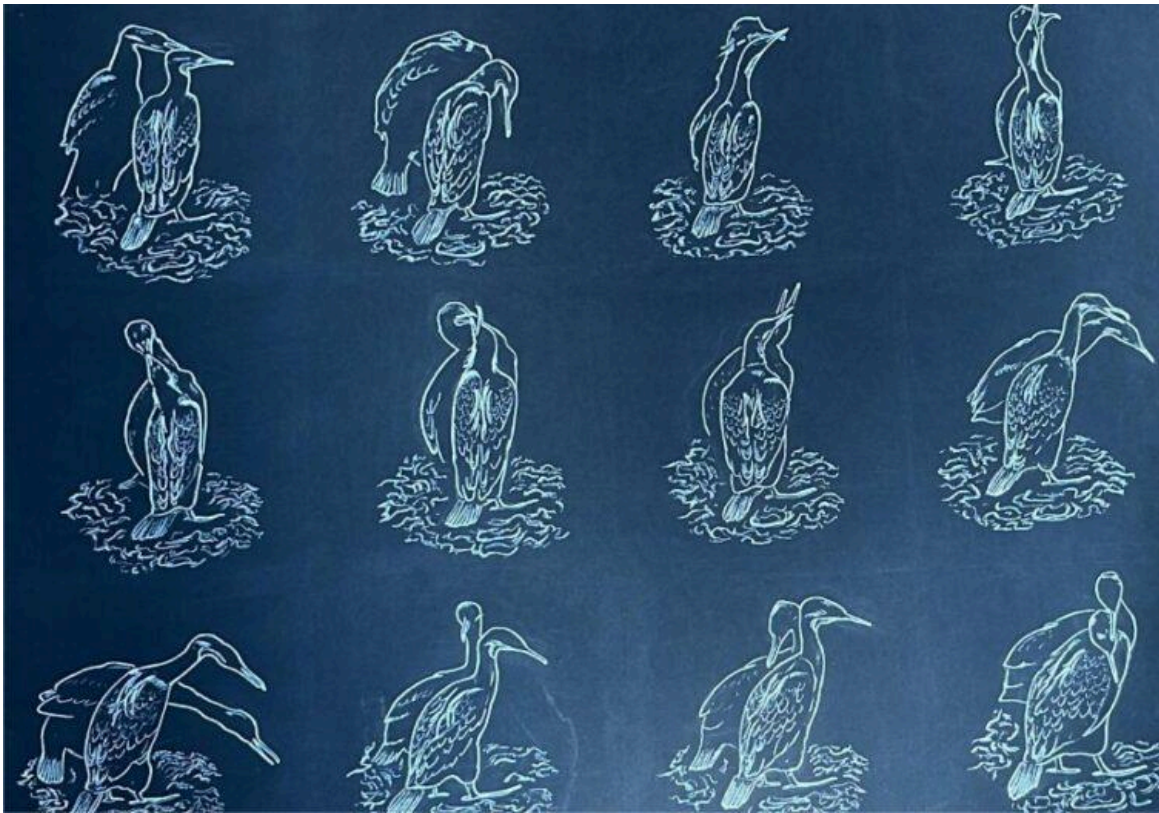
Lizzie has a long history with painting and began exploring natural history illustration during the University of California Santa Cruz's (UCSC) Natural History Field Quarter class. She is currently in her final year at UCSC studying Environmental Studies.

“Drawing is a way for me to appreciate nature more deeply, through looking closer at the physical forms and noticing things about a plant, animal, landscape that would have escaped my attention otherwise. [...] Art for conservation and scientific purposes is still very much alive and needed!”



Lizzie's experience at Año Nuevo Island

“Even though I knew that Año Nuevo Island would be covered with seabirds, it was hard to imagine before getting there just what that would look like. The density of wildlife was unlike pretty much anything else I had ever seen. Seals and sea lions were piled on the beach and outer terraces, but on most of the island it was birds everywhere—flying, squawking, mating, nesting, roosting, fighting. Any space that wasn't occupied by seabirds had been trampled bare of any plant life, and the smell of guano was everywhere. The more I looked, the more questions I had about each species' behaviors, distributions on the island, and life histories when they leave the island. I felt inspired and giddy walking around, sketching as fast as I could. I was especially fascinated with the Brandt's Cormorants breeding behaviors. When a mate returned to a nest with nesting material, the pair would circle and sway their necks, and nibble at each other's mouths together in a dance. Eventually, they would place it together. It reminded me of dancing and cuddling, and I couldn't help but think of it as loving.” Lizzie's first illustration highlights the various “billing” movements between a pair of Brandt's Cormorants, common in courtship behavior between mates at the nest. Lizzie used her second piece to create a “treasure map,” detailing the spatial segregation of species on the island and including buildings (in use and abandoned).



