

SHORT NOTE

Grey-faced Petrel (*Pterodroma macroptera*) entangled in hip-chain cotton

Careless use of hip-chain cotton is known to cause bird mortality (Brown & Miller 1997, Loegrin 1997). Among the > 18 bird species reported as entangled in hip-chain cotton in New Zealand (Brown & Miller 1997) and in Oregon, USA (Loegrin 1997), the only seabird was the Little Shearwater (*Puffinus assimilis*). The following observation adds another seabird species to this list.

On the night of 6 August 1997 a group of Ornithological Society of New Zealand members from the Waikato region were on the slopes of Mauao (Mt Maunganui) in the Bay of Plenty catching Grey-faced Petrels (*Pterodroma macroptera*) for banding. At about 21:00 hours, in response to the call of a petrel on the ground, I made my way towards it through a sparse understory of kawakawa (*Macropiper excelsum*), that was over-topped by large mature pohutukawa (*Metrosideros excelsa*).

I found the petrel sitting in an awkward position with a fine line extending from under its tail to the top branches of a 1.5m high kawakawa tree, in which the line was firmly entangled. On capturing and inspecting the bird, cotton was found to be tightly wound around the base of one wing. After removing the cotton, the bird was banded with a metal leg band. Upon release it flew off seemingly unharmed.

The hip-chain cotton had been used to position rat-bait stations about two months previously.

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LITERATURE CITED

- BROWN, K.P.; MILLER, C. 1997. Bird deaths from hip-chain cotton entanglement. *Notornis* 44: 109-110.
LOEGRIN, J.P. 1997. Wildlife mortality and entanglement by discarded hip chain string. *Wilson Bull.* 109: 353-355.

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BEV WOOLLEY, 8 Beverley Crescent, Hillcrest, Hamilton, New Zealand

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