

## **Black Turnstone**

*Arenaria melanocephala*

### **hypothetical, erroneous report**

Black Turnstones occur along the immediate Pacific coast, breeding primarily in the Alaskan Bering Sea region and wintering south to Baja California (AOU 1998). They are extremely rare away from this coastal range, as evidenced by the lack of previous records in the Hawaiian Islands, even though it has widely been expected to show up as a vagrant. A turnstone photographed 37 km off w. Hawai'i I 24 Nov 2014, was thought to be a Black Turnstone based on an apparent dark throat and underparts in an initial series of photographs ([HRBP 6455-6456](#)). It was accepted by the [HBRC](#) in Jul 2015 as a Black Turnstone, along with another briefly observed bird at Halona Pt, O'ahu 20 Feb 2015, thought by some to be the same individual. However, additional photographs of the Nov observation surfaced ([HRBP 6457-6458](#)), which showed a slight ruddy tinge to the upperwing coverts and indicated that throat and breast in the former photographs may have been in shadow. It is possible that this individual might have been a hybrid turnstone (not previously recorded) but in any event, the [HBRC](#) withdrew their acceptance of both records in Oct 2016, and we here consider this Black Turnstone record as erroneous.

### [Acronyms and Abbreviations](#)

### [Literature cited](#)

Citation: Pyle, R.L., and P. Pyle. 2017. The Birds of the Hawaiian Islands: Occurrence, History, Distribution, and Status. B.P. Bishop Museum, Honolulu, HI, U.S.A. Version 2 (1 January 2017)  
<http://hbs.bishopmuseum.org/birds/rlp-monograph/>