



O'ahu Seabird Aid

2022 Fallout Season Summary

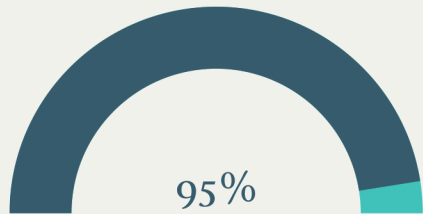


Photo credit: Kanani Imai

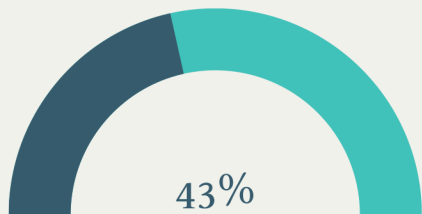


At A Glance

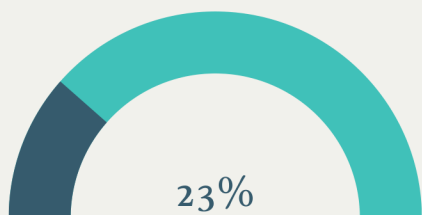
Total Release Rate



Released on O'ahu within 24 hours



Transferred to HWC hospital for rehabilitation



Right: A “soft-release” wedge-tailed shearwater peering out of the burrow it was placed in at the Freeman Seabird Preserve

637

Total fallout birds through
the OSA Program in 2022

Program Objectives

- Minimize seabird casualties
- Collect data on fallout
- Engage the community in conservation
- Continue to build an efficient, streamlined downed seabird response program

Mahalo to Program Supporters!

The 2022 OSA season was supported by Hawaiian Electric, Honolulu Zoo, Feather and Fur Animal Hospital, Hawai'i Dept. of Land and Natural Resources Division of Forestry and Wildlife, the City and County of Honolulu, Wahine Builders, and Young Brothers.



Project Leader

Hawai'i Wildlife Center started the OSA program in 2017. HWC manages the OSA Program, coordinates with OSA program partners and facilities, and provides care for OSA birds that need rehabilitation. HWC is fully permitted for native bird and bat rehabilitation in Hawai'i.

Partner Response Facilities

Honolulu Zoo - Location of OSA Stabilization Site. Permitted as an off-site location under HWC rehabilitation permits.

Feather and Fur Animal Hospital - Operated as the primary 24-hour public drop-off and stabilization site. Able to provide advanced critical care and surgery if needed.

Hawaiian Humane Society - Operated as public drop-off site, including after-hours.

