

## REDHEAD

## *Aythya americana*

non-breeding visitor, vagrant

monotypic

Redheads breed primarily in w. N America, from Alaska and Canada to Arizona, and winter S to Mexico and n. C America (AOU 1998). In the Pacific Basin they have been confirmed only from the *Southeastern Hawaiian Islands*; a "sight report for Guam" (AOU 1998) was not mentioned by Wiles (2005). Although there are records for only about 25 wintering Redheads from the Hawaiian Islands, about half of these were adult-plumaged males, suggesting that many first-fall birds and females that have reached Hawaii may have been overlooked. There is no evidence indicating that individuals return to Hawaiian wintering localities for consecutive years, although it is possible that certain birds have been recorded on more than one island (Engilis et al. 2004), and there are no confirmed records in Apr-Sep. Because of the difficulty in separating female Redheads and Ring-necked Ducks, we have taken a conservative approach to reports of female Redheads from Hawaii.

A female Redhead reported on Midway 14 Nov 1954 was briefly seen (Bailey 1956), another female observed there 13 Dec 1956 was tentatively identified (*E* 18:3), and descriptions of up to 2 males and 3 females reported there during Nov 1995-Jan 1996 could pertain to [Eurasian Wigeons](#); we consider these records from the Northwestern Islands as unsubstantiated.

Redheads have been recorded from the five more populated Southeastern Islands. On *Kaua'i*, males were at Koloa 17 Dec 1977 (*E* 38:92) and Huleia 29 Jan 1991 (Engilis et al. 2004). On *O'ahu*, two males were present near Kailua 13 Nov 1977-22 Jan 1978 (*E* 38:79, 86) and singles were found at the Ki'i Unit of JCNWR and/or Kuilima STP 16 Jan 1981 (male), 19 Nov 1993-6 Feb 1994 (male), 23 Jan 1996, and 29 Oct-19 Dec 2005 (female; [HRBP](#) 5236, 5248, 5318; published *NAB* 60:176). Two males were observed at Kakahaia, *Moloka'i* 23 Jan 1979 (*E* 40:14). At Kealia Pond NWR, *Maui*, single males were recorded 10 Jan-1 Mar 1983 and 19 Dec 1988, two males were observed 18 Dec 1993-16 Jan 1994, and 2 females were studied 12 Dec 1995. A male was also reported from Kanaha Pond, Maui 11 Mar 1991 and [DOFAW Waterbird Surveys](#) tallied birds on reservoirs 30 Jan 1989 and 21 Jan 2004. On *Hawai'i*, a well-described female was at Waiakea Pond 27 Jan-7 Feb 1979, an adult male was at Loko Waka Pond 16-26 Nov 1988 ([HRBP](#) 1444 published in Engilis et al. 2004), a male was present at Aimakapa Pond 10 Dec 1994-22 Jan 1995, and two were reported from the Cyanotech Ponds near Kona 19 Jan 2000.

Additional reports of first-fall birds or females, by experienced observers but lacking descriptions, were recorded at Hanalei NWR, Kaua'i 22 Jan 1975 (*E* 35:121, 3 birds); near Kahuku, O'ahu 10 Jan 1995; at Aimakapa Pond, Hawai'i 6 Dec 1995; and Kailua-Kona, Hawai'i 30 Oct 1961. This last record was of a banded bird found dead, but unfortunately the specimen (which would represent the only one of a wild bird from the state) has been lost (R. Walker pers. comm.). Other reports of Redheads from Hawai'i I (e.g., Paton and Scott 1985) and elsewhere in Hawaii, including Aug records during [DOFAW surveys](#) on O'ahu in 2003 and 2004, are unsubstantiated, and the origin of a female Redhead that died at the Honolulu Zoo 4 Dec 1965 (BPBM 145016), is uncertain.

[Acronyms and Abbreviations](#)  
[Literature cited](#)