

## **PETER PYLE**

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Peter Pyle grew up primarily in Hawaii has worked as an ornithologist and marine biologist throughout his career. In the late 1970s and early 1980s he partook in the Hawaii, Micronesia, and Samoa Forest Bird Surveys, during the 1980s-2000s he did research on birds and white sharks at the Farallon Islands off San Francisco and currently writes a monthly to bi-monthly blog for the Gulf of the Farallones Association. Peter is a Research Associate at the B.P. Bishop Museum, Honolulu, and the California Academy of Sciences, San Francisco. In 2011 he described a new species of shearwater and named it after his grandfather, longtime head of science at the Bishop Museum. Peter currently is a staff biologist at The Institute for Bird Populations in Petaluma, California, where he specializes in bird molts and plumages. He has authored or co-authored over 240 scientific papers and 5 books, including a monograph on the Birds of Hawaii and Identification Guide to North America Birds, Parts 1 and 2, widely used by banders, museum researchers, field biologists, and birders. He is also an associate editor for Birding Magazine, Chair of the American Birding Association's Checklist Committee, and editor for the Molt and Plumage Sections of Birds of the World.

### **Education**

B.A. 1979 Swarthmore College, Swarthmore, PA

### **Professional Appointments**

1996 – present. Research Scientist, The Institute for Bird Populations, Point Reyes Station, CA  
1985 – 2003 Biologist, Farallon Islands, Point Reyes Bird Observatory/U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
1977 – 1986 Biologist, Hawaii, Micronesia, and American Samoa Forest Bird Surveys

### **Professional Service Highlights**

Research Associate, California Academy of Sciences, San Francisco, 1998-present  
Research Associate, B.P. Bishop Museum, Honolulu, 1995-present  
Technical Reviewer, Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary, 1993-present  
Member, California Bird Records Committee, 1987-present  
Member and Chair, American Birding Association Checklist Committee 2014-Present

### **Awards**

2001: American Birding Association Ludlow Griscom Award  
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ludlow\\_Griscom\\_Award](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ludlow_Griscom_Award)  
2016: Western Field Ornithologists Harry S. Swarth Award  
<https://www.aba.org/2022-awards/>  
2020: Partners in Flight Scientific Investigations Award  
<https://partnersinflight.org/resources/2020-partners-in-flight-awards-presentation/>  
2022: American Birding Association Lifetime Achievement Award  
<https://www.aba.org/2022-awards/>

**PDF versions of most of the following scientific papers are available here:**

<https://www.birdpop.org/pages/pubsDatabase.php>

**Scientific Publications - Senior Author**

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Pyle, P. 1976. Long-billed Curlew seen in Somerset County, Maryland. *Maryland Birdlife* 32:101.

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Pyle, P. 1984. Observations of migrant and vagrant birds on Kure and Midway Atolls, 1982-1983. 'Elepaio 44:108-111.

Pyle, P. 1985. Identification Guide to European Passerines [Review]. *North American Bird Bander* 10:22-23.

Pyle, P., and J. Engbring. 1985. Checklist of the birds of Micronesia. 'Elepaio 46:57-68.

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Pyle, P., and J. Engbring. 1988. First described nest and nest-site activity of the Truk Greater White-eye (*Rukia ruki*). *Micronesica* 21:281-283.

Pyle, P., P.V. Donaldson, R. David, and R.L. Pyle. 1988. The status of small *Calidris* sandpipers in the Hawaiian Islands: Documentation of three first state records. 'Elepaio 48:71-77.

Pyle, P., and P. Henderson. 1990. On separating female and immature *Oporornis* warblers in fall. *Birding* 22:222-229.

Pyle, P., L. Spear, and J. Engbring. 1990. A previously unreported population of Herald Petrels on Ta'u Island, American Samoa. *Colonial Waterbirds* 13:136-138.

Pyle, P., and R.P. Henderson. 1991. The birds of Southeast Farallon Island: Occurrence and seasonal distribution of migratory species. *Western Birds* 22:41-84.

Pyle, P., L.B. Spear, W.J. Sydeman, and D.G. Ainley. 1991. The effects of experience and age on the breeding performance of Western Gulls. *Auk* 108: 25-33.

Pyle, P., and G. McCaskie. 1992. Thirteenth report of the California Bird Records Committee. *Western Birds* 23:97-132.

