

VARIED TIT

Parus varius

Other: Japanese Tit, Japanese Tumbler, Yamagura

P.v. varius?

naturalized (non-native) resident, formerly established, extirpated

The Varied Tit is a resident of E Asia from Manchuria and Korea to Japan (Long 1981, AOU 1983). A popular bird of Japan, the nominate species was introduced on numerous occasions to Kaua'i, O'ahu, Maui, and Hawai'i I between 1890 and 1928 (Thrum 1928, Caum 1933, Munro 1944, Long 1981, Lever 1987). Populations became established in mid-elevation forested areas for over 60 years on Kaua'i and for about 40 years on O'ahu. It was listed in the main check-list by the AOU (1983), perhaps based on a belief that populations were still established on Kaua'i, but the species was relegated to the hypothetical list as "no longer established" by the AOU (1997, 1998).

The first introductions took place on *Kaua'i* in 1890 (*E* 4:25), and further releases were made there in 1905 and 1907 (Caum 1933, Swedberg 1967a). They became established, primarily in the Koke'e, Alakai Swamp, and Wainiha Valley areas, until at least the late 1960s (Munro *in* Gregory 1929, 1933; Richardson and Bowles 1964; HAS 1967; *E* 4:13, 7:12, 19:4, 20:10), but by the 1970s they were considered extirpated on the island (Berger 1981). Five specimens were collected at 900-1200 m elevation at Puahahikini and along the Wailea River in 1919-1920 (CAS 24398-400 and 24509-510; [HRBP](#) 5184-5186). A few unsubstantiated reports exist through the 1980s. Birds on Kaua'i (and presumably O'ahu) have been identified as of the nominate Japanese subspecies, some individuals apparently arriving via Germany, but Berger (1972, 1981) considered subspecies undetermined. Specimens at CAS ([HRBP](#) 5184-5186) and MVZ are consistent with *varius* (and are not of the well-marked *owstoni*) but several intermediate subspecies cannot be ruled out.

Additional Varied Tits were liberated by the [Hui Manu Society](#) and other private individuals on O'ahu, Maui, and Hawai'i I, in 1929-1931 (Caum 1933, Swedberg 1967a; *E* 36:42, *PoP* 49[1]:17, 49[12]:29). No further observations were made on the last two islands but on *O'ahu*, populations became established throughout the Ko'olau range, from the slopes above Haleiwa to Manoa Valley (e.g., Munro *in* Gregory 1933, 1935; Bryan 1941; Pedley 1949; HAS 1979-1971; Berger 1972, 1981) until at least 1968, when the last observation was made along the Waimano Trail above Pearl City 3 Mar (*E* 28:100). Small numbers (1-4 individuals) were recorded on 10 of 16 Honolulu [Christmas Bird Counts](#) between 1944 and 1962. Munro (1944) reported on their tame nature and mentioned that they would come to "mountain houses demanding food and scolding with vigor if not attended to".

[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/>