

Pycroft's Petrel

Pterodroma pycrofti

hypothetical, unsubstantiated

monotypic

Pycroft's Petrels breed in relatively low numbers on islands off northern New Zealand during Nov-Apr, being absent from colonies in May-Sep (Dunnet 1985). Their dispersal away from the breeding area was largely unknown until 5 specimens were collected SE of the Hawaiian Islands between the equator and 9 N° during 1987-1991 (Spear et al. 1999). During this same period Spear and colleagues recorded Pycroft's Petrels *at sea* in Hawaiian waters 230-360 km SE of Hawai'i: 3 on 19 Jun 1988 and 2 on 27 Jun 1989. Two other Pycroft's/[Cook's](#) petrels observed in Jun 1986 were, in retrospect, considered probable Pycroft's. During fall 2002, [HICEAS](#) observers recorded 3 Pycroft's Petrels 90-130 km NNW of Kaua'i on 24 Aug, one 90 km N of Nihoa 25 Aug, 2 about 90 km N of Necker 26 Aug, and one 250 km SW of Kure on 11 Sep (Rowlett 2002; [HICEAS data](#)). No Pycroft's Petrels were reported during the 2010 [HICEAS](#) survey.

Both Spear and Rowlett provided extensive detailed notes on the subtle criteria used to distinguish Pycroft from [Cook's Petrel](#) (see Spear et al. 1992, Howell et al. 1996, Rowlett 2002, Howell 2012). Spear et al. (1999) suggest that Pycroft's and the similar Stejneger's Petrel have been reported infrequently in Hawaiian waters because they are so similar to Cook's Petrel and less well known. Based on this documentation, Pycroft's Petrel was added by Pyle (2002) and Pyle and Pyle (2009) to the Hawaii checklist. However, there are no photographs or specimens of confirmed Pycroft's Petrel from the Hawaiian Islands, the AOU (1998) does not include it in their check-list, and the [HBRC](#), although agreeing that the observations were likely valid, voted in Oct 2016 to not accept the species to the Hawaii checklist pending a photograph or specimen. We agree with this approach and consider the species unsubstantiated.

[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/>