

GRAY-TAILED TATTLER

Tringa brevipes

Other: Polynesian Tattler (<1983), Siberian Tattler

monotypic

non-breeding visitor, vagrant

The Gray-tailed Tattler breeds in Siberia and winters in SE Asia, Australia, and the w. Pacific, including Micronesia as far E as the Marshall Is (Stickney 1943, Dement'ev and Gladkov 1951c, Schipper 1985, Pratt et al. 1987, Higgins and Davies 1996, AOU 1998, Wiles 2005). It and [Wandering Tattler](#) were placed in the genus *Heteroscelus* until the AOU (2006) merged this genus with *Tringa*. It is a regular spring migrant in the Aleutian Is and has been recorded as a vagrant to Washington, California (CBRC 2007), Wake Atoll (Jones 1995, Rauzon et al. 2008), and the Cook Is, Fiji, and Tuvalu (Pratt et al. 1987). Gray-tailed Tattler is a rare transient and winterer in the Hawaiian Islands, although confusion with the similar [Wandering Tattler](#) has probably caused some individuals to be overlooked (*cf. E* 39:8). Because of this similarity, the following records of Gray-tailed Tattlers are of birds confirmed to species by specimen, photograph, or description including both vocalization and plumage characters. More than 25 additional reports of unsubstantiated, tentatively identified, or unconfirmed Gray-tailed Tattlers exist (including individuals on Laysan, Kaua'i, Moloka'i, and Maui), many of which could be valid.

Overall there are 14 substantiated records likely involving 12 individuals. In the *Northwestern Hawaiian Islands*, a first-fall male was collected on *Midway* 30 Oct 1964 (Clapp and Woodward 1968; USNM 494300, [HRBP](#) 5514 of specimen), one overwintered at Midway 12 Dec 1991-19 Apr 1992, and individuals were photographed there 4-5 Jun 1999 ([HRBP](#) 1238-1239 published *NAB* 53:435), in Feb-Mar 2009 ([HRBP](#) 5411-5412), 2 Nov 2011-19 Feb 2012 ([HRBP](#) 6418), 1 Jan 2016 ([HRBP](#) 6421), and 1 Oct-13 Nov 2016 ([HRBP](#) 6422-6423, 6441). On *Laysan*, one was present 25 Sep 2011-17 Mar 2012 (Rutt in press; [HRBP](#) 6415, 6419). A first-fall bird photographed on Kure 28 Oct 1983 (P. Pyle 1984; [HRBP](#) 0264-0265, 1407, published *AB* 38:250) had plumage features and gave vocalizations indicating Gray-tailed Tattler but had a large bill suggesting Wandering Tattler or a hybrid.

In the *Southeastern Hawaiian Islands*, one was photographed at Kauai'ele Wetlands, *Kaua'i* 3 Sep 2016. On *O'ahu*, a first-spring bird at the Ki'i Unit of JCNWR, *O'ahu* 13-19 Apr 1988 (*E* 48:77; [HRBP](#) 0773-0775, published *AB* 42:373) was likely the same individual as an adult that wintered in the same location 7 Aug 1988-25 Apr 1989, suggesting that it wintered undetected during 1987-1988 as well. Others on O'ahu were at Kaena Pt 21 Dec 2010-23 Feb 2011 ([HRBP](#) 6414), at the Ki'i Unit of JCNWR 29 Oct-9 Feb 2011 ([HRBP](#) 6416-6317), and at the Honouliuli Unit of PHNWR and Ki'i Unit of JCNWR 2 Oct 2013-25 Feb 2014 ([HRBP](#) 6420). One observed along the beach near Aimakapa Pond, *Hawai'i I* 7 Aug-18 Nov 1988 and 7 Aug-21 Oct 1989 also likely involved a single individual (unsubstantiated reports there from 30 Aug 1991 and Aug 1992 may also have involved this individual). A tattler heard giving a two-note call at Kanaha Pond, Maui 23 Mar 1995 could have been a Gray-tailed Tattler but this call note

is not diagnostic on its own; descriptions and photographs of others on Maui in 2013 and 2014, and on O'ahu in 2011 and 2016 may not eliminate Wandering Tattlers or hybrids.

[Acronyms and Abbreviations](#)

[Literature cited](#)

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