

COMMON CUCKOO

Cuculus canorus

non-breeding visitor, vagrant

C.c. telephonus?

Common Cuckoos (*C. canorus*) breed throughout Eurasia and n. Africa E through e. China, and pass through Kamchatka and Japan to winter in the Philippines, se. Asia, Indonesia, and New Guinea (Dement'ev and Gladkov 1951b, Cramp and Simmons 1985, Higgins 1999). They have been recorded in the Aleutian and Pribilof Is in w. Alaska, Palau, and the Bonin Is (Pratt et al. 1987, AOU 1998, Wiles 2005). Common and the similar Oriental Cuckoo (*C. optatus*), which breeds in c.-w. Russia, S to Indonesia and ne. Australia and have occurred in Palau, the N Mariana Is, Guam, and Pohnpei (cf. VanderWerf et al. 2006a), can be difficult to distinguish (Payne et al. 2005). The highly migratory [Pacific Long-tailed Cuckoo](#), which breeds in New Zealand, might also be expected in the Hawaiian Islands.

A *Cuculus* cuckoo found at Sand I., **Midway** 23 May 1997 was studied by several observers, sketched, and photographed (Pyle and Nestler 1998; [HRBP](#) 1129-1132 published in Pyle and Nestler 1998). Based on the photographs and detailed descriptions of plumage, Pyle and Nestler believed it was a Common Cuckoo of the Japanese subspecies *C. canorus telephonus* (cf. Payne et al. 2005) but, without further knowledge about variation in these two species, they considered it prudent not to entirely eliminate Oriental Cuckoo. Subsequent to publication of this record, additional specimen examination (PP, H. D. Pratt) and updated identification criteria (Erritzøe 2012) has led to a confirmed identification of Common Cuckoo for the Midway bird, and it was accepted as such by the [HBRC](#) in Dec 2016.

[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/>