

TRISTRAM STORM-PETREL

Oceanodroma tristrami

Other: Sooty Storm-Petrel (<1992)

monotypic

breeding visitor, indigenous

Tristram Storm-Petrels breed in the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands and in the Volcano Islands and the Seven Islands of Izu off Japan. They disperse at sea generally in the vicinities of breeding colonies (Harrison 1983, AOU 1998) and as far S as the Marshall I. (beach-cast specimen; BPBM 185080) and W to California (Warzybok et al. 2009); Spear and Ainley (2007) recorded none during extensive coverage of the e. tropical Pacific including waters S of Hawaii. Early ornithologists visiting Hawaiian breeding colonies in the summer and fall (e.g., Shaunisland 1899, Fisher 1903a, Dill and Bryan 1912) considered this species to be rare there, until Willett (1919) found substantial numbers breeding during the winter on Laysan. Most birds arrive on colonies in November and chicks fledge primarily in Mar-mid May. Information on the history of the species and data on breeding phenology for each Northwestern Island, compiled as part of the POBSP, can be found in the Atoll Research Bulletins for each breeding locality (see [Seabird Page](#)). See also Clapp and Woodward (1968), Rauzon et al. (1985), Marks and Leisure (1992), Rauzon (2001), and Slotterback (2002) for additional information.

In the 2000s the population of Tristram Storm-Petrels in the *Northwestern Hawaiian Islands* was estimated at about 6,000 breeding pairs ([Table](#)), with >99% of the population occurring on *Nihoa*, *Laysan* and *Pearl and Hermes*, and smaller and less determined totals occurring on *French Frigate*, *Midway*, and *Kure*. It is also probable that they breed on *Lisianski*, where mummified corpses have been found (Rauzon et al. 1985), and on *Necker*, where it is rare (Evenhuis and Eldredge 2001), although confirmation of breeding at these locations has not occurred. Kure and Midway may have hosted larger colonies, since decimated by human activities and rats. Increasing records through the 2000s of strandings and birds in breeding condition caught in nets on Midway (Grant 1982a, Baker *et al.* 1997; USNM 577154, 598525; [HRBP](#) 1087-1088) indicate the seeds for possible recovery here, where rats were exterminated in 1997. Discovery of a fledgling on Kure 14 Jul 2006 (Vanderlip 2006) confirms breeding there as well, where rats were removed in 1994.

There are no substantiated reports of Tristram Storm-Petrel from the *Southeastern Hawaiian Islands*. G. C. Munro reported that he had examined specimens from Kaunalapau Harbor, Kaua'i, and Kahalepalaoa, Lana'i, along with several wings "most likely" of this species (Munro 1960), but Bryan (1958) questioned these identifications and the whereabouts of these specimens for verification are unknown. Gon et al. (1992) list this species from Kaho'olawe, apparently in error. A second-hand report of two observed in the Kaula Kahi Channel, Kaua'i 26 Dec 2001 (AB 56:237) is unsubstantiated. Finally, a storm-petrel found alive in Hilo, Hawai'i, 9 Nov 1989, and turned into a rehabilitation station (where it died) was identified as a Tristram Storm-Petrel (AB 44:166) but the specimen (BPBM 178294) is of a Leach Storm-Petrel with a soiled rump.

At-sea observations occur primarily in the vicinity of the breeding islands in Nov-Apr; e.g., 43 during 7-17 Nov 1996 between Lisianski and Necker (Bailey 1996), 24 near

Laysan 24 Apr 1988, 14 near Necker on 23-27 Dec 1998, and 60 near Nihoa on 4 Apr 1986. There are no reports for May-Aug. During a survey of Hawaiian waters in Aug-Nov 2002 Rowlett (2002) recorded only 17 Tristram Storm-Petrels on 5 of 93 observing days at sea. Two were N of Midway on 2 Sep and the others were between French Frigate Shoals and Necker 19 Oct-12 Nov. Pyle and Eilerts (1986) recorded 13 in 33 hours of observation between Midway and French Frigate in Nov 1984. King (1970) and Spear et al. (1999) recorded none S and E of the Southeastern Islands, indicating that the primary at-sea dispersal of this species may be to the west and north (similar to that of Bonin Petrel). The only at-sea report closer to the Southeastern than Northwestern Hawaiian Islands is of one that landed on a ship 370 km W of O'ahu 1 Feb 1955 (*E* 20:75; BPBM 6659). Crossin (1974) reports observations of > 5 birds near Ni'ihau and O'ahu and several other observations of fewer individuals near the Southeastern Islands during the POBSP in the 1960's (dates not given) but no descriptions are provided to distinguish these from Bulwer Petrels, much more likely at these locales. One reported off O'ahu 28 Jun 2004 is also unsubstantiated and unlikely on this date.

[Acronyms and Abbreviations](#)

[Literature cited](#)

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