

Migratory Birds

Koloa-mapu or Northern Pintail

Anas acuta

SPECIES STATUS:

State recognized as indigenous

Northern Pintail image



SPECIES INFORMATION: Begin wintering in August, often forming large roosting and feeding flocks on open, shallow wetlands and flooded agricultural fields. Diet consists of grains, aquatic plant seeds, and aquatic invertebrates. Winters in the Hawaiian Islands.

DISTRIBUTION:

Map of Northern Pintail distribution



ABUNDANCE: Though it is one of the most abundant waterfowl species in North America, its population is subject to declines and recoveries and its current population is lower than desired. Estimated population for Hawai'i is .

LOCATION AND CONDITION OF KEY HABITAT: Uses a range of shallow inland freshwater and intertidal habitats (e.g. large, shallow wetlands with minimal emergent cover) as well as flooded agricultural habitats and reservoirs.

THREATS: Historically affected by sport hunting pressures, current threats are degradation of habitat, pesticides and other contaminants and ingestion of plastics, leads, and other harmful materials. In Hawai'i specific threats to the northern pintail are:

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CONSERVATION ACTIONS: The goals of conservation actions are to protect current populations. In addition to common state-wide and island conservation actions, specific actions include:

- Protection of current habitat

MONITORING:

- Continue monitoring population levels

RESEARCH PRIORITIES:

- Better understanding of geographic relationship between nesting areas and wintering areas;
- Make-up of local populations relative to survival and condition during winter;
- Life-history and population dynamics in wintering areas;
- Population reactions to modified areas and food habitats and competition with other migrants.

References:

Austin, Jane E. and Michael R. Miller. 1995. Northern Pintail (*Anas acuta*). In the Birds of North America, No. 163 (A. Poole and F. Gill, eds). The Academy of Natural Sciences, Philadelphia, PA and The American Ornithologists' Union, Washington, D.C.