

Little Stint (*Calidris minuta*) in North America and the Hawaiian Islands: a review of status and distribution

Marshall J. Iliff

246 East 16th Street, 16th St., Unit B

Costa Mesa, California 92627

(email: miliff@aol.com)

Brian L. Sullivan

PRBO Conservation Science

4990 Shoreline Highway

Stinson Beach, California 94970

ABSTRACT

This paper reviews the 91 reports of Little Stint (*Calidris minuta*) in the New World and provides information on geographical and seasonal distribution of the species in these areas, as well as information on ages of vagrants. All New World spring records of known-age individuals pertain to adults (25 April–10 June), whereas New World autumn records have involved both adults (30 June–6 September) and juveniles (6 August–21 November). Seasonal distribution of age classes is similar on both North American coasts; however, all fall Alaska records (save one) have involved juveniles. The lone South American record is from winter, but there are no definite winter records in North America; however, an interior California record from November may have pertained to a wintering attempt. Although breeding in the New World has not yet been documented, summer records from Alaska's North Slope raise the possibility of Nearctic breeding.

RESOURCES FOR FIELD IDENTIFICATION

The Little Stint (*Calidris minuta*; Figures 1–5) is one of seven small, similarly plumaged, Arctic-breeding scolopacids that are known collectively in the United States

and Canada as “peeps” and in the Old World as stints. Members of this group pose considerable field identification challenges, the most difficult of which arises among the four small, black-legged species: Semipalmated (*C. pusilla*) and Western (*C. mauri*) Sandpipers, and Little and Red-necked (*C. ruficollis*) Stints, which are similar in size, structure, and plumage. Indeed, Red-necked and Little Stints can be so similar that even some specimens have been considered unidentifiable. For instance, a second-year [SY] stint collected at the Salton Sea, Imperial County, California, 17 August 1974 (Erickson and Hamilton 2001; SDNHM #38887) was initially identified as a Red-necked Stint (McCaskie 1975), the latter identification also supported by Veit (1988). More recently, however, the individual has been considered unidentifiable by the California Bird Records Committee (C.B.R.C.) (Erickson and Hamilton 2001). Similarly, Semipalmated and Western Sandpipers are so similar in basic plumage that their respective winter ranges were only recently determined (Phillips 1975).

Wallace (1974) gave the first thorough treatment of small *Calidris*. Jonsson and Grant (1984) and Veit and Jonsson (1984) updated and expanded upon the field identification of this group; the former treats the issue from a European perspective, the latter from a New World viewpoint. Identification criteria have changed little since the early 1980s, and readers are referred to those two excellent sources. Other thorough treatments of the field identification of small *Calidris* are found in illustrated field guides by Jonsson (1993), Mullarney et al. (1999), and Sibley (2000).

DISTRIBUTION AND VAGRANCY

Little Stint is a long-distance migrant breeding in the High Arctic across the northern Palearctic and wintering primarily in Africa and India. The world population is estimated at 1,434,000 (del Hoyo et al. 1996).

From June to August, breeding occurs between northern Scandinavia through north-central Siberia in tundra and taiga habitats (del Hoyo et al. 1996, A.O.U. 1998); breeding has also occasionally been documented on the Chukotskiy Peninsula in eastern Siberia (Gibson and Kessel 1992). Little Stint winters throughout Africa and the Mediterranean and east through the Arabian Peninsula and the Persian Gulf, to India and Myanmar, in a wide variety of wetland habitats (del Hoyo et al. 1996, Zimmerman et al. 1996, A.O.U. 1998, Grimmett et al. 1999). It winters only rarely in the United Kingdom and southeastern Madagascar (del Hoyo et al. 1996).

Little Stint migrates widely through Europe and western Asia, typically moving southward to southwestward from its Arctic breeding grounds. Recently, it has been found to occur rarely but regularly in Thailand (J. L. Dunn, pers. comm.) and Hong Kong (in spring only; Carey et al. 2001). Vagrants have been documented in the Cape Verde Islands, Iceland, the Faroes, Spitsbergen, Bear Island, Japan, Brunei, Papua New Guinea, and Australia (Hayman et al. 1986, Brazil 1991); there are no documented records from Greenland (Boertmann 1994). Fall migration takes place from July through November, and spring migration occurs from April to early June (Hayman et al. 1986). Juveniles begin their migration in August, later than the passage of most adults, which peaks during July and early August (Hayman et al. 1986). Some juveniles remain on wintering grounds throughout the first year (del Hoyo et al. 1996).

