

NAZCA BOOBY

Sula granti

non-breeding visitor, vagrant

monotypic

The Nazca Booby, long considered a subspecies of [Masked Booby](#), was split to a separate full species by the AOU (2000) based on morphological and genetic evidence and allopatric breeding on Clipperton and the Revillagigedos Is off Mexico (Pitman and Jehl 1998, Friesen et al. 2002). Nazca Boobies breed in the tropical e. Pacific, primarily on the Galapagos Islands, with smaller numbers on several other islands off Ecuador, Columbia, and Mexico. They range at sea off the American coast from c. Mexico S to Ecuador, rarely N to California (CBRC 2007).

Three adult Nazca Boobies have been documented in the Hawaiian Islands. One studied among [Masked Boobies](#) on Tern I., *French Frigate* from 21 Jul to early Aug 2005 ([HRBP](#) 5209 published *E* 65:57), again 13 Oct 2005 and sporadically through Dec 2008 (VanderWerf et al. 2008; [HRBP](#) 5560, 5936). Another was observed and photographed on Mokumanu islet off *O'ahu* 28 Feb 2006 ([HRBP](#) 5269-5270, published HDFW 2006, *NAB* 59:667, and in VanderWerf et al. 2008). This bird was sitting on 2 eggs and appeared to be paired with a [Masked Booby](#) nearby (VanderWerf et al. 2008), but no absolute confirmation of breeding by the Nazca Booby was obtained. An adult was also photographed on Eastern I, *Midway*, 8 Apr 2008 ([HRBP](#) 5441-5442).

[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/>