

## SANDWICH TERN

*Thalasseus sandvicensis*

**non-breeding visitor, vagrant**

*T.s. acuflavida?*

The Sandwich Tern breeds at s. temperate latitudes in N America, S America, and Eurasia, withdrawing in winter to subtropical latitudes, with vagrants recorded frequently outside of normal ranges (Dement'ev and Gladkov 1951c, Cramp and Simmons 1985, Higgins and Davies 1996, AOU 1998, CBRC 2007). There is a single record from the Hawaiian Islands, of a first-winter bird present near Kahuku, **O'ahu**, 10-12 Jan 1992 ([HRBP](#) 0950-0953, published *AB* 46:333). Images indicate that it was a first-cycle bird with characters consistent with the expected N American subspecies *T.s. acuflavida*. A medium-large tern photographed flying over Kanaha Beach, Maui 10-14 Dec 2006 may have been a Sandwich Tern but identification was not confirmed. The closely related Elegant Tern (*O. elegans*) of the Pacific coast of N America has not been recorded in the Hawaiian Islands, but a specimen was collected on Johnston Atoll 19 Apr 1969 (Amerson and Shelton 1976; BPBM 544937, [HRBP](#) 5072-5073 of specimen) and it therefore could be expected in Hawaii

### [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/>