Since 1975, Little Stint has been found with increasing regularity as a vagrant in the New World, primarily in Alaska. Herein we consider 91 records through 15 August 2004 (Table 1, on pages 322–323) and review patterns of seasonal distribution in several geographic regions. Included in Table 1 are all records reviewed and accepted by appropriate state and provincial records committees.

as well as several unreviewed and pending records. An unsubstantiated report from Antigua on 16 November 1975 (Holland and Williams 1978) is not included here, nor is a subsequent report from Antigua on 23 July 1976 (Morrison 1980); to our knowledge, neither individual was documented. Although some reports excluded from Table 1 may well pertain to correctly identified Little Stints, at least 23 reports of the species have been reviewed and *not* accepted by state and provincial records committees: Nova Scotia (1); Connecticut (2); Pennsylvania (1); Delaware (3); New Jersey (3); Maryland (1); California (11). Of California's 18 reports, the C.B.R.C. has accepted only seven, all of which are supported by photographs or a specimen. (Note that one report included in Table 1 was reviewed and rejected by the C.B.R.C.; we have independently reviewed the written documentation and consider the report acceptable.)

All New World records pertain to single birds, with the exception of two Alaska records: one to two juveniles at St. Matthew Island in August 1986; and two to three juveniles at Attu Island in September 1983. Thirty-seven per cent of the New World records come from Alaska, with most of the remainder split between the East Coast (Newfoundland to North Carolina; 24%) and the West Coast (British Columbia to Baja California; 20%). There are four records from Barbados, three records from the Hawaiian Islands, two records each from Ontario and inland California, and single records from the Yukon

Territory, North Dakota, Bermuda, Montserrat, and South Georgia Island. In Canada and the Lower 48 States, California has the most records with eight, British Columbia has seven, followed by Massachusetts (six), Oregon (four), New York (four), New Jersey (three), and Delaware (three). Almost all records have come from well-known coastal shorebird staging areas that are systematically covered by birders seeking unusual shorebirds during migration (e.g., Monomoy Island, Massachusetts; Jamaica Bay Refuge, New York; Bombay Hook National Wildlife Refuge and Little Creek Wildlife

Area, Delaware; San Joaquin Marsh, Moss Landing, and Bolinas, California; and Iona Sewage Ponds, Vancouver, British Columbia). Although most Little Stint records



Figure 1. Little Stint, Estero Punta Banda, Baja California, Mexico, 22 October 2002. Side profile showing straight bill structure, bold head pattern, scapulars, tertials, and upperwing covert patterns. All photographs by Brian L. Sullivan.

(92%) are from coastal sites and oceanic islands, a few inland occurrences—in Ontario, California, the Yukon, Washington, and North Dakota—have been documented. Overall, New World records span the dates 25 April to 21 November, with most occurring during peak spring (May–June) or fall (July–September) shorebird migration periods (Figures 6, 7, 8).

Alaska's 34 Little Stint records (of 37 birds) have all come from islands or peninsulas, most of them well-known locations

Lawrence (four records each), and Attu and Shemya (two records each), account for nearly all Alaska records. In Alaska, spring migrant Little Stints (12 records) have occurred from 19 May to 28 June and have invariably involved alternate-plumaged adults (Figure 6). Spring records have been from St. Lawrence Island (four records), the Aleutians (three records), the Pribilofs (one record), Barrow (four records), and Prudhoe Bay (one record). Notably, the records at Barrow and Prudhoe Bay have fallen in the period from mid- to late June, and the most recent, present from 10 June through 23 June 2002, involved an adult that was at times engaged in courtship display flights (B. R. Zimmer, pers. comm.). Fall migrants (22 records) have occurred between 6 August and 10 September (Figure 6); twenty-one out of twenty-two fall records classified to age in Alaska have been juveniles. In contrast to records elsewhere in the New World, Alaska has just a single record of a fall migrant adult, which explains the lack of records from July (Figure 6). Fall records have come from the Aleutians (six records) and remote St. Matthew Island (one record), but the Pribilofs have hosted the majority of fall records (14 records).

