

## LONG-TAILED JAEGER

*Stercorarius longicaudus*

non-breeding visitor, occasional migrant

monotypic

Long-tailed Jaegers breed throughout the Arctic tundra and winter primarily in the S Hemisphere, primarily off S Africa, S America, and Australia (Dement'ev and Gladkov 1951c, Cramp and Simmons 1983, Higgins and Davies 1996, AOU 1998). As with the Parasitic Jaeger, difficulty of identification and paucity of offshore coverage has resulted in few records of what is possibly a regular transient through Hawaiian waters in small numbers. During the 2000s individuals were recorded off Baja California in winter (e.g., *NAB* 60:288), and a single Dec record in Hawaii may pertain to either a late migrant or a wintering individual.

*At sea*, W.B. King (1970, pers. comm.) observed 15 unidentified small jaegers during monthly surveys S and E of the Southeastern Hawaiian Islands in Mar 1964-Jun 1965, some of which were likely Long-tailed Jaegers. The first substantiated record for Hawaiian waters was of an adult observed from a research vessel about 130 km NW of Kaua'i 29 Aug 1966. Three small jaegers observed SE of Hawai'i I 3 May 1989 were either Parasitic or Long-tailed (Spear et al. 1999). During [HICEAS](#) cruises, 10 Long-tailed Jaegers were recorded throughout Hawaiian waters between 9 Aug and 31 Oct 2002, 9 of which were in Northwestern Hawaiian Island waters (SSW of Nihoa to N of Kure) while one was E of Hawai'i I, and 23 were observed in Hawaiian waters in Aug-Nov 2010, most (15) of which were also recorded in Northwestern waters (Rowlett 2002; [HICEAS data](#)), suggesting greater passage through w. than e. Hawaiian waters in fall.

In the *Southeastern Hawaiian Islands*, single adults were recorded on single-day trips off Kona, *Hawai'i I* 5 and 29 May 1985 (David 1988a; [HRBP](#) 0446-0447, 0778, published *E* 48:28), 29 Aug 1991 (3 individuals), 6 Apr 2002, and two birds (at different stages of molt) 9 Dec 2009 ([HRBP](#) 5889-5890); on [CRC](#) surveys Long-tailed Jaegers have been recorded 9 May 2008, 8 Dec 2008 ([HRBP](#) 5431-5435), 6 May 2010 ([HRBP](#) 6569), 6 May 2011 ([HRBP](#) 6570), 21 Apr 2015 ([HRBP](#) 6571), and 3 Nov 2015 ([HRBP](#) 6572). Other individuals were observed in the Kaulakahi Channel off *Kaua'i* 9 May 2008 and 10-20 km off Maile Point, *O'ahu* 13 Apr 1995. The only record on-shore was of an adult turned into Sea Life Park, O'ahu, picked up stranded, possibly at Waimanalo Beach, 24 Aug 1986 ([HRBP](#) 0751-0757). It died in captivity in Dec 1986 but the specimen was not saved. A number of additional observations have been recorded in Hawaiian waters that were thought to be either Long-tailed or [Parasitic](#) jaegers but not identified to species.

We consider this species monotypic (Pyle 2008); in any case, observations from Hawaii are not diagnosable to reported subspecies breeding in the Palearctic ("*S.l. longicaudus*") or N America ("*pallescens*").

### [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/>