

CANVASBACK

Aythya valisineria

non-breeding visitor, vagrant

monotypic

The Canvasback is one of several diving ducks that breed in w. N America (primarily e. Alaska and Canada), winter S to Mexico, and occur in small numbers in the Hawaiian Islands during the winter months (AOU 1998). The only other record for the Pacific Basin is from the Marshall Is (Wile 2005). Several individuals have returned to the Hawaiian Islands as adults to the same location for consecutive winters, presumably after successful round-trip migrations to N American breeding grounds.

There are two records of Canvasbacks from the *Northwestern Hawaiian Islands*. A first-winter female was found dead on *Midway* during Dec 1981-Jan 1982 (USNM 599507; [HRBP](#) 5083-5084 of specimen) and one was observed on *Laysan* 22-30 Oct 1990. In the *Southeastern Hawaiian Islands*, the species was first mentioned by Perkins (1903), Locey (1937), and Munro (1944), but locations and dates are lacking. Subsequently, a [minimum](#) of 48 Canvasbacks have been recorded, on *Kaua'i* (10, 1979-2005; e.g., *E* 40:125, 41:118), *O'ahu* (17, 1953-2008; e.g., [HRBP](#) 5221, 5236, 5335 published *NAB* 61:322; *E* 13:63, 37:07), *Moloka'i* (4, 1964-2009), *Maui* (8, 1960-2001; e.g., *E* 21:80, 26:88-89, 37:64, 40:139), and *Hawai'i* (11, 1967-2003; e.g., *E* 29:73, 40:15, Paton and Scott 1985; [HRBP](#) 0399-0400). Most records are from a few deeper ponds and reservoirs favored by diving ducks; e.g., at Hanalei NWR, Kaua'i; at Punamano Unit of JCNWR, O'ahu; Kealia Pond NWR, Maui; and Aimakapa, Waiakea, and Loko Waka ponds, Hawai'i. Disregarding an unsubstantiated report of 15 on Maui in 1948-1949 (*E* 9:61; see *E* 28:6 and [Ring-necked Duck](#)), the high count was of 5 together at Hanalei in Jan 1980, 3 of which returned the following winter; up to four were also there in Dec 2005-Feb 2006. Other records of multiple individuals include three at Ki'i unit of JCNWR, O'ahu, 1 Jan 1994, three at Kuilima STP, O'ahu during the winters of 2005-2006 and 2007-2008, and three at Hanalei, 14 Dec 2005; and two together noted on five other occasions on O'ahu, Maui, and Hawai'i I. We consider as unsubstantiated records of multiple individuals recorded on [DOFAW Waterbird Surveys](#) in August on O'ahu and Hawai'i I. Otherwise, the earliest fall arrivals were of returning adult females observed 10 Oct in 1988 and in 2007 near Kahuku, O'ahu, and the latest spring record was of one at Aimakapa Pond, Hawai'i, 1 Apr 1984.

[Acronyms and Abbreviations](#)

[Literature cited](#)

Citation: Pyle, R.L., and P. Pyle. 2009. The Birds of the Hawaiian Islands: Occurrence, History, Distribution, and Status. B.P. Bishop Museum, Honolulu, HI, U.S.A. Version 1 (31 December 2009) <http://hbs.bishopmuseum.org/birds/rlp-monograph/>