

GREATER YELLOWLEGS

Tringa melanoleuca

non-breeding visitor, vagrant

monotypic

The Greater Yellowlegs breeds from s. Alaska to Newfoundland and winters from the US through S America (AOU 1998). Vagrants have been recorded in Europe, Japan, and, in the Pacific, on Clipperton, Galapagos, Eniwetok (USNM 544220), and Marianas Is (Cramp and Simmons 1983, Schipper 1985, Howell et al. 1993, AOU 1998, Wiles 2005), and in the Hawaiian Is, where it is a rare fall and winter visitor. Due to confusion with the similar Lesser Yellowlegs, which is substantially more common in the Hawaiian Islands, we only summarize records of Greater Yellowlegs that have been adequately described, photographed, or collected. Reports of 8-10 additional individuals (e.g., *E* 28:100, 33:100; see also below) could well be valid but were not adequately described and we consider them unsubstantiated.

The earliest record for the Hawaiian Islands occurred in the *Northwestern Hawaiian Islands* on Sand I, **Midway** 16 Jun 1941 (*E* 14:49; presumably the same individual was reported on *E* 4:42 as occurring on 15 June 1940) and another individual was reported there with a Lesser Yellowlegs 8-10 Sep 2002 (Rowlett 2002). The only other record in the Northwestern Islands involves two birds observed on **Laysan** 21 Oct 1966, one of which, a first-fall female, was collected (Clapp and Woodward 1968, Ely and Clapp 1973; USNM 496780; [HRBP](#) 5414 of specimen).

A [minimum](#) of 22 Greater Yellowlegs have been recorded in the *Southeastern Hawaiian Islands* through the mid 2010s, all of which involved birds observed in fall and/or over-wintering. Individuals appeared to return to O'ahu each winter from fall 1955 to spring 1962 (*E* 16:25, 17:52-53, 18:38, 22:58) and fall 1993 to spring 1999; otherwise, all records appear to be of non-returning birds. Greater Yellowlegs have been observed on **Kaua'i** (3, 1978-1997; e.g., *E* 40:16); **O'ahu** (13, 1955-2014; e.g., *E* 37:7, 39:63, [HRBP](#) 0214-0216, 0530, 0685-0689, 5313, 6428, 6430); **Moloka'i** (1, 22 Nov 2013-13 Feb 2014; [HRBP](#) 6429 published *NAB* 68:443); **Maui** (4, 1976-2007; e.g., *E* 38:6, 58; [HRBP](#) 0954); and **Hawai'i** (1, 10 Feb 1977; *E* 45:73). The high count was of two birds at Waipi'o Peninsula, O'ahu 3 Oct 1986 ([HRBP](#) 0685). The earliest fall date for a confirmed Greater Yellowlegs was 4 Sep (1955, Waipahu, O'ahu) and the latest spring date was 12 Apr (1995, Kealia NWR, Maui).

[Acronyms and Abbreviations](#)

[Literature cited](#)

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