

SEMPALMATED SANDPIPER

Calidris pusilla

non-breeding visitor, vagrant

monotypic

Semipalmated Sandpiper is one of seven small *Calidris* sandpipers, otherwise known as "stints" or "peep," that breed in Holarctic regions and migrate to temperate and tropical wintering grounds. Notoriously difficult to identify, six species have been documented in the Hawaiian Islands, although more than half of the records of small sandpipers are of unconfirmed identity (*cf.* Ely and Clapp 1973, Pratt et al. 1987). Pyle et al. (1988) summarized the occurrence of all records of small sandpipers in the Hawaiian Islands through 1987 and provide documentation for the first confirmed records of three species including Semipalmated Sandpiper. Breeding in Alaska and Canada and wintering primarily in e. S America (AOU 1998), 12 Semipalmated Sandpipers (10 in fall only and 2 over-wintering) in the *Southeastern Hawaiian Islands* are the only individuals recorded for the Pacific Basin (Pratt et al. 1987), a record from New Zealand being considered unsubstantiated (Marchant and Higgins 1996).

The first substantiated records for Semipalmated Sandpiper in Hawaii are from *O'ahu*, including individuals at the Ki'i unit of JCNWR and nearby aquafarm 8 Aug 1983-1 Mar 1984 ([HRBP](#) 0248-0252, 0315, 0358-0360, 0534-0535, published *E* 48:71), on Waipi'o Peninsula 31 Aug - 11 Sep 1984 ([HRBP](#) 0671-0674 published *E* 48:71) and 19 Aug 1986 (Pyle et al. 1988), and at Ki'i 23 Aug-15 Oct 1988 and 21 Sep 2002-13 Jan 2003, and at Waiawa Unit of PHNWR 27 Sep 2008 ([HRBP](#) 5959-5960). On *Kaua'i* individuals were at Hanapepe Salt Ponds 1 Sep 2006 ([HRBP](#) 5321 published *NAB* 61:164) and 4 Sep 2008 ([HRBP](#) 5476 published *NAB* 63:177); on *Moloka'i* individuals were present at Ohiapilo Wetlands 11 Sep 2005 ([HRBP](#) 5238-5239, published *NAB* 60:160), 17 Aug-16 Sep 2007 ([HRBP](#) 5477-5478 published *NAB* 62:175), and 24 Jul-27 Sep 2008 ([HRBP](#) 5470, 5479, published *NAB* 62:631); and on *Maui* one was at Kealia Pond NWR, *Maui*, 17-28 Aug 1991 ([HRBP](#) 0944). All records have been of first-year birds, indicating little proclivity to return in consecutive years.

Many other unsubstantiated reports of Semipalmated Sandpipers in Hawaii exist (e.g., *E* 40:139-140, 48:73) including birds partially described or tentatively identified by observers on *Kaua'i* 5 Nov 1967 (*E* 28:87); *O'ahu* 28 Feb 1958 (*E* 18:70), 9-11 Jan 1988, 22 Oct 1989, 19 Aug 1980 (*E* 48:73), 1 Sep 1990, and 20 Oct 1996; *Maui* Nov 1976-Mar 1977, 31 Dec 1979 (*E* 40:139-140), and 15 Nov 1988; and *Hawai'i* I 31 Dec 1983. Many of these could be correct, but failed to rule out other small *Calidris* sandpipers, especially [Red-necked Stint](#).

[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/>