

## SPOTTED SANDPIPER

*Actitis macularius*

non-breeding visitor, vagrant

monotypic

Spotted Sandpipers breed across n. N America and winter as far south as c. S America (AOU 1998). The status of this species in the Pacific and the Hawaiian Islands is confused by its similarity to Common Sandpiper (*A. hypoleucos*), a Eurasian counterpart (Dement'ev and Gladkov 1951c, Cramp and Simmons 1983) that occurs regularly in w. Alaska and the w. Pacific, has been recorded on Wake Atoll (Rauzon et al. 2008), and could easily reach the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands if not, occasionally, the Southeastern Islands (David 1991). Records of this pair, unidentified to species, have been recorded throughout the Pacific (*E* 41:115, Clapp 1968a, Pyle and Engbring 1985, Pratt *et al.* 1987) whereas confirmed Common Sandpipers have been recorded in Micronesia east to Chuuk and probably Pohnpei (Wiles 2005) and confirmed Spotted Sandpipers have been recorded from Clipperton, the Marshall, Johnston, and the Hawaiian Is (Amerson and Shelton 1976, Howell et al. 1993, AOU 1998).

David (1991) analyzed records of *Actitis* sandpipers in the *Southeastern Hawaiian Islands* and concluded that, between 1975 and 1989, 6 of 12 birds (1983-1989) could be confirmed as Spotted Sandpipers based on descriptions and photographs while the remaining six (1975-1983) could not be identified. Prior to this, Pyle (1977) listed only the species pair (Spotted/Common Sandpiper) for the Hawaiian Islands. Since this analysis and through the 2000s there have been 20 additional records, 13 of which we consider confirmed Spotted Sandpipers while 7 did not include enough descriptive notes to separate them from Common Sandpiper. Because 21 of 32 records in the Southeastern Islands have been confirmed as Spotted Sandpipers and none have shown field marks suggesting Common Sandpiper, we assume that the following summary reflects the status of Spotted Sandpiper, the more expected species in the Southeastern Islands.

Of the 32 records of Spotted Sandpiper in the Southeastern Islands, 20 involved birds recorded only in fall whereas 12 were over-wintering or likely had done so. The earliest fall arrival occurred on 8 Aug (1991, Pearl Harbor, O'ahu; one reported from Maui on a [DOFAW Waterbird Survey](#) 29 Jul 1987 may be correct but was not described) and the latest record in spring was 8 May (1988, Captain Cook, Hawai'i), by which time this individual had attained full alternate plumage (David 1991). Records have occurred from *Kaua'i* (1 individuals, 1975-2008; e.g., *E* 36:116, 37:64-65; [HRBP](#) 0865, 1252), *O'ahu* (15, 1976-2009; e.g., *E* 37:7-8, 42:55, 44:67; David 1991; [HRBP](#) 0266, 0636-0637, 5322-5324; excludes a report without information prior to 1975 mentioned by David 1991), *Moloka'i* (1, 30 Sep 2008), *Maui* (6, 1989-2003; e.g., [HRBP](#) 1030-1031), Kaho'olawe (1, 25 Aug 1988; unidentified to species), and *Hawai'i* (8, 1984-2005; e.g., David 1991, *E* 59:7; [HRBP](#) 0464-0465, 0863, published in David 1991).

Excluding an old record from Midway without information (David 1991), there are 8 records of *Actitis* sandpipers from the *Northwestern Hawaiian Islands*. One that wintered at *French Frigate*, 31 Aug 1979-11 Apr 1980 was a well-described Spotted Sandpiper (*E* 41:74). The remaining records could have been of either *Actitis* sandpiper and are unconfirmed to species. These occurred at Kure (15 May 2000), Midway (9 Oct 1993), Laysan (31 Aug-19 Sep 1988 and 5 Nov 1997), and French Frigate (8 Sep 1991, 31 Aug 1992, and early Aug 2007).

[Acronyms and Abbreviations](#)

[Literature cited](#)