

WESTERN SANDPIPER

Calidris mauri

non-breeding visitor, occasional winterer

monotypic

Western Sandpipers breed in ne. Siberia and Alaska and winter primarily along both American coasts, from Washington and Virginia through c. S America (AOU 1998). Although it is considered one of seven difficult-to-identify species of *Calidris* sandpipers (see [Semipalmated Sandpiper](#)), its larger size and bill enable identifications of higher proportions of individuals than is the case for the other six species. In the Pacific Basin, Western Sandpipers have been recorded at the Galapagos and Clipperton Is, Japan, and New Zealand (Pratt et al. 1987, Howell et al. 1993, Higgins and Davies 1996), Johnston Atoll (4 Sep 1968; Amerson & Shelton 1968), and the Hawaiian Islands, where they are a scarce but semi-regular migrant and winter visitor.

There have been a [minimum](#) of 45 well-documented Western Sandpipers in the Hawaiian Islands. Thirty-nine of these were recorded between 1986 and 2016, after observers had become more aware of identification criteria (*cf.* Pyle et al. 1988), and this average of 1-2 per year likely reflects the status of this species to the archipelago. There were many unsubstantiated reports prior to 1986 (e.g., Berger 1972, 1981; *E* 19:36; 21:49; 31:106; 32:48; 36:69, 37:65; 38:3, 7, 58, 104), most of which may easily have been Western Sandpipers given the subsequent pattern of documented birds. Of the 45 documented records, 27 were of birds observed in fall only, 14 were of over-wintering birds, and 4 (all during 4-16 Apr) were apparent spring transients.

There are substantiated records for 9 Western Sandpipers in the *Northwestern Hawaiian Islands*, on **Kure** (30 Dec 1966 and 23 Sep 1983; Clapp and Woodward 1968, USNM 497298), **Midway** (5 fall transients, 1983-2014; e.g., [HRBP](#) 0369, 0604, 0840, 6517), **Laysan** (2, 16 Apr 1987 and 19 Dec 2003), and **French Frigate** (1 long-staying individual 6 Aug 1987-30 Mar 1989). The individual on Kure 23 Sep 1983 was the same observed on Midway 14-16 Oct 1983, identified by having a drooping right wing (Pyle 1984). The bird at French Frigate throughout 1988 represents the only over-summering record for the Hawaiian Islands. In the *Southeastern Hawaiian Islands* there are records of a [minimum](#) 36 birds, from **Kaua'i** (one bird, 4-7 Apr 2000; [HRBP](#) 1316-1317), **O'ahu** (12, 1979-2011; e.g., [HRBP](#) 0059, 0533, 5719), **Moloka'i** (3, 2005-2014), **Maui** (14, 1986-2016; e.g., *E* 48:74, [HRBP](#) 0945, 0980, 6512-6516), and **Hawai'i I** (7, 1969-2016; e.g., *E* 30:47, 48:74; [HRBP](#) 0437-0438, 1429-1430, 6518-6521; published *E* 48:72). Three together at Waipi'o Peninsula 5-8 Apr 1988 and 2 wintering at Waiawa Unit of PHNWR, O'ahu, in Sep-Dec 2009 represent the high counts (we consider 5 reported from Kealia 23 Jan 2004 as unsubstantiated). The earliest fall arrival and only documented adult occurred at Kealia Pond, Maui 26 Jul 2002 (at least 24 other records pertain to first-fall birds) and the latest spring record was for 14 Apr (1998, Ki'i Unit of JCNWR, O'ahu).

[Acronyms and Abbreviations](#)

[Literature cited](#)

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