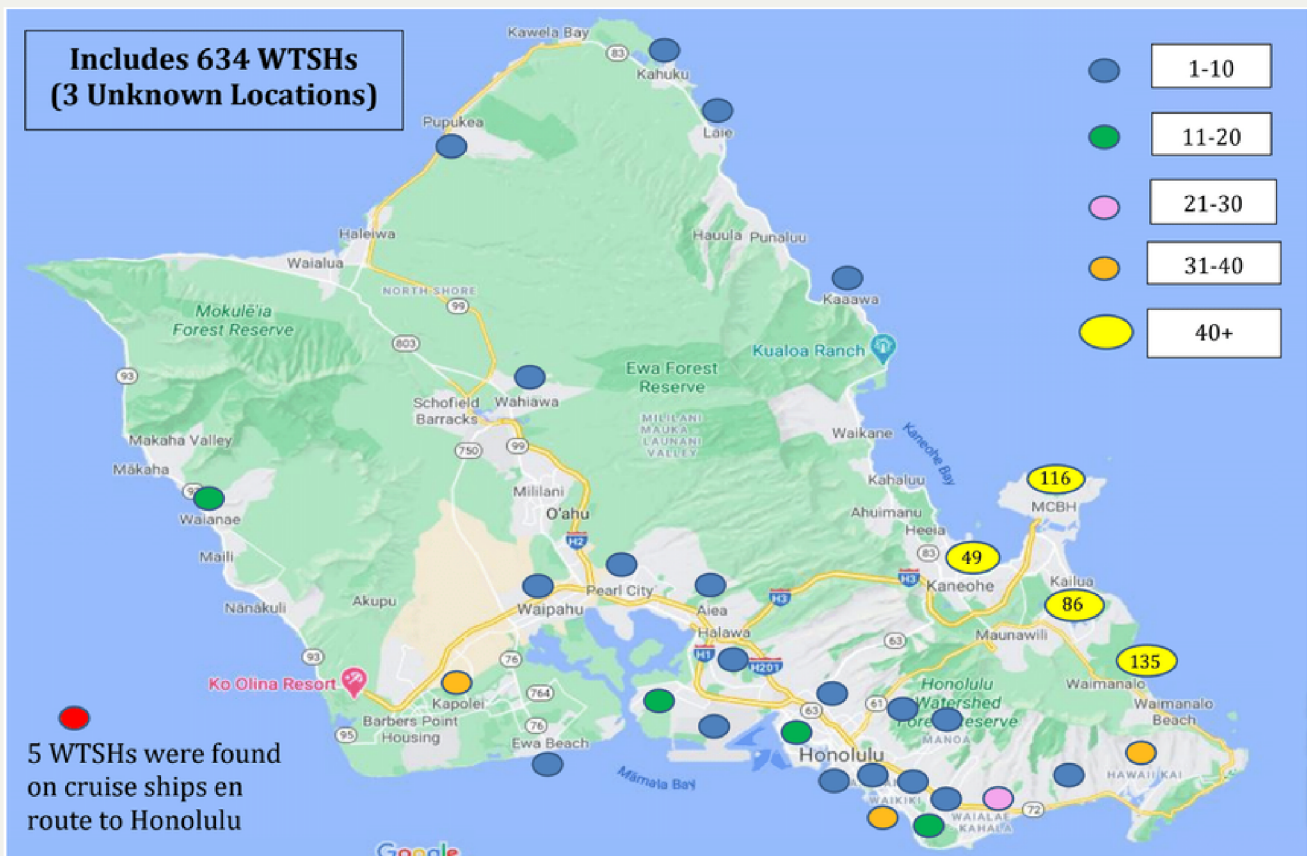
James Campbell National Wildlife Refuge - Operated as a limited public drop-off site for north shore.

Waianae Boat Harbor - Operated as a limited drop-off site. Harbor Master would check drop-off boxes and notify DOFAW staff if a bird was present

Note: Sea Life Park ceased bird acceptance in 2020.



Wedge-tailed Shearwater Rescue Locations During OSA



O'ahu Seabird Aid Program Summary

2022 FALLOUT SEASON



This was the sixth year of the OSA program. HWC OSA personnel, in coordination with program partners, responded to a record-breaking 637 downed 'Ua'u kani (Wedge-tailed Shearwaters) in the 2022 fallout season. This year, the timing of the moon cycles along with the breeding season resulted in one main peak during fallout. The peak day was November 23rd, when 55 shearwaters were admitted.



Birds were triaged into four categories on intake: ready for release, needs pool time, underweight/minor medical management, or critical care. Although a large number of birds were healthy, many this year were still extremely downy beyond typical release criteria. At least 200 of the released birds were initially considered "too downy", which resulted in the "needs pool time" category.

By hosting Hawai'i Wildlife Center OSA personnel and providing veterinary support, Feather and Fur Animal Hospital was essential to the success of the 2022 OSA season. F&F also served as a critical 24-hour drop-off location and received the vast majority of downed birds. The Freeman Seabird Preserve (FSP) also continued to be a reliable location for the soft release of shearwaters that met all release criteria but were reluctant to fly away. There were two additional reasons for utilizing FSP for soft release this year:

1. Weather conditions were not favorable for a traditional release. Extremely high winds during the peak week of the season resulted in unsafe and conditions for a traditional release.
2. Many birds were still downy beyond what is typical for fledglings.



The soft released birds were all fed so they had a full stomach before being placed in empty burrows. They were given the freedom to fly off on their own whenever they felt ready. All birds flew off on their own within 1-2 days.