Along the Pacific Coast of North America, there is but one spring record, of an adult in British Columbia (Table 1). Records of fall migrant adults have occurred 9 July–6 September (ten records), with seven in the window 9–28 July. Nine juveniles have been found 10 August–30 October. Records of juveniles are most concentrated in mid-September, with six of 10 records falling between 4 and 22 September. Juvenile outliers include the 10–11 August 1995 record in Clatsop County, Oregon, fully



Figure 2. Juvenile Little Stint, Estero Punta Banda, Baja California, Mexico, 22 October 2002. Feeding posture emphasizing long, straight bill, pale mantle braces, flared tertials, and long rear-ended look.

for viewing migrants and vagrants from Siberia (and the New World). In the Bering Sea, offshore islands such as St. Paul (11 records), St. George, Buldir, and St.

three weeks before the next record of a New World juvenile away from Alaska, and the three mid-October records (Table 1).

Along the Atlantic Coast of North America, there are only two spring records, both of which pertain to alternate-plumaged adults (Table 1). An alternate-plumaged adult at Monomoy, Massachusetts 19–25 June 1980 was anomalous, essentially spanning the end of typical spring migration and the beginning of fall migration. There are 16 records of fall migrant adults 30 June–19 August, and 11 of those records fall in the three-week window of 16 July–5 August (Figure 8). There are just three East Coast records of juveniles, all of which have occurred well after the latest record of an adult (Table 1).

In the North American interior, there are four records of fall migrant adults 4 July–20 August (Table 1). The southern Ontario record is from an area containing small concentrations of migrant shorebirds, whereas the northern Ontario record was in a small puddle with only a few other shorebirds present. The North Dakota adult was found at sewage ponds. Two exceptional records from interior California at the Salton Sea and Harper Dry Lake are of a spring migrant adult and a juvenile, respectively (Table 1); the latter, collected in late November, may have been attempting to winter. A final record of a spring adult comes from the Yukon Territory.

Ten additional records of single birds come from mid-oceanic islands in the North Pacific (Kure Atoll; Oahu), North Atlantic/Caribbean (Bermuda; Barbados; Montserrat), and South Atlantic (South Georgia Island). The seven Atlantic records include a migrant adult on Bermuda in June, an August adult from Montserrat, and four May records from Barbados. A specimen record from Bird Island, South Georgia (a Southern Atlantic island group claimed by Argentina and the United Kingdom) on 31 Dec 1977 is unique: not only is it the only South American record and only winter record in the New World, but it was also reported as being in alternate plumage (Hayman et al. 1986). The Hawaiian records involve two records of fall juveniles 14 September–10 October and a single spring adult (Table 1).

EXTRALIMITAL DISTRIBUTION AND POSSIBLE VECTORS OF VAGRANCY

Difficulties in identifying Little

Stint have hindered understanding of its New World distribution, but looking for stints in summer has steadily gained in popularity, even featuring in mass-media stories (Tussig 2003). Excepting a 1961 specimen discovered after the fact (Gibson and Kessel



Figure 3. Juvenile Little Stint, Estero Punta Banda, Baja California, Mexico, 22 October 2002. When viewed head-on, the pattern of the split supercilium became striking, as did the bold dark central crown, clean white throat and lower malar region. The dusky grayish wash across the upper breast was also evident in this posture.

