

PECTORAL SANDPIPER

Calidris melanotos

non-breeding visitor, regular migrant

monotypic

Pectoral Sandpipers breed in ne. Siberia and across the Holarctic, and winter primarily in c-s. S America (Dement'ev and Gladkov 1951c, AOU 1998), with a smaller wintering population in Australia and New Zealand (Higgins and Davies 1996). They occur throughout the Pacific Basin during migration, from the Galapagos and Clipperton Is to Wake Atoll (Rauzon et al. 2008), Johnston Atoll (e.g., at least 8 individuals recorded 1993-1994) and across Polynesia and Micronesia (*E* 46:30, Clapp 1968a, Pratt et al. 1987, Howell et al. 1993, AOU 1998, Wiles 2005). They are irregularly uncommon to common fall transients through the Hawaiian Islands and are rare in winter and as spring transients. Thus, most birds appear to pass through Hawaii enroute to wintering areas farther S, and most of these birds either fail to survive the winter, over-fly Hawaii during northbound migration, or use a separate migration route than that of fall.

The first record for the Hawaiian Islands was of a first-winter bird collected in Waikiki (when it was still a marsh), O'ahu, by G.P. Wilder on 1 Jan 1892 (Bryan 1905a; BPBM 2224). Henshaw (1901b, 1902a) reported on two more collected in the fall of 1900 on Hawai'i I (e.g., BPBM 4188), and there are several other observations from the first half of the 20th century (e.g., Northwood 1940, Bailey 1956; *E* 1[2]:2, 3:39, 14:18-20, 14:58). Since these early records, over 760 individuals have been reported, approximately 95% of which have been fall transients, 3-4% of which have involved over-wintering individuals, and 1-2% have been spring transients. Over 25 specimens have been collected in the Hawaiian Islands and photographs of at least 12 individuals occur in the [HRBP](#) file.

Reports for >135 individuals (including at least 13 specimens; USNM and BPBM) have been recorded from the *Northwestern Hawaiian Islands*, from **Kure**, **Midway**, **Laysan**, and **French Frigate** (e.g., Bailey 1956, Pyle 1984, Clapp and Woodward 1968; [HRBP](#) 0227, 0276-0277, 0559-0561, 0606-0608; 1021, 1408-1410, 1417; published *E* 44:110). Over-wintering birds have been recorded on Midway (2) and Laysan (4), and spring transients have also been recorded on Midway (6-7 May and 24 May 1997) and Laysan (15 Apr 1979; *E* 41:48). One observed from May-Jul 1941 on Midway (*E* 14:47, 48, 58) is the only confirmed over-summering bird for the Hawaiian Islands. Excluding this individual, the earliest fall arrival occurred 25 Jul 2000 at French Frigate, and a high count of 24 birds was observed on Midway 25 Sep 1982 (*E* 44:109).

In the *Southeastern Hawaiian Islands* >625 birds have been observed (see [HRBP](#) 0166-0167, 0318-0319, 0349-0350, 0410, 0536-0538, 0945, 5171, 5688). High counts for each island include 9 on **Kaua'i** (22 Oct 1996, Koloa), 133 on **O'ahu** (Ki'i unit of JCNWR, 11 Oct 2000), 2 on Moloka'i (Ohiapilo Wetlands, 23 Oct-8 Nov 2007; [HRBP](#) 5688), 20 on **Maui** (Kealia Pond NWR, 14 Oct 1996), and 6 on **Hawai'i** (Opaepula Pond, 17 Oct 1982; *E* 45:74); there are no records for Ni'ihau, Lana'i, or Kaho'olawe. The earliest fall arrival was for 12 Jul (2003, Ki'i). There are records for at least 24 over-wintering individuals (e.g., [HRBP](#) 0349-0350), including at least 11 recorded in consecutive years at favored localities (e.g. 1 at Hanalei, Kaua'i in 1995-1999; 1-2 at Waipi'o Peninsula, O'ahu, 1979-1988; and 2-3 at Kealia Pond 1999-2004), indicating successful wintering in Hawaii. In addition, an analysis of data on fall transients indicates

a bimodal occurrence pattern, with a much smaller peak (~9% of fall migrants) in late Jul-late Aug (presumably adults), and a much larger peak (~91%) in mid Sep-Nov (presumably first-fall birds). This also suggests that adult Pectoral Sandpipers may be successfully wintering in the Pacific Basin. Seven birds presumed to be spring transients occurred between 14 Apr (1987, Kanaha Pond, Maui) and 2 Jun (1995, Kealia Pond).

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 Pectoral and [Curlew](#) sandpipers (Christidis et al. 1996). An interesting individual on Midway 10 Oct 1983 ([HRBP](#) 0278-0279, 0606-0607, 1432) may have been a hybrid between Pectoral and [Sharp-tailed](#) sandpipers.

[Acronyms and Abbreviations](#)

[Literature cited](#)

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