Constance Speer

Constance received her certificate in Science Illustration from CSUMB, where she discovered her love for natural history illustration. She hopes that her illustrations serve as a reminder of the beauty found in moments of tranquil observation.

“I was always torn between art and a passion for the outdoors. In undergrad I studied art, but I spent most weekends camping with the Outdoor Recreation department. I became curious about the history of the plants and



animals around me. When I discovered the field of science illustration, I knew it was the perfect match for me. Finally, I had the opportunity to learn more about nature, while developing my art practice.”

Constance’s experience at Año Nuevo Island

“It was amazing to be surrounded by untamed wildlife and observe research in action. Before this trip I had never seen a Western Gull’s eggs. During my visit to the island, I saw not only Western Gull eggs, but I had the opportunity to peer into a Rhinoceros Auklet’s burrow through a research camera. Observing these seabirds in their natural habitat allows me to better understand the birds’ anatomy and behavior.”

Constance’s illustration depicts a tranquil scene on the island with Brandt’s Cormorants, Western Gulls, and Black Oystercatchers congregating on the cliffs, illuminated by sunlight peeking through a dark sky. She also highlighted some of the habitat restoration used on the island to protect burrow and surface nesting seabirds, including a ceramic nesting module and a fence line that excludes pinnipeds to protect the main seabird breeding area on the island.



Hannah Kanne

Hannah received her B.F.A. in Studio Art with an emphasis on Scientific Illustration, and later received her certificate in Scientific illustration from CSUMB.

“It all started when I was little, watching Steve Irwin and his passion for nature and animals. His passion influenced me, and I hope to do the same others through my art highlighting the beauty and complexity of our ecosystems.”



for
by

“The few days I was able to spend on the island were incredible. Being completely surrounded by seabirds and pinnipeds was a dream. I will never forget looking up at the sky during sunset and seeing hundreds of brown pelicans flying over me. Much of my time on the island was spent simply observing. Watching how the seabirds interact with each other, how they interact with the sea lions and elephant seals, watching them with their mates as they return to the nest, and yell at anyone and anything that got too close to their nests. I would become so entranced by them and their silly little behaviors, that I would forget I was in the middle of a painting. I felt so honored to spend those few days in such a delicate and important space for each individual on Año Nuevo Island (even if one of them pooped on my camera).”

Hannah’s art focused on the highly variable nesting habits of the resident seabird species depicting burrowing Cassin’s and Rhinoceros Auklets, cliff-dwelling Pigeon Guillemots and Pelagic Cormorants, and others found around the island!



Art and science

These artworks serve as windows into the intricate world of seabird breeding behavior, fostering a connection between the local community and their natural heritage. This program by Oikonos strives to unite artists with their community while bridging the gap between the community and remote, inaccessible places.

Oikonos Ecosystem Knowledge has been a non-profit leader in science and community-driven conservation for over twenty years. Our mission is to study and protect imperiled ecosystems by engaging diverse communities through innovative scientific and artistic collaborations. Oikonos works throughout the Pacific with field offices in Hawaii, California, Washington, and Chile.

To learn more about Oikonos and habitat restoration and monitoring at Año Nuevo Island, visit us at www.oikonos.org or read our [2022 Año Nuevo Island Report](#).