Program Support and Expenses

Financial Support - Grants		\$19,930
A. DLNR Division of Forestry and Wildlife		A. \$4,980
B. Hawaiian Electric Company		B. \$5,000
C. City and County of Honolulu		C. \$9,950
In-Kind Donations		Est. \$96,393
A. Feather and Fur Animal Hospital veterinary services		
B. Honolulu Zoo services & OSA site		
C. Housing for HWC staff donated by Dr. Walsh		
D. Vehicle and pool/enclosure loaned by Wahine Builders		
E. Wheels for Wildlife Volunteers - 3,878 total miles driven		
F. Intern & Volunteer Hours - 400 hours		
Expenses		\$71,130
A. HWC Satellite and Hospital Personnel		
B. HWC Satellite and Hospital costs- equipment & supplies		
C. Inter-island bird transport		
D. Fuel expenses for ground transport		
Unfunded Costs Covered by Hawai'i Wildlife Center		\$51,200



Island-wide Shearwater Transport



The Wheels for Wildlife (W4W) program was created by the Hawai'i Wildlife Center in 2012 as a volunteer-based transport team on each of the main Hawaiian Islands to expedite the response time for sick, injured and orphaned native wildlife. HWC's Wheels for Wildlife (W4W) Program aided the OSA Program in transporting downed shearwaters from rescuers to Feather and Fur. Volunteers also transported shearwaters needing long term rehabilitation from Feather and Fur to the Honolulu airport for their flight to Hawai'i Island and then from the Kona airport to HWC wildlife hospital. In 2022 our W4W volunteers logged a total of 3,878 drive miles between 54 drivers for OSA downed shearwater transports.

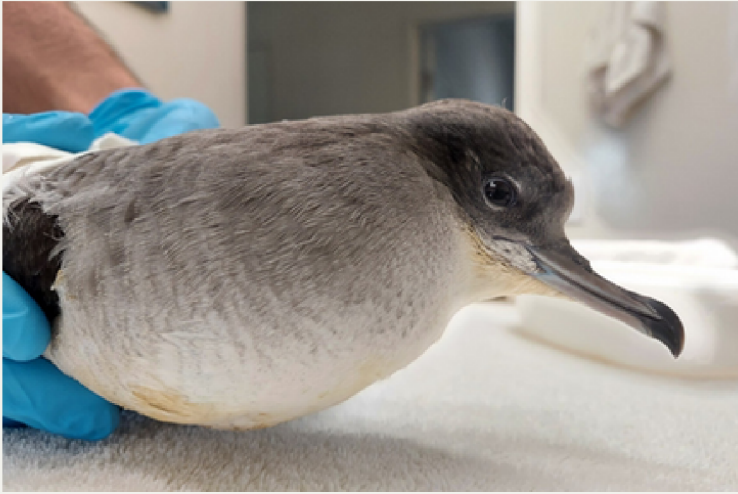
Additional transport support was provided by Hawaiian Marine Animal Response (HMAR) and Hawaiian Humane Society (HHS). HMAR was contacted by the public for rescue assistance and by HWC staff when Wheels for Wildlife Volunteers were unavailable to transport birds to our partner, Feather and Fur. HHS provided transport to Feather and Fur when OSA staff was not available to pick birds up from their drop-off location.

PEAK SEASON

Due to being in the process of an expansion, veterinary partner and public drop-off location, Feather and Fur Animal Hospital, was able to dedicate the back corner of their clinic to OSA operations. This included one large room and two adjoining hallways (one section pictured on the right). This area also had direct access to outside, which enabled easy drop-offs by the public and for a small pool to be set up nearby.



Images from Seabird Fallout



Above: Upon arrival this bird appeared physically healthy but it didn't seem to be acting quite right, so it was sent to the main HWC facility for further observation. By that time, the bird had visible subcutaneous emphysema (pictured), evidently from a ruptured air sac. Surgery was necessary to allow the air to escape and the bird eventually made a full recovery.



Above and Left: This shearwater with feathers growing out of its feet was a surprise to all and a first for most staff!

Below are the various color morphs seen in wedge-tailed shearwaters during fallout season, from left to right: The most common "light morph" (93.7%), an extremely rare "intermediate morph" (0.8%), and an uncommon "dark morph" (5.5%)





Questions? Contact us.

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