

RED KNOT

Calidris canutus

non-breeding visitor, vagrant

monotypic

The Red Knot is a Holarctic species, breeding in the tundra around the world and migrating to an extensive winter range on both sides of the Equator and as far south as S Africa, Australia, and Tierra del Fuego (Dement'ev and Gladkov 1951c, Cramp and Simmons 1983, Higgins and Davies 1996, AOU 1998). In the Pacific, records of vagrants have occurred to the Galapagos, Kwajalein, Palau, Mariana and Fiji Is (Pratt et al. 1987, Wiles et al. 2004, VanderWerf 2006). In the Hawaiian Islands they are occasional as fall transients and rarer as over-wintering birds and spring transients.

There are only three records for the *Northwestern Hawaiian Islands*: one was observed on *Midway* 28 Aug 1965 and one was collected at *Pearl and Hermes* 15 Mar 1965 (Clapp and Woodward 1968, Amerson *et al.* 1974; USNM 494130). The latter was presumably a wintering bird. One also over-wintered on *Laysan* in 2005-2006.

In the *Southeastern Hawaiian Islands* there are records for 21 single individuals, 14 from fall, 5 of apparent wintering birds, and two apparent spring transients. Nine individuals have been recorded on *O'ahu* from 1961 (*E* 22:54, the first record for Hawaii) to 2009 (e.g., *E* 38:103; [HRBP](#) 0806-0807, 0858-0859, 5273, 5317), including 7 fall birds and the only two apparent spring transients for the Hawaiian Islands, a first-spring female collected 7 Apr 1968 near Kahuku (Clapp and Pyle 1968; USNM 543341) and one observed 28 May-5 Jun 2005 at the Honouliuli Unit of PHNWR. There are also one winter record from *Moloka'i* (18 Oct 2007-15 Apr 2008; [HRBP](#) 5459 published NAB 62:176), one winter and 4 fall records from *Maui* (1980-2004; [HRBP](#) 5031) and 2 winter and 4 fall records for *Hawai'i* (1975-2004; e.g., *E* 45:74). The earliest fall arrival in the Southeastern Islands occurred on 4 Sep (1988, Kanaha Pond, Maui), and several fall birds were last reported in Dec, suggesting that they may have been attempting to winter. Of 8 fall birds that were aged, 5 were adults and 3 were first-fall individuals. The latest spring record for a migrant was for 5 Jun 2005 (Honouliuli, O'ahu), and for an over-wintering bird it was 15 Apr 2008 (Ohiapilo Wetlands, Moloka'i).

Several subspecies of Red Knot have been recognized, although differences may be related more to molting patterns than to phenotypic variation (Pyle 2008) and we here consider the species monotypic. Populations breeding on Wrangel I through w. Alaska ("*C.c. roselaari*") and in ne. Siberia ("*rogersi*") both winter in Australia and New Zealand (Higgins and Davies 1996) and are probably the most likely source for individuals in the Hawaiian Islands, but none of the specimens or photographs have been confirmed to subspecies. Both specimen records were identified as "*C.c. canutus*" of c. Siberia but at the time of collection this included the two other populations mentioned above.

[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/>