

RING-NECKED DUCK

Aythya collaris

non-breeding visitor, regular winterer

monotypic

The Ring-necked Duck is a N American species that breeds from c. Alaska to Arizona and Newfoundland to Florida, and winters S to C America (AOU 1998); it is a regular vagrant to Europe (Cramp and Simmons 1977). Befitting its North American origin, it is also a regular winter visitor to the Southeastern Hawaiian Islands in small numbers but there is only one substantiated record from the Northwestern Islands. As with other *Aythya* ducks, the lack of historic records from Hawaii almost certainly relates to difficulty of observation and identification within this genus (Engilis et al. 2004), particularly of first-cycle males and females. Repeated observations of individuals or flocks of adult birds in consecutive years at the same locations indicate successful round-trip migrations to N America.

An adult female Ring-necked Duck collected on *Laysan* in 1993 (BPBM 179748; [HRBP](#) 5647-5648 of specimen), during fall according to plumage aspect and wear (PP examination), is the only specimen record for the state and the only record from the *Northwestern Hawaiian Islands*; we consider reports from Midway 22 Nov 1979 and in Oct 2000 as unsubstantiated. In the *Southeastern Hawaiian Islands* a record of 10 casually reported from an unspecified pond in Maui during the winter of 1948-1949 (*E* 9:61) is unsubstantiated (*E* 28:6; see also [Canvasback](#)), whereas a male in Kailua, O'ahu 26 Dec 1966 was well-described (*E* 28:6). Subsequently, none were recorded until the winters of 1975-1976 and 1976-1977, when groups of 5-6 were identified on several of the Southeastern Islands (*E* 37:6-7; 38:6, 7). From 1975 through the 2000s they have been recorded annually or nearly so; on [DOFAW Waterbird Surveys](#) they were found in 12 of 22 years between 1986 and 2007, with state-wide high counts of 11-13 individuals in 1989, 2006, and 2007. Island-specific high counts include 15 on *Kaua'i* (Koloa Mar-Apr 1998), 24 on *O'ahu* (Kuilima STP 2 Nov 2006; see also [HRBP](#) 5319, 5837-5838, 5884), 9 on *Maui* (Kealia Pond NWR in Jan 1989, disregarding the 1949 total mentioned above as unsubstantiated), and 20 on *Hawai'i I* (Kona STP, 8 Feb 2001; see also [HRBP](#) 0399, 0400, 5503). On each of these islands individuals or flocks routinely commuted among favored ponds and reservoirs at widely scattered locations. On *Moloka'i*, Ring-necked Ducks were recorded during seven winters between 1982 and 2007, with a high count of 10 observed at Kualapu'u Reservoir 29 Dec 2006 and there is a single report of 8 on *Lana'i*, during a [DOFAW survey](#) at the Lana'i City Oxidation Ponds on 18 Jan 2007. Four individuals at Punamano 23 Sep 1983, likely returning adults, represented the earliest fall record and the latest spring record was for 11 May (1987, Aimakapa Pond, Hawai'i I). A female *Aythya* duck at Waipi'o, O'ahu, 19 June 1987, considered probably a Ring-necked Duck, is the only evidence for over-summering by this species in Hawaii.

[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/>