1992), the first record was documented in 1975 (Pellow 1976), with six records following in the 1970s, 48 in the 1980s, 19 in the 1990s, and 16 between 16 July 2000 and 10 August 2004. This species has been found nearly annually since 1979, which suggests that it has probably occurred regularly in very low numbers in the New World and only began to be detected as coverage increased and our knowledge of field identification of small shorebirds improved, particularly following three seminal articles on



Figure 4. Juvenile Little Stint, Estero Punta Banda, Baja California, Mexico, 22 October 2002. Side view accentuating the rufous spotting of the upper breast sides, dark auriculars, rufous patch on the rear crown, and pale hind neck.

the topic (Wallace 1974, Jonsson and Grant 1984, Veit and Jonsson 1984). Despite the advances in field identification of this group, many Little Stints must continue to pass unnoticed among large flocks of migrating peeps along both coasts and probably through the interior as well. Basic-plumaged birds from August through April would be exceptionally difficult to detect, and it is not surprising that there is but one record of such a bird in the New World (Table 1). Still, the regularity with which the species is detected in fall migration along both coasts suggests that a few individuals probably winter in the New World; however, the South Georgia Island specimen is the only such evidence to date. The records of spring migrants further support this suspicion, especially the 18 May 1991 record from the Salton Sea, a most unlikely location for a newly arrived vagrant from the Old World.

Detection biases certainly influence the numbers and composition of records from different parts of the New World. Remote oceanic islands, such as Hawaii, where no small black-legged peeps are regular, are known for their records of remarkable long-distance vagrants, and the lack of a well-defined pattern suggests that vagrant Little Stints are genuinely rare there. In Alaska, where Red-necked Stint is regular, some breeding-plumaged adult Little Stints may be passed off as Red-necked Stints in spring and summer by unwary observers. Similarly in fall, juvenile Red-necked Stints are regular on some western Alaska islands, and juvenile Little Stints can easily be overlooked among Red-necked Stints. Away from Alaska, any bright-plumaged adult peep is an occasion for study, so careful observers are unlikely to pass over an adult Little Stint in spring or summer. Interest-

ingly, adult Little Stints have been detected almost twice as often in East Coast states (19 records) as in West Coast states (12 records), whereas records of juveniles have predominated in West Coast states, where there are ten records compared to just three in the East. The disparity between the coasts may be a product of the molt timing of the more common *Calidris*, as hatching-year Western Sandpipers begin their post-juvinal molt on migration in August, much earlier than either Semipalmated or Little Stint, both of which typically molt on their wintering

grounds and thus are in juvenal plumage through October (Veit and Jonsson 1984). Due to those differences in molt timing, a juvenile Little Stint among Western Sandpipers on the West Coast in mid-September might stand out as the only individual still in juvenal plumage (as at Estero Punta Banda; Figures 1–5), whereas on the East Coast, such a bird might be surrounded by hundreds of juvenal-plumaged Semipalmated Sandpipers. On the other hand, the difference in detection may simply be owing to the greater effort to scrutinize juvenile peeps on the West Coast, where Semipalmated is actively sought by birders each season.

Four theories of avian vagrancy in Arctic-nesting shorebirds may in part

account for appearances of Little Stint in North America. Among these, “reverse” migration, a hypothetical form of misorientation in which north and south bearings are reversed, and “mirror” migration, in which east and west are reversed (DeSante 1983), could together account for most reports of the species south of Alaska.

Vinicombe and Cottridge (1996) review avian vagrancy in Britain and stress the significance of 180° “reversed migration” over the North Pole in bringing some juvenile shorebirds to Britain—e.g., Pacific Golden-Plover (*Pluvialis fulva*), Gray-tailed Tattler (*Heteroscelus brevipes*), and Red-necked Stint. While this model appears to have some explanatory power in the case of juveniles, and could surely account for juvenile Little Stints in North America, it is not clear that reverse-migrants over the pole would be able to maintain normal migration cycles—and thus it is problematic to apply such a theory to the many adult Little Stints noted in North America in fall. (Misorientation in birds that breed at high latitudes need not be a product of physical deficiencies: a bird caught up in a storm while migrating might surely become misoriented in near-polar regions, where magnetic indications of north and south are weak.) On the other hand, “mirror” migration would direct fall migrant Little Stints in the Palearctic southeastward instead of southwestward, or vice-versa, for instance thus presumably allowing birds to return to their nesting grounds, and successful repetitions of this “flawed” migratory route could better account for the appearance of some adult Little Stints in North America. The fact that Red-necked Stint is a genuine rar-

ity in the United Kingdom (Lewington et al. 1991, Vinicombe and Cottridge 1996) is of interest: records of Red-necked on the U. S. East Coast are similar in number to those of Little Stint (Escott 1995), and this parity, in



Figure 5. Juvenile Little Stint, Estero Punta Banda, Baja California, Mexico, 22 October 2002. During active feeding, the bird looked rather slim overall, long-necked and long-winged.

light of the few western European records of Red-necked, would appear to support the notion, as do the interior North American records, that stints on the East Coast in fall arrive from a northwesterly direction.

