

BLUE-WINGED TEAL

Anas discors

non-breeding visitor, occasional winterer, bred temporarily

monotypic

The Blue-winged Teal is a North American species that breeds in temperate regions and winters throughout the Neotropics to n. S America; vagrants have reached Europe, South Georgia I, and, in the Pacific Basin, Clipperton and the Galapagos Is (Cramp and Simmons 1977, Marchant and Higgins 1990, Howell et al. 1993, AOU 1998). It is an uncommon visitor to the Hawaiian Islands and it bred successfully on Hawai'i Island in 1982-1983.

Blue-winged Teal are accidental in the *Northwestern Hawaiian Islands* having been reported only from *Midway* (2-3 birds 15 Dec 1994-9 Mar 1995 and 1 bird 1 Jan 1999) and *Lisiansky* (1 individual, 21-22 Apr 1999).

In the *Southeastern Hawaiian Islands* Blue-winged Teal occur regularly but uncommonly at favored localities, with a [minimum](#) of 137 birds, recorded from *Kaua'i* (9, 1946-2016; e.g., *E* 7:33, 37:64; [HRBP](#) 6083), *O'ahu* (67, 1946-2016; e.g., *E* 7:49, 28:6, 38:102, 64:61; e.g., [HRBP](#) 5895, 6005), *Moloka'i* (13, 1979-2012; e.g., *E* 40:14), *Maui* (29, 1960-2016; e.g., *E* 21:80, 26:40, 38:57), and *Hawai'i I* (19 arriving adults, 1977-2014; see below). [DOFAW Waterbird Surveys](#) recorded them in 8 of 22 years between 1986 and 2007, with high counts of 6 in 1995 and 2003. High counts per island of Blue-winged Teal have included 4 at Hanalei NWR, Kaua'i in Jan-Mar 2003; 12 at the Honouliuli unit of PHNWR, O'ahu, 20 Mar 1978 (*E* 39:62); 3 at Ohiapilo Ponds, Moloka'i 1 Apr 2005; 6 at Kealia Pond NWR, Maui, 19 Feb 1999; and (excluding breeding individuals; see below) 7 at the Kona STP, Hawai'i, 11 Jan 2003. Apart from breeding individuals on Hawai'i (see below) there are but two records of over-summering birds, a single individual at the Kii unit, JCNWR, O'ahu, May-Jul 1994 and a pair in a remote location at Hanalei NWR, Kaua'i mid-May to at least 15 Jun 2016 ([HRBP](#) 6084), suggesting the possibility of breeding. Otherwise the earliest record in fall was for 6 Sep (1946) and the latest record for spring was for 19 May (1998), both at Hanalei NWR, Kaua'i. Observations from 1946 on Kaua'i (*E* 7:33) and O'ahu (*E* 7:49) are the earliest records of wild birds in the Hawaiian Islands; a few Blue-winged Teal reportedly introduced to O'ahu from Australia in 1922 (Locey 1937, Bryan 1941), may not have been of this species (Munro 1944).

On Hawai'i I, Blue-winged Teal have favored Aimakapa Pond where 2-6 adults were reported in most years from 1977 through the 2000s. On 13 June 1982 a pair with 7 young (two-thirds grown) were discovered (Paton et al. 1984; *AB* 36:1018) and photographed 18 Jun ([HRBP](#) 0182, published Engilis et al. 2004), but none were found 10 Aug and the fate of the nesting is unknown. The following spring another nesting produced a brood of 11 small chicks on 2 Jun 1983, 10 of which were observed as fledglings 5 Jul 1983 and into Jan 1984 ([HRBP](#) 0351). No further nesting attempts were recorded (Paton and Scott 1985, Engilis et al. 2004), and numbers gradually dwindled from 12 in 1985 to 1-4 over-wintering birds in the 1990-2000s. Blue-winged Teal and [Pied-billed Grebe](#) are the only wild non-breeding visitor species known to have bred successfully in the Southeastern Islands (considering [Fulvous Whistling-Ducks](#) to have been most likely escapes from introduced stock).

A hybrid Blue-winged X [Cinnamon](#) teal was photographed at Punamano Water Treatment Plant, O'ahu, 22 Jan 2007 ([HRBP](#) 5382-5383).

[Acronyms and Abbreviations](#)

[Literature cited](#)

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