

PROTOCOLS TO REDUCE IMPACT TO THE LAYSAN FINCH

The following avoidance and minimization measures will reduce the risk of harm to the Laysan finch:

1. To reduce the risk of inadvertent drowning of Laysan finch at the campsite:
 - Buckets will always be overturned so that they cannot collect rainwater.
 - Laundry buckets must have lids while laundry is soaking.
 - Water-filled buckets for dish washing (or for any other purpose) will always be attended.
 - Tarps (*e.g.*, those covering propane, etc.) will be tucked in tightly so that they cannot collect rainwater.
 - Garbage cans used for desalinization will have netting placed between the can and the lid. Care will be taken to make sure the lids close properly; faulty positioning of hoses can interfere with proper closure.
2. To minimize accidental entanglement of Laysan finches at the campsite:
 - Fabric with loose threads will be burned to minimize the risk of Laysan finch entanglement. Laysan finch feet can become entangled when fabric is hung out to dry.
 - Loose threads will be cut off tents and tarps.
 - Anything with small mesh (*e.g.*, bird nets) will be put away to avoid Laysan finch entanglement.
3. To minimize impacts to Laysan finch from general camp activities and maintenance:
 - Camp supplies and water jugs will be aligned with ample space between rows so that finches will not get trapped. Storage jugs will always be capped.
 - Burn barrels must be attended at all times when burning trash. When not burning, any vents or rust-eaten holes in the barrel or lid will be covered (*e.g.*, with rocks).
 - For stability reasons, buckets will not be stacked more than two high. Personnel will watch for leaning buckets or water jugs and level the sand beneath leaning buckets if necessary.
 - Tents will be zipped at all times (day and night) so that finches cannot enter.
 - Laysan finches will not be fed or allowed access to human food. Laysan finch dependency on the camp could potentially result in adverse impacts to the finches when campsites are dismantled.
 - On the islands of Pearl and Hermes, Laysan finches appear to be limited by nest sites, therefore, they nest in debris (driftwood, plastic pipes, baskets, etc.). Thus, the beaches will not be cleaned or debris disturbed as this may destroy a nest. In an effort to prevent nesting in undesirable locations, camp gear must be checked daily during the nesting season (spring and summer) for signs that finches are building nests on or under gear. If it is determined nest building has begun, the nest site should be modified to prevent nest completion.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service