

TUNDRA SWAN

Cygnus columbianus

Other : Whistling Swan, Bewick Swan

C.c. columbianus

C.c. bewickii

non-breeding visitor, vagrant

Tundra Swans breed in arctic regions of Russia, Alaska, and Canada, wintering in temperate coastal areas of Eurasia and N America (Dement'ev and Gladkov 1952, Cramp and Simmons 1977, AOU 1998). The well-marked Eurasian subspecies, *C.c. bewickii*, has been recorded in California (CBRC 2007) as well as Guam and the N Marianas Is (Stinson et al. 1991, Wiles et al. 2004). Vagrants of both subspecies have been recorded in the Hawaiian Islands.

In the *Northwestern Hawaiian Islands*, a first-cycle bird photographed on Sand I., *Midway*, 7 Nov 1979 (Grant and Pettit 1981, *E* 41:73; [HRBP](#) 1045-1046), and found dead on 22 Dec 1979 (BPBM 184614), was identified at the USNM as the North American race *C. c. columbianus* (Engilis et al. 2004). In the *Southeastern Hawaiian Islands*, two Tundra Swans of *columbianus* were observed at the Kaua'i Lagoon near the airport in Lihu'e, *Kaua'i*, 1 Feb-3 Mar 2007 ([HRBP](#) 5350, 5510-5513, 5850, published *NAB* 61:349). One of undetermined subspecies (but likely *columbianus* based on the description) was well observed on Kealia Pond, *Maui* 3 Jan 1988. In late Oct 2003, three first-cycle Tundra Swans, also of the nominate subspecies, appeared at a reservoir near Kahului Airport, Maui. On 26 Oct they were photographed ([HRBP](#) 5049-5050, published *NAB* 58:163) and on 28 Oct one was captured and two were shot by U.S. Department of Agriculture employees, to prevent their possible interference with aircraft operations. The captured individual was released (possibly injured) in Kawainui Marsh, O'ahu 7 Nov and was not subsequently reported, one of the carcasses was buried, and the other carcass was deposited at Bishop Museum (BPBM 184564). On *Moloka'i*, a report of a swan at Kakahaia NWR 7 Jan 1982, is unsubstantiated. However, two that spent their time between the Ohiapilo Wetland enhancement area and Kualapu'u Reservoir 1 Dec 2006-8 Mar 2007 were well documented (e.g., [HRBP](#) 5349, 5504-5509 published *NAB* 61:349) and proved to be the first confirmed records for *bewickii* in the Hawaiian Islands.

[Acronyms and Abbreviations](#)

[Literature cited](#)

Citation: Pyle, R.L., and P. Pyle. 2009. The Birds of the Hawaiian Islands: Occurrence, History, Distribution, and Status. B.P. Bishop Museum, Honolulu, HI, U.S.A. Version 1 (31 December 2009) <http://hbs.bishopmuseum.org/birds/rlp-monograph/>