

## PARASITIC JAEGER

*Stercorarius parasiticus*

non-breeding visitor, occasional migrant

monotypic

Parasitic Jaegers breed throughout the Arctic tundra and winter primarily in tropical and temperate coastal waters, S to New Zealand and Australia in the Pacific (Dement'ev and Gladkov 1951c, Cramp and Simmons 1983, Higgins and Davies 1996, AOU 1998). During migration they also tend to occur closer to coastlines, and it thus appears to be a less-common migrant through Hawaiian waters than is [Pomarine Jaeger](#), although the fewer records may also relate to the apparent migrant rather than wintering status of Parasitic Jaeger. Sight records for Micronesia (*cf.* Wiles 2005) are questionable.

*At sea*, King (1970) identified none during monthly surveys S and E of the Southeastern Hawaiian Islands Mar 1964-Jun 1965, although some or many of 15 unidentified small jaegers could have been of this species. The first confirmed records from Hawaiian waters were of two observed SE of Hawai'i I (in the vicinity of 16-17° N, 154-156° W) 27 Jun 1989 and 12 Nov 1991; three others observed in this area 3 May 1989 were either Parasitic or [Long-tailed](#) jaegers (Spear et al. 1999). Rowlett (2002) recorded 27 Parasitic Jaegers at sea throughout Hawaiian Island waters 6 Aug-31 Oct 2002. Most observations were of individuals in Aug and early Sep, suggesting peak migration at this time, with high counts of 3 recorded NW of French Frigate 13 Oct, 2 recorded NE of Midway 30 Aug, and 2 recorded NW of Lisianski 15 Sep. Otherwise, there are only two substantiated records Parasitic Jaeger for Hawaiian waters: a light-morphed adult was 9 km off Ewa Beach, *O'ahu* 13 Apr 1995 and another light-morph adult was photographed off Kona, *Hawai'i I* 24 Apr 2008 ([HRBP](#) 5921-5928). There is also a report of a probable Parasitic Jaeger offshore Kona, Hawai'i I 6 May 1990. The difficulty of identifying jaegers and the paucity of coverage over pelagic waters likely accounts for the small number of Parasitic Jaegers observed in Hawaiian waters to date.

### [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/>