COMMON REDPOLL

non-breeding visitor, vagrant

Acanthis flammea

True to its name, Common Redpoll is a common species of n. latitudes in N America and Asia, extending in winter as far S as California and Japan along the Pacific Rim (Dement'ev and Gladkov 1954b, Cramp and Perrins 1994a, AOU 1998, CBRC 2007). Remarkably, 3-4 Common Redpolls have been observed in the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands, an indication of how Carduline finches may have originally colonized the island and evolved into Drepanini (see also Brambling). On Kure, one was observed 25 Nov 1977-10 Mar 1978 (Rauzon 1978). Although originally considered either a Common or Hoary (A. hornemanni) redpoll and included in the Hawaiian Checklist (Pyle 1979) as a "species-pair", later research and observation of the bird in March satisfied the observer that it was a Common Redpoll (E 40:58); in any case these two species are increasingly considered as one. At Midway, D.W. Rice reported that he shot a Common Redpoll sometime in 1954-1957, but the specimen has not turned up and details are otherwise lacking. Subsequently, a male was briefly seen and photographed on Sand I 12 Oct 1982 (Pyle 1984, HRBP 0229), and a first-cycle male was observed on Sand I 15 Dec 2000.

Three subspecies of Common Redpoll have been recognized (Clements 2007; with A. cabaret of Europe now considered a species; AOU 2002). Although none of the Hawaiian Island individuals can be diagnosed to subspecies, nominate A.f. flammea of Eurasia and N America undoubtedly account for these records. The other two subspecies occur in Atlantic N America and Iceland.

Acronyms and Abbreviations

Literature cited

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