

MURPHY PETREL

Pterodroma ultima

non-breeding visitor, occasional at sea

monotypic

This species breeds in the Austral, Tuamotu, and Pitcairn Islands in the central S Pacific, with non-breeding birds ranging at least into the central N Pacific (King 1967, Harrison 1983, Pitman 1986, Bailey et al. 1989, Bartle et al. 1993, AOU 1998, CBRC 2007). Reports of Murphy Petrel in Hawaii have been few, and mostly on land. All but one has been in the fall and winter, perhaps during southbound migration (Bailey et al. 1989), or possibly during northbound migration (*cf.* Pyle 2008).

In the *Northwestern Hawaiian Islands*, adult female Murphy Petrels were collected flying over the central plain of Green Island, **Kure** 7 Oct 1963 (USNM 492988), and over Tern Island, **French Frigate Shoals** 9 Sep 1966 (USNM 497224) (Clapp and Woodward 1968). In the *Southeastern Hawaiian Islands*, an adult male collected 7 miles SW of Barbers Point, **O'ahu** 29 Oct 1966 (USNM 543917) was originally reported as a Kermadec Petrel (*E* 27:83) but later determined to be a Murphy Petrel (Clapp 1974a). Four Murphy Petrels have been turned into the seabird rehabilitation facility at Sea Life Park: a first-fall female picked up alive NE of Koloa, **Kaua'i** 25 Nov 1986 ([HRBP](#) 730-733) died 22 Feb 1987 (BPBM 175801; [HRBP](#) 5667 of specimen); 1 found stranded at an unknown locality on O'ahu 17 Jan 1995 ([HRBP](#) 1061-1069) was released 31 Jan 1995; 1 picked up alive in Kahului, **Maui** 17 Nov 1996 was photographed ([HRBP](#) 1137-1139) and released; and 1 flew aboard a ship off Honolulu, O'ahu 18 Jan 2005 died the next day (BPBM 184828, [HRBP](#) 5191-5193 of corpse and [HRBP](#) 5667 of specimen). Off **Hawai'i I** one was photographed 20 Dec 2009 ([HRBP](#) 5753-5755).

At sea, one was observed 27 Jun 1989 flying south about 325 km SSE of South Point, Hawai'i (Spear et al. 1999). Rowlett (2002) observed 5 petrels off O'ahu to Hawai'i I 21-28 Nov 2002. These were originally identified as Murphy Petrels but may also have been [Herald Petrels](#) from Henderson Island. Likewise, a dark *Pterodroma* petrel photographed off Kona, Hawai'i I 6 Dec 2006 ([HRBP](#) 5437-5440 published *NAB* 61:350) was thought to be of a Murphy Petrel but may also have been of a dark Henderson 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/>