PSG HELPS recipient updates

By Laney White, Fernando Medrano, Maya Philipp, and Miriam Lerma

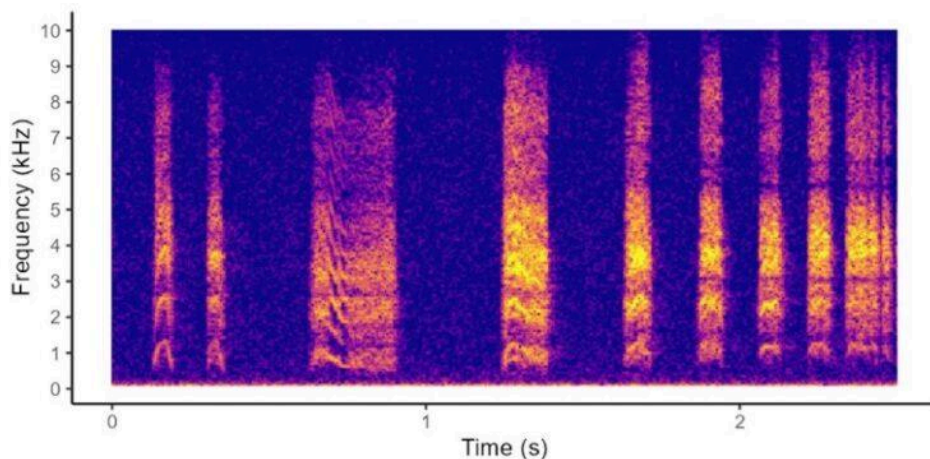
English

[PSG Helping Elevate Long-term Participation in Science \(PSG HELPS\)](#) was started in the summer of 2020 to support early career scientists and students by sponsoring their PSG memberships through donated funds. The program aims to foster a more inclusive and diverse membership within the organization, as well as a more collaborative platform for new members. Since its inception, the program has sponsored over 75 memberships for members throughout the Pacific, from Peru to Taiwan. HELPS has also organized programming on USAJobs and federal hiring, as well as supported annual meeting attendance for early career scientists.

It's always inspiring to read about HELPS applicants' conservation and research passions and what they have gained from this community. Who has the program recently supported? We're excited to have the following HELPS members as part of the PSG community:

Maya Philipp: Student

My scientific background is originally in marine acoustics, specifically humpback whales, but I became interested in seabird research over



the summer as an intern for [Conservation Metrics](#). There, I worked with acoustic data collected from the Atacama Desert in Chile by the Red de Observadores de Aves y Vida Silvestre de Chile, looking for patterns in Markham's Storm-Petrel vocal activity. Working with acoustic signals above the water was a new experience, but I fell in love with it and seabird research in general. I didn't expect to be working with seabirds when I started my marine biology degree at UC San Diego, but I'm so happy I found the field when I did. *Photo: spectrogram of a Markham's Storm-petrel call (credit: Conservation Metrics, Inc.)*

Miriam Lerma: Early Career Scientist

I am a Mexican biologist interested in seabirds and shorebirds. I did my PhD in FTZ, University of Kiel, Germany and was a postdoc in this institution for a couple of years. During my PhD I had the opportunity to study Masked Boobie (*Sula dactylatra*) foraging ecology. For my fieldwork, I had the privilege to work on remote islands from Isla Clarion, Mexico and Rapa Nui, Chile. Currently I am collaborating on projects involving Kelp Gulls (*Larus dominicanus*) in Chile, and Yellow-footed Gulls (*Larus livens*) in Mexico. We are tracking these gulls to gain understanding on their adaptations to the anthropocene.



*Miriam studied the foraging ecology of Masked Boobies (*Sula dactylatra*) for her PhD. (credit: Miriam Lerma)*

If you're interested in getting more involved with the program, you can [donate to the HELPS fund](#), reach out to helps@pacificseabirdgroup.org to volunteer on the committee, or apply for a sponsored PSG membership [here](#) (y [aquí](#) en español). Thank you to the PSG community for supporting students and Early Career Scientists!

Español

PSG Helping Elevate Long-term Participation in Science (PSG HELPS) se inició en el verano de 2020 para apoyar a científicas, científicos y estudiantes que inician su carrera patrocinando sus afiliaciones a PSG mediante fondos donados. El programa tiene como objetivo fomentar una membresía más inclusiva y diversa dentro de la organización, así como una plataforma más colaborativa para los nuevos miembros.

Desde su creación, el programa ha patrocinado más de 75 afiliaciones de miembros de todo el Pacífico, desde Perú hasta Taiwán. HELPS también ha organizado programas sobre USAJobs y contratación federal, y ha apoyado la asistencia a reuniones anuales de científicos que inician su carrera.