The May records from Barbados and the spring East Coast records suggest a third explanatory model, that of displacement or disorientation over the ocean, followed by northward reorientation in North America. This scenario was described by Eisenmann (1960) to explain the occurrence of Eurasian shorebirds such as Ruff (*Philomachus pugnax*) and Curlew Sandpiper (*C. ferruginea*) in the New World (see also Wilson 2001). In the case of Little Stints, perhaps individuals possessing normal migratory orientation are occasionally displaced westward of their spring migration routes (from Africa northward and northeastward into Europe and western Eurasia) by weather events, and these displaced birds over the Atlantic Ocean eventually fly downwind in the east-northeasterly trade winds at about 15° N latitude. First landfall for such a bird might be on the Windward Islands of the Lesser Antilles and especially Barbados, which lies some 150 km to the east of the nearest Windward Islands. Other migratory Palearctic species that winter in Africa in fall—including Garganey (*Anas querquedula*), Cattle Egret (*Bubulcus ibis*), Little Egret (*Egretta garzetta*), and Gray Heron (*Ardea cinerea*)—have shown such patterns of occurrence (Ebels 2002). Once in the western North Atlantic region, these birds might then engage in northward migration toward the North American Atlantic coast.

Finally, the 34 Alaska records are most

easily explained in two ways: the spring records of adults would seem to be the product of breeders “overshooting” the Siberian breeding grounds, whereas the autumn records of juveniles would seem more likely to involve “reverse” migration over or near the pole.

Thirteen Alaska records are from spring or summer, whereas twenty-one are from the “fall” migration window; thus it seems safe to say that Little Stint is a more common fall than spring vagrant there. Visiting birders to westernmost Alaska (including the Aleutians and Pribilofs) have tended to be much more numerous in spring and early summer than fall, thus apparently supporting the seasonal disparity in Little Stint occurrence there. Apart from the four Barrow/Prudhoe Bay records, all Alaska records are from island outposts, most of which have had better coverage by visiting birders during spring than in fall, with

few receiving uniform coverage through both seasons. One recent exception is St. Paul Island, in the Pribilofs, which recently has had active birders present from early May through late August, a period that encompasses almost all Alaska records of Little Stint. Despite the good coverage through these months, some 14 of the 16 Pribilof records have been of fall juveniles, while just one is of an adult in spring (Table 1). Thus fall juvenile Little Stints would seem to occur in Alaska far more frequently than do adults in spring, a pattern similar to that shown by Sharp-tailed Sandpiper, for which there are few spring records (12 May–11 June) but large numbers, occasionally including flocks of over 100 birds, in fall (Mlodinow 2001). The reduced coverage of island outposts in fall and the difficulty of separating juvenile Little Stints from Red-necked Stints conceivably continues to obscure the relative abundance of Little Stints in the Bering Sea region in fall.

The three records of Little Stint from Barrow and the one from Prudhoe Bay come from mid- to late June, later than all other records of spring migrants in the New World. The 2002 sight record of an individual engaged in courtship flight displays suggests that this species may be nesting in the New World. Little Stint has bred as close to Alaska as the Chukotskiy Peninsula in extreme eastern Siberia and should be watched for as a breeding species on the North Slope at Barrow and Prudhoe Bay, and, perhaps, Nome.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The authors would like to thank George L. Armistead, Gavin Beiber, Don Cecile,

