

PELAGIC CORMORANT

Phalacrocorax pelagicus

non-breeding visitor, vagrant

monotypic

Pelagic Cormorants breed along the Pacific rim from Japan through the Bering Sea, the Aleutian Islands, and S along the E Pacific coast to Baja California, remaining in most of this range throughout the year (Dement'ev and Gladkov 1951b, AOU 1998). Three have occurred accidentally in the *Northwestern Hawaiian Islands* but none has been recorded from any other Pacific location (Pratt et al. 1987). The first record was of a first-cycle female collected by Shauinsland (1899) on *Laysan*, 22 Oct 1896 (Rothschild 1900, Ely and Clapp 1973; specimen presumably in Bremen Museum). More recently, two vagrants reached *Midway* and were observed in the lagoon near Spit I 8 Jan 1977 (*E* 38:7) and in the harbor of Sand I 6-15 Dec 1991 ([HRBP](#) 0933-0935, 0963), the latter individual being found dead 19 Dec 1991 (first-cycle male; BPBM 178502; [HRBP](#) 5573-5574 of specimen). Fisher (1960) mentions other reports by naval personnel of cormorants on Midway that could pertain to this species. In the Southeastern Hawaiian Islands, two unidentified cormorants wintering in Hilo Bay, Hawai'i I, late Nov 1900-spring 1901, were also possibly of this species (Henshaw 1901b, 1902a). We follow Pyle (2008) in considering this species monotypic; the specimen from Midway shows average measurements for males of the species (PP examination) and could have come from anywhere within the range.

[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/>