

MARBLED GODWIT

Limosa fedoa

non-breeding visitor, vagrant

L.f. beringiae?

The Marbled Godwit is an American species which breeds in Alaska and in the prairie region of Canada and the nc. U.S., and winters primarily along the Pacific North American coast, occasionally to S America (AOU 1998). Substantiated records of three individuals in the Hawaiian Islands are the only ones from the Pacific (Pratt et al. 1987).

The first record of a Marbled Godwit was of a first-year male collected on *Laysan, Northwestern Hawaiian Islands*, 21 Oct 1966 (Clapp and Woodward 1968; USNM 496790). A second bird was reportedly present at the time (Ely and Clapp 1973), but without description we consider it unsubstantiated. Likewise, an individual reported from Kure Feb-May 1979 (*E* 39:14), is not substantiated. The similar [Bar-tailed Godwit](#) is much more likely in the Northwestern Islands. In the *Southeastern Hawaiian Islands*, a large first-fall bird, presumably female, was at Ma'ili Beach Park, *O'ahu* 10-20 Oct 2004 ([HRBP](#) 5163-5166); presumably the same individual was found at Kealia Pond NWR, *Maui* 17 Nov 2004-4 Apr 2005 ([HRBP](#) 5233), and then back at the Ki'i Unit of JCNWR, O'ahu 9 May 2005-5 Feb 2006 ([HRBP](#) 5286, 5833). Another was photographed near Waiakea Pond, Hilo, *Hawai'i I* 2-3 Oct 1988 ([HRBP](#) 0796-0799, published *AB* 43:173). A specimen from unknown locality, present in the St. Louis College collection and donated to BPBM in 1942 (152365, mounted specimen photographed and skeletonized), may also have been taken in Hawaii, but we consider this unconfirmed.

Gibson and Kessel (1989) recently described a subspecies of Marbled Godwit, *L.f. beringiae*, which breeds at the base of the Aleutian Is, AK, and winters in n. California. Based on range this would be the most likely subspecies to reach the Hawaiian Islands and, indeed, the specimen from Laysan is probably of this subspecies (Gibson and Kessel 1989), and the large size of the individual on O'ahu and Maui suggests this subspecies as well.

[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/rfp-monograph/>