

## GREATER NECKLACED LAUGHINGTHRUSH *Garrulax pectoralis*

Other: Black-gorgeted Laughingthrush

*G.p. picticollis*?

### **naturalized (non-native) resident, long established**

The Greater Necklaced Laughingthrush is native to n. India, Nepal, and s. China S to Burma and n. Thailand (Ali and Ripley 1996b, AOU 1998). A small population has become established on Kaua'i, apparently after introduction in 1919 (Long 1981, Lever 1987). Caum (1933) reported that a few "Collared" or [White-throated Laughingthrushes](#) were introduced that year and that they had become "thoroughly established" around Lihue by the early 1930s. They were considered to be this species until 1961, when N. Pilling observed 3 birds 2.5 km E of Wailua and, after examining specimens at AMNH, first identified them as Greater Necklaced Laughingthrushes (*E* 23:23). Reports of [White-throated Laughingthrushes](#) never-the-less continued through the 1960s, and Berger (1972) also considered them possibly Lesser Necklaced Laughingthrushes (*G. monileger*), but identity was corrected to Greater Necklaced during the 1970s (Pyle 1977, Berger 1981; *E* 32:39, 32:48, 36:22).

Zeillemaker (1975) forwarded photographs (including [HRBP](#) 1464) and later the specimen (USNM 575045; [HRBP](#) 1465-1467) of a dead juvenile found 14 Apr 1975 near Hanalei, where R.B. Clapp confirmed the identification of Greater Necklaced, and further identified the birds as most likely of the e. Chinese subspecies *G.p. picticollis* (see also [HRBP](#) 1467), although not completely eliminating two other subspecies, *robini* of se. China through Vietnam and Laos, and *semitorquatus* of the Hainan province of s. China, of which no specimens were present at USNM. Clapp (*in* Zeillemaker 1975) speculated that they may have come to Hawaii from se. China via Hong Kong. Three other specimens are at BPBM (178486, 178772-772). We consider the original introductions in 1919 to almost certainly have been of Greater Necklaced Laughingthrush, and that no documentation exists for [White-throated Laughingthrush](#) ever occurring in Hawaii (but see Berger 1981).

This large, jay-like species is skulking and nomadic, and has never been found in substantial numbers on *Kaua'i* (see [HRBP](#) 0459-0461, 0896-0897, 5252, 5412, 5896). It has most often been reported in small groups of 6-15 birds, with a high count of 25 in one flock (Huleia NWR, 22 Nov 1991). Documentation is lacking to track population expansion away from original release sites, probably near Lihue in 1919, but by 1947 they were reported across the island at Kokee (*E* 7:40) and by 1960 they were observed N to Kilauea (Richardson and Bowles 1964). Observations through the 1970s occurred throughout the NE half of the island and by 1985 they were reported S to Kalaheo (*E* 46:110) and Lawai. On the Lihue [Christmas Bird Count](#), a high count of 19 was recorded in Dec 1975 (*E* 36:113-114), followed by observations of 1-14 individuals on 7 of 16 counts between 1976 and 1992. Reports were fewer during the 2000s (most frequently near Huleia and between Lawai and Kalaheo through 2009) and there is some evidence that they had become harder to encounter, but decreased observer effort may have also been a factor. Concern has been expressed about their doing damage to banana crops.

[Acronyms and Abbreviations](#)

[Literature cited](#)