

WILLET

Tringa semipalmata

non-breeding visitor, vagrant

T.s. semipalmata

Willetts are a conspicuous component of the coastal North American avifauna. Two populations exist: the western subspecies (*T.s. inornata*) breeds in the Great Basin and winters along the Pacific Coast and the nominate eastern subspecies breeds along the Atlantic coast and winters as far south as S America (AOU 1998). It was considered in the genus *Catoptrophorus (semipalmatus)* until the AOU (2006) merged it with *Tringa*. In the Pacific, Willetts have reached the Galapagos Is and Christmas I in the Kiribati group (*E* 41:40); we consider a sight report from Johnston Atoll (Amerson and Shelton 1976) as unsubstantiated. There are eight records from the *Southeastern Hawaiian Islands*.

The first record was of a bird seen just outside of the Honolulu Christmas Count circle, near the Honolulu Airport, **Oahu**, 21-31 Dec 1967 (*E* 28:70-71) and the second record was also observed during a Honolulu Christmas Count: 22 Dec 1974 at Mokapu Ponds, KMCAS (*E* 35:84, 86, 88). The other records are from **Kaua'i** (Hanalei Beach, 2-3 May 1993), **Maui** (first-year bird at Kanaha Pond 4-5 Nov 1976 moving to Kealia Pond 5 Dec-8 Feb 1977, *E* 38:6, [HRBP](#) 0099-0103; Hana 26 Dec 1984; and Puunene 16 Jan 1988), and **Hawai'i** (Honokohau, 5 Oct 1998 and 7-11 Nov 2002, and Liliuokalani Park, Hilo, 23 Nov 2005). Thus, there are three birds seen only in fall, 5 presumably wintering individuals, and 1 apparent spring transient.

Either of two subspecies could occur in the mid-Pacific, *T.s. inornata* occurring closer geographically but *semipalmata* being a longer-distant migrant and perhaps more likely. Photographs of the Maui bird show structure and plumage consistent with *semipalmata* whereas descriptions of the other individuals in Hawaii were insufficient to suggest subspecies.

[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/>