COOK'S PETREL  

*Pterodroma cooki*

**non-breeding visitor, occasional**  

Monotypic


Most records are from research vessels at sea. In Northwestern Hawaiian Island waters, 6 individuals flying south on 3, 4, and 15 Nov 1984 off Lisianski, Laysan, and Gardner Pinnacles are the earliest records of Cook's Petrel in Hawaii (Pyle and Eilerts 1986). Six additional Cook's Petrels were between Gardner Pinnacles and Laysan 24-26 Jun 1989, one was off Pearl and Hermes 13 Aug 1993, and one was just W of Nihoa 17 Aug 1993. HIceas observers (Rowlett 2002; HIceas data) recorded Cook's Petrels on nearly half of 82 observing days in Northwestern waters during 25 Aug-15 Sep in 2002 (total 53 birds) but only four (during 21-25 Oct 2010) in 86 days in the same area from 15 Sep-25 Nov, suggesting annual variation in migration strategies; uniform distributions around the Southeastern Islands (Wixhip et al. 2016) suggest broad-front migration rather than feeding in these waters. At-sea reports in Southeastern Hawaiian Island waters include one 60 km SW of Maui 7 Oct 1987, three 55 km E of Hawaii I 26 Aug 1989, and 2 birds > 275 km SE of Hawaii I 1 Sep 1989. HIceas observers recorded 75 Cook's Petrels off Kaua'i, O'ahu, Maui, and Hawaii I during 186 survey days spread evenly from 6 Aug - 24 Oct in 2002 and 2010, with one record S of Hawaii I 23 Nov 2002. No Cook's Petrels were reported on earlier survey cruises (King 1970, Spear et al. 1999).

In the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands, a Cook's Petrel was captured and released after it struck a mast on a Coast Guard cutter just off Laysan 23 Oct 1993. In the Southeastern Hawaiian Islands, small numbers have been encountered during single-day trips from Kaua'i, O'ahu, Maui, and Hawaii I, primarily in Jun-Nov (e.g. CRC data; HRBP 5222, 6165, 6169-6171), with one record of a worn and molting individual off Hawaii I 12 Apr 2010 Apr (HRBP 6162-6164); small numbers have also been reported from shore off the ne. coast of Hawaii I in Aug-Nov, with a high count of 16 observed from Keokaha SB 28 Sep 2016. Additional Cook's Petrels landed on cruise ships off Kaua'i and were brought to SOS I Sep 2006 (HRBP 5309-5310 published NAB 61:181), 15 Oct 2007 and 15 April 2013 (HRBP 6166-6168), the last record being one of only two in spring for the Hawaiian Islands (see above). One turned into SLP probably from Bellows Field, O'ahu, 30 Nov 2002 was photographed (HRBP 5060) before it eventually died 23 Jan 2003, and one hit a wind turbine in Kawaiola Valley, O'ahu 18 Sep 2012 and is now BPBM 185788 (identification confirmed by PP examination). Cook's and Pycroft's petrels are very difficult to distinguish in the field (Spear et al. 1992, Howell et al. 1996, Rowlett 2002, Howell 2012) and some of the sight records of Cook's Petrels reported in Hawaiian waters could have been of Pycroft Petrel (Spear et al. 1992).

Raynor et al. (2011) indicate that Cook's Petrels in Hawaiian waters and throughout the N Pacific largely come from populations breeding on Little Barrier Island, New Zealand, and that temporal and other differences from other populations may
warrant subspecies status (in which case these would pertain to the nominate subspecies, P. c. cooki) although we consider the species monotypic at this time, in accordance with other taxonomists (Clement et al. 2016, Gill and Donsker 2016).

**Acronyms and Abbreviations**

**Literature cited**

http://hbs.bishopmuseum.org/birds/rlp-monograph/