

BLACK-BELLIED PLOVER

Pluvialis squatarola

Other: Gray Plover

monotypic

non-breeding visitor, regular winterer

The Black-bellied Plover breeds throughout Holarctic regions and migrates as far S as s. S America, S Africa, and Australia (Dement'ev and Gladkov 1951c, Cramp and Simmons 1983, Marchant and Higgins 1993, AOU 1998). In the Pacific Basin, they have been recorded from Micronesia and the Galapagos, Clipperton, Line, and Cook Is (Clapp and Sibley 1967, Pratt *et al.*, 1987, Howell *et al.* 1993, AOU 1998, Wiles 2005), as well as Johnston Atoll (Amerson and Shelton 1976). They are regular migrants and winterers in small numbers to the Hawaiian Islands.

A [minimum](#) of 19 Black-bellied Plovers have been recorded from the *Northwestern Hawaiian Islands*, involving fall and spring migrants as well as 2-3 over-wintering or apparently over-wintering birds, and one over-summering bird. These have occurred on *Kure* (2, 1963-1964; Clapp & Woodward 1968); *Midway* (5, 1940-2016; e.g., *E* 4:42, 14:58, including 1 wintering in 2011-2012; [HRBP](#) 6389); *Lisianski* (3, 1965-1966; Clapp and Woodward 1968; USNM 494120-1, 496779); *Laysan* (4, 1912-2011, including 2 over-wintering and one over-summering; Bailey 1956, Ely and Clapp 1973; USNM 240985), and *French Frigate* (5, 1963-2009, including one over-wintering bird; [HRBP](#) 5929). One observed on Midway 12-29 Jul 1942 and one collected on Lisianski 18 Jun 1966 appeared to have been over-summering. Otherwise, the earliest fall arrival was for 1 Oct (1940, Midway) and the latest spring record is for "late May" (1964, Kure).

In the *Southeastern Hawaiian Islands*, Black-bellied Plovers have been recorded annually since the mid-1950s. A single bone of this species has also turned up in subfossil deposits on Moloka'i (Olson and James 1982b). The majority of records involve over-wintering birds, although many records also exist of individuals seen only once in Sep-Oct or Mar-May which may have been passage migrants. Many individuals have been recorded during successive winters in the same locations, indicating successful annual migrations between Hawaii and arctic breeding grounds. There are also 8 records of 12 apparently over-summering individuals (in non-breeding plumage), observed in the same locations throughout May-Jul (e.g., *E* 31:66).

The first record for the Hawaiian Islands was of a first-fall female collected by George C. Hewitt along the Kau coast of Hawai'i during the fall of 1900 (Henshaw 1901b, 1902a; BPBM 4180). Subsequently, a [minimum](#) of 122 individuals have been recorded, on *Kaua'i* (15, 1967-2016; e.g. [HRBP](#) 0406, 5013); *O'ahu* (45, 1939-2014; e.g., USNM 497200; [HRBP](#) 0043, 0066, 0168, 0595, 5215, 5789); *Moloka'i* (4, 2005-2014 plus subfossil evidence mentioned above); *Maui* (37, 1966-2016; e.g., *E* 27:75, 28:5, 31:66; e.g. [HRBP](#) 6389); *Kaho'olawe* (4, 1992-1997; Morin *et al.* 1999 – a flock of 19-20 reported there in 1995 is unsubstantiated); and *Hawai'i I* (17, 1900-2016; e.g., *E* 32:16). Excluding over-summering birds, the earliest arrival to Hawaii was a breeding-plumaged adult on 28 Jul (1992, Amorient Aquafarm near Kahuku, O'ahu) and the latest spring date was 3 May (1995, Ma'alaea, Maui). Peak counts have involved 7 at Kealia NWR, Maui, 31 Dec 1979 (*E* 40:139), 5-9 there during 1988-1989 (e.g., *E* 48:77), and 6-

7 on the Waipi'o Peninsula, O'ahu, during 1980-1981. Numbers of recorded individuals in the Hawaiian Islands were greater during the 1980s (5-15 annually) than during the 1990s (2-8 annually), 2000s (3-10 annually), and early-to-mid 2010s (2-6 annually).

[Acronyms and Abbreviations](#)

[Literature cited](#)

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