

Royal Tern

Thalasseus maximus

hypothetical, unsubstantiated

A report of a Royal Tern from Kealia Pond NWR, Maui, 21 Feb 2002, did not have enough details to eliminate Elegant (*T. elegans*) or [Caspian](#) terns. Royal Terns occur along temperate Atlantic and Pacific American coasts, with vagrants recorded throughout N America and to Europe and Africa (AOU 1998), and it would be a possible vagrant to the Hawaiian Islands, as would Elegant Tern, of which there is a specimen record for Johnston Atoll (USNM 544937, collected 19 Apr 1969; [HRBP](#) 5072-5073).

[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/>