

ANNUAL REPORT

OIKONOS - ECOSYSTEM KNOWLEDGE





MISSION STATEMENT

Oikonos studies and protects imperiled ecosystems by engaging diverse communities through innovative scientific and artistic collaborations

Oikonos AT Work

LEGEND CLICK FOR MORE INFO

-  LABS
-  PROJECTS
-  FISHERIES



ACHIEVEMENTS IN CONSERVATION BY

APPLYING EXPERTISE

Biodiversity
Conservation

Habitat
Restoration

Ecosystem
Science

Conservation
Tools

Career Training
& Education

GOALS

Protect breeding habitats, food webs, and populations.

Improve the conservation status of threatened species.

Incorporate biodiversity and ecosystem knowledge
into policies and society.

Create lasting stewardship of critical habitats and wildlife
through community partnerships.

Establish transdisciplinary collaborations
that develop tools and solutions.



2016 - 2017

OIKONOS ACCOMPLISHMENTS

PHOTO: AÑO NUEVO ISLAND CONSERVATION FENCE & WESTERN GULLS

CONSERVATION & ART

MAKING HOMES

Accomplishments

- ▶ Collaborated on the 3rd Nest Module Design college course with master ceramicist Nathan Lynch.
- ▶ Provided customized nests for birds on islands in California and Chile.
- ▶ Over 400 birds have nested in the clay modules since implementation.

Strategies

Experiment with 3D printing ceramics to improve efficiency and production.

Design features that exclude predators and insulate nests from overheating.

Investigate success of birds breeding in modified and natural nests.



Cassin's Auklets spend most of their lives at sea searching for krill and small fish, and starting in early spring, mated pairs return to Año Nuevo Island to nest. This chick's parents chose one of the clay modules, procuring a safe and stable home. Emily weighs this downy auklet to learn if it is healthy - a favorite task for all seabird biologists.

CRITICALLY ENDANGERED SPECIES

PROTECTING SPACE



Accomplishments

- ▶ 42 incipient invasive plant species controlled to protect native forests and biodiversity of the Juan Fernández Archipelago.
- ▶ After providing 91 nest boxes over the past 5 years, two nesting Rayadito pairs on Alejandro Selkirk were observed for the first time, providing novel insights into the ecology of one of Chile's rarest birds.
- ▶ Partnered with fishermen to study the rare De Filippi's Petrel of the Desventuradas Islands.

Strategies

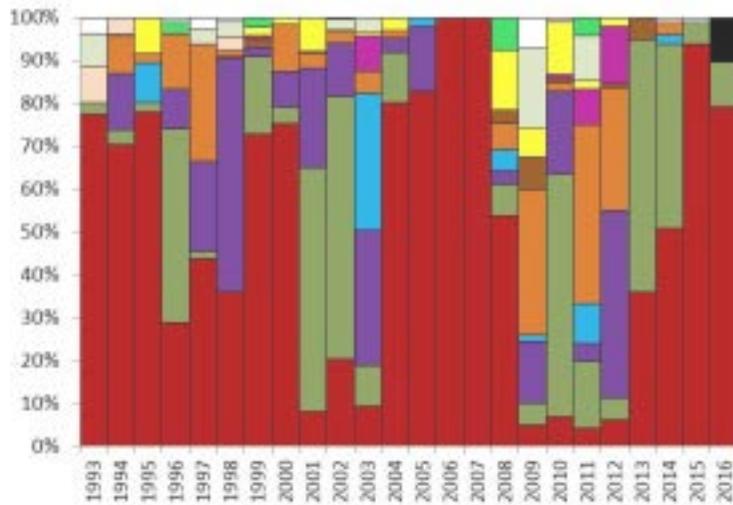
- Convey urgency to protect endangered birds through national conservation plans and public engagement.
- Create advisory board of experts to prevent species extinctions.

The endemic Juan Fernández Firecrown is found exclusively on Robinson Crusoe Island. It is the only endemic oceanic island hummingbird in the world, and island residents honor this symbol of their community through artwork, gardens, and conservation.

PHOTO: PETER HODUM, MALE FIRECROWN

BIOINDICATORS AND

TRACKING OCEAN CHANGE



Our diet studies track the proportion of anchovies (red) and rockfish (pale green) that Rhinoceros Auklets feed to their chicks. These diving seabirds, which are related to puffins, can find alternative prey (other colors) when their preferred fish are scarce, providing valuable insight into ocean health.

Accomplishments

- ▶ Documented Rhinoceros Auklet diet in the California Current for the 25th consecutive year.
- ▶ Synthesized diet, population, and reproduction studies of Brandt's Cormorant to understand ocean conditions and prey populations in California.

Strategies

Inform fisheries management using seabird diet data to identify key fishery populations in the Pacific.

