

GREATER NECKLACED LAUGHINGTHRUSH *Garrulax pectoralis*

Other: Black-gorgeted Laughingthrush

G.p. picticollis?

naturalized (non-native) resident, long established

The Greater Necklaced Laughingthrush is native to n. India, Nepal, and s. China, S to Burma and n. Thailand (Ali and Ripley 1996b, AOU 1998). A small population has become established on Kaua'i, apparently after introduction in 1919 (Long 1981, Lever 1987). Caum (1933) reported that a few "Collared" or [White-throated Laughingthrushes](#) were introduced that year and that they had become "thoroughly established" around Lihue by the early 1930s. They were considered to be this species until 1961, when N. Pilling observed 3 birds 2.5 km E of Wailua and, after examining specimens at AMNH, first identified them as Greater Necklaced Laughingthrushes (*E* 23:23). Reports of [White-throated Laughingthrushes](#) never-the-less continued through the 1960s, and Berger (1972) also considered them possibly Lesser Necklaced Laughingthrushes (*G. monileger*).

Zeillemaker (1975) forwarded photographs (including [HRBP](#) 1464) and later a specimen (USNM 575045; [HRBP](#) 1465-1467) of a dead juvenile found 14 Apr 1975 near Hanalei to USNM, where R.B. Clapp confirmed the identification of Greater Necklaced (Pyle 1977, Berger 1981; *E* 32:39, 32:48, 36:22), and further identified the specimen as most likely of the e. Chinese subspecies *G.p. picticollis* (see also [HRBP](#) 1467), although not completely eliminating two other subspecies, *robini* of se. China through Vietnam and Laos, and *semitorquatus* of the Hainan province of s. China, of which no specimens were present at USNM. Clapp (*in* Zeillemaker 1975) speculated that they may have come to Hawaii from se. China via Hong Kong. Three other specimens are at BPBM (178486, 178772-772). We consider the original introductions in 1919 to almost certainly have been of Greater Necklaced Laughingthrush, and that [White-throated Laughingthrush](#) never occurred in Hawaii (but see Berger 1981).

This large, jay-like species is skulking, nomadic, and has never been found in substantial numbers on *Kaua'i* (see [HRBP](#) 0459-0461, 0896-0897, 5252, 5412, 5896), but it appears to have colonized most of the wooded parts of the island, including the Alaka'i Plateau (though uncommon there). It has most often been reported in small groups of 6-15 birds, with counts of 29 in three flocks in the Nounou Forest Reserve above Wailua 16 Mar 2014 and of 25 in one flock at Huleia NWR 22 Nov 1991. Documentation is lacking to track population expansion away from original release sites, probably near Lihue in 1919, but by 1947 they were reported across the island at Koke'e (*E* 7:40) and by 1960 they were observed N to Kilauea (Richardson and Bowles 1964). Observations through the 1970s occurred throughout the NE half of the island and by 1985 they were reported S to Kalaheo (*E* 46:110) and Lawai. On the Lihue [Christmas Bird Count](#), a high count of 19 was recorded in Dec 1975 (*E* 36:113-114), followed by observations of 1-14 individuals on 7 of 16 counts between 1976 and 1992. Reports continued at about the same rate through the mid-2010s (most frequently near Huleia and between Lawai and Kalaheo) indicating a stable population. Concern has been expressed about their doing damage to banana crops.

[Acronyms and Abbreviations](#)

[Literature cited](#)

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