The Lesser Scaup (Aythya affinis) breeds throughout w. N America (primarily c. Alaska and British Columbia to n. Ontario and Minnesota) and winters S of the breeding range as far as n. S America (AOU 1998). Vagrants have been recorded in Europe, e. Asia, and the Mariana Is (Cramp and Simmons 1977, Wiles et al. 2004, Wiles 2005). It has proven to be a regular winter visitor to the Hawaiian Islands. Although the only record prior to 1946 (E 6:64) was of three specimens (from a group of 4) collected by Munro (1944) at Koele, Lana'i 11 Nov 1914 (BPBM 7073-7075), we suspect that the lack of older records reflect a combination of the difficulty in identifying this species and it's habit of remaining in deeper water, where more difficult to observe and collect.

There are few substantiated records of Lesser Scaup from the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands, where it can be confused with the equally likely Greater Scaup and Tufted Duck. Up to 7 scaup were present on Midway 6 Nov 1990-13 Mar 1991. Although initially identified as Lesser Scaup (Grant and Petit 1981), two salvaged specimens turned out to be of a Lesser (BPBM 157346; HRBP 5649-5650 of specimen) and a Greater (BPBM 157344; HRBP 5650-5651 of specimen) scaup (Engilis et al. 2004). Additional records from Midway include fully described birds present 21 Dec 1991-17 Jan 1992 (2 birds), 2-15 Dec 1993, 11 Nov 1998-21 Feb 1999, Dec 2003-Jan 2004 (3), a female apparently returning for three winters in 2009-2012, three birds 2 Nov 2014-13 Mar 2013 (HRBP 6018-6019; one remaining to 14 Apr), and one 23 Nov through Dec 2016 (HRBP 6337). Elsewhere in the Northwestern Islands, documented individuals have occurred only on Laysan, where one was present 10-13 Nov 1988 (HRBP 0819-0822), and over-wintering individuals were recorded in 1990-1991 (5, along with a Greater Scaup), in 2000-2001 (4) and (possibly the same birds) 2002-2003 (4), and in 2008-2009 (1). One was also observed flying about 185 km SSW of Nihoa 31 Oct 2002 (Rowlett 2002). Reports of approximately 25 other Lesser Scaup from Midway and Laysan (1987-2007) are unsubstantiated, and descriptions of one reported from French Frigate 4-6 Nov 1995 fit Tufted Duck better than Lesser Scaup.

Since the 1950s the Lesser Scaup has proven an annual winter resident in the Southeastern Hawaiian Islands in moderate but irregular and apparently increasing numbers. A count of 320 on Ni'ihau during an aerial DOFAW Waterbird Survey on 22 Jan 1993 appears to be a transcription error; otherwise, statewide counts on this survey have shown a general increase between 1986 and 2007, from a state-wide low count of one in 1987 to a high of 135 in 2006. High counts for each island have been: Ni'ihau (25 on 8 Feb 1996); Kaua'i (16 at Hanalei NWR 8 Mar 1994 and an island-wide count of 35 on 25 Jan 1995; see also HRBP 5884), O'ahu (55 at the Ki'i Unit of JCNWR 4 Dec 2004; see also HRBP 0521-0525, 6015), Moloka'i (35 at Kualapua Reservoir 3 Dec 2009), Lana'i (4 in 1914; see above), Maui (63 island-wide 18 Jan 2006 including 29 on a reservoir near Pu'unene), and Hawai'i (37 at Loko Waka Pond 22 Jan 2006; see also HRBP 0400, 5767, 6023). The earliest fall arrival was 9 Oct (1997, Kakaha Pond, Moloka'i) and the latest spring departure was 24 Apr (2015, Kuilima STP, O'ahu). Individuals observed at Wailoa State Park, Hawai'i 9 Aug 1980 (partially entangled in
fishing line), Punamano, O'ahu 3 Aug 1982 and Jun-Sep 1992, and Kealia Pond NWR, Maui 18 Jun 2005 represent the only substantiated records of over-summering individuals.

**Acronyms and Abbreviations**

**Literature cited**