

Population status and conservation of Crab Plovers *Dromas ardeola* on Aldabra, Indian Ocean

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Pistorius, P.A. & Taylor, F.E. 2008. Population status and conservation of Crab Plovers *Dromas ardeola* on Aldabra, Indian Ocean. *Wader Study Group Bull.* 115(1): 36–40.

Keywords: Crab Plover, *Dromas ardeola*, Aldabra, population size, wintering, migration, conservation

We present population counts of Crab Plovers wintering on the Aldabra atoll in the Indian Ocean during two consecutive wintering seasons (2006/2007 and 2007/2008). We estimate the Crab Plover population at 3,000–3,800 individuals, which is 4–6% of the global population, making Aldabra a wintering area of international importance according to criteria laid down by the RAMSAR Convention on Wetlands. Aldabra provides an ideal location for continued monitoring of population numbers as well as recruitment in Crab Plovers because of the limited anthropogenic disturbance and existing research infrastructure.