

## TAHITI PETREL

*Pterodroma rostrata*

non-breeding visitor, vagrant

*P.r. rostrata?*

Tahiti Petrels, considered members of the genus *Pseudobulweria* from the late 1990s through 2011 (e.g., AOU 1998, 2011), breed in the Society and Marquesas Islands and on New Caledonia and range widely in the tropical c. Pacific as far east as Costa Rica and Mexico (King 1967, Harrison 1983, Pitman 1986, AOU 2011, Howell 2012) and to Micronesia (Wiles 2005). They can be difficult to distinguish at sea from [Phoenix Petrels](#) (Spear et al. 1992), which also occur in the tropical Pacific (including a specimen from Johnston Atoll; Amerson and Shelton 1976); thus, Tahiti Petrel was only accepted as one of a "species-pair" in Hawaiian waters until 2005 (Pyle 1979-2005; see also Pyle 1988, AOU 1989). In 1964-1965, during monthly cruises *at sea* within 370.4 km (200 nmi) E and S of the Southeastern Hawaiian Islands, King (1970; *E* 48:106) recorded at least 4 individuals identified as either Phoenix or Tahiti petrel, but thought more likely the latter. These occurred about 135 km WSW of Hawai'i I on 10 and 14 Nov 1964 and about 185 km N of Moloka'i 27 Mar 1965 (2 birds). Spear et al. (1999) recorded 1-2 Tahiti Petrels approximately 240 km SE of Hawai'i I 5 Nov 1984 (*cf.* Pyle 2002) and another was observed at sea, 9 km W of Midway, *Northwestern Hawaiian Islands*, on 23 May 1999. The first photographic record for Hawaii was of a bird that landed on a ship approximately 2 km off Nawiliwili Harbor, *Kaua'i* 26 Jan 2012 ([SOS data](#); Morin et al. in press; [HRBP](#) 6185-6187). Another was photographed during a one-day trip from Kona, *Hawai'i I* 14 Nov 2014 ([CRC data](#); [HRBP](#) 6188-6190).

Individuals recorded in Hawaiian waters have not been diagnosed to subspecies, the measurements of the Kaua'i bird falling within the overlap zone between the described subspecies (Morin et al. in press). Only the nominate subspecies from the Marquesas and Society Is has been documented from the N Pacific and is the most likely subspecies to occur in Hawaiian waters; two other subspecies occur in the sw. Pacific. A small species of petrel (*Pterodroma jugabilis*), found in the subfossil record of O'ahu and Hawai'i Is, was reported to have been related to Tahiti Petrel (Olson and James 1991) but is probably best left less affiliated (S. Olson, pers. comm.).

### [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/>