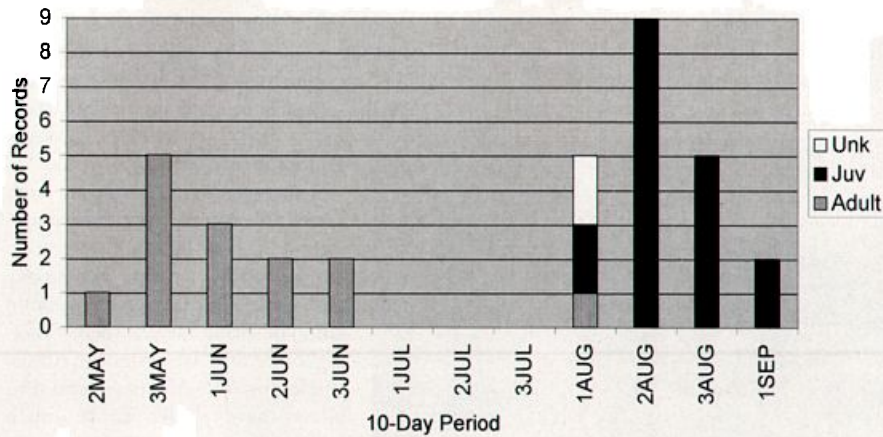


Figure 6. Seasonal distribution by age class of Little Stints in Alaska. Records were placed in each 10-day period based on the date of initial detection.

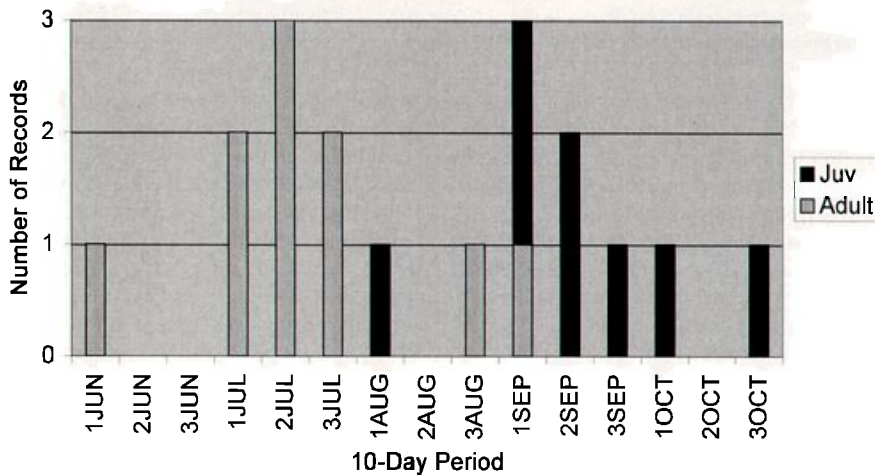


Figure 7. Seasonal distribution by age class of Little Stints on the New World West Coast. Records were placed in each 10-day period based on the date of initial detection.

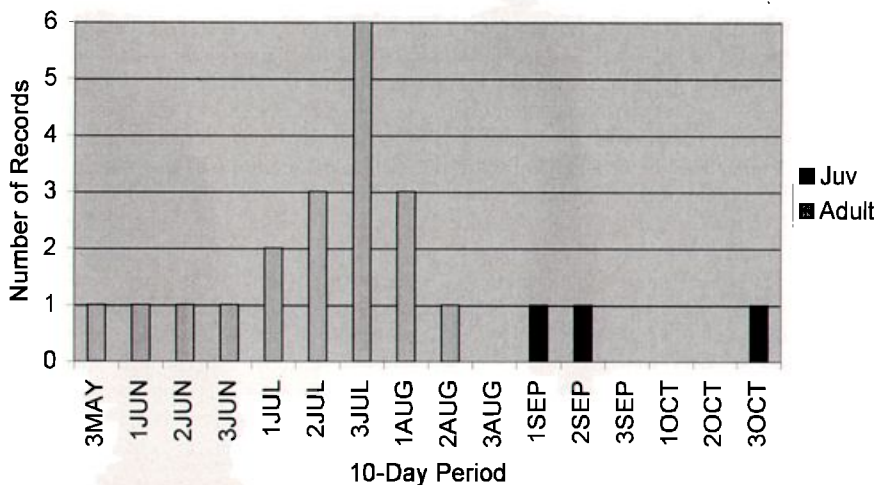


Figure 8. Seasonal distribution by age class of Little Stints on the New World East Coast. Records were placed in each 10-day period based on the date of initial detection.

