

KOLOA MAOLI BAND SIGHTINGS



AL / y59



AL / bk10



AL / w24

The endangered Koloa maoli, or Hawaiian Duck, is the only endemic dabbling duck remaining in the main Hawaiian Islands. Threatened by habitat loss, introduced predators, and hybridization with feral Mallards, Koloa population persistence remains in jeopardy. Critical obstacles in developing effective management and conservation plans for Koloa involve the lack of information on movement patterns and population dynamics. In December 2010, we initiated a Koloa banding program on Kaua'i to investigate daily and seasonal movements and pair-bond dynamics. Eventually, we hope to use information gained from band resighting to estimate population size.

As of December 2014, 1102 Koloa have been captured and banded on Kaua'i. Each duck receives a standard USGS metal band (AL) and a uniquely coded, colored leg band. Birds captured at Hanalei NWR receive yellow (y) or white (w) bands with black alpha-numeric codes, while birds captured at Hule'ia NWR receive black (bk) bands with white codes. The alpha-numeric code consists of two characters. The code is repeated twice on each band, and the first character of each code is underlined. Bands are read from left leg to right leg. For example, the duck in the upper left photograph has a metal band on the left leg and a yellow 59 band on the right leg (AL / y59).

Please report sightings of banded Koloa! With over 1,000 banded ducks on the landscape and your help scanning for color bands, we greatly increase the likelihood of documenting inter-island movement between Kaua'i and other islands. So, whether you live on Kaua'i, O'ahu, Maui, Molokai, or the Big Island, we need your help in sighting banded Koloa! If possible, please provide the date, location, and band combination of resighted ducks. Even if band codes cannot be read, resightings of color banded Koloa are useful. Please visit the Koloa maoli Research website to report bands and find more information on our research activities (www.koloamaoliresearch.weebly.com). Your observations will provide a valuable contribution towards the conservation of the endangered Koloa maoli. Mahalo!

Christopher Malachowski, Department of Fisheries and Wildlife (Oregon State University)

E-mail: christopher.malachowski@oregonstate.edu

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