

GREAT EGRET

Ardea alba

non-breeding visitor, vagrant

A.a. egretta

Great Egrets occur in tropical and temperate regions throughout the world, dispersing pole-ward after breeding and retreating toward the tropics during winter (Dement'ev and Gladkov 1951a, Cramp and Simmons 1977, AOU 1998). In the Pacific they have been recorded from Clipperton I (Howell et al. 1993), w. Micronesia (Wiles 2005, VanderWerf et al. 2006a, Pratt et al. 2010) and the Hawaiian Islands, where five individuals have thus far been reported. One was observed at Moanalua Kalihi Flats, *O'ahu* 17-21 Dec 1944 (*E* 5:52-53; these flats have since been filled); another was reported from Ki'i Unit of JCNWR, O'ahu, 15-20 Dec 2005; one was seen by many observers at Kealia Pond NWR, *Maui* 21 Feb-6 Mar 1982; one was observed at Kilauea Point, *Kauai* 20 Jan 1984; and one commuted between Huleia and Hanalei NWRs, *Kaua'i*, 22 Oct 2010-Apr 2011 ([HRBP](#) 6349-6352; accepted by the [HBRC](#) in Jul 2016). A report of 2 birds at Kealia in Apr 1982 (*AB* 36:896) is unsubstantiated. Great Egret was placed in the monotypic genus *Casmerodius* until lumped with *Ardea* in 1995 (AOU 1995, Pyle 1997). Five subspecies of Great Egret are recognized worldwide; descriptions and photographs of individuals in Hawaii are consistent with *A.a. egretta* of N Am (Pyle 2008), the most likely subspecies to reach the Southeastern Islands.

[Acronyms and Abbreviations](#)

[Literature cited](#)

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