

ELEGANT TERN

Thalasseus elegans

non-breeding visitor, vagrant

monotypic

The Elegant Tern breeds in coastal nw. Mexico and sw. California, disperses irregularly N to Oregon, Washington, or (rarely) British Columbia in the late summer and fall, and migrates primarily to coastal Chile for winter (AOU 1998). Vagrants have turned up in the Gulf of Mexico, U.S. Atlantic coast, and Europe (Cramp and Simmons 1985, AOU 1998). In the c. Pacific there is a specimen record from Johnston Atoll collected 19 Apr 1969 (USNM 544937; [HRBP](#) 5072-5073, published *NAB* 66:745) but no other records until one was observed and photographed at Aimakapa Pond, *Hawai'i I*, 10-15 Apr 2012 ([HRBP](#) 6696-6702) and possibly present from late Mar. Based on this record, Elegant Tern was added to the Hawaiian Islands Checklist by the [HBRC](#) in Apr 2015.

[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/>