

MEW GULL

Larus canus

non-breeding visitor, vagrant

L. c. kamtschatschensis

The Mew Gull is a polytypic species with distinct breeding populations in Alaska (*L. c. brachyurus*), Siberia (*kamtschatschensis*), and n. Europe (*canus*); in the Pacific region they winter S to California and se. Asia (Dement'ev and Gladkov 1951c, Cramp and Simmons 1983, AOU 1998, Howell and Dunn 2007). The only record from the Hawaiian Islands involves a specimen of a first-winter female found dead on *Kure*, *Northwestern Hawaiian Islands*, 22 Feb 1963 (USNM 493343; [HRBP](#) 5117-5122). It was originally reported as a [Ring-billed Gull](#) (Clapp and Woodward 1968, Sibley and McFarlane 1968, Woodward 1972) but was re-identified as a Mew Gull by R.B. Clapp in 1983. *Contra* AOU (1998), it is of the Siberian subspecies *L. c. kamtschatschensis* (PP specimen examination; [HRBP](#) 5117-5122). A sight report of a "possible Mew Gull" from French Frigate 16 Feb 1986 is unsubstantiated.

[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/>