

## RUDDY DUCK

*Oxyura jamaicensis*

**Non-breeding visitor, vagrant**

monotypic

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'e'elepulu 23 Dec 1945 (then a large undeveloped pond and wetland), 2 males were at He'e'ia wetland 16 Dec 1984 (*E* 45:82) followed by 3 males (likely including the 2 He'e'ia 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](#)

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/>