

EURASIAN WIGEON

Anas penelope

Other: European Wigeon (<1983)

monotypic

non-breeding visitor, occasional winterer

Eurasian Wigeons breed in n. Eurasia E to Kamchatka, wintering southward to e. Africa, China, the Philippines, Micronesia, and in small numbers along the Pacific coast of N America (Dement'ev and Gladkov 1952, Cramp and Simmons 1977, AOU 1998). Vagrants have occurred across N America and have reached Clipperton I (Howell et al. 1993), most Micronesian island groups (AOU 1998, Wiles 2005), and Wake Atoll (Rauzon et al. 2008). In the Hawaiian Islands, Eurasian Wigeon occur annually in Oct-Mar (primarily in Nov-Jan), usually 1-2 birds but occasionally up to 8 or more, often together with [American Wigeons](#).

POBSP personnel collected 4 specimens in the *Northwestern Hawaiian Islands* (Clapp and Woodward 1968): 2 on *Kure* in Nov 1964 & Nov 1965 (USNM 494359, 496208) and 2 on *Midway* in Nov 1963 & Jan 1965 (USNM 498076, 493458). Sightings continued at Midway, with a [minimum](#) of 68 additional individuals recorded between 1966 and 2016 (e.g., *E* 32:78; [HRBP](#) 0366-0367, 0593-0594, 0887, 1392, 1341-1344, 5998-5999, 6019), and Kure, where a long-staying female with an injured wing was recorded at least during 2008-2013 and was joined by a second female in Oct 2012 ([HRBP](#) 6000). Since Dec 1991, 2-12 Eurasian Wigeon have wintered annually at Midway, indicating apparently successful round trips by adult birds to arctic breeding grounds; 12 during the winter of 2011-2012 represents a high count. A male was present on *Lisiansky* 25 Apr 2005 ([HRBP](#) 5548). On *Laysan*, at least 18 individuals have been recorded in 1979-2000 (e.g., [HRBP](#) 0339). A reported 8-14 birds (high count for the Hawaiian Islands) there in Oct-Nov 1990 were apparently transients as only a single male was present in Feb 1991. There are records of five birds at *French Frigate* between 1982 and 2011 (e.g., USNM 597156, [HRBP](#) 0473), including the only record of a confirmed spring migrant that arrived to Tern I 26 Mar 2011 ([HRBP](#) 6001). Four over-summering individuals have been recorded, on Laysan (1979), French Frigate (1985), Midway (1997), and Kure (2008-2013). Otherwise, the earliest fall arrival in the Northwestern Islands was recorded 27 Oct (2001) and the latest spring date was 2 May (2002), each on Midway.

Eurasian Wigeon have been visiting the *Southeastern Hawaiian Islands* annually in fall and winter since the mid-1970s. A [minimum](#) of 157 birds have been recorded on *Kaua'i* (9 individuals in 1985-2014), *O'ahu* (74, 1944-2016; e.g., *E* 5:53, 18:50, 31:108, 36:138; [HRBP](#) 0379, 5226, 5337), *Moloka'i* (19, 1972-2014; e.g., *E* 32:98), *Maui* (25, 1983-2014), and *Hawai'i I* (30, 1952-2016; e.g., *E* 21:80, [HRBP](#) 0335, 5602, 6151-6152). They have not yet been reported from Ni'ihau, Lana'i, or Kaho'olawe, islands that lack suitable ponds or have few observers. Thirty-eight reported in N O'ahu during [DOFAW Waterbird Surveys](#) 16 Jan 2002 is undoubtedly an error; otherwise, Eurasian Wigeon have been recorded on 9 of 22 surveys with a state-wide high count of 6 in Jan 2006. A high count for the Southeastern Islands was of 9 birds recorded three times on O'ahu, at the Ki'i Unit of JCNWR 13 Feb 1988 and 9 Feb 2002 and at Kuilima WTP 22

Dec 2012. Multiple individuals have over-wintered in consecutive years at Ki'i 1997-2008 (up to 9), Kealia Pond, Maui, 1991-2004 (up to 6), and Aimakapa Pond, Hawai'i, 1986-1991 (up to 5) but no over-summering individuals have been documented, suggesting successful round-trip migrations to breeding grounds. The earliest fall record is from 4 Oct (2002, Kealia Pond) and the latest spring record is for 30 Apr (1985 at Punamano and 2005 at Honouliuli unit of PHNWR, O'ahu).

[Acronyms and Abbreviations](#)

[Literature cited](#)

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