

LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL

Larus fuscus

non-breeding visitor, vagrant

L. f. heuglini

Lesser Black-backed Gulls breed primarily across n. Europe, from Iceland east to the Taymyr Peninsula in nc. Russia, and they winter primarily from nw. Europe S though most of Africa across to S China (Dement'ev and Gladkov 1951c, Cramp and Simmons 1983, AOU 1998, Howell and Dunn 2007). In N America they are regular winter visitors along the Atlantic coast and vagrants have been recorded throughout the continent W to the Pacific coast (AOU 1998, CBRC 2007, Howell and Dunn 2007). There are otherwise no reports for the Pacific Basin other than a single record from the *Northwestern Hawaiian Islands*, an adult observed at sea, 128 km WNW of Gardiner Pinnacles 9 Oct 2010 ([HRBP](#) 6618-6623). Based on this record the [HBRC](#) accepted this species to the Hawaiian Island Checklist in Sep 2015. Review of photographs by gull experts concluded that this bird was likely of the eastern-most Eurasian breeding subspecies, *L. f. heuglini* or *L. f. taimyrensis*, the latter of which may represent a hybrid between *heuglini* and *L. a. vegae* [Herring Gull](#) or may be a separate species (Collinson et al. 2008). In any case, these would be the most expected subspecies of Lesser Black-backed Gull to occur in the c. Pacific. A first-cycle bird photographed on Kure in March 1988 ([HRBP](#) 0812-0813) may have been of a Lesser-black-backed (or possibly a [Herring Gull](#)).

[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/>