

## Symposium 37 Global seabird conservation: threats and opportunities

### Introduction

John COOPER<sup>1</sup>, M. de L. BROOKE<sup>2</sup>

1. Avian Demography Unit, Dept. of Statistical Sciences, University of Cape Town, Rondebosch 7701, South Africa; jcooper@adu.uct.ac.za

2. Dept. of Zoology, University of Cambridge, Downing Street, Cambridge CB2 3EJ, UK; mb10005@cus.cam.ac.uk

Seabirds are rarely tied to boundaries: in contrast to land birds, there are few national endemic species. Such low level endemism requires a global approach to seabird conservation, because lessons learned in one sea or ocean are likely to be applicable elsewhere. Many of the threats facing seabirds are themselves global in nature: marine pollution, climate change, fishery interactions, and, on breeding islands, introduced predators and human exploitation and disturbance. Although there are still very few long-term studies of seabirds which allow for assessment of popu-

lation trends over generations, it is evident from the literature that many seabird species have decreased in abundance over the last century as a result of impacts from the identified threats. This symposium presented specific case studies to summarize some of the conservation threats and opportunities facing seabird populations generally around the world. Examples include threatened bird species, direct and indirect interactions with fisheries and human exploitation.