

COMMON GOLDENEYE

Bucephala clangula

non-breeding visitor, vagrant

B.c. americana?

The Common Goldeneye breeds in c. Alaska, Canada, and Eurasia E to Kamchatka and Sakhalin, and winters S to Japan and in N America to Baja California and Florida (Dement'ev and Gladkov 1952, Cramp and Simmons 1977, AOU 1998). In the Pacific, vagrants have reached Wake Atoll (Rauzon et al. 2008) and the Hawaiian Islands 4-5 times in Oct-Feb. In the *Northwest Hawaiian Islands* a report of a goldeneye on Sand Island, Midway 17-25 Jan 1993 lacks supporting descriptive notes and is unsubstantiated. We consider a female goldeneye on *Laysan* 5-13 Nov 1988 and photographed ([HRBP 0815-0818](#)) to be a Common Goldeneye, although Engilis et al. (2004) believe it is not distinguishable in the photos from a female [Barrow's Goldeneye](#). The bill of this goldeneye appears very large, suggesting a first-cycle male of the Nearctic subspecies *B.c. americana* (as opposed to the nominate Palearctic subspecies). In the *Southeastern Hawaiian Islands*, a female was seen at Kuilima STP 21 Jan 2012 and the next day it was at the Waiwa Unit of PHNWR, *O'ahu*. A female was first found on Paialoa Pond, *Moloka'i* 5 Dec 1985 and (presumably the same bird) was observed on Kealia Pond, *Mau'i* 12 Jan - 23 Feb 1986 (Engilis *et al.* 2004). A male on a pond in Hakalau Forest NWR, *Hawai'i* 29 Oct 1993 was well described. A female goldeneye on Kaua'i 27 Jan–19 Feb 1989 had been accepted as a [Barrow's Goldeneye](#) by Pyle and Pyle (2009) but was considered unidentifiable to species by the [HBRC](#) in Apr 2016.

[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/>