

## BELTED KINGFISHER

*Megaceryle alcyon*

non-breeding visitor, vagrant

monotypic

Belted Kingfishers breed commonly in fresh-water habitats throughout S Canada and the U.S. and withdraw southward to winter to the W. Indies and n. S. America (AOU 1998). Vagrants have been recorded in Britain, the Azore Is, and w. Europe (Cramp and Simmons 1985), and westward casually to much of Alaska, Clipperton I (Howell et al. 1993), and in winter to the Hawaiian Islands (Pratt et al. 1987, AOU 1998). It was considered part of the genus *Ceryle* until split as *Megaceryle* by the AOU (2007). An old report of a Belted Kingfisher specimen from Hawaii sold in Britain in 1819 is not reliable (Medway 1981).

In the *Southeastern Hawaiian Islands* there are reports of 26-31 Belted Kingfishers from five islands. Some of these reports are vague, second-hand, and/or lack descriptions but we include a listing of all records of this distinctive species. The first record comes from the Hamakua coast of **Hawai'i I**, at Hakalau Bay, where a pair was observed in Nov 1901 (Henshaw 1902a). After the male disappeared (possibly shot) the (first-cycle, PP examination) female was collected on 27 Nov 1901 (BPBM 4221; [HRBP](#) 5368-5370 of specimen). Subsequently, 10-12 Belted Kingfishers have been reported from Hawai'i I, in 1955-2016 (e.g., *E* 39:18-19, 48:22; [HRBP](#) 6730-6732), with records from the Kona coast and from the Hilo area. Reports from other islands include 5 from **Kaua'i** (1973-2016 from Hanalei NWR, Hanapepe, Wailua, and Wahiawa Bay), 4-5 from **O'ahu** (1962-1998 from Pearl City, Kailua, Haleiwa, Kuilima, and Nu'upia Ponds, Mokapu Peninsula; e.g., *E* 22:78, [HRBP](#) 0905-0906), two from **Moloka'i** (1974-1975 from various localities), and 5-7 from **Maui** (1974-2015 from Hana, Kealia Pond NWR, Kahului, Kapalua, and Kanaha Pond; [HRBP](#) 5371 published *NAB* 63:523). Most individual records are over a single winter period. Exceptions include a male present in the Hilo area, Hawai'i I (most frequently observed at Loko Waka pond) during Dec 1994-Mar 1999 and females observed at Loko Waka from Oct 2011 to Mar 2013 and Nov 2015 (first-fall bird; [HRBP](#) 6730) through Dec 2016 (adult; [HRBP](#) 6731-6732); all reports of these individuals were from Oct-Apr, indicating the possibility that they migrated back to North America for the summer. The earliest fall report was from 17 Sep (1987, Kona, Hawai'i) and the latest spring report was from 30 Apr (1996, Kealia Pond, Maui).

Henshaw (1902a) identified the specimen (probably uncritically) as the west coast subspecies recognized at the time, *M.a. caurina*, but we consider the specimen undiagnosable (PP examination) and the species monotypic (see Pyle 1997b).

### [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/>