

## HERALD PETREL

*Pterodroma heraldica*

**non-breeding visitor, occasional**

*P.h. heraldica*

*P.h. atrata?*

Herald Petrels breed on islands throughout the S Pacific, dispersing northward across the equator to the central N Pacific (King 1967, Gould 1983, Harrison 1983, Pitman 1986, Bailey et al. 1989), occasionally as far as Hawaiian Island waters. Trindade Petrel (*P. arminjoniana*) of the Atlantic and Indian Oceans was formerly considered conspecific until split by the AOU (2015). A population of dark-morph Herald Petrel breeding on Henderson Island (considered subspecies *atrata*) may also constitute a separate species, the Henderson Petrel (Brooke and Rowe 1996).

In the *Northwest Hawaiian Islands*, an immature light-morph Herald Petrel flying over the airstrip at Tern Island, **French Frigate**, was collected 14 Mar 1968 (Amerson 1971; USNM 543342, [HRBP](#) 5091-5096, 6789 of specimen). *At sea* in Northwestern Hawaiian Island waters, Herald Petrels were observed 274 km W of Kure 17 Sep 2002 and 240 km SSW of Nihoa 31 Oct 2002 (Rowlett 2002; [HICEAS data](#)), and six more were evenly dispersed in waters off Kure to Nihoa 2 Sep-2 Nov 2010 ([HICEAS data](#)). Around the Southeastern Hawaiian Islands, 11 Herald Petrels were recorded at distances 45-370 km off shore from Kaua'i, O'ahu, Maui, and Hawai'i 5 Aug-2 Dec 2002 but none were recorded in these waters during 77 days of surveying 13 Aug-1 Dec 2010 (Rowlett 2002; [HICEAS data](#)). During monthly oceanographic cruises from March 1964 through June 1965, King (1970) reported 5 tentative observations of Herald Petrels 185-275 km E of Hawai'i I, there is a report from about 200 km NE of Moloka'i 3 Aug 1984, and Spear et al. (1999) recorded 3 Herald Petrels 185-275 km SSE of Hawai'i 12 Nov 1990 and 15 Nov 1991. A bird turned into the SLP rehabilitation facility 18 Jan 2005 was identified as a Herald Petrel but we consider this identification unsubstantiated.

Most birds observed in Hawaiian waters are of the light morph and refer to nominate *P.h. heraldica*; however, 5 dark *Pterodroma* petrels NNE of the Southeastern Islands 21-29 Nov 2002 and an unidentified petrel photographed off Kona, Hawai'i I 6 Dec 2006 ([CRC data](#); [HRBP](#) 5437-5440) may have been Henderson's Petrel (*atrata*); see [Murphy's Petrel](#).

### [Acronyms and Abbreviations](#)

### [Literature cited](#)

Citation: Pyle, R.L., and P. Pyle. 2017. The Birds of the Hawaiian Islands: Occurrence, History, Distribution, and Status. B.P. Bishop Museum, Honolulu, HI, U.S.A. Version 2 (1 January 2017) <http://hbs.bishopmuseum.org/birds/rlp-monograph/>