Pyle, P., and D.A. Sibley. 1992. Juvenal-plumaged Le Conte's Sparrows on migration. *Birding* 24:70-76

Pyle, P. 1993. A Markham's Storm-Petrel in the Northeastern Pacific. *Western Birds* 24:108-110.

Pyle, P., and S.N.G. Howell. 1993. An Arctic Warbler in Baja California, Mexico. *Western Birds* 24:53-56.

Pyle, P., and S.N.G. Howell. 1993. An aggregation of Peregrine Falcons on the Mexican winter grounds. *Euphonia* 2:92-94.

Pyle, P., L.B. Spear, and D.G. Ainley. 1993. Observations of Dark-rumped Petrels off Oregon and California. *Western Birds* 24:110-112.

Pyle, P., N. Nur, R.P. Henderson, and D.F. DeSante. 1993. The effects of weather and lunar cycle on nocturnal migration of landbirds at Southeast Farallon Island, California. *Condor* 95:343-361.

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Pyle, P., K. Hanni, and D. Smith. 1994. Bird notes from Isla Guadalupe, including three new island records. *Euphonia* 3:1-4.

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Pyle, P. 1995. Incomplete flight-feather molts and age in certain North American non-passerines. *North American Bird Bander* 20:15-26.

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Pyle, P., A. McAndrews, P. Veléz, R. L. Wilkerson, R. B. Siegel, and D. F. DeSante. 2004. Molt patterns and age and sex determination of selected southeastern Cuban landbirds. *Journal of Field Ornithology* 75:136-145.

Pyle, P. 2005. First-cycle molts in North American Falconiformes. *Raptor Research* 39:378-385.

Pyle, P. 2005. Molts and plumages of ducks. *Colonial Waterbirds* 28:207-218.

Pyle, P. 2005. Remigial molt patterns in North American Falconiformes as related to age, sex, breeding status, and life-history strategies. *Condor* 107:823-834.

Pyle, P., and D.F. DeSante. 2005. Updates to four-letter and six-letter alpha codes based on revisions by the American Ornithologists' Union. *North American Bird Bander* 30:70-72.

- Pyle, P. 2006. Handbook of avian hybrids of the world [Review]. *Western Birds* 37:237-239
- Pyle, P. 2006. Offshore Pacific highlights in summer-fall 2005: Just another year. *North American Birds* 60:4-13.
- Pyle, P. 2006. Staffelmauser and other adaptive wing-molt strategies in larger birds. *Western Birds* 37:179-185.
- Pyle, P., and D.F. DeSante. 2006. Updates to four-letter and six-letter alpha codes based on revisions by the American Ornithologists' Union in 2005-2006. *North American Bird Bander* 31:193-195.
- Pyle, P., G. Friedrichsen, T. Staudt, C. Oedekoven, and L.T. Ballance. 2006. First Record of Ringed Storm-Petrel (*Oceanodroma hornbyi*) for North America. *North American Birds* 60:162-163
- Pyle, P. 2007. Revision of molt and plumage terminology in Ptarmigan (Phasianidae: *Lagopus* spp.) based on evolutionary considerations. *Auk* 124:508-514.
- Pyle, P. 2008. Barefoot on Lava: The Journals and Correspondence of Naturalist R. C. L. Perkins in Hawai'i, 1892-1901 [Review]. *Western Birds* 39:230-232.
- Pyle, P. 2008. Identification Guide to North American Birds. Part 2. Slate Creek Press, Point Reyes Station, CA.
- Pyle, P. 2008. Birding by feather: A molt and plumage primer. *Birding* 40(6): 18w1-18w6.  
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- Pyle, P., S.L. Jones, and J.M. Ruth. 2008. Molt and aging criteria of four North American grassland passerines. Biological Technical Publication, FWS/BTP-R6011-2008. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Washington, D.C.
- Pyle, P. 2009. Age determination and molt strategies in North American alcids. *Marine Ornithology* 37:219-225.
- Pyle, P., and D.F. DeSante. 2009. Updates to four-letter and six-letter alpha codes based on revisions by the American Ornithologists' Union in 2007-2008. *North American Bird Bander* 34:65-67.
- Pyle, P., and D.F. DeSante. 2009. Updates to four-letter and six-letter alpha codes based on revisions by the American Ornithologists' Union in 2009. *North American Bird Bander* 34:109-110.
- Pyle, P., W.A. Leitner, L. Lozano-Angulo, F. Avilez-Teran, H. Swanson, E. Gómez-Limón, and M.K. Chambers. 2009. Temporal, spatial, and annual variation in the occurrence of molt-migrant passerines in the Mexican monsoon region. *Condor* 111:583-590.
- Pyle, P., and R. Kayhart. 2010. Replacement of primaries during the prealternate molt of a Yellow Warbler. *North American Bird Bander* 35:178-181.
- Pyle, P., and B.L. Sullivan. 2010. Documenting repeated occurrence of individual birds with digital images. *Western Birds*: 41:261-265