Siempre es inspirador leer sobre las pasiones de conservación e investigación de los solicitantes de HELPS y lo que han obtenido de esta comunidad.

¿A quién ha apoyado recientemente el programa? Estamos encantados de que los siguientes miembros de HELPS formen parte de la comunidad PSG:

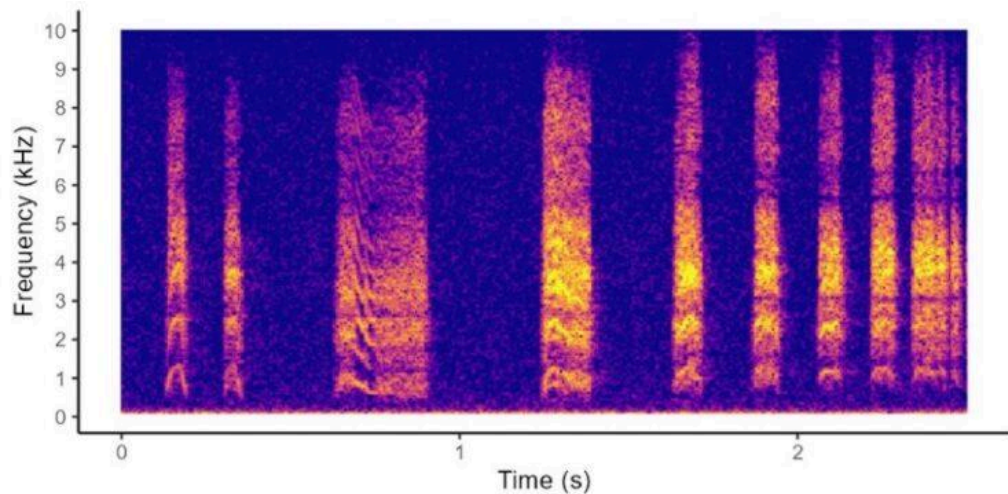
Maya Philipp

Mi formación científica se centra originalmente en la acústica marina, concretamente en las ballenas jorobadas, pero me interesé por la investigación de las aves marinas

durante el verano como becaria de Conservation Metrics. Allí trabajé con datos acústicos recogidos en el desierto de Atacama (Chile) por la Red de Observadores de Aves y Vida Silvestre de Chile, buscando patrones en la actividad vocal de la golondrina de mar negra (*Hydrobates markhami*). Trabajar con señales acústicas por encima del agua fue una experiencia nueva, pero me enamoré de ella y de la investigación de aves marinas en general. No esperaba trabajar con aves marinas cuando empecé la carrera de biología marina en la Universidad de California en San Diego, pero estoy muy contenta de haber encontrado este campo cuando lo hice.

Maya en el campo. (Fotografía: Maya Philipp)

Espectograma de la llamada de la golondrina de mar negra (crédito: Conservation Metrics, Inc.)



Miriam Lerma

Soy una bióloga mexicana interesada en aves marinas y playeras. Realicé mi doctorado en FTZ, Universidad de Kiel, Alemania y fui postdoc en esta institución por un par de años. Durante mi doctorado tuve la oportunidad de estudiar la ecología de forrajeo de los piqueros enmascarados (*Sula dactylatra*). Para mi trabajo de campo, tuve el privilegio de trabajar en islas remotas de Isla Clarión, México y Rapa Nui, Chile.

Actualmente colaboro en proyectos sobre gaviotas cocineras (*Larus dominicanus*) en Chile y gaviotas patiamarillas (*Larus livens*) en México.

Estamos siguiendo a estas gaviotas para comprender mejor sus adaptaciones al Antropoceno. Miriam en el campo. (Fotografía: Miriam Lerma)

Si estás interesado en implicarte más en el programa, puedes hacer un donativo al fondo HELPS, ponerte en contacto con helps@pacificseabirdgroup.org para ser voluntario en el comité, o solicitar una afiliación patrocinada al PSG [aquí](#) (y [aquí](#) en inglés). Gracias a la comunidad del PSG por apoyar a los estudiantes y a los científicos noveles.

