

PARASITIC JAEGER

Stercorarius parasiticus

non-breeding visitor, occasional migrant

monotypic

Parasitic Jaegers breed throughout the Arctic tundra and winter primarily in tropical and temperate coastal waters, S to New Zealand and Australia in the Pacific (Dement'ev and Gladkov 1951c, Cramp and Simmons 1983, Higgins and Davies 1996, AOU 1998). During migration they also tend to occur closer to coastlines, and it thus appears to be a less-common migrant through Hawaiian waters than is [Pomarine Jaeger](#), although the fewer records may also relate to the apparent migrant status of Parasitic Jaeger as opposed to the wintering status of Pomarine Jaeger. Sight records of Parasitic Jaeger for Micronesia (*cf.* Wiles 2005) are questionable.

At sea, King (1970) identified none during monthly surveys S and E of the Southeastern Hawaiian Islands Mar 1964-Jun 1965, although some or many of 15 unidentified small jaegers could have been of this species. The first confirmed records from Hawaiian waters were of two observed SE of Hawai'i I (in the vicinity of 16-17° N, 154-156° W) 27 Jun 1989 and 12 Nov 1991; three others observed in this area 3 May 1989 were either Parasitic or [Long-tailed](#) jaegers (Spear et al. 1999). During [HICEAS](#) cruises, 27 Parasitic Jaegers were recorded throughout Hawaiian waters 6 Aug-31 Oct 2002, with most observations of individuals in Aug and early Sep and with a high count of 3 recorded NW of French Frigate 13 Oct; 26 were recorded in these waters in Aug-Nov 2010 (Rowlett 2002; [HICEAS data](#)).

Otherwise, only 11 substantiated Parasitic Jaegers have been recorded from *Southeastern Hawaiian Island* waters: from *O'ahu* off Ewa Beach 13 Apr 1995 and off Honolulu 21 Oct 2010 ([HRBP](#) 6562; [CRC data](#)) and 25 Apr 2013 ([HRBP](#) 6566); and off *Hawai'i I* during [CRC](#) surveys off Kona 24 Apr 2008 ([HRBP](#) 5921-5928), 9 Nov 2011 ([HRBP](#) 6563), 5 May 2012 ([HRBP](#) 6564-6565, published *NAB* 66:746), 4 Nov 2012, 15 Nov 2014, 17 Nov 2014 ([HRBP](#) 6567), and 13 Nov 2015 ([HRBP](#) 6568), and during a pelagic day trip from Kona 11 Oct 2010. There are also reports of probable Parasitic Jaegers off Kona 6 May 1990 and off Honolulu 3 Apr 2013, and a number of additional reports of either Parasitic or [Long-tailed](#) jaegers not identified to species. The difficulty of identifying jaegers and the paucity of coverage over pelagic waters likely accounts for the relatively small number of Parasitic Jaegers observed in Hawaiian waters to date.

[Acronyms and Abbreviations](#)

[Literature cited](#)

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