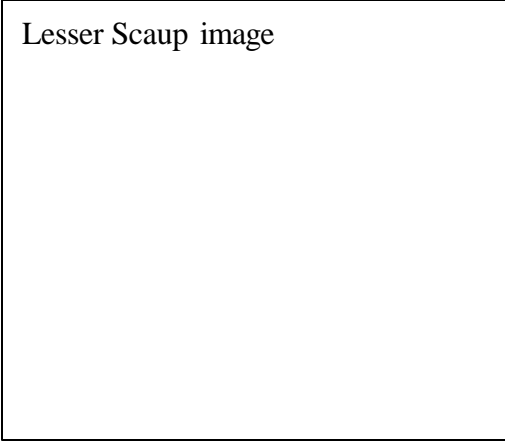


Migratory Birds

Lesser Scaup *Aythya affinis*

SPECIES STATUS:
State recognized as indigenous

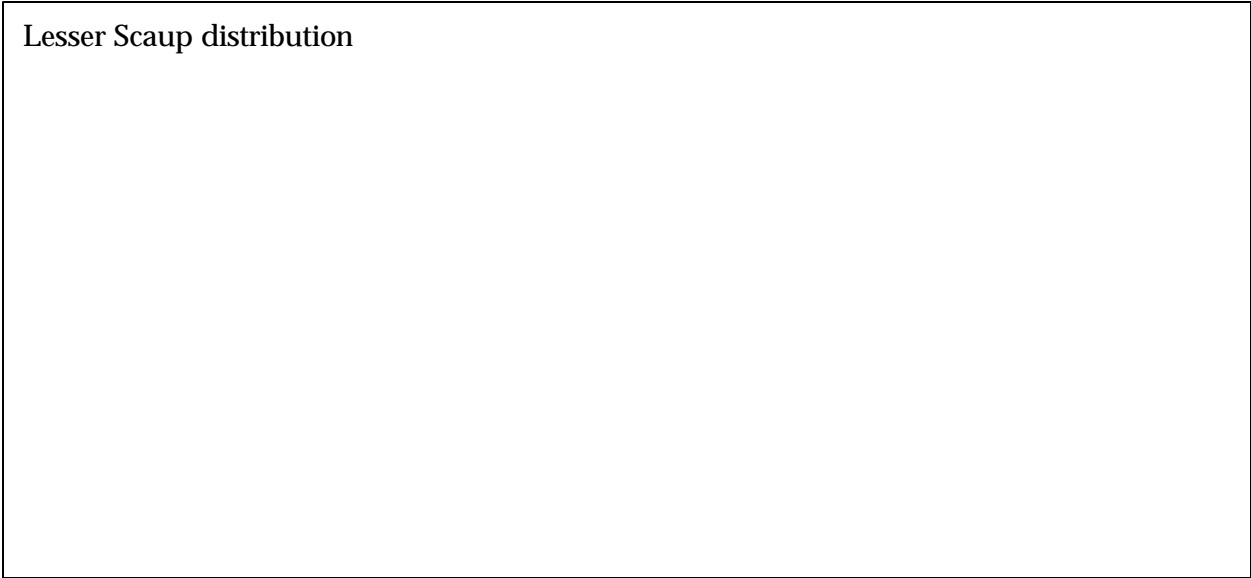
Lesser Scaup image



SPECIES INFORMATION: Forms large flocks on rivers, lakes, and wetlands. Diet consists of aquatic invertebrates. Diet consists mainly of aquatic invertebrates such as insects, crustaceans, and mollusks. Also known to eat seeds and parts of aquatic vegetation. However, diet varies geographically and often reflects local abundance.

DISTRIBUTION: Third most abundant duck in the Hawaiian Islands and a regular visitor.

Lesser Scaup distribution



ABUNDANCE: An abundant waterfowl species in North America, current continental populations are lower than desired. Estimated population for Hawai'i is .

LOCATION AND CONDITION OF KEY HABITAT: Found mostly along coasts of lakes, reservoirs, and coastal areas as well as wetlands.

THREATS: Historically affected by sport hunting pressures, current threats are degradation of habitat, pesticides and other contaminants, and fishing nets and lines. In Hawai'i specific threats to the lesser scaup 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 adaptation to modified wintering habitats and how they affect migration routes.

References:

Austin, Jane E., Christine M. Custer, and Alan D. Afton. 1998. Lesser Scaup (*Aythya affinis*). In the Birds of North America, No. 338 (A. Poole and F. Gill, eds). The Academy of Natural Sciences, Philadelphia, PA and The American Ornithologists' Union, Washington, D.C.