Track seabird diets as indicators of marine food webs, ocean health, forage fish stocks, and climate change.

Accomplishments

- ▶ Hosted the 6th Copa Fardela to celebrate endemic species with all the residents of Isla Mocha.
- ▶ Created 15 songs and 30 radio shows for the community of Isla Mocha with various important environmental and conservation themes about their island.
- ▶ Worked with teachers to integrate biodiversity into their classrooms and communities.

Strategies

Create more opportunities for island residents to directly participate in conservation.

Support increased appreciation for endemic species and biodiversity within the island's youth and future stewards.

The winning soccer team celebrates at the annual Copa Fardela festival. More than 300 community members come together each November to welcome the returning Pink-footed Shearwater to Isla Mocha, Chile. [View video](#)

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT THROUGH

CONSERVATION & EDUCATION



MARINE DEBRIS &

PLASTIC POLLUTION

Accomplishments

- ▶ Of 20 seabird species sampled in Hawaii, 15 ingested plastic, including two previously undocumented: the Brown Booby and the White-tailed Tropicbird .
- ▶ In 2016, over 35,000 students learned about ocean plastic ingestion while dissecting albatross boluses from the Winged Ambassadors program.
- ▶ Examined 115 samples of predatory fish and found plastic in 86% of albacore tuna and 40% of skipjack sampled.
- ▶ Featured on HBO's VICE News on plastic pollution and its impacts.

Strategies

Share ingestion data to support ocean plastic pollution reduction and policy.

Identify at-risk species and monitor populations for the impacts of plastic pollution.

Provide schools with resources to promote ocean literacy and to engage students and educators in marine debris prevention.

The Northwestern Hawaiian Islands are home to abundant wildlife and very few people. Even so, they are covered in marine debris. Nesting albatross forage on floating plastic pieces and feed them to their chicks. If the chicks survive, they regurgitate a bolus, a mass of undigested food remains and plastic, before fledging. These are collected and sent to classrooms across the U.S. and abroad.

[View bolus story](#)



Accomplishments

- ▶ Identified the highest overlap of breeding shearwaters and purse seine fisheries in areas offshore of Valdivia and Concepción, Chile.
- ▶ Conducted a census of all Pink-footed Shearwater colonies and estimated 30,000 breeding pairs worldwide.
- ▶ Provided demographic data (age, sex, health) to NOAA in a joint effort to understand recent increases in Hawaiian albatross bycatch.

Strategies

Incorporate at-sea tracking and shoreline stranding data to inform sustainability in Chilean fisheries.

Work with Chilean government to create first national seabird stranding network.

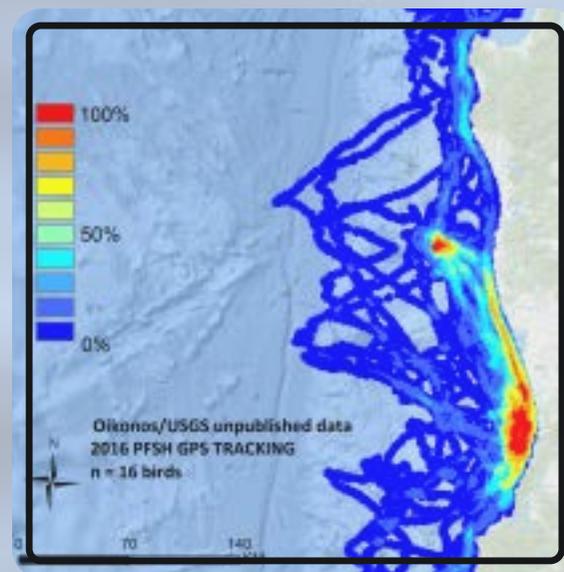
Analyze and strengthen a 10-year time series on seabird bycatch from Alaska and Hawaii longline fisheries to identify the most vulnerable subsets of populations.

SEABIRD BYCATCH & STRANDINGS

INFORMING FISHERIES



The Pink-footed Shearwater nests only in Chile but migrates as far as Canada. Unfortunately, they run into trouble where their foraging grounds overlap with fisheries. We use GPS tags to identify where the birds risk conflict with fisheries. This information is critical to reducing bycatch of this IUCN-listed Vulnerable species.



