

COMMON REDPOLL

Acanthis flammea

non-breeding visitor, vagrant

A.f. 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](#)

Citation: Pyle, R.L., and P. Pyle. 2017. The Birds of the Hawaiian Islands: Occurrence, History, Distribution, and Status. B.P. Bishop Museum, Honolulu, HI, U.S.A. Version 2 (1 January 2017) <http://hbs.bishopmuseum.org/birds/rlp-monograph/>