

TUFTED DUCK

Aythya fuligula

non-breeding visitor, occasional winterer

monotypic

Tufted Ducks breed across the n. Palearctic and winter S to n. Africa, India, and the Philippine Is (Dement'ev and Gladkov 1952, Cramp and Simmons 1977). They are regular vagrants to N America (AOU 1998, CBRC 2007) and rare winter visitors to the Hawaiian Islands, with records rather equally distributed between the Northwestern and Southeastern Islands. Records also occur from throughout Micronesia E to the Marshall Is (Clapp 1990), and possibly Wake Atoll (Rauzon et al. 2008). In contrast to the two scaup species and Ring-necked Duck, there is little evidence that individual Tufted Ducks return to Hawaii for consecutive winters, although two adults at Kuilima STP, O'ahu in 2010-2011 could have been among the 5 there in 2009-2010.

Most records of Tufted Ducks from the *Northwestern Hawaiian Islands* are from *Midway*, where 10 specimens were collected between 1959 and 1980 (USNM; Fisher 1960, Clapp and Woodward 1968, Engilis et al. 2004) and 8 additional birds were observed in 1963-2002 (e.g., Fisher 1965; [HRBP](#) 0345, 1262-1264). At least 7 present during the winter of 1963 (Clapp and Woodward 1968) represents the high count. Other records from the Northwest Islands are from *Kure* (5, 1963-2011; e.g., USNM 493448, 497908; [HRBP](#) 6703-6704) and *French Frigate* (1, 17-19 Nov 1984; [HRBP](#) 0572-0574, 0792). The earliest fall arrival was recorded 25 Oct (1965, Midway) and of several that wintered on Midway in 1995-2002, the latest individual remained until early Apr (2000).

There are records for 45 individual Tufted Ducks from the *Southeastern Hawaiian Islands*, from *Kaua'i* (4, 1988-1998), *O'ahu* (26, 1975-2016; e.g., [HRBP](#) 0521-0525, 6012-6014), *Moloka'i* (1 record reported by Engilis et al. 2004), *Maui* (4, 1978-1995; e.g., *E* 40:15), and *Hawai'i I* (10, 1977-2011; e.g., *E* 38:7, [HRBP](#) 5048, 5503, published *NAB* 62:322). Most individuals have been with other *Aythya* ducks, particularly at Waipi'o, the Punamano Unit of JCNWR, and Kuilima STP, O'ahu; Kealia Pond NWR, Maui; and Aimakapa and Loko Waka ponds, Hawai'i. Five at Punamano 15 Feb 2010 is the high count for the Southeastern Islands; other multiples include three at Waipi'o 5-18 Dec 1982 ([HRBP](#) 0524) and three at Ka'elepua Wetlands, O'ahu 23 Nov 2014-10 Jan 2015 ([HRBP](#) 6012). The earliest fall arrival occurred 23 Oct (1994, Kailua, O'ahu) and the latest spring record was for 11 Apr (2011, Kuilima). There are no records of over-summering birds in the Hawaiian Islands.

[Acronyms and Abbreviations](#)

[Literature cited](#)

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