Peter Donaldson, Richard A. Erickson, Martin Frost, Steve Heintz, Robb S. A. Kaler, Rick Knight, Paul E. Lehman, Edward B. Massiah, Steve G. Mlodinow, Robert L. Norton, Robert L. Pyle, and Frank Rohrbacher for providing assistance with assembling records. Richard A. Erickson, Robb S. A. Kaler, Nils Warnock, and Alvaro Jaramillo reviewed earlier drafts of this article and greatly improved it.

LITERATURE CITED

American Ornithologists' Union [A.O.U.]. 1998. *Check-list of North American Birds*. Seventh edition. American Ornithologists' Union, Washington, D.C.

Boertmann, D. 1994. A[n] annotated check-list to the birds of Greenland. *Bioscience* 38: 1-63.

Brazil, M. A. 1991. *The Birds of Japan*. Smithsonian Institution Press, Washington, D. C.

Byrd, G. V., and R. H. Day. 1986. The avifauna of Buldir Island, Aleutian Islands Alaska. *Arctic* 39: 109-118.

Campbell, R. W., N. K. Dawe, I. McTaggart-Cowan, J. M. Cooper, G. W. Kaiser, A. C. Stewart, and M. C. E. McNall. 1990. *The Birds of British Columbia*. Volume 2. University of British Columbia Press, Vancouver, British Columbia.

del Hoyo, J., A. Elliot, and J. Sargatal, eds. 1996. *Handbook of the Birds of the World Hoatzin to Auks*. Lynx Edicions Barcelona, Spain.

DeSante, D. F. 1983. Vagrants: when orientation or navigation goes wrong. *Point Reyes Bird Observatory Newsletter* 61: 12-16.

Di Labio, B. 1992. Little Stint: Ontario's second record. *Birders Journal* 1: 292-294.

Dunn, J. L. 1988. Tenth report of the California Bird Records Committee. *Western Birds* 19: 129-163.

Ebels, E. B. 2002. Transatlantic vagrancy of Palearctic species to the Caribbean. *Dutch Birding* 24: 202-209.

Eckert, C. D., and P. H. Sinclair. 1997. Little Stint a Yukon first at Judas Creek. *Birders Journal* 6: 183-185.

Eisenmann, E. 1960. Palearctic waders in eastern North America. *British Birds* 53: 136-140.

Ellison, W. G., and N. L. Martin. 2004. The fall migration: New England region. *North American Birds* 58: 36-41.

Erickson, R. A., R. A. Hamilton, E. Palacios, and R. Carmona. 2003. The fall migration: Baja California Peninsula region. *North American Birds* 57: 120-122.

Erickson, R. A., and R. A. Hamilton. 2001. Report of the California Records Committee: 1998 records. *Western Birds* 32: 13-49.

