

## COOK PETREL

*Pterodroma cooki*

**non-breeding visitor, occasional**

monotypic

Cook Petrels breed on islands off the coast of New Zealand in Oct-Apr and disperse northeastward to the central and east Pacific (King 1967, Harrison 1983, Bartle et al. 1993, AOU 1998, CBRC 2007), to non-breeding grounds concentrated off c. Mexico (Pitman 1986, Roberson and Bailey 1991). They occur in Hawaiian waters rarely but regularly in Jun-Nov; King (1967) also reports them (without details) from Hawaiian waters during the boreal spring.

Most records are from research vessels *at sea*. In Northwestern Hawaiian Island waters, 6 individuals flying south on 3, 4, and 15 Nov 1984 off Lisianski, Laysan, and Gardner Pinnacles are the earliest records of Cook Petrel in Hawaii (Pyle and Eilerts 1986). Six additional Cook Petrels were between Gardner Pinnacles and Laysan 24-26 Jun 1989, one was off Pearl and Hermes 13 Aug 1993, and one was just W of Nihoa 17 Aug 1993. Rowlett (2002), surveying Hawaiian waters out to 200 nmi, recorded Cook Petrels on nearly half (10 of 22) of observing days in Northwestern waters 25 Aug-15 Sep 2002 (total 34 birds), but none in more than 40 days in the same area from late Sep through 13 Nov 2002. At-sea reports in Southeastern Hawaiian Island waters include one 60 km SW of Maui 7 Oct 1987, three 55 km E of Hawai'i I 26 Aug 1989, and 2 birds > 275 km SE of Hawai'i I 1 Sep 1989. Rowlett (2002) recorded 10 Cook Petrels on 5 (of 11) observing days during Aug 2002 at sea off Kaua'i, O'ahu, Maui, and Hawai'i. Only 4 were found during many more days in Sep-Nov 2002. No Cook Petrels were reported on earlier survey cruises (King 1970, Spear *et al.* 1999).

In the *Northwestern Hawaiian Islands*, a Cook Petrel was captured and released after it struck a mast on a Coast Guard cutter just off *Laysan* 23 Oct 1993. Cook Petrels that landed on cruise ships off *Kaua'i* was brought ashore 1 Sep 2006 ([HRBP](#) 5309-5310 published *NAB* 61:181) and 15 Oct 2007 before being released. Cook Petrels have also been reported from boats during single-day trips off Kaua'i 25 Jul 2003 and 25 Sep 2009; off *O'ahu* 24 Oct 1992, 23 Oct 1993, 20 Sep 2005 ([HRBP](#) 5222), and 18 Oct 2005; and off *Hawai'i I* 18 and 20 Oct 2003 and 27 Sep, 3 Oct, and 27 Nov 2004. Other Cook Petrels reported from Southeastern Hawaiian Island waters lacked substantiation. A petrel turned into SLP "sometime in 2002-2003" and photographed ([HRBP](#) 5060) appears to be of a Cook Petrel; no documentation accompanied the photograph but SLP records indicate that it may have come from Bellows Field, O'ahu, 30 Nov 2002 and that it later died 23 Jan 2003.

Cook and [Pycroft](#) petrels are very difficult to distinguish in the field (Spear *et al.* 1992, Howell *et al.* 1996, Rowlett 2002) and some of the Cook Petrels reported in Hawaiian waters, especially those after September, could have been of Pycroft Petrel (Spear et al. 1992).

[Acronyms and Abbreviations](#)

[Literature cited](#)

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<http://hbs.bishopmuseum.org/birds/rlp-monograph/>