

GREAT EGRET

Ardea alba

non-breeding visitor, vagrant

A.a. egretta?

Great Egrets occur in tropical and temperate regions throughout the world, dispersing pole-ward after breeding and retreating toward the tropics during winter (Dement'ev and Gladkov 1951a, Cramp and Simmons 1977, AOU 1998). In the Pacific they have been recorded from Clipperton I (Howell et al. 1993), w. Micronesia (Wiles 2005) and the Hawaiian Islands, where four individuals have thus far been reported. One was observed at “Moanalua Kalihi Flats”, *O’ahu* 17-21 Dec 1944 (*E* 5:52-53; these flats have since been filled); and another was reported from Ki’i Unit of JCNWR, O’ahu, 15-20 Dec 2005; one was observed at Kilauea Point, *Kauai* 20 Jan 1984; and one was seen by many observers at Kealia Pond NWR, *Maui* 21 Feb-6 Mar 1982. A report of 2 birds at Kealia in Apr 1982 (*AB* 36:896) is unsubstantiated. There are no specimens or photographs of this species from the Hawaiian Islands. Great Egret was placed in the monotypic genus *Casmerodius* until lumped with *Ardea* in 1995 (AOU 1995, Pyle 1997). Five subspecies of Great Egret are recognized worldwide; descriptions of individuals in Hawaii are consistent with *A.a. egretta* of N Am (Pyle 2008), the most likely subspecies to reach the Southeastern Islands.

[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/>