Escott, C. J. 1995. Extralimital occurrence

- of Rufous-necked Stint *Calidris ruficollis* in North America. *Birders Journal* 4: 132–138.
- Forster, R. A. 1988. The autumn migration: Northeastern Maritime region. *American Birds* 42: 231–238.
- Gibson, D. D. 1981. Migrant birds at She-myia Island, Aleutian Islands, Alaska. *Condor* 83: 65–77.
- Gibson, D. D., and B. Kessel. 1992. Seventy-four new avian taxa documented in Alaska 1976–1991. *Condor* 94: 454–467.
- Gilligan, J., M. Smith, D. Rogers, and A. Contreras. 1994. *Birds of Oregon*. Cinclus Publications, McMinnville, Oregon.
- Godfrey, W. E. 1986. *The Birds of Canada*. National Museums of Canada, Ottawa.
- Gordon, J. 1997. Delaware Records Committee annual report for 1997. *Delmarva Ornithologist* 29: 25–35.
- Grimmett, R., C. Inskipp, and T. Inskipp. 1999. *A Guide to the Birds of India, Pakistan, Nepal, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Sri Lanka, and the Maldives*. Princeton University Press, Princeton, New Jersey.
- Hayman, P., J. Marchant, and T. Prater. 1986. *Shorebirds: an identification guide to the waders of the world*. Houghton Mifflin, Boston.
- Heindel, M. T., and K. L. Garrett. 1995. Sixteenth annual report of the California Bird Records Committee. *Western Birds* 26: 1–33.
- Heindel, M. T., and M. A. Patten. 1996. Eighteenth annual report of the California Bird Records Committee: 1992 records. *Western Birds* 27: 1–29.
- Hess, G. K., R. L. West, M. V. Barnhill, and L. M. Fleming. 2000. *Birds of Delaware*. University of Pittsburgh Press, Pittsburgh.
- Holder, M. 1995. Cross Canada Round-up. *Birders Journal* 4: 211.
- Holland, C. S., and J. M. Williams. 1978. Observations on the birds of Antigua. *American Birds* 32: 1095–1105.
- Howell, S. N. G., and P. Pyle. 1997. Twentieth report of the California Bird Records Committee: 1994 records. *Western Birds* 28: 117–141.
- Jonsson, L. 1993. *Birds of Europe, with North Africa and the Middle East*. Princeton University Press, Princeton, New Jersey.
- Jonsson, L., and P. J. Grant. 1984. Identification of stints and peeps. *British Birds* 77: 293–315.
- Levine, E. (ed.). 1998. *Bull's Birds of New York State*. Cornell University Press, Ithaca, New York.
- Lewington, I., P. Alström, and P. Colston. 1991. *A Field guide to the rare birds of Britain and Europe*. Harper Collins, London.
- Mactavish, B. 1989. The autumn migration: Atlantic Provinces region. *American Birds* 43: 55–59.
- Martin, R. The nesting season: Northern Great Plains region. *North American Birds* 57: 508–509.
- Mazar Barnett, J., and M. Pearman. 2001. *Annotated checklist of the birds of Argentina*. Lynx, Barcelona.
- McCaskie, G. 1975. A Rufous-necked Sandpiper in southern California. *Western Birds* 6: 111–113.
- McCaskie, G., and K. Garrett. 2003. The fall migration: Southern Pacific Coast region. *North American Birds* 57: 116–119.
- Mlodinow, S. G. 2001. Possible anywhere: Sharp-tailed Sandpiper. *Birding* 33: 330–341.
- Mlodinow, S., and M. O'Brien. 1996. *America's 100 Most Wanted Birds*. Falcon, Helena, Montana.
- Mlodinow, S. G., and B. Tweit. 2002. The fall migration: Oregon–Washington region. *North American Birds* 56: 476–480.
- Morrison, R. I. G. 1980. First specimen record of the Little Stint (*Calidris minuta*) for North America. *Auk* 97: 627–628.
- Mullarney, K., L. Svensson, D. Zetterström, and P. J. Grant. 1999. *Birds of Europe*. Princeton University Press, Princeton, New Jersey.
- Myers, J. P., and R. S. Greenburg. 1978. Photographic record of the Little Stint (*Calidris minuta*) for mainland North America. *Condor* 80: 451–452.
- Nikula, B. 1980. Observation of a Little Stint (*Calidris minuta*) in Massachusetts. *Birds Observer of Eastern Massachusetts* 8: 95–101.
- Norton, R. L., A. White, and A. Dobson. 2004. The fall migration: West Indies & Bermuda region. *North American Birds* 58: 158–161.
- Patten, M. A., S. E. Finnegan, P. E., and Lehman. 1995. Seventeenth report of the California Bird Records Committee: 1991 records. *Western Birds* 26: 113–143.
- Paxton, R. O., W. J. Boyle, Jr., and D. A. Cutler. 1985. The nesting season: Hudson–Delaware region. *American Birds* 39: 890–894.
- Paxton, R. O., J. C. Burgiel, and D. A. Cutler. 1999. The nesting season: Hudson–Delaware region. *North American Birds* 53: 367–370.
- Paxton, R. O., J. C. Burgiel, D. A. Cutler, S. Kelling, and R. R. Veit. 2004. The nesting season: Hudson–Delaware region. *North American Birds* 57: 470–474.
- Pellow, K. 1976. A Little Stint in Bermuda. *American Birds* 30: 918.
- Peterjohn, B., and P. Davis. 1996. First report of the Maryland/DC Records Committee. *Maryland Birdlife* 52: 3–43.
