

HOODED MERGANSER

Lophodytes cucullatus

non-breeding visitor, vagrant

monotypic

Hooded Mergansers breed in se. Alaska across temperate N America, and winter S to Baja California, Florida, and (rarely) n. Mexico and the Bahamas (AOU 1998); vagrants have been recorded in Europe (Cramp and Simmons 1977). In the Pacific basin Hooded Mergansers occur casually in the *Southeastern Hawaiian Islands* in winter, where 15 records of 22 individuals have occurred since 1966. Most birds were in female or first-cycle plumages; males in basic (breeding) plumage have occurred twice.

On *Kaua'i*, a Hooded Merganser appeared at Wailua Reservoir 30 Nov-27 Dec 1993. On *O'ahu*, one was observed at Kahuku 21 Jan 1967, six (including 3 first winter males) were seen regularly at Nu'upia Ponds 4 Dec 1976-6 Mar 1977 (*E* 37:82,85; 38:56; [HRBP](#) 0001, 0233, 0889-0891), a probable first-winter male first seen at the Ki'i unit of JCNWR 15 Jan 1979 was joined by a female 26 Jan-12 Mar (*E* 40:15), a female was reported from stock ponds on the slope of Mt. Ka'ala above Waialua 13-19 Dec 1992, an adult male was observed 7 Mar 2003 on Salt Lake in Honolulu, and an adult female was at Honouliuli Unit of PHNWR and Ki'i Unit of JCNWR 2 Nov 2005-19 Mar 2006 ([HRBP](#) 5261-5264). On *Moloka'i*, an adult male was near Kaunakakai 7 Dec 1998-12 Apr 1999 and one was reported at Kualapu'u Reservoir 19 Dec 2000. On *Hawai'i I*, Hooded Mergansers were found on Loko Waka Pond in Hilo 13 Jan 1966 (*E* 28:7) and 25 Nov 2007, 3 were reported on Kehena Reservoir in the Kohala Mts 13 Jan 1977 (*E* 38:7), a female-plumaged bird was on Aimakapa Pond 12-28 Dec 1981, a first-year male was at Waiakea Pond in Hilo 14 Dec 1992-29 Mar 1993 ([HRBP](#) 0991 published in Engilis *et al.* 2004), and one arrived at Waiakea Pond 26 Dec 2009 and remained through the year ([HRBP](#) 5766-5767).

[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/>