

## HERALD PETREL

## *Pterodroma arminjoniana*

**non-breeding visitor, occasional**

*P.a. heraldica*

*P.a. atrata?*

The central Pacific subspecies of Herald Petrel (*P.a. heraldica*) breeds on islands throughout the S Pacific, dispersing northward across the equator to the central N Pacific (King 1967, Harrison 1983, Pitman 1986, Bailey et al. 1989), occasionally as far as Hawaiian Island waters. The nominate subspecies (*P. a. arminjoniana*) inhabits the Atlantic and Indian Oceans and should probably be considered a separate species (Trinidad Petrel), and a population of dark-morph Herald Petrel breeding on Henderson Island (*atrata*) may also constitute a separate species, the Henderson Petrel (Brooke and Rowe 1996).

In the *Northwest Hawaiian Islands*, an immature light-morph Pacific Herald Petrel flying over the airstrip at Tern Island, **French Frigate**, was collected 14 Mar 1968 (Amerson 1971; USNM 543342, [HRBP](#) 5091-5096 of specimen). *At sea*, Rowlett (2002) recorded a light morph Herald Petrel 274 km W of Kure 17 Sep 2002, and another light-morph bird 240 km SSW of Nihoa 31 Oct 2002. Around the Southeastern Hawaiian Islands, Rowlett recorded 8 Herald Petrels at distances 45-370 km off shore from Kaua'i, O'ahu, Maui, and Hawai'i in Aug-Nov 2002. During monthly oceanographic cruises from March 1964 through June 1965, King (1970) reported 5 tentative observations of Herald Petrels 185-275 km E of Hawai'i I, and Spear *et al.* (1999) recorded 3 light-morphed Herald Petrels 185-275 km SSE of Hawai'i 12 Nov 1990 and 15 Nov 1991. A bird turned into the SLP rehabilitation facility 18 Jan 2005 was identified as a Herald Petrel but we consider this identification unsubstantiated.

Most birds observed in Hawaiian waters are of the light morph and refer to *P.a. heraldica*; however, 5 dark *Pterodroma* petrels NNE of the Southeastern Islands 21-29 Nov 2002 and one photographed off Kona, Hawai'i I 6 Dec 2006 ([HRBP](#) 5437-5440) may have been Henderson's Petrel (*atrata*); see [Murphy's Petrel](#).

### [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/>