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, Lanai, 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 Kiʻi 1997-2008 (up to 9), Kealia Pond, Maui, 1991-2004 (up to 6), and Aimakapa Pond, Hawaiʻi, 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