

ALBATROSS

Life on the Wind and Sea

Albatrosses spend 95% of their lives over the open ocean, using their long, strong wings to glide on currents of air. But at times, Laysan Albatrosses like Mālie (who you'll meet in this exhibit) return to land to find a mate, nest, and raise a chick.

Albatrosses survive and fly with wind. They flap a little, but mostly soar through the air, using the wind to sail over the ocean for long periods of time. They only return to land to find and meet their life mates, lay their egg, and raise their young. When it's time to nest, both parents share responsibilities for their egg. While one albatross incubates the egg for up to three weeks, the other travels hundreds or thousands of miles to find food in colder waters. When the traveling bird returns, the parents trade roles.

Author and artist Caren Loebel-Fried spent five weeks on the small Northwestern Hawaiian islands of Midway Atoll (Papahānaumokuākea in Hawaiian), working amongst hundreds of thousands of nesting Laysan, Black-footed, and Short-tailed Albatrosses. While on Midway, Caren counted nests with a census team and researched for her artwork for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. She also got to interact with individual albatrosses, leading her to imagine the story of a particular Laysan Albatross named Mālie (pronounced MAH-lee-eh, and meaning "calm" in Hawaiian). Look for Mālie's thoughts as she tells her story throughout this exhibit!

Albatross: Life on the Wind and Sea and *A Perfect Day for an Albatross*, the book on which this exhibit is based, were born out of Caren's research experience, in partnership with Cornell Lab of Ornithology's publishing wing, the biologists who verified the accuracy of her story and art, and the Seymour Marine Discovery Center in Santa Cruz, California. The non-profit Exhibit Envoy travels this exhibit.

North Pacific Species of Albatross



Black-footed Albatross

Courtesy Tony Morris



Short-tailed Albatross

Courtesy E.J. Peiker



Laysan Albatross

Courtesy US Fish & Wildlife Service

There are three kinds of albatrosses found in the Northern Pacific Ocean.

You might see a Black-footed Albatross, Short-tailed Albatross, or Laysan Albatross soaring over the Pacific Ocean!

