

BULLER SHEARWATER

Puffinus bulleri

Other: New Zealand Shearwater (<1983)

monotypic

non-breeding visitor, occasional

Buller Shearwaters breed on Poor Knights Islands off northern New Zealand in Oct-Apr and disperse widely across the N and S Pacific Oceans (King 1967, AOU 1998). They occur sparingly in Hawaiian waters and vicinity, primarily as northbound transients in Apr-Aug and southbound transients in Nov.

At sea, a specimen was collected during the POBSP about 275 km SW of Kaula Rock (21° 35' N, 162° 42' W) 23 May 1965 (USNM 495246). Rowlett (2002) recorded 10 Buller Shearwaters during 93 observing days in Aug-Nov 2002: 2 on 24 Aug, 85 km N of Kaua'i; 1 on 9 Nov, SSW of Gardner Pinnacles, and 7 on 21-26 Nov around the Southeastern Islands. Other at-sea observations included 2 birds 300 km off Pearl and Hermes 3 Nov 1984 (Pyle and Eilerts 1986), one off Necker 24 Jun 1995, and one off Nihoa 23 Jun 1995. Spear *et al.* (1999) observed 4 individuals 110 km SE of Hawai'i I 13 Nov 1989.

Buller Shearwaters have also been recorded during single-day trips offshore. In the *Northwestern Hawaiian Islands* one was off *Midway* 25 May 1999, and in the *Southeastern Hawaiian Islands* birds have been observed off Lehua Islet N of *Ni'ihau* 17 Jun 2003 ([HRBP](#) 5016); *Kaua'i* 18 April 1998; *O'ahu* 15 Apr 1990, 15 Apr 2000, 9 Jun 2003 ([HRBP](#) 5015 published *NAB* 57:576), 11 Jun 2003, 13 Mar 2005, 3 May 2005 (2 individuals), and 25 Oct 2006 ([HRBP](#) 5386); and *Hawai'i I* 24 Jun-13 Nov 1989 (7 birds), 14 Mar 1993, 2 May 1993, and 20 Oct 2009 ([HRBP](#) 5779). The only record of one ashore involves an adult found dead at Hanama'ulu SP, Kaua'i, 30 Jun 2006 (BPBM 185011; [HRBP](#) 5669 of specimen). It was undergoing the prebasic wing molt when it died.

[Acronyms and Abbreviations](#)

[Literature cited](#)

Citation: Pyle, R.L., and P. Pyle. 2009. The Birds of the Hawaiian Islands: Occurrence, History, Distribution, and Status. B.P. Bishop Museum, Honolulu, HI, U.S.A. Version 1 (31 December 2009) <http://hbs.bishopmuseum.org/birds/rlp-monograph/>