

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 are substantiated records for only three birds 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 first record from the *Northwestern Hawaiian Islands*. On *Midway*, a first-year female was present at least 21 Nov 2011-19 Feb 2012 ([HRBP](#) 6010) and an adult male present at least 1 Jan-15 Feb 2014 ([HRBP](#) 6011) returned (same adult male, we presume) for at least 16 Feb-18 Mar 2015; we consider reports from Midway 22 Nov 1979 and in Oct 2000 as unsubstantiated. In the *Southeastern Hawaiian Islands* a record of 10 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 mid-2010s 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, 6009), 13 on *Moloka'i* (Kualapuu Reservoir, 21 Dec 2011), 9 on *Maui* (Kealia Pond NWR in Jan 1989, disregarding the 1949 total mentioned above), and 20 on *Hawai'i I* (Kona STP, 8 Feb 2001; see also [HRBP](#) 0399, 0400, 5503; without more documentation we consider unsubstantiated 45 reported from Waiakea Pond, 11 Dec 2005). On each of these islands individuals or flocks routinely commuted among favored ponds and reservoirs at widely scattered locations. Eight were reported at the Lana'i City Oxidation Ponds, *Lana'i* 18 Jan 2007 and one was photographed there 2 Nov 2016 ([HRBP](#) 6319). 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. 2017. The Birds of the Hawaiian Islands: Occurrence, History, Distribution, and Status. B.P. Bishop Museum, Honolulu, HI, U.S.A. Version 2 (1 January 2017) <http://hbs.bishopmuseum.org/birds/rlp-monograph/>