

INTRODUCTION

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The Pacific Seabird Group (PSG) formed in December 1972. The organizers wished to study and conserve marine birds in the waters of the Pacific region and the PSG was to serve to increase communication between various persons and organizations. The founders placed a special emphasis on cold and temperate water systems, especially in Alaska, western Canada, and California, in relation to the offshore oil development in progress or contemplated at the time. Many early members of the PSG worked on government studies related to the effects of oil development in the marine environment on birds. An outlyer group of students of tropical marine birds also became interested in the PSG at this early stage. As PSG matured, and funds for offshore oil development waned, those of us specifically interested in tropical or subtropical systems took a more active role in the organization.

This symposium is a direct result of this interest in warm water seabirds. Craig Harrison urged the Pacific Seabird Group to hold an an-

nual meeting in Hawaii. From those meeting plans evolved the idea of a symposium focusing on seabirds of the low latitudes and the relationship between those species and the various components of the marine ecosystem found along the temperature-salinity gradient to the north and south. Communication began between persons working on tropical seabirds about their willingness to participate in a symposium and publishing their results. The papers presented herein resulted from those efforts.

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