CURLEW SANDPIPER  

Calidris ferruginea

non-breeding visitor, vagrant

monotypic

A Eurasian species, the Curlew Sandpiper breeds primarily in the w. Palearctic (rarely to extreme nw. Alaska) and winters across the Old World at temperate and tropical latitudes (Dement'ev and Gladkov 1951c, Cramp and Simmons 1983, Higgins and Davies 1996). It is a regular transient or vagrant in very small numbers throughout N America (AOU 1998, CBRC 2007), and the Pacific from the Marshall Is W through Micronesia (Clapp and Schipper 1990, Wiles 2005, VanderWerf 2006). A minimum of 11-13 Curlew Sandpipers have been recorded in the Hawaiian Islands, of which 6-7 were recorded only in fall, 5-6 were over-wintering (including individuals returning for up to seven consecutive winters), and 1-2 were over-summered.

The only record of Curlew Sandpiper for the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands was of an adult recorded on Laysan 1 Oct 1994; one reported from French Frigate 30 Mar 1981 is unsubstantiated (Dunlin not ruled out). In the Southeastern Hawaiian Islands, Curlew Sandpipers were recorded on O'ahu at Waipi'o Peninsula 31 Oct 1979 (first-fall bird; HRBP 0067-0073, 0195-0197, 0539), 22 Nov 1980, and 6-12 Nov 1994; and at the Kūi Unit of JCNWR 6-23 Sep 1986 (E 47:42). Two first-spring individuals found at the Honouliuli Unit of PHNWR, O'ahu 26 Mar 2005 may have involved one or two of the individuals seen on Maui the previous fall and winter (see below). These two birds were observed in non-breeding plumage at Honouliuli and Kī'i through 6 Jun 2005 (HRBP 5210), possibly indicating over-summering. Sporadic records of adults at various places on O'ahu 16 Oct 2005 (HRBP 5223, 5447, published NAB 60:160), 15 Feb-10 Apr 2006, 23 Sep 2007-21 Apr 2008 (HRBP 5695), 25 Oct 2008-24 Feb 2009, 19 Oct 2009-7 Apr 2010 (HRBP 5696, 6480-6481; published NAB 64:342), 6 Sep 2010-23 Apr 2011 (HRBP 6482), and 26 Nov 2011-27 May 2012 (HRBP 6483) likely refer to a single returning individual, one of the first-year birds in winter 2004-2005; it was most often recorded in the Pearl Harbor area and may have spent substantial amounts of time at inaccessible locations. On Kaua‘i, one was observed at Hanapepe Salt Ponds 29 Oct 2006.

Odd shorebirds resembling Pectoral Sandpipers but with long and decurved bills, observed at Waipi'o, O'ahu, 28 Jan-5 Feb 1988 and at Kaua’i, Molokai in Dec 1980, may have been "Cox Sandpipers" (Vickery et al. 1987), hybrids between Curlew and Pectoral sandpipers (Christidis et al. 1996).

Acronyms and Abbreviations

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