

BLACK-HEADED GULL

Chroicocephalus ridibundus

Other: Common Black-headed Gull (1983-1997)

monotypic

non-breeding visitor, vagrant

The Black-headed Gull, considered until recently in the genus *Larus*, is found abundantly across Eurasia, wintering as far S as c. Africa, the Philippine Is, and w. Micronesia (Dement'ev and Gladkov 1951c, Cramp and Simmons 1983, Higgins and Davies 1996, Wiles et al. 2004, Howell and Dunn 2007). It also breeds in Greenland and (occasionally) ne. N America and winters regularly along the Atlantic N American coast (AOU 1998, CBRC 2007). It is found as a vagrant throughout the remainder of N America, the Hawaiian Islands, Bonin Is, and to the SW Pacific and Australia (Pratt et al. 1987, Higgins and Davies 1996). In the *Northwestern Hawaiian Islands*, there are records of six birds from *Midway*: one was photographed there 11 Nov 1976 ([HRBP](#) 0109-0111, 0787-0788), one observed there 26 Nov 1996 was well described, and up to four were present 25 Oct-16 Nov 2000, two of which died, on 25 Oct (BPBM 184384) and 13 Nov (BPBM 184383). Another gull observed on Midway 3-7 Nov 1995, identified as a [Silver Gull](#) (which see), may have been a Black-headed Gull. The only substantiated records from the *Southeastern Hawaiian Islands* are of individuals at Waipi'o, *O'ahu* 26-28 Dec 1977 (*E* 39:18), and Kanaha Pond and Kealia Pond NWR, *Maui* 7 Nov-3 Dec 1983. We follow Pyle (2008) in considering the species monotypic; populations breeding in NE Russia, the most likely origin for birds appearing in the Hawaiian Islands, is sometimes regarded as "*C.r sibiricus*."

[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/>