

Little Shearwater

Puffinus assimilis

hypothetical, erroneous report

Little Shearwaters breed on islands off Australia and New Zealand E to Lord Howe, Norfolk, and Rapa, and in the Atlantic and Indian Oceans (Harrison 1983). They range widely in the temperate southern oceans but, despite reports, there are no substantiated records for the N Pacific Ocean. One reported from California (CBRC 2007) was likely not a Little Shearwater (Heindel and Garrett 2008) and sight records from Alaska (Day 2006) are not fully substantiated. A specimen reportedly collected in the Marshall Is (Amerson 1969) was re-identified as a Stejneger's Petrel (Pyle and Engbring 1985).

The first report of this species in the North Pacific was of one collected from a colony of Bonin Petrels on Sand I, Midway 18 Feb 1963 (Clapp and Woodward 1968; USNM 492974; HRBP 5064-5069). A similar-looking individual occupied a crevice deep under concrete debris at the SE corner of the island from early December 1991 to at least 1 Jan 1992. It was first heard giving a call described as a shrill melodic trill and was later found, examined, and photographed (HRBP 0936-0940) by several observers. Similar calls had been heard at the same location a year earlier, in Dec and Jan 1990-1991. The 1963 specimen was determined probably to be of the subspecies *P. a. assimilis*, which breeds at Lord Howe and Norfolk Is. (Clapp and Woodward 1968). However, examination of the specimen in the late 2000s (PP) suggested that it is not of a Little Shearwater, so we consider this species unsubstantiated in the Hawaiian Islands at this time. Molecular analyses to determine the taxon are underway.

[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/>