

COMMON SANDPIPER

Actitis hypoleucos

non-breeding visitor, vagrant

monotypic

Common Sandpipers breed across temperate and boreal regions of Eurasia and winter primarily in the S Hemisphere from Africa to Australia (Dement'ev and Gladkov 1951c, Cramp and Simmons 1983, Higgins and Davies 1996). Vagrants have been recorded in w. Alaska (AOU 1998), w. Pacific island groups E to Kosrae (Wiles 2005, Pratt et al. 2010, Hayes et al. 2015), and on Wake Atoll (Rauzon et al. 2008). The status of this species in Hawaiian Islands is confused by its similarity to its American counterpart, the [Spotted Sandpiper](#); see that account and David (1991) for a summary of unidentified individuals.

The first confirmed record of Common Sandpiper in the Hawaiian Islands was of a bird that over-wintered at Whittington Park in Na'alehu, *Hawai'i I, Southeastern Hawaiian Islands*, 30 Oct 2010-8 May 2011 ([HRBP](#) 6403-6404; accepted by the [HBRC](#) in Sep 2015). During Apr-May 2011 it molted its underpart feathers but did not acquire spotting here of alternate-plumaged Spotted Sandpiper ([HRBP](#) 6401), helping to confirm the identification. As a Eurasian species, records of unidentified *Actitis* sandpipers in the *Northwestern Hawaiian Islands* could pertain to Common Sandpipers. Excluding an old record from Midway without information (David 1991) and confirmed [Spotted Sandpipers](#) at French Frigate and Nihoa, these include individuals at Kure 15 May 2000, Midway 9 Oct 1993, Laysan 31 Aug-19 Sep 1988 and 5 Nov 1997, and French Frigate 8 Sep 1991, 31 Aug 1992, and early Aug 2007. The observation on *Kure* was a bird described as lacking spots on the breast on 15 May (see above) and, in retrospect following the acceptance of the Hawai'i bird, we consider this a valid record of Common Sandpiper based on this plumage appearance on this date.

[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/rfp-monograph/>