

KERMADEC PETREL

Pterodroma neglecta

non-breeding visitor, occasional

subspecies?

Kermadec Petrels breed in the Kermadec and other island groups across the S Pacific, and disperse widely into the N Pacific (Harrison 1983, Pitman 1986, Bartle et al. 1993, Bailey et al. 1989, Marchant and Higgins 1990) including to Micronesian waters (Wiles 2005). They occur regularly in Hawaiian waters, mostly beyond 90 km offshore, with greater abundance reported in fall. Dark, intermediate, and light morphs have been specified.

At sea, Kermadec Petrels have been found fairly commonly during oceanographic research cruises. King (1970) reported 20 during monthly surveys S and E of the Southeastern Hawaiian Islands in 1964-1965, more commonly in Sep-Jan. Spear *et al.* (1999) recorded 10 S and E of Hawai'i Island in Jun, Oct, and Nov 1984-1991, the closest to shore of which were 15 km SE of Hilo 18 Oct 1985 and 50 km off Kona 19 Nov 1991. Rowlett (2002) recorded 101 Kermadec Petrels on 42 of 93 days observing during Aug-Nov 2002. Birds occurred throughout the entire area within 370 km (200 nmi) of the Hawaiian Islands. Additional records include at least one in Hawaiian waters in early Nov 1976 (Gould 1983) and one 100 km NW of Lisianski 3 Nov 1984 (Pyle and Eilerts 1986).

In the *Northwest Hawaiian Islands*, one of 3 large dark-morph petrels seen in flight, over Green Island, **Kure** 20 Apr 1923, was collected by A. Wetmore (Woodward 1972, Olson 1996b; USNM 300679; [HRBP](#) 5093-5096 (erroneously reported as 30 Apr by Clapp and Woodward 1968 and Berger 1972, 1981). In the *Southeastern Hawaiian Islands*, a dark morph Kermadec Petrel visited Kilauea Point, **Kaua'i** late Jun-early Sep 1998, returning 9 May-late August 1999 (*AB* 53:435), and 24 Apr to 11 Sep 2000 (*AB* 55:109). It appeared to be scouting for breeding, being present for periods of 3-4 consecutive days interspersed with similar absences (*AB* 52:505), and flying about and landing on Mokuaeae Islet and the Point ([HRBP](#) 1304-1307). Another light-morph individual was found aboard a cruise ship in Nawilwili Harbor, Kaua'i 21 Nov 2008 ([HRBP](#) 5611-5613), having reportedly landed on the ship while it was in the harbor. A dark-morph Kermadec Petrel was observed on a single-day trip 7 km west of **O'ahu** 11 Apr 1997 (*E* 46:182). A light-morph bird that boarded a cruise ship off Hawai'i I in the 3rd week of Oct 2008, was photographed ([HRBP](#) 5421-5424, published *NAB* 63:176) and brought ashore for release, and other light-morph birds were photographed off Kona, **Hawai'i I** 28 Oct 2009 ([HRBP](#) 5625, 5783-5784) and 10 Dec 2009 ([HRBP](#) 5726-5727).

Two weakly defined subspecies are recognized, which are difficult to separate in the field (Marchant and Higgins 1990). Individuals occurring in Hawaiian waters are more likely of the nominate subspecies of the w. Pacific than *P.n. juana* which breeds primarily off Chile. No attempt has been made to identify the Kure specimen to subspecies.

[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/>