

CALIFORNIA GULL

Larus californicus

non-breeding visitor, vagrant

L.c. californicus

California Gulls breed in w. N America and winter S to wc. Mexico (AOU 1998, Howell and Dunn 2007). Despite being abundant along and off the Pacific N American coast in winter, there are very few substantiated records from the Hawaiian Islands. An early specimen from Hawaii collected by M. Newell (probably Maui; Perkins 1903), reported by Bryan (1901a), and presumably the basis for AOU (1957) and others' listing of this species for the Hawaiian Islands, cannot be located for verification, and until so we consider it unsubstantiated. Furthermore, most sight reports are not accompanied by descriptions eliminating similar species such as [Herring](#) and [Ring-billed](#) gull, and we also view these as unsubstantiated. We consider only five records to be substantiated. On *O'ahu*, a first-cycle male was found dead at Aloha Tower in Honolulu 5 Aug 1998 (BPBM 184164; [HRBP](#) 5571-5572), where its occurrence may have been assisted by the many cruise ships that inport here; it is of the coastal subspecies *L.c. californicus* (PP examination). Other records from O'ahu accompanied by thorough descriptions include third-cycle birds at Ke'ehi Lagoon 25 Jul 1976-22 Jan 1977 (*E* 37: 46, 82-83; 38:4), Nuupia Pond, Mokapu Peninsula 26 Jan-7 Apr 1980, at the Ki'i unit of JCNWR 10 Jan-18 Feb 1992. Another 3rd-cycle bird was described from Wailuku, *Maui* 10-24 Jan 2003. Unsubstantiated California Gulls have been reported from O'ahu 13 Jan 1963 (*E* 23:45), 4 Feb 1978 (*E* 39:18), and 1 Jan 1979; and from Hawai'i I 14 Jan 1958 (*E* 21:80, 45:74). Descriptions of 6 first-cycle birds from Kealia Pond, Maui 18-19 Jan 1975 (Udvardy 1975) suggest that they were [Ring-billed](#) rather than California Gulls; six Ring-billed Gulls were observed there the following winter.

[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/>