

Henderson Island Restoration Project



Henderson Island east beach

In 2011 the RSPB made an attempt to eradicate rats from Henderson Island. The operation failed when it was discovered that a few rats survived and a new attempt is being planned.

To be sure that this is a success a six-month research trip is planned for 2015.

The objective is to establish evidence that would provide confidence that a second attempt would be likely to succeed. There is little point in trying again unless we have a high level of confidence of success.

The research will establish:

- 1) *Does the age of bait, measured as number of days of exposure to prevailing weather, influence its palatability to rats?*
- 2) *Are there natural foods that are preferred by rats to bait pellets?*
- 3) *Radio-tracking of rats to determine if any sex/age classes have small home ranges.*



Henderson petrel

£230,000 must be raised before the trip can proceed. Some good news. Firstly, we have already received a grant of £60,000 from the Darwin Initiative Fund towards the trip. Secondly, a generous supporter has agreed to match fund all private donations we receive. This means that we only now have to raise £85,000.



Henderson fruit dove

From the very first day that we received the news that a few rats had survived, we were determined that we would not give up. Please donate today online at

Whatever amount you give will be doubled by the generous donor, who is equally as committed as we all are, to eliminate the threat of extinction to Henderson's endemic wildlife and to end the awful situation of young birds being eaten alive by rats.