

BUFF-BREASTED SANDPIPER

Tryngites subruficollis

non-breeding visitor, vagrant

monotypic

The Buff-breasted Sandpiper breeds in n. Alaska and n. Canada and winters in S America (AOU 1998). It has been recorded as a vagrant worldwide, including Europe, and Australia, Johnston Atoll (14 Sep 1968), Pohnpei, the Marshall Is, and Rapa I in the Pacific Basin (Amerson 1969, Amerson and Shelton 1976, Clapp 1979, Cramp and Simmons 1983, Pratt et al. 1987, Pyle and Engbring 1987, Higgins and Davies 1996). It is a rare fall transient through the Hawaiian Islands, all records being from Sep-Nov.

The first record for the *Northwestern Hawaiian Islands* was of 2 first-fall birds on *Kure* 21 Sep 1982, one of which may have subsequently been recorded on *Midway* 26-30 Sep 1982 (P. Pyle 1984). A short description of 4 on Midway 7 Sep 1995 failed to eliminate Ruff, although the occurrence of two well-described first-fall Buff-breasted Sandpipers at *French Frigate* that year (1-15 Sep 1995) might support the Midway report, as vagrants of this species show somewhat irruptive occurrence patterns (CBRC 2007). Another Buff-breasted Sandpiper was at French Frigate 13 Oct-2 Nov 2006 ([HRBP](#) 5961 published *NAB* 61:182). In the *Southeastern Hawaiian Islands* Buff-breasted Sandpipers have occurred once on *Kaua'i* (Princeville, 5 Sep 1980; *E* 41:49) and six times on *O'ahu*: at Waipi'o Peninsula 3 Nov 1969 (*E* 30:65); Ki'i Unit of JCNWR 10-23 Sep 1978 (Ralph and Pyle 1979, R. Pyle 1979); Waipi'o 4-11 Sep 1985 (2 birds), 14 Sep 1986 (*E* 46:186), and 9-19 Oct 1987 (*E* 48:22, [HRBP](#) 0645-0647); and near Kahuku 1-2 Oct 1988. Descriptions indicate all 7 of these birds to be first-fall individuals. A unique record for Hawaii and including N America is of one photographed at South Point, Hawai'i I, 28 Feb 2007 ([HRBP](#) 5962-5964). It is unknown if this individual was an early spring migrant (*cf.* [Baird Sandpiper](#)) or if it over-wintered at this location.

[Acronyms and Abbreviations](#)

[Literature cited](#)

Citation: Pyle, R.L., and P. Pyle. 2009. The Birds of the Hawaiian Islands: Occurrence, History, Distribution, and Status. B.P. Bishop Museum, Honolulu, HI, U.S.A. Version 1 (31 December 2009) <http://hbs.bishopmuseum.org/birds/rlp-monograph/>