

GADWALL

Anas strepera

non-breeding visitor, vagrant

A.s. strepera

The Gadwall is found fairly commonly in N. America and Eurasia, breeding in subarctic and temperate latitudes and wintering to Mexico and the Caribbean (Dement'ev and Gladkov 1952, Cramp and Simmons 1977, AOU 1998). It occurs less commonly in the Pacific than the other widespread holarctic duck species, having occurred only occasionally in w. Micronesia (Wiles 2005) and visiting the Hawaiian Islands (primarily the Southeastern Group) rarely in winter. Lack of genetic infusion may have led to the evolution of a small subspecies (*A.s. couesi*, now extinct) on Washington I., 1795 km S of Honolulu (Streets 1876, 1877a); remaining populations of the species are of the nominate subspecies.

There are records for just 5 Gadwalls from the *Northwestern Hawaiian Islands*. On Sand I., *Midway*, 1 male was collected 3 Dec 1963 (Fisher 1965; whereabouts of specimen unknown), and 1 male and 2 females were observed 28 Nov 1979-13 Mar 1980 (Grant and Pettit 1981, [HRBP](#) 0117-0118). A "possible" Gadwall was also reported from Midway 2-6 Dec 1971 (*E* 32:78). At Tern I., *French Frigate*, a male was found dead and badly decomposed 7 Dec 1967 (Amerson 1971). In the *Southeastern Hawaiian Islands* Gadwalls have appeared occasionally in winter on ponds at a few favored localities on the larger islands. The first confirmed record for Hawaii was of a specimen (BPBM 7066, first-fall male) collected at Pala'au, Moloka'i 11 Nov 1902 (Munro 1944), although Perkins (1903) reported that sportsmen had previously noticed it as a rare migrant to O'ahu. Recent records on *O'ahu* have included a [minimum](#) of 20 individuals recorded in 1967-1993 (e.g., *E* 28:6, 29:73, 38:102). Minimum numbers of individuals recorded on the other Southeastern Islands include *Moloka'i* (7, 1985-2008; e.g., [HRBP](#) 5260), *Maui* (2, 1988-1997), and *Hawai'i* (10, 1986-2008; e.g., [HRBP](#) 5619, *NAB* 61:530). Without documentation we consider four birds recorded on the [DOFAW Waterbird Survey](#) at Hanalei NWR, Kaua'i 30 Jan 1992 to be unsubstantiated; there are otherwise no reports from this island. The high counts were of 5 birds in Pearl Harbor, O'ahu, 16 Dec 1989 and at various locations on Moloka'i 11 Dec 2007-17 Feb 2008. The earliest fall record is for 11 Oct (1993, Honouliuli Unit of PHNWR, O'ahu) and the latest spring record is for 20 Apr (2007, Hilo, Hawai'i).

[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/>