

Black-naped Tern

Sterna sumatrana

hypothetical, erroneous report

Black-naped Terns inhabit islands in the tropical Indian and W Pacific oceans E to Micronesia (Wiles 2005) as close as the Marshall Is (Clapp 1990), Samoa, and the Cook Is (Pratt et al. 1987). Three old specimens collected on Kaua'i (1893) and Hawai'i I (1901), were originally identified as this species (Bryan 1901a, Henshaw 1902a; summarized by Clapp et al. 1983), resulting in inclusion of this species in Hawaii by Bryan and Greenway (1944), Blackman (1944), Munro (1944), Bryan (1958), Peterson (1961), King (1967), and others. These specimens (BPBM 4223, 4424-4425) have subsequently been re-identified by R.A. Falla and R.B. Clapp as first-year [Common Terns](#) (Clapp et al. 1983; AOU 1983, 1998). Olson and James (1982b) discovered subfossil evidence of a single Black-naped Tern on Moloka'i and suggested that it may have bred in the Hawaiian Islands at one time, but it also could have been transported by Polynesians as food during Pacific crossings.

[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/>