

AMERICAN WIGEON

Anas americana

Other: Baldpate

monotypic

non-breeding visitor, regular winterer

The American Wigeon breeds in Alaska, central Canada and the n. United States, wintering southward through Mexico and C America. It is regular in winter in the Hawaiian Islands, and vagrants have reached Clipperton I, Palmyra, Johnston Atoll, and Guam (Amerson and Shelton 1976, Pratt et al. 1987, Howell et al. 1993, AOU 1998, Wiles 2005). In the Hawaiian Islands, American Wigeon are usually found in counts of 1-10 (occasionally larger), normally with other species of migrant ducks.

In the *Northwestern Hawaiian Islands* American Wigeon have reached **Midway**, with a [minimum](#) of 18 individuals (in groups of 1 to 4) recorded from 1956-2008 (e.g., *E* 18:3, Fisher 1965, Clapp and Woodward 1968; USNM 493457, 496202; BPBM 175889; [HRBP](#) 0119) and **Kure** (one in fall 2006; [HRBP](#) 5356-5357). On **Laysan** a specimen of a first-fall female (Bremen Museum) taken by Shauinsland (1899) 15 Oct 1896 represents the earliest confirmed record for Hawaii (Rothschild 1900), and there are records for 3 other individuals in 1964-1993 (e.g., Ely and Clapp 1973). Surprisingly, there are no records as yet from French Frigate or any of the other Northwestern Islands, where Eurasian Wigeons are much more widely reported. The Laysan specimen represents the earliest fall date and the latest spring date was for 3 Apr (2008, Midway).

The first substantiated record for the *Southeastern Hawaiian Islands* involves a specimen (BPBM 7067) taken at Pala'au, Moloka'i 3 Nov 1902 (Munro 1944) although Perkins' (1903) mention of American Wigeon for O'ahu and Maui is likely based on earlier records. It is now known to winter regularly in small numbers on **Kaua'i**, **O'ahu**, **Moloka'i**, **Maui** and **Hawai'i**, arriving in late Oct-Nov, departing in March, and rarely lingering to May. Highest counts were in the 1950s: ~100 on pre-development Kaelepulu Pond, O'ahu 24 Apr 1955; about 70 on then extensive Waipahu mudflats, O'ahu in Dec 1957; and 59 on a count of the entire island of Hawai'i in Jan 1959. Counts during more recent [DOFAW Waterbird Surveys](#) of 130 at Apana Reservoir, Ni'ihau 22 Jan 1993 and 62 at Kipu Reservoir, Kaua'i 19 Jan 1994 are unsubstantiated. Otherwise, American Wigeon on these counts were of <25 in 1986-2005 but jumped to >50 in 2006-2007, the majority (up to 38 on 17 Jan 2007) being recorded on the N shore of O'ahu (e.g., [HRBP](#) 5808-5809). High counts for these surveys on other islands have included 6 on Kaua'i 4 Mar 1998, 2 on Moloka'i 4 Mar 1998, 16 on Maui 19 Jan 2006, and 14 on Hawai'i I 17 Jan 1990 (see also [HRBP](#) 5602, 5810-5811). American Wigeon has yet to be reported substantially from Ni'ihau, Lana'i, or Kaho'olawe.

There are records for five individuals over-summering on O'ahu in 1982-1996 (e.g., [HRBP](#) 0929-0930 in mid-Jun 1991) and one on Moloka'i (2007). Excluding these, the earliest fall arrival was recorded 3 Sep (1994, Kealia NWR, Maui) and the latest spring record was for 17 May (1978, Moloka'i).

[Acronyms and Abbreviations](#)

[Literature cited](#)

Citation: Pyle, R.L., and P. Pyle. 2009. The Birds of the Hawaiian Islands: Occurrence, History, Distribution, and Status. B.P. Bishop Museum, Honolulu, HI, U.S.A. Version 1 (31 December 2009)
<http://hbs.bishopmuseum.org/birds/rlp-monograph/>