

## PYCROFT PETREL

*Pterodroma pycrofti*

**non-breeding visitor, occasional at sea**

monotypic

Pycroft Petrels breed in relatively low numbers on islands off northern New Zealand during Nov-Apr, being absent from colonies in May-Sep (Dunnet 1985). Their dispersal away from the breeding area was largely unknown until 5 specimens were collected SE of the Hawaiian Islands between the equator and 9 N° during 1987-1991 (Spear *et al.* 1999). During this same period Spear and colleagues recorded Pycroft Petrels *at sea* in Hawaiian waters 230-360 km SE of Hawai'i: 3 on 19 Jun 1988 and 2 on 27 Jun 1989. Two other Pycroft/[Cook](#) petrels observed in Jun 1996 were, in retrospect, considered probable Pycrofts. During fall 2002, Rowlett (2002) and colleagues recorded 3 Pycroft Petrels 90-130 km NNW of Kaua'i on 24 Aug, one 90 km N of Nihoa 25 Aug, 2 about 90 km N of Necker 26 Aug, and one 250 km SW of Kure on 11 Sep. These were the only Pycroft Petrels reported in 93 days of observing in Hawaiian waters (Rowlett 2002).

Both Spear and Rowlett provided extensive detailed notes on the subtle criteria used to distinguish Pycroft from [Cook Petrel](#) (see Spear *et al.* 1992, Howell *et al.* 1996, Rowlett 2002), and based on this documentation it was added by Pyle (2002) to the Hawaii checklist. Pycroft and the similar [Stejneger Petrel](#) have been reported much less frequently in Hawaiian waters than Cook Petrel, perhaps because they are so similar to and less well known than Cook Petrel (Spear *et al.* 1999). There are no photographs or specimens of Pycroft Petrel from the Hawaiian Islands, and the AOU (1998) does not include it in their checklist

### [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/>