

BULLER'S SHEARWATER

Ardenna bulleri

Other: New Zealand Shearwater (<1983)

monotypic

non-breeding visitor, occasional

Buller's Shearwaters breed on Poor Knights Islands off northern New Zealand in Oct-Apr and disperse widely across the N and S Pacific Oceans (King 1967, Marchant and Higgins 1990, AOU 1998, Howell 2012). They occur regularly in small numbers in Hawaiian waters and vicinity, primarily as northbound transients in Apr-Aug and southbound transients in Oct-Nov. Buller's Shearwater was placed in genus *Puffinus* until moved to *Ardenna* by the AOU (2016).

At sea, a specimen was collected during the POBSP about 275 km SW of Kaula Rock (21° 35' N, 162° 42' W) 23 May 1965 (USNM 495246) and one was observed E of Hawai'i I 26 Aug 1989. During 336 days of observing in 2002 and 2010 (168 days each in Northwestern and Southeastern Hawaiian Island waters), [HICEAS](#) observers recorded 16 Buller's Shearwaters between 24 Aug and 26 Nov from SSW of Gardner Pinnacles to W of Hawai'i I. Other at-sea observations included 2 birds 300 km off Pearl and Hermes 3 Nov 1984 (Pyle and Eilerts 1986), one off Necker 24 Jun 1995, and one off Nihoa 23 Jun 1995. Spear et al. (1999) observed 4 individuals 110 km SE of Hawai'i I 13 Nov 1989.

Buller's Shearwaters have also been recorded during single-day trips offshore and from shore, with numbers of reports increasing dramatically during the early-to-mid 2010s, perhaps reflecting increased effort and awareness of identification of this and other seabird species. In the *Northwestern Hawaiian Islands* one was off *Midway* 25 May 1999, and in the *Southeastern Hawaiian Islands* birds have been observed off Lehua Islet N of *Ni'ihau* (3 individuals, 2003-2012; e.g., [HRBP](#) 5016); *Kaua'i* (at least 12 individuals, 1998-2016; e.g., [HRBP](#) 6208), *O'ahu* (at least 12 individuals, 1990-2015; e.g., [HRBP](#) 5015 published *NAB* 57:576 and 5386), *Mau'i* (one, 1 Apr 2015), and *Hawai'i I* (at least 56 individuals, 1989-2016; e.g., [CRC data](#); [HRBP](#) 5779, 6204-6207, 6209-6211). The majority of records are from 13 Mar-1 Sep, with a peak in late Apr, and with smaller numbers recorded throughout the period 18 Sep-13 Nov; single-day high counts were of 6 off Kona, Hawai'i I on each of 26 Apr 2015 and 1 Oct 2015. Molting birds have been recorded in Hawaiian waters in Apr-May (e.g., [HRBP](#) 6204-6207) which represents new information on the molting grounds of this species (cf. Marchant and Higgins 1990, Howell 2012). The only record of one ashore involves an adult found dead at Hanama'ulu SP, Kaua'i, 30 Jun 2006 (BPBM 185011; [HRBP](#) 5669 of specimen). It was undergoing the prebasic wing-feather molt when it died.

[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/>