

LESSER YELLOWLEGS

Tringa flavipes

non-breeding visitor, regular migrant

monotypic

Lesser Yellowlegs breed from Alaska to w. Quebec and winter from the s. U.S. through S America (AOU 1998). Strays have reached Europe, Africa, the Falkland Is, and, in the Pacific, Clipperton, Tuamotu, and the Marshall Is, Johnston Atoll, New Zealand, and Australia (Amerson and Shelton 1976, Cramp and Simmons 1983, Pratt et al. 1987, Clapp and Schipper 1990, Howell et al. 1993, Higgins and Davies 1996). They are fairly regular visitors to the Hawaiian Islands, with most records being apparent fall transients, fewer than half over-wintering, and with at least a few apparent spring transients also detected.

In the *Northwestern Hawaiian Islands* there are records of 32 Lesser Yellowlegs, on **Kure** (first-year female 30 Aug 1964; USNM 494297; Clapp and Woodward 1968); **Midway** (10 fall, 4 spring, and 1 apparent over-wintering bird, 1940-2015; e.g., *E* 14:59, Clapp 1968b, Rowlett 2002; USNM 543049, [HRBP](#) 1203); **Laysan** (9 fall, 1 winter, and 3 spring records, 1966-2012; e.g., Clapp and Woodward 1968, USNM 543047-8, [HRBP](#) 0854-0856); and **French Frigate** (1 fall, 1 winter, and 1 spring record, 1984-1992; e.g., [HRBP](#) 0506-0508). The earliest fall arrival was 3 Aug (1998, Midway) and the latest spring date was 9 Jun (2015, Midway). Three were together on Midway 4 Sep 2000, three were on Laysan 17 Sep 2012, and two were on Laysan 6 Sep 1967; all other records pertain to single individuals.

There are records for a [minimum](#) 189 Lesser Yellowlegs in the *Southeastern Hawaiian Islands*. About 55% of the birds were recorded only in fall while about 42% were documented over-wintering. Only 9 records involved apparent spring transients. There is little indication that birds returned for consecutive winters and there are no records of oversummering birds (Jun-Jul). Records exist for **Kaua'i** (17 birds, 1975-2004; e.g., [HRBP](#) 5061); **O'ahu** (94, 1952-2016; e.g., Clapp 1968, *E* 31:105; [HRBP](#) 0061, 0189, 0240, 0407-0408, 0600, 0685-0686, 5232); **Moloka'i** (16, 1983-2016; e.g., [HRBP](#) 6429, 6434; published *NAB* 68:443); **Maui** (43, 1962-2013; e.g., *E* 22:81-82; [HRBP](#) 0941-0942, 0973-0974, 0981-0982); and **Hawai'i** (19, 1977-2016; e.g., *E* 38:103). The earliest fall detections were on 3 Aug (1995, Hanalei NWR, Kaua'i; and 1984, Waipi'o, O'ahu) and the latest spring date was 27 May (2004, Honouliuli Unit of JCNWR, O'ahu). High counts have included 7 at Waipi'o, O'ahu, 4 Sep 1987; 6 at Pearl Harbor, O'ahu, 16 Dec 1978 (*E* 40:16); and 4 at Kealia NWR, Maui, 9 Nov 1977 (*E* 38:103). Counts of four birds together were recorded on O'ahu every year but one between 1978 and 1987, a period of elevated attendance by this species to the Hawaiian Islands.

[Acronyms and Abbreviations](#)

[Literature cited](#)

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