

EURASIAN WIGEON

Anas penelope

Other: European Wigeon (<1983)

monotypic

non-breeding visitor, occasional winterer

Eurasian Wigeon breed in n. Eurasia E to Kamchatka, wintering southward to e. Africa, China, the Philippines, Micronesia, and in small numbers along the Pacific coast of N America (Dement'ev and Gladkov 1952, Cramp and Simmons 1977, AOU 1998). Vagrants have occurred across N America and have reached Clipperton I (Howell et al. 1993), most Micronesian island groups (AOU 1998, Wiles 2005), and Wake Atoll (Rauzon et al. 2008). In the Hawaiian Islands, Eurasian Wigeon occur annually in Oct-Mar (primarily in Nov-Jan), usually 1-2 birds but occasionally up to 8 or more, often together with [American Wigeon](#).

POBSP personnel collected 4 specimens in the *Northwestern Hawaiian Islands* (Clapp and Woodward 1968): 2 on *Kure* in Nov 1964 & Nov 1965 (USNM 494359, 496208) and 2 on *Midway* in Nov 1963 & Jan 1965 (USNM 498076, 493458). Sightings continued at Midway, with a [minimum](#) of 24 additional individuals recorded between 1966 and 2002 (e.g., *E* 32:78; [HRBP](#) 0366-0367, 0593-0594, 0887, 1392, 1341-1344). Since Dec 1991, 2-7 Eurasian Wigeon have wintered annually at Midway, indicating apparently successful round trips by adult birds to arctic breeding grounds. A male was present on *Lisiansky* 25 Apr 2005 ([HRBP](#) 5548). On *Laysan*, at least 18 individuals have been recorded in 1979-2000 (e.g., [HRBP](#) 0339). A reported 8-14 birds (high count for the Hawaiian Islands) on Laysan in Oct-Nov 1990 were apparently transients as only a single male was present in Feb 1991. There are records of four birds at *French Frigate* between 1982 and 1994 (e.g., USNM 597156, [HRBP](#) 0473). The earliest fall arrival in the Northwestern Islands was recorded 27 Oct (2001) and the latest spring date was 2 May (2002), each on Midway. Three over-summering individuals have been recorded, on Laysan (1979), French Frigate (1985), and Midway (1997).

Eurasian Wigeon have been visiting the *Southeastern Hawaiian Islands* annually in fall and winter since the mid-1970s. A [minimum](#) of 110 birds have been recorded on *Kaua'i* (8 individuals in 1985-2004), *O'ahu* (~59, 1944-2008; e.g., *E* 5:53, 18:50, 31:108, 36:138; [HRBP](#) 0379, 5226, 5337), *Moloka'i* (16, 1972-2008; e.g., *E* 32:98), *Maui* (21, 1983-2004), and *Hawai'i I* (18, 1952-2009; e.g., *E* 21:80, [HRBP](#) 0335, 5602). They have not yet been reported from Ni'ihau, Lana'i, or Kaho'olawe, islands that lack suitable ponds or have few observers. Thirty-eight reported in N O'ahu during [DOFAW Waterbird Surveys](#) 16 Jan 2002 is undoubtedly an error; otherwise, Eurasian Wigeon have been recorded on 9 of 22 surveys with a state-wide high count of 6 in Jan 2006. The high count overall was of 9 birds at the Ki'i Unit of JCNWR, O'ahu, 13 Feb 1988 and 9 Feb 2002. Multiple individuals have over-wintered in consecutive years at Ki'i 1997-2008 (up to 9), Kealia Pond, Maui, 1991-2004 (up to 6), and Aimakapa Pond, Hawai'i, 1986-1991 (up to 5) but no over-summering individuals have been documented, suggesting successful round-trip migrations to breeding grounds. The earliest fall record is from 4 Oct (2002, Kealia Pond) and the latest spring record is for 30 Apr (1985 at Punamano and 2005 at Honouliuli unit of PHNWR, both on O'ahu).

[Acronyms and Abbreviations](#)

[Literature cited](#)

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