

FRANKLIN GULL

Leucophaeus pipixcan

non-breeding visitor, occasional migrant

monotypic

Franklin Gulls breed throughout prairie regions of w. N America (primarily British Columbia through Saskatchewan) and winter primarily along the Pacific S American coast (AOU 1998, Howell and Dunn 2007). Vagrants have been recorded widely throughout Eurasia, Africa, and the Pacific from Socorro and Clipperton Is, Johnston Atoll (4 records, 1969-2003), Palmyra, Micronesia, the Marquesas, New Zealand, and Australia (King 1959b, Clapp 1968a, Sibley and McFarlane 1968, Cramp and Simmons 1983, Pratt et al. 1987, Higgins and Davies 1996, Onley and Schweigman 2004). This species shows a unique occurrence pattern in the Hawaiian Islands, with the great majority of substantiated records being of adults from the spring migration period. Numerous Franklin Gulls have been reported from Hawaii in the fall and winter (e.g., *E* 36:93, 96, 128; 37:8, 65; 38:4, 7; 40:141; 41:75; 45:74; [DOFAW Waterbird Surveys](#)), but the majority of these were either later retracted as or known to be [Laughing Gulls](#) (e.g., *E* 37:98), were of uncertain identification, or are unsubstantiated. Only 5 substantiated fall records and one winter record occur from the Hawaiian Islands.

In the *Northwestern Hawaiian Islands*, 21 spring-transient Franklin Gulls have been recorded, from *Midway* (5 records, 1988-2008; e.g., [HRBP](#) 5406), *Laysan* (6, 1980-2009; e.g., [HRBP](#) 0746-0749, 5549), and *French Frigate* (8, 1965-2008; e.g., Clapp and Woodward 1968; USNM 496203, BPBM 178099, 184443; [HRBP](#) 5153-5154). The earliest arrival occurred on 23 Apr (1996, Midway) and the latest observation of a live bird occurred on 2 Jul (2000, Midway; found dead on 4 Jul; BPBM 184385). The only fall transient in the Northwestern Islands was of a molting adult present at French Frigate 16-31 Aug 1991 and found dead 12 Sep (BPBM 178477).

There are spring records for approximately 73 Franklin Gulls from the *Southeastern Hawaiian Islands*, from *Kaua'i* (6, 1958-2007; e.g., King 1959b, [HRBP](#) 1257), *O'ahu* (21, 1953-2009; e.g., King 1959b; *E* 14:7; BYUH 3754; [HRBP](#) 0743-0745), *Moloka'i* (4, 1983-2009; e.g., *E* 48:65), *Maui* (31, late 1800s-2009; e.g., Bryan 1901b; BPBM 184264, 185204; *E* 31:65), and *Hawai'i* (11, 1966-2006). During the spring of 1988 there were numerous reports from all of these islands except Kaua'i (*E* 48:65, *AB* 42:484), including high counts of 5 (possibly as many as 8) near Kona, Hawai'i 17 May; 5 at Kihei Pond NWR, Maui 11 Jun; and 4 at the Ki'i Unit of JCNWR, O'ahu 13 May. Numerous reports, including 2-4 birds together, also occurred during 1992, 1998, and 2005. The earliest spring arrival was 31 March (1987, Ki'i; *E* 47:68) and the latest spring/summer record was of two present at Kealia Pond NWR, Maui, from May through 28 Jun 1992. There are 4 substantiated fall records: Waipi'o Peninsula, O'ahu 25 Sep 1979 (*E* 41:75); Mauna Lani STP, Hawai'i I 10-17 Sep 1994; 13 Aug 2007 off Kona, Hawai'i I ([HRBP](#) 5956); and 17 Aug 2007 at Kealia Pond NWR, Maui, perhaps involving the same molting individual observed off Kona. The single substantiated winter record of a Franklin Gull in Hawaii is of one photographed at Kealia 3-17 Jan 2008 ([HRBP](#) 5735).

[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/>