

CURLEW SANDPIPER

Calidris ferruginea

non-breeding visitor, vagrant

monotypic

A Eurasian species, the Curlew Sandpiper breeds primarily in the w. Palearctic (rarely to extreme nw. Alaska) and winters across the old world at temperate and tropical latitudes (Dement'ev and Gladkov 1951c, Cramp and Simmons 1983, Higgins and Davies 1996). It is a regular transient or vagrant in very small numbers throughout N America (AOU 1998, CBRC 2007), and has been recorded throughout the Pacific, from the Marshall Is W through Micronesia (Clapp and Schipper 1990, Wiles 2005, VanderWerf 2006). A [minimum](#) of 10-12 Curlew Sandpipers have been recorded in the Hawaiian Islands, of which 6-7 were recorded only in fall, 4-5 were over-wintering (including one individual apparently returning for at least six consecutive winters), and 1-2 recorded over-summering.

The only record of Curlew Sandpiper for the *Northwestern Hawaiian Islands* was of an adult recorded on *Laysan* 1 Oct 1994; one reported from French Frigate 30 Mar 1981 is unsubstantiated ([Dunlin](#) not ruled out). In the *Southeastern Hawaiian Islands*, Curlew Sandpipers were recorded on *O'ahu* at Waipi'o Peninsula 31 Oct 1979 (first-fall bird; [HRBP](#) 0067-0073, 0195-0197, 0539), 22 Nov 1980, and 6-12 Nov 1994; at the Ki'i Unit of JCNWR 6-23 Sep 1986 (*E* 47:42). Two first-spring individuals found at the Honouliuli Unit of PHNWR 26 Mar 2005 may have involved one or two of the individuals seen on Maui the previous fall and winter (see below). These two birds were observed in non-breeding plumage at Honouliuli and Ki'i through 6 Jun 2005 ([HRBP](#) 5210), indicating over-summering, and sporadic records of adults at various places on O'ahu 16 Oct 2005 ([HRBP](#) 5223, 5447, published *NAB* 60:160), 15 Feb-10 Apr 2006, 23 Sep 2007-21 Apr 2008 ([HRBP](#) 5695), 25 Oct 2008-24 Feb 2009, and 19 Oct through at least Nov 2009 ([HRBP](#) 5696) likely refer to a single returning individual; it was most often recorded in Pearl Harbor and may have spent substantial amounts of time at inaccessible locations. On *Kaua'i* one was observed at Hanapepe Salt Ponds 29 Oct 2006. On *Maui*, an individual recorded at Kealia Pond NWR 4 Feb 1997 was presumably wintering, and two first-fall birds were found there 22 Nov 2004 ([HRBP](#) 5130-5132, 5197, published *NAB* 59:171), one of which remained here (and seen occasionally at Kanaha Pond) through 1 Feb 2005. Another presumed wintering individual was recorded at the Kona STP, *Hawai'i I* 14 Jan 2001.

Odd shorebirds resembling [Pectoral Sandpipers](#) but with long and recurved bills, observed at Waipi'o, O'ahu, 28 Jan-5 Feb 1988 and at Kaunakakai, Moloka'i in Dec 1980, may have been "Cox Sandpipers" (Vickery et al. 1987), hybrids between Curlew and [Pectoral](#) sandpipers (Christidis et al. 1996).

[Acronyms and Abbreviations](#)

[Literature cited](#)

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