

LONG-TAILED JAEGER

Stercorarius longicaudus

non-breeding visitor, occasional migrant

monotypic

Long-tailed Jaegers breed throughout the Arctic tundra and winter primarily in the S Hemisphere, primarily off S Africa, S America, and Australia (Dement'ev and Gladkov 1951c, Cramp and Simmons 1983, Higgins and Davies 1996, AOU 1998). As with the Parasitic Jaeger, difficulty of identification and paucity of offshore coverage has resulted in few records of what is possibly a regular transient through Hawaiian waters in small numbers. During the 2000s individuals were recorded off Baja California in winter (e.g., *NAB* 60:288), and a single Dec record in Hawaii may pertain to either a late migrant or a wintering individual.

At sea, W.B. King (1970, pers. comm.) observed 15 unidentified small jaegers during monthly surveys S and E of the Southeastern Hawaiian Islands in Mar 1964-Jun 1965, some of which were likely Long-tailed Jaegers. The first substantiated record for Hawaiian waters was of an adult observed from a research vessel about 130 km NW of Kaua'i 29 Aug 1966. Three small jaegers observed SE of Hawai'i I 3 May 1989 were either Parasitic or Long-tailed (Spear et al. 1999). Rowlett (2002) observed 10 individual Long-tailed Jaegers between 9 Aug and 31 Oct 2002. Nine of these were in Northwestern Hawaiian Island waters (SSW of Nihoa to N of Kure) while one was E of Hawai'i I.

In the *Southeastern Hawaiian Islands*, single adults were recorded on single-day trips off Kona, *Hawai'i I* 5 and 29 May 1985 (David 1988a; [HRBP](#) 0446-0447, 0778, published *E* 48:28), 29 Aug 1991 (3 individuals), 6 Apr 2002, 9 May 2008, 8 Dec 2008 ([HRBP](#) 5431-5435), and two birds (at different stages of molt) were photographed 9 Dec 2009 ([HRBP](#) 5889-5890). Other individuals were observed in the Kaula Kahi Channel off *Kaua'i* 9 May 2008 and 10-20 km off Maile Point, *O'ahu* 13 Apr 1995. The only record on-shore was of an adult turned into Sea Life Park, O'ahu, picked up stranded, possibly at Waimanalo Beach, 24 Aug 1986 ([HRBP](#) 0751-0757). It died in captivity in Dec 1986 but the specimen was not saved. We consider this species monotypic (Pyle 2008); in any case, observations from Hawaii are not diagnosable to reported subspecies breeding in the Palearctic ("*S.l. longicaudus*") and N America ("*pallescens*").

[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/>