

## MEW GULL

*Larus canus*

**non-breeding visitor, vagrant**

*L. c. kamtschatschensis*

*L. c. brachyurus*

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, *brachyurus* winters S to California and *kamtschatschensis* to se. Asia (Dement'ev and Gladkov 1951c, Cramp and Simmons 1983, AOU 1998, Howell and Dunn 2007). The first 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, and as *kamtschatschensis* by further examination of the specimen (PP, contra AOU 1998; [HRBP 5117-5122](#) of specimen). Over 50 years passed before the next Mew Gulls were recorded in the Northwestern Islands: an adult and first-cycle bird together on Kure 31 Oct 2015 ([HRBP 6597](#)), the first-cycle bird remaining until 2 Dec, followed by an adult on **Midway** 5 Nov 2015 ([HRBP 6598-6600](#)), quite possibly the same bird as the Kure adult. The following year two more first-cycle Mew Gulls occurred on Midway, one 6 Nov through the end of 2016 ([HRBP 6601-6604](#)) and a second found dead 15 Nov 2016 ([HRBP 6605-6608](#)). All five of these Mew Gulls on Kure and Midway in 2015-2016 appear to be of *kamtschatschensis*. In the *Southeastern Hawaiian Islands*, another Mew Gull showed up in 2015, an adult present at the Honouliuli Unit of PHNWR, **O'ahu** 1 Jan-6 Apr 2015 ([HRBP 6593-6596](#); published *NAB* 69:515). This individual shows characteristics of the North American subspecies *brachyurus*.

### [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/>