Ruddy Ducks breed in w. N America from e. Alaska south to s. California and Texas (occasionally in Mexico), and winter S to n. C America and the Caribbean (AOU 1998). A few vagrants have reached the Southeastern Hawaiian Islands in Dec and Jan (five substantiated records of 11 individuals), the only records for the Pacific basin. Ruddy Ducks have been reported as follows: on O’ahu a pair was at Ka’elepulu 23 Dec 1945 (then a large undeveloped pond and wetland), 2 males were at He’eia wetland 16 Dec 1984 (E 45:82) followed by 3 males (likely including the 2 He’eia birds) at Waipi’o 22 Jan 1985, and one was in the W Loch of Pearl Harbor 8 Jan 2005. The HBRC accepted this species to the Hawaiian Island Checklist in Jul 2016 based on the Jan 1985 observation (which included a sketch) despite no photographic or specimen evidence from the islands. On Maui, 2 males and 2 females were observed at Kealia Pond 18 Dec 1993-26 Jan 1994; and on Hawai’i I, a male was observed on a cattle pond on Mauna Kea 8 Dec 1993 (FN 48:251-252). Without further information we consider as unsubstantiated reports of 3 Ruddy Ducks tallied on DOFAW Waterbird Surveys on Hawai’i ≤ 1952 (Udvardy 1961), one mentioned for Hawai’i I in 1966 by Berger (1972, 1981), and one reportedly collected at Midway in Nov 1980 (whereabouts of specimen unknown).

An unusual species of duck, Talpanas lippa, has been found in the fossil record of Kaua‘i (Iwaniuk et al. 2009). Structure of the skull and hind limbs suggest that it had reduced visual abilities and may have been flightless and reliant on somato-sensory clues for foraging in the extensive marshes formerly present on this island. Although more information (more fossil material) is needed to place this species taxonomically, some features suggest that it may be closest to Oxyura.

**Acronyms and Abbreviations**

**Literature cited**

http://hbs.bishopmuseum.org/birds/rlp-monograph/