2016 - 2017 ACCOMPLISHMENTS SHARED WITH OUR EXTENSIVE

PARTNERS

Agreement on the
Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels

Albatross Task Force

Alliance for Zero Extinction

American Bird Conservancy

Año Nuevo State Park

AvesChile, Unión de Ornitólogos

BeachCOMBERS

BirdLife International

BOEM, Dept. of Interior

California College of Arts

California Dept. of Fish and Wildlife,
Marine Wildlife Veterinary Care and
Research Center

Channel Islands National Park

Comité Nacional Pro Defensa de la Flora
y Fauna

Colegios on Islas Mocha, Robinson
Crusoe, and Selkirk

Conservation Metrics

Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuary

CONAF Chile

Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial
Research Organization

David Liittschwager

Go Native

Groundswell Coastal Ecology

H.T. Harvey & Associates

Hawai'i Pacific University

Instituto de Fomento Pesquero, Chile

Instituto Hórus, Brasil

Island Conservation

Ka Mate nga Kiore

Kure Atoll Conservancy

Last Ocean

HI and AK Groundfish Fishers

Fishers of the Desventuradas

Ministerio del Medio Ambiente, Chile

Monterey Bay Aquarium

MoreLab

Moss Landing Marine Laboratories

Nathan Lynch

National Fish & Wildlife Foundation

New Zealand Dept. of Conservation

NOAA Fisheries, Alaska, Southwest,
and Pacific Islands Fisheries Science
Centers

NOAA Fisheries, National Seabird
Program

North Pacific Groundfish Observer Program

Oiled Wildlife Care Network

Pacific Islands Region Observer Program in
Hawai'i

Pacific Rim Conservation

Papahānaumokuākea Marine National
Monument

Point Blue Conservation Science

ProDelphinus

Rakiura Titi Islands Committee, NZ

Ron Real, Emerging Objects

Red de Observadores, Chile

SUBPESCA, Chile

SERNAPESCA, Chile

Servicio Agrícola y Ganadero, Chile

State of Hawai'i Department of Land and
Natural Resources

Southwest Fisheries Science Center

The Hummingbird Society

University of Puget Sound

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

U.S.G.S. Western Ecological Research Center

U.C. Davis & Santa Cruz

U.C. Natural Reserve System

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OUR STORY



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Nathaniel Polish

*Founders; also Thomas Gardali and Sacha Heath

In 2001, a group of ecologists, conservation biologists, and artists came together to found Oikonos. Their shared mission to improve biodiversity and conservation in imperiled ecosystems has since become an international organization with programs in Hawai'i, California, New Zealand, and Chile.



The Nest

Jessie Beck
 Ryan Carle
 Valentina Colodro
 Emily Coletta
 Guillermo De Rodt
 Gonzalo Díaz
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Direct Revenue **Direct Expenses**
\$638,142 \$673,589



Financial Health

| | |
|-------------|-----------|
| Assets | \$279,022 |
| Liabilities | \$1,288 |
| Net Assets | \$277,734 |

DECEMBER 31st 2016

FINANCES

Since 2010, we've collaborated with dedicated partners to apply creative and novel tools to restore habitat at this critical refuge, Año Nuevo Island. Jessie and Ryan lead a passionate team of staff and volunteers to the island weekly to track seabird breeding, plant natives, and stabilize the underground network.

[View the restoration story](#)

2016 & 2017

FUNDERS

NOAA ALASKA & HAWAII
SCIENCE CENTERS

GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTAL
FACILITY (GEF) UNDP

NOAA RESTORATION CENTER

THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA
SANTA CRUZ

MINISTERIO DEL
MEDIO AMBIENTE CHILE

LUCKENBACH & MONTROSE
OIL SPILL TRUSTEE COUNCILS

NATIONAL FISH &
WILDLIFE FOUNDATION

UNITED STATES
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

COMMONWEALTH SCIENTIFIC &
INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH OF AUSTRALIA

WESTERN PACIFIC REGIONAL
FISHERIES MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

HUMMINGBIRD
SOCIETY

PATAGONIA
SANTA CRUZ

AMERICAN BIRD
CONSERVANCY

THE SAND HILL FOUNDATION

CENTRE FOR AGRICULTURE &
BIOSCIENCES INTERNATIONAL

HOG ISLAND OYSTER CO.

GRATITUDE FOR OUR WIDE NETWORK OF

SUPPORTERS

Paul Abbassi
Joe Akers
Joan Akers
Gillian Ashenfelter
Mary Ball
Nadine Ball
Grant Ballard
Matthew Bansfield
Ryan Barone
Jennifer Biehn
James Jeb Bishop
Sharon Bouton
Anthony Brake
Sally Brien
Kenneth Broad
Linda Brodman
Mary Brong
Judy C Broughton
Martha T Brown
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Honors to all the
Winged Ambassador
Educators, Año Nuevo
volunteers, and all
supporters not listed



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THANK YOU

Together with you and all our supporters, we are making meaningful contributions to protect our imperiled ecosystems and wildlife. Your donations and participation are critical. We love to hear from our communities, answer questions, and discuss future goals and priorities. Visit oikonos.org/people to get in touch with us.

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oikonos.org

DONATE



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