

## What are they called?

### **Scientific:**

*Nesofregetta fuliginosa*

### **Other English:**

White Throated storm petrel/  
Samoan storm petrel

**French:** Oceanite a gorge blanche

### **Bislama:**

**Vernacular (local name):**

## A little bit about them:

These are medium-sized sea birds that bound and skip in erratic zig-zags close to the surface of the sea.

They feed on small fish, squids, lobsters, shrimps and crabs.

They lay their eggs in nests under vegetation or in rock-crevices or in burrows dug in sand (often extremely fragile). They have been found on Aneityum and Tanna in Vanuatu but are very rare.

## What do they look like?

This medium sized Petrel grows to up to 24cm. They have a dark brown back, including the back of the neck, and white collared throat. They have a black bill, broad rounded wings and black feet that project beyond their long forked tail during flight.

There are different forms varying in the amount of white on their underside. In Vanuatu, the common form has more white on the belly and wings while the other have black streaks on white.



Source: Kirk Zufelt

## Did you know?

- Myths and folklores claim that the sudden appearance of a Polynesian Storm Petrel at sea signifies the coming of a storm.
- Females lay a single egg every nesting season.



Source: Ray Pierce Pacific

Polynesian Storm Petrels are classified as Endangered (EN) on the IUCN Red List.

### Why are they threatened?

- The small chicks and eggs are preyed on by introduced pigs, cats, dogs, rats and mice.
- Disturbance to breeding sites through clearing and development in nesting habitat.
- Seabirds, and Petrels in particular consume plastics floating in the ocean. They die from either intestinal blockages or poisoning.

### What do they do for us?

- They recycle nutrients, particularly phosphate between the land and sea through their eating and waste known as guano, fertilizing plants.
- Polynesian Storm Petrels are top predators of fish, mollusc and crustacean species, maintaining the health of ecosystems.

### What can we do for them?

- ✓ Identify nesting and breeding sites and take conservation measures to protect them.
- ✓ Castrate and spay pet cats and dogs to reduce feral animals preying on adults, chicks and eggs.
- ✓ Reduce using plastics, especially single-use plastics, and ensure rubbish is responsibly disposed of.

### Want to know more?

- ❖ Read more about them in the book ***Birds of Melanesia*** by Guy Dutson.
- ❖ Visit: [www.iucnredlist.org](http://www.iucnredlist.org)

