

WILSON'S SNIPE

Gallinago delicata

Other: Snipe, Common Snipe (< 2002)

monotypic

non-breeding visitor, occasional winterer

The Wilson's Snipe has recently been split from the [Common Snipe](#) of Eurasia (AOU 2002), and the separation of these two sibling species in the field can be difficult (*E* 39:8). Furthermore, each of these species can be difficult to separate from other Eurasian snipes such as [Pin-tailed Snipe](#), which has also occurred in the Hawaiian Islands, and Latham's Snipe (*G. hardwicki*) which has occurred in the Marshall Is (USNM 494842; Amerson 1969, Clapp 1990). Wilson's Snipes breed across n. Alaska and Canada and winter as far S as n. S America (AOU 1998). Snipes are fairly regular winter visitors in small numbers to the Hawaiian Islands but most have not been identified to Wilson's or Common snipe; here we summarize records of unidentified snipes for the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands under [Common Snipe](#) and those for the Southeastern Hawaiian Islands under Wilson's Snipe, reflecting the probability based on occurrence patterns of continental migrants.

We consider two records of snipes from the *Northwestern Hawaiian Islands* as confirmed Wilson's (see [Common Snipe](#) for a list of additional snipe records there). One present on *Midway* 1 Oct 2011-16 Feb 2012 was confirmed by photographs as a Wilson's Snipe ([HRBP](#) 6530-6533) and another snipe on *Kure* 28 Sep 2013 was photographed ([HRBP](#) 6534) and observed well enough to eliminate Common Snipe.

Although only about 25 of the [minimum](#) 71 snipes recorded in the *Southeastern Hawaiian Islands* have been confirmed by specimen, photograph, or detailed description as Wilson's as opposed to [Common](#) snipes, we assume the following summary of Wilson's/unidentified snipes reflect the status of Wilson's in Hawaii, based on occurrence patterns of birds from North America and Asia to the Hawaiian Islands. A majority of these records involve wintering individuals, many of which appeared to return successfully in consecutive years; e.g., to Waipi'o, O'ahu in 1963-1966 (*E* 27:56) and to the Ki'i unit of JCNWR (1-4 individuals each winter between 1983 and 1996 and between 2010 and 2016). Records occur for *Kaua'i* (8, 1966-2013; e.g., [HRBP](#) 6535-6536; *E* 27:75, 35:120, etc.); *O'ahu* (41, 1878/79-2016; e.g., Dole *in* Damon 1957:148; Bryan 1904; BPBM 2783, 4875, 146300; [HRBP](#) 0648-0651, 5059, 5535, 5853-5854); *Moloka'i* (6, 1902-2014; e.g., [HRBP](#) 6537; Munro 1944; BPBM 4554, 156981); *Maui* (11, ~1903 to 2016; e.g., Bryan 1905a; BPBM 2227; [HRBP](#) 0984); and *Hawai'i I* (5, late 1800s to 2015; e.g., Henshaw 1900a, 1902a). The paucity of records from Hawai'i I may reflect a dearth of suitable marsh habitat on that island as compared to the others. The high count was of 5 at Waipi'o 7 Jan 1979 (*E* 40:15) and Ki'i Unit of JCNWR, O'ahu 12 Jan 2008. The earliest fall arrival in the Hawaiian Islands was 24 Sep (1995, Ki'i), and the latest spring record for the Southeastern Islands was 13 Apr (1995, one each on O'ahu and Moloka'i; an unidentified snipe was on Midway as late as 17 Apr; see [Common Snipe](#)). There are no substantiated records of over-summering individuals; a report of a snipe at Kanaha Pond in late Jul or Aug 1878 by Finsch (1880) is unsubstantiated and could refer to a [Long-billed Dowitcher](#).

[Acronyms and Abbreviations](#)

[Literature cited](#)

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