

GREEN-WINGED TEAL

Anas crecca

Other: American or Eurasian Green-winged Teal, Common Teal

A.c. crecca

A.c. carolinensis

non-breeding visitor, regular winterer

The Green-winged Teal breeds throughout n. regions of the N Hemisphere, wintering southward to Africa, se. Asia, C America, and the Hawaiian Islands (Dement'ev and Gladkov 1952, Cramp and Simmons 1977, AOU 1998). Two distinct subspecies are recognized: the Eurasian Green-winged Teal or Common Teal (*A. c. crecca*) breeding from Greenland across n. Eurasia to the w. Aleutian and Pribilof Is, and the American Green-winged Teal (*carolinensis*) breeding occasionally in e. Siberia and in Alaska, the e. Aleutian Is, and n. N America. In the Pacific, *crecca* has been recorded in w. Micronesia, *carolinensis* has been recorded in the Marshall I, and individuals of undetermined subspecies have been recorded on Johnston (26 Nov 1991) and Wake (Rauzon et al. 2008) atolls and the Line Is (Pratt et al. 1987). Both forms have been recorded wintering in the Hawaiian Islands.

The American subspecies winters regularly, in moderate numbers in the Southeastern Islands and smaller numbers in the Northwestern Islands, whereas the Eurasian subspecies appears to be regular at Midway and has been reported sporadically as far E as O'ahu. Males in basic plumage in Oct-Jun are readily distinguished to subspecies whereas adult males in alternate plumage (Jul-Sep), females, and first-fall males are difficult if not impossible to distinguish to subspecies in the field. Most reports of Green-winged Teal in the Southeastern Hawaiian Islands, including basic-plumaged males, are not referenced to subspecies, or may presume *carolinensis* without supporting documentation.

In the *Northwestern Hawaiian Islands*, Green-winged Teal have been recorded regularly in small numbers (usually 2-5 individuals but as many as 8-10) at **Midway** (1963-2005; e.g., Fisher 1965, Clapp & Woodward 1968; USNM 493455-6, 493479-80; *E* 32:78) and **Laysan** (1896-1997; e.g., Schauinsland 1899, Ely and Clapp 1973). The majority of these birds have not been identified to subspecies; however, at Midway, at least 14 specimens or critical observations of males (including 10 over-wintering birds) have been referred to *crecca* and 7 have been identified as *carolinensis* (e.g., Grant and Petit 1981, Engilis *et al.* 2004) and on Laysan, two males of each subspecies have been reported. There are fewer records for the drier Northwestern Islands: 4 females or first-fall males for **Kure** in 1977-1983 (Pyle 1984; [HRBP](#) 0009, 0257-0258, 0566) and 13 for **French Frigate** (1979-2000; e.g., USNM 599955, [HRBP](#) 1390) including 3 males identified as *carolinensis*.

In the *Southeastern Hawaiian Islands* there are 9 well-documented records of single male *crecca*, on **Kaua'i** at Kekaha reservoir 16-23 Jan 1999 and here and at Waimea in Dec-Feb 2005 ([HRBP](#) 5199-5200), and on **O'ahu** at Waipi'o Peninsula 9 Feb 1964 and 1 Jan-8 Mar 1970 (*E* 30:87-88, 97) and at Ki'i Unit of JCNWR 15 Mar 1987, 28 Oct 2000, 23 Feb 2002, 4-6 Dec 2003, and 9-11 Feb 2006 ([HRBP](#) 5259). All other records from the Southeastern Islands have either been confirmed *carolinensis* (> 100 records of males) or were not identified to subspecies.

Although Perkins (1903) mentions them as occasional visitants, the earliest substantiated records of Green-winged Teal in Hawaii involve males of *carolinensis* collected at Kahului, **Maui** 20 Jan 1892 (Bryan 1905a, BPBM 2221) and Palalau Flats, **Moloka'i** 2 Nov 1906 (Munro 1944, BPBM 7070). The species is now known to winter regularly with other migratory waterfowl on the larger islands with suitable fresh-water habitat. They have been recorded in winter on 13 of 22 [DOFAW Waterbird Surveys](#) during 1986-2007, numbers generally increasing, with a statewide high count of 28 recorded in Jan 2003 and Jan 2006. Overall, high counts for each island include 13 on Kaua'i (Koloa, 13 Dec 1996), 37 on O'ahu (Waipi'o, 23 Dec 1980), 18 on Moloka'i (various locations 17 Dec 2007), 120 on Maui (Kealia Pond NWR, 19 Feb 2004), and 9 on **Hawai'i I** (Makalawena Pond, 29 Nov 1991). There are no substantiated records for Ni'ihau, Lana'i, or Kaho'olawe; Engilis (2004) reported 6 from Ni'ihau on DOFAW surveys but these are not in their database.

Green-winged Teal occur primarily in mid-Sep to April, with the earliest fall record 7 Sep (1984, Aimakapa Pond, Hawai'i) and the latest spring record 17 May (1997, Midway). Over-summering records of this species are less common than for larger migratory ducks; these include singles on Laysan in 1994 and 1995 (possibly the same individual), at Hanalei NWR Kaua'i in 1978 and 2000, and at Ki'i in 1996. None have been recorded on [DOFAW surveys](#) in mid-August.

[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/>