

Galapagos Petrel

Pterodroma phaeopygia

hypothetical, unsubstantiated

Galapagos Petrel was split from [Hawaiian Petrel](#) by the AOU (2002) following Tomkins and Milne (1991) and Brown et al. (1997); see also Welch et al. (2011). It is an endemic breeding species to the Galapagos Islands. When not at breeding colonies both Galapagos and Hawaiian petrels disperse into a wide area of the Pacific, with records throughout the area between the two archipelagos, though becoming sparse in an area of the eastern Tropical Pacific between 120° and 130°, perhaps the at-sea boundary in the foraging ranges between the two species (Pitman 1986, Spear et al. 1995, CBRC 2007). However, other petrels breeding farther away than Galapagos Petrel reach Hawaiian waters, there are records throughout the boundary area that could refer to either species, and our understanding of at-sea distribution has been clouded by difficulty in separating Hawaiian and Galapagos petrels based on morphology and plumage (Force et al. 2007, Pyle et al. 2011). Three individuals photographed by Cascadia Research Group off Kona, Hawai'i I on 10 and 20 Apr 2010 ([HRBP](#) 6131-6134 published *NAB* 65:365-366) and 18 Jul 2016 ([HRBP](#) 6311-6312) show structural and/or plumage characters suggesting Galapagos Petrel ([CRC data](#)) but may also have represented phenotypic variation within Hawaiian Petrels, perhaps those breeding on Hawai'i I (Pyle et al. 2011). Another petrel showing features of Galapagos Petrel (including a very large bill) landed on cruise ship in waters SE of Hawai'i I 9 Oct 2012 ([HRBP](#) 6297-6301).

[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/>