

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 Eurasian counterpart (Dement'ev and Gladkov 1951c, Cramp and Simmons 1983), that has reached the Hawaiian Islands on at least two occasion and possibly others (David 1991). Records of this pair, unidentified to species, have been reported throughout the Pacific (*E* 41:115, Clapp 1968a, Pyle and Engbring 1985, Pratt et al. 1987) while 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 the two species 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 25 additional records of *Actitis*, 18 of which we consider confirmed Spotted Sandpipers while 7 did not include enough descriptive notes to separate them from Common Sandpiper. Because 24 of 37 records in the Southeastern Islands have been confirmed as Spotted Sandpipers and only one has been confirmed as a Common Sandpiper, we assume that the following summary of *Actitis* sandpipers reflects the status of Spotted Sandpiper, the more expected species in the Southeastern Islands.

Of the 37 records of Spotted Sandpiper and unidentified *Actitis* sandpipers in the Southeastern Islands, 21 involved birds recorded only in fall whereas 16 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* (2 individuals, 1975-2014; e.g., *E* 36:116, 37:64-65; [HRBP](#) 0865, 1252, 6410), *O'ahu* (16, 1976-2016; e.g., *E* 37:7-8, 42:55, 44:67; David 1991; [HRBP](#) 0266, 0636-0637, 5322-5324, 6411; excludes a report without information prior to 1975 mentioned by David 1991), *Moloka'i* (2, 2008-2010), *Maui* (6, 1989-2003; e.g., [HRBP](#) 1030-1031), Kaho'olawe (1, 25 Aug 1988; unidentified to species), and *Hawai'i I* (10, 1984-2016; e.g., David 1991, *E* 59:7; [HRBP](#) 0464-0465, 0863, 6409, 6412-6413; published in David 1991).

There are 8 records of *Actitis* sandpipers from the *Northwestern Hawaiian Islands* (see [Common Sandpiper](#)). One well-described bird that wintered at *French Frigate*, 31 Aug 1979-11 Apr 1980 (*E* 41:74) and one observed on *Nihoa* 8-13 Sep 2011 ([HRBP](#) 6406-6408) are substantiated Spotted Sandpipers, while the others to the W may have just as likely been of Common Sandpipers due to the regularity of Eurasian migrants in these islands.

[Acronyms and Abbreviations](#)

[Literature cited](#)

Citation: Pyle, R.L., and P. Pyle. 2017. The Birds of the Hawaiian Islands: Occurrence, History, Distribution, and Status. B.P. Bishop Museum, Honolulu, HI, U.S.A. Version 2 (1 January 2017) <http://hbs.bishopmuseum.org/birds/rlp-monograph/>