

COMMON RINGED PLOVER

Charadrius hiaticula

non-breeding visitor, vagrant

monotypic

The Common Ringed Plover breeds across the Palearctic (as well as arctic ne. Canada and occasionally in w. Alaska) and winters across s. Europe, Africa and s. Asia, occasionally to Australia (Dement'ev and Gladkov 1951c, Cramp and Simmons 1983, Marchant and Higgins 1993, AOU 1998). Confusion with the similar Semipalmated Plover has obscured the status of this species in the Pacific (see [Semipalmated Plover](#)) although it seems likely that records for w. Micronesia pertain to Common Ringed Plovers (Pyle and Engbring 1985, Wiles 2005); they have been confirmed from the Marshall Is (VanderWerf 2006). Of ~170 individuals of this species-pair recorded in the Hawaiian Islands (see [Semipalmated Plover](#)) only two confirmed and five possible Common Ringed Plovers have been recorded, 5 from the *Northwestern Hawaiian Islands* and two from the *Southeastern Hawaiian Islands*.

A confirmed Common Ringed-Plover was a bird photographed and well-studied on *Midway*, 27 Apr-27 May 1997 ([HRBP](#) 1117-1120, 1379). The toes of this plover were observed on multiple occasions to lack palmations, as also confirmed by photographs of the tracks ([HRBP](#) 1120, 1379, compare with [HRBP](#) 1338 of Semipalmated Plover tracks). Other small plovers in the Northwestern Islands that may have been Common Ringed Plovers based on photographs or detailed descriptions include individuals on Midway 15 Oct 1983 (Pyle 1984; [HRBP](#) 0368, 0596-0598) and 13-14 Sep 1990, an adult in full breeding plumage on Pearl and Hermes 2 Jul 1985, and a specimen of a first-fall individual collected on Laysan 6 Sep 1967 (USNM 543043), which shows plumage features suggesting Common Ringed Plover (PP examination) but cannot be confirmed to species based on extent of toe webbing; it could be a hybrid. The individual that we consider confirmed was well-studied and photographed on *Kaua'i* 4-6 Sep 2007 ([HRBP](#) 5392-5393, 5681-5685). This plover appears to show a bill too large to be that of a [Semipalmated Plover](#) and displays other plumage features indicating Common Ringed. Another individual thought possibly to be a Common Ringed Plover based on its appearance was observed near Ma'alea, Maui, 3-4 May 1999.

[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/>