

## 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 placed 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 9 substantiated records of 10 birds from the *Southeastern Hawaiian Islands*.

The first record was of a Willet seen just outside of the Honolulu [Christmas Bird 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). Two well-described birds on a beach near Wailua, O;ahu, 21 Oct 2013, represent the high count for the Hawaiian Islands. 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 four 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. 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/>