EARED GREBE  

Podiceps nigricollis

non-breeding visitor, vagrant  

P.n. californicus

The Eared Grebe occurs throughout temperate North America and Eurasia, wintering to the south of the breeding range, as far as Central America in the New World (Dement'ev and Gladkov 1951a, Cramp and Simmons 1977, AOU 1998). There are four substantiated records for the Hawaiian Islands. The only record for the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands is of a well-described bird in basic plumage on the saline lake on Laysan 11-26 Nov 1998. Reports from residents on Laysan of "small divers that must be grebes" in the early 1900s (Wetmore in Olson 1996b:117) might also pertain to this species. In the Southeastern Hawaiian Islands, an Eared Grebe in formative or basic plumage appeared at the Lowe Aquafarm near Kahuku, O'ahu 19 Feb 1983 and had molted into alternate plumage when last seen 1 Apr (HRBP 0220-0223, 0380-0381). Another Eared Grebe turned up at Kealia Pond NWR, Maui, 1 Oct 2009 and was observed here and at Kanaha Pond through at least 15 Dec (HRBP 5606-5608, 5821). On Kaua'i, a first-fall Eared Grebe was found on a hotel lawn along Nawiliwili Bay near Lihue 29 Oct 2012. It was taken to a nearby SOS rescue center, where it perished due to a badly abraded keel (HRBP 6034-6036) and was sent to BPBM (185676).

Photographs showing the opened primaries of the Kaua'i (HRBP 6036) and O'ahu (HRBP 0223) birds indicate that both were of the N American subspecies P.n. californicus rather than the nominate Eurasian subspecies. The nominate subspecies might be more likely on Laysan but the descriptions of that bird do not allow assessment of subspecies.

Acronyms and Abbreviations

Literature cited

http://hbs.bishopmuseum.org/birds/rlp-monograph/