

Tufted Puffin

Fratercula cirrhata

hypothetical, unassisted occurrence questionable

Two long-dried heads of Tufted Puffins were found, one near the lake in the interior of Laysan 13 April 1977 (Clapp and Giezentanner 1980, Clapp 1986; USNM 576074; [HRBP](#) 5114-5115 of specimen) and one at Midway 15 April 1995 (BPBM 183508; see [Horned Puffin](#)). Pyle (1983-2002) and the AOU (1983, 1998) considered Tufted Puffin a natural vagrant to the Hawaiian Islands based on these records. However, both [Black-footed](#) and [Laysan](#) albatrosses are well known to bring plastic and other indigestible debris from across the Pacific while feeding chicks, in Mar-Jul, in the Northwest Hawaiian Islands (e.g., Kenyon and Kridler 1969, Pettit et al. 1981), and we believe that this is a plausible explanation for the occurrence of these puffin heads in the albatross colonies, away from the beach wrack, and during years in which no other alcids were recorded in the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands. Tufted Puffins breed around the Pacific rim, from Japan to California, and winter in the n. Pacific (AOU 1998, Gaston and Jones 1998) where Laysan Albatross forage and could easily ingest a carcass. We thus consider Tufted Puffin as hypothetical in the Hawaiian Islands.

[Acronyms and Abbreviations](#)

[Literature cited](#)

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