

## COMMON/ORIENTAL CUCKOO

*Cuculus canorus/optatus*

**non-breeding visitor, vagrant**

*C.c. telephonus?*

Common Cuckoos (*C. canorus*) breed in open habitats throughout Eurasia and n. Africa through e. China, whereas Oriental Cuckoos (*C. optatus*) breed in forests and woodlands in c. Russia, through Kamchatka and S to w. Indonesia (Dement'ev and Gladkov 1951b, Cramp and Simmons 1985, Higgins 1999). Both species pass through Kamchatka and Japan to winter in the Philippines, se. Asia, Indonesia, New Guinea, and (Oriental Cuckoo) to ne. Australia. Both species have been recorded in the Aleutians, Pribilofs, w. Alaska, and Palau, the Common Cuckoo in the Bonin Is, and the Oriental Cuckoo in the N Mariana Is, Guam, and Pohnpei (Pratt et al. 1987, AOU 1998, Wiles 2005). Identification criteria for separating these two similar species in the field are still being determined (Payne et al. 2005). The [Long-tailed Cuckoo](#) of New Zealand might also be expected in the Hawaiian Islands.

A *Cuculus* cuckoo found at Sand I., *Midway* 23 May 1997 was studied by several observers, sketched, and photographed (Pyle and Nestler 1998; [HRBP](#) 1129-1132 published in Pyle and Nestler 1998). Based on the photographs and detailed plumage-aspect descriptions, Pyle and Nestler believed it was a Common Cuckoo of the Japanese subspecies *C. canorus telephonus* (*cf.* Payne et al. 2005) but, without further knowledge about variation in these two species, they considered it prudent not to eliminate Oriental Cuckoo entirely as a possibility.

### [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/>