

## BLACK SCOTER

*Melanitta americana*

non-breeding visitor, vagrant

monotypic

Black Scoters breed in sub-arctic regions of Siberia and N America, and winter in coastal waters S to Japan, n. Mexico, and Florida (Dement'ev and Gladkov 1952, Cramp and Simmons 1977, AOU 1998). It was split from the Common Scoter (*M. nigra*) of Europe and western Asia by the AOU (2010), who briefly called the American species "American Scoter" before amending it to Black Scoter that same year. There are two records for the Hawaiian Islands, both from *Midway*: a first-cycle male was photographed ([HRBP 0343-0344](#)) and then collected 22 Nov 1990 (USNM 599954; [HRBP 5079](#) of specimen) and a pair was observed 16 Dec 2008. The specimen was determined to be of the expected Black Scoter rather than Common Scoter. The identification of the pair could not be substantiated between these two species, although Black Scoter is presumed here based on range.

[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/>