

STELLER SEA-EAGLE

Haliaeetus pelagicus

non-breeding visitor, vagrant

monotypic

Steller Sea-Eagles breed in Siberia and winter S to Japan (Dement'ev and Gladkov 1951b, AOU 1998). Wandering individuals have been recorded in Alaska SE to the Juneau area, probably on Wake Atoll in winter 1997 (Rauzon et al. 2008), and in the *Northwestern Hawaiian Islands*, where two individuals have been recorded at three atolls.

Following a period of strong winds and heavy rain an exhausted and water-soaked Steller Sea-Eagle arrived on Green Island, *Kure*, in early Feb 1978 and remained through 2 Mar (Balazs and Ralph 1979; [HRBP](#) 0023, 0024, 0526, 0527, published *E* 39:117-118 and R. Pyle 1979). Coast Guard staff observed it predate an adult albatross and found freshly eaten remains of additional adult [Laysan](#) and [Black-footed](#) albatrosses. The eagle then moved to *Midway* where it was first reported 20 Mar 1978 on Sand I. It spent time on both Sand and Eastern Is, and was photographed being harassed by [White Terns](#) in April ([HRBP](#) 1449-1450, 5043). Comparison of photographs indicates this to be the same individual, probably a 4th-spring bird molting into adult plumage. It was last reported at Midway during the first half of May 1978. An adult Steller Sea-Eagle appeared at Tern Island, *French Frigate* 4-12 Nov 1983. It perched one night on the boat *Easy Rider* moored in the lagoon.

[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/>