

Up to 100% of Albatross chicks contain plastic



Albatross

Albatross skim the surface of the sea with their beaks, picking up floating plastic mistaken for food. Albatross nesting on Midway Island have been the focus of much research in this area. Midway Island lies in the centre of the North Pacific gyre, 2000 miles from the nearest continent and yet tens of thousands of birds die each year from plastic ingestion.



The Laysan Albatross was first found to have plastic in its stomach from the 1960s. A recent study revealed that 100% of chicks can be found with ingested plastic. A recent study has also found high levels of toxins such as lead linked with the ingested plastic. These toxins have increased since the 1990s in interferes with the seabird's behaviour ultimately leading to a lower survival rate.