

BRYAN'S SHEARWATER

Puffinus bryani

non-breeding visitor, vagrant

monotypic

Bryan's Shearwater was described in 2011 based on a specimen collected in 1963 on Sand I, *Midway* (Pyle et al. 2011) and was accepted by the AOU (2012). It has subsequently been identified based on specimens collected in the Bonin (Ogasawara) Is, Japan (Kawakami et al. 2012), and it was confirmed breeding here on Higashijima I in 2015 (see also Chikara 2011). The species is considered Critically Endangered by BLI (2016), and in the 2010s conservation efforts were underway in the Bonin Is, including dimming of bright lights, eradication of mammalian predators, and habitat restoration.

The type specimen (USNM 492974; [HRBP](#) 5064-5069) was collected from a sand dune near the northernmost reach of Sand Island, along its central north coast, and was probably prospecting rather than breeding in this area (Pyle et al. 2014). It was originally identified as a [Little Shearwater](#) but was re-identified based on a combination of plumage, smaller size, and genetic evidence. A second record from Midway was of a bird that was heard calling from a crevice deep under concrete debris at the SE corner of Sand I, from early during Dec-Jan of both 1990-1991 and 1991-1992, being last heard on 1 Jan 1992 (Pyle et al. 2014). On 17 Dec 1991 its vocalizations were recorded and it was retrieved from the crevice, examined, and photographed ([HRBP](#) 0936-0940). These calls are similar to those of [Newell's Shearwater](#), suggesting that it is closer phylogenetically to this species than to Little Shearwater. Audio-recordings of the vocalizations were also used to help locate Bryan's Shearwaters in Japan, and will be further used to locate and establish other colonies, perhaps on Necker and Nihoa Is, where they may breed in winter and co-utilize burrows with the summer-breeding [Bulwer's Petrel](#) (Pyle et al. 2014).

Nothing is yet known of the at-sea foraging requirements of Bryan's Shearwater (Pyle et al. 2014). A small black-and-white shearwater seen by an experienced at-sea observer about 110 km NE of Kahala Point, Kaua'i 25 Aug 2010 ([HICEAS data](#)) may have been of a Bryan's Shearwater but not enough detail was noted to eliminate other similar species.

[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/>