

DUNLIN

Calidris alpina

non-breeding visitor, regular winterer

C.a. pacifica
C.a. sakhalina group

The Dunlin breeds throughout Holarctic regions and migrates as far south as C America, n. Africa, and s. China (Dement'ev and Gladkov 1951c, Cramp and Simmons 1983, AOU 1998). In the Pacific they have been recorded from throughout Micronesia (Wiles 2005), at Wake Atoll (Rauzon et al. 2008), and Australia and New Zealand (Higgins and Davies 1996). In the Hawaiian Islands they are regular winter visitors in small numbers.

There are records for a [minimum](#) 72 birds from the *Northwestern Hawaiian Islands*, from **Kure** (3 individuals, 1965-2014; e.g., USNM 496782; Woodward 1972); **Midway** (23, 1956-2016; e.g., *E* 18:3, 32:78, 44:110; USNM 493477, 496781; Clapp and Woodward 1968, P. Pyle 1984; [HRBP](#) 0365, 0610-0611, 1160, 1417, 5085-5086, published *E* 44:110); **Pearl and Hermes** (2, 1965-1976; e.g., Amerson et al. 1974, USNM 494127); **Laysan** (36, 1896-2012; e.g., Shaunisland 1899, Bailey 1956, Ely and Clapp 1973, *E* 46:156; USNM 240987, 543337); and **French Frigate** (8, 1980-2006; e.g., [HRBP](#) 1022-1025, 5085-5086, 5336; USNM 599956, BPBM 161226). Shaunisland (1899) reported the first record for the Hawaiian Islands from Laysan as "*Tringa americana*"; it is unclear whether or not he collected any specimens (Rothschild 1900). Virtually all records have occurred between Oct and Mar and most have involved apparently wintering individuals. Several returning adults to Midway in consecutive winters indicate successful annual migration to and from Arctic breeding grounds. Birds in full alternate plumage at French Frigate 15-16 May 1988 and 18-19 May 2005 ([HRBP](#) 5336) are the only confirmed records of apparent spring migrants. High counts for the Northwestern Islands have included 5 at Midway (18-19 Nov 1996) and 12 recorded on the Laysan [Christmas Count](#) 29 Dec 2001 (*AB* 56:89).

A [minimum](#) of 112 individuals have been recorded in the *Southeastern Hawaiian Islands*, from **Kaua'i** (8, 1975-2006; e.g., *E* 36:116); **O'ahu** (47, 1961-2015; e.g., *E* 22:54, 31:106; [HRBP](#) 0644, 5224-5225, 5312, 5401, 5732); **Moloka'i** (9, 1999-2015); **Maui** (26, 1963-2016; e.g., *E* 24:38, 32:55; [HRBP](#) 0949); and **Hawai'i I** (22, 1976-2013; e.g., *E* 45:74; [HRBP](#) 0353-0356). Most have been of individuals attempting to winter; about 25% recorded in fall but not subsequently could have been missed later in the season due to poor coverage (e.g., records from the 1960s and 1970s), may have translocated to other islands, or may have perished. Many individuals (e.g., 2 at Kanaha Pond and/or Kealia Pond NWR, Maui, 1985-1992 and 2-6 at Waipi'o Peninsula and the Ki'i Unit of JCNWR, O'ahu, 1982-1990) have been recorded during successive winters in the same locations, indicating successful annual migration between Hawaii and Arctic breeding grounds. Individuals in alternate plumage observed 19 Apr 1975 at Aimakapa Pond, Hawai'i (*E* 38:58) and 20 Apr 1975 at Nu'upia Ponds, Mokapu Peninsula, O'ahu (*E* 36:11) may have been spring transients (perhaps the same individual), as with another observed on Moloka'i 24 May 2007. High counts for the Southeastern Islands included 10+ birds observed at Waipi'o Peninsula 6 Jan 1976 (*E* 37:8) and 6 at Kealia 8 Feb 1977 (*E* 38:7). Numbers recorded on the Waipi'o [Christmas Count](#) have declined ([Graph](#)), probably reflecting changes in habitat on this peninsula with the draining of settling ponds. An early adult transitioning from alternate plumage was observed at Honouliuli

Unit of PHNWR 16 Aug 2006. Otherwise, the earliest fall arrival for the Hawaiian Islands was 28 Sep (1987, Aimakapa Pond, Hawai'i; 3 reported from Waipi'o on 12 Sep 1976, *E* 38:3, and one tentatively identified on Moloka'i 12 Aug 2007 are unsubstantiated) and the latest spring departure was 28 May (1968, Kure; Woodward 1972).

Six of the 7 Dunlin specimens collected in the Northwestern Islands have been identified as from the expected, small-billed, ne. Russian subspecies-group *C.a. sakhalina* (PP specimen examination; [HRBP](#) 5085-5086; *cf.* Clapp & Woodward 1968, Browning 1991, and Pyle 2008 for details of 3-4 subspecies comprising this group, individuals of which can only be identified in alternate plumage), and photographs of three other individuals on Midway in 1983-1998 (see [HRBP](#) Page) suggest this subspecies group as well. A bird present on Midway Oct 2014- Mar 2015 ([HRBP](#) 6487) as well as a first-fall female collected at French Frigate on 12 Oct 1980 (USNM 599956; [HRBP](#) 5085-5086 of specimen) have structure and plumage consistent with the larger-billed N. American *pacifica* (PP, specimen examination). Photographs of most individuals in the *Southeastern Hawaiian Islands* (see [HRBP](#) Page) are probably *pacifica* as well, the most likely subspecies to occur in the Southeastern Islands given occurrence patterns of migrants to Hawaii, although the transitional-plumaged bird from Honouliuli listed above is showing a molt pattern more typical of Eurasian subspecies. The other specimen from French Frigate (BPBM 161226), an adult male in basic plumage, cannot be identified to subspecies based on plumage or measurements (PP examination).

[Acronyms and Abbreviations](#)

[Literature cited](#)

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