

PELAGIC CORMORANT

Phalacrocorax pelagicus

non-breeding visitor, vagrant

monotypic

Pelagic Cormorants breed along the Pacific rim from Japan through the Bering Sea, the Aleutian Islands, and S along the E Pacific coast to Baja California, remaining in most of this range throughout the year (Dement'ev and Gladkov 1951b, AOU 1998). Three have occurred accidentally in the *Northwestern Hawaiian Islands* but none has been recorded from any other Pacific location (Pratt et al. 1987). The first record was of a first-cycle female collected by Shauinsland (1899) on *Laysan*, 22 Oct 1896 (Rothschild 1900, Ely and Clapp 1973; specimen presumably in Bremen Museum). More recently, single vagrants reached *Midway* and were observed in the lagoon near Spit I 8 Jan 1977 (*E* 38:7) and in the harbor of Sand I 6-15 Dec 1991 ([HRBP](#) 0933-0935, 0963), the latter individual found dead 19 Dec 1991 (first-cycle male; BPBM 178502; [HRBP](#) 5573-5574 of specimen). Fisher (1960) mentions other reports by naval personnel of cormorants on Midway that could pertain to this species, while reports of genus *Carbo* for Laysan and Lisiansky in Mar 1828 (C. Isenbeck *in* von Kittlitz 1834) likely pertained to [Brown Boobies](#). In the Southeastern Hawaiian Islands, two unidentified cormorants wintering in Hilo Bay, Hawai'i I, late Nov 1900-spring 1901, were also possibly of this species (Henshaw 1901b, 1902a), and another unidentified cormorant was observed flying by Sandy Beach, O'ahu 1 Dec 2011. We follow Pyle (2008) in considering this species monotypic; the specimen from Midway shows average measurements for males of the species (PP examination) and could have come from anywhere within the range.

[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/>