Pyle, P. 2011. Nomenclature of the Laysan Honeycreeper, *Himatione [sanguinea] fraithii*. Bulletin of the British Ornithological Club 131:116-117.

Pyle, P. 2011. Paseriformes del Occidente de México: morfometría, datación y sexado. [Review]. Western Birds 42:120-122.

Pyle, P. 2011. Paseriformes del Occidente de México: morfometría, datación y sexado. [Review]. Revista Catalana d'Ornitologia 27:45-47. [Version in Catalan also in bulletin L'Abellerol, no. 42]

Pyle, P., and M. B. Main. 2011. Surveying and monitoring birds. Pp. 49-90 in M.B. Main, ed., Wildlife monitoring: Florida Master Naturalist Program special topics. Southwest Florida Research and Education Center, Immokalee, FL. [www.MasterNaturalist.org](http://www.MasterNaturalist.org).

Pyle, P., J. Tietz, and G. McCaskie. 2011. Thirty-fifth report of the California Bird Records Committee: 2009 records. Western Birds: 42:134-163.

Pyle, P., D.L. Webster, and R.W. Baird. 2011. Notes on petrels of the Dark-rumped Petrel complex (*Pterodroma phaeopygia/sandwichensis*) in Hawaiian waters. North American Birds 65:364-367.

Pyle, P. A.J. Welch, and R.C. Fleischer. 2011. A new species of shearwater (*Puffinus*) recorded from Midway Atoll, Northwestern Hawaiian Islands. Condor 113:518-527.

Pyle, P., and D. DeSante. 2021. List of North American birds and alpha codes according to American Ornithologists' Union taxonomy through the 53rd AOU Supplement [Downloaded <date>]. Available from <http://www.birdpop.org/alphacodes.htm>. [Updated annually]

Pyle, P. 2013. Molt homologies in ducks and other birds: a response to Hawkins (2011) and further thoughts on molt terminology in ducks Waterbirds 36:75-79.

Pyle, P. 2013. Appearance. Molts. Plumages. In S. T. Weidensaul, R. Robinson, R. R. Sargent and M. B. Sargent, Ruby-throated Hummingbird (*Archilochus colubris*), The Birds of North America Online (A. Poole, Ed.). Ithaca: Cornell Lab of Ornithology; Retrieved from the Birds of North America Online: <http://bna.birds.cornell.edu/bna/species/204>

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### **Scientific Publications - Coauthor**

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### **A Sampling of Unpublished Reports - Senior Author (only; many missing)**

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Pyle, P. 2023. The Mentor's Corner. The Fledgling Issue 3:31-33

### **Some Talks, Workshops, and Webinars**

1983-present: Roughly 50 talks and 15 workshops given to scientific and popular audiences

2020: A Farallon Floranal: The Ecology and Plants of the Farallon Islands (Yerba Buena CNPS)

<https://ebcnps.org/events/2020-02-farallon-floranal/>

2021: Adventures in Bird Molt: Finding fun in a forbidding yet fundamental process (IBP)

<https://www.birdpop.org/pages/videoRecordings.php>

2021: Uso Del Sistema WRP En MoSI/Use of the WRP System in MoSI (IBP)

<https://www.birdpop.org/pages/videoRecordings.php>

2022: A Walk Through the New Edition of the ID Guide with Peter Pyle (IBP)

<https://www.birdpop.org/pages/videoRecordings.php>

2022: Adventures in Bird Molt (Cornell University, Birds of the World)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jtiAwMkxLv8>

2024: An Evolutionary Perspective on Molt

<https://www.birdpop.org/pages/videoPost.php?id=28>

### **Other**

2008: Interview in Birding Magazine 40:16-18.

[https://www.aba.org/birding\\_archive\\_files/v40n6p16.pdf](https://www.aba.org/birding_archive_files/v40n6p16.pdf)

2013-present: Monthly to bimonthly blog to the Gulf of the Farallones Association Beach Watch Program