

MERLIN

Falco columbarius

non-breeding visitor, vagrant

F.c. columbarius

The Merlin is a highly migratory species that breeds throughout Holarctic regions and winters south to Venezuela and Peru in the Americas and s. Japan in Asia (Dement'ev and Gladkov 1951b, Cramp and Simmons 1980, AOU 1998). Among few extralimital records is a single occurrence of a well-described first-year female, first reported in Nov 1991 on **Midway**, *Northwestern Hawaiian Islands*, and seen well by multiple observers 17 Dec 1991-12 Mar 1992. Although one observer suggested that it might be *F.c. suckleyi*, a dark subspecies occurring in nw. N America, the description favors the expected *columbarius*, which breeds in arctic Asia and N America. There are four other reports of Merlins in the Hawaiian Islands, all of which were well documented and we consider valid. A second bird was observed on Midway 21-28 Oct 2001. In the *Southeastern Hawaiian Islands*, birds described from Kilauea Point NWR, **Kaua'i** 4 Mar 1993 (*E* 53:36) and Puuanahulu, **Hawai'i I**, 30 Oct 1995, were recorded by visiting observers familiar with the species. One judged to be a first-fall female *columbarius* was observed chasing shorebirds at Honouliuli Unit of PHNWR, **O'ahu** 15 Nov 2009, and possibly again near Kunia 4 Dec 2009. We have no information regarding Merlin in the Hawaiian Islands reported during 1960-1966 by HAS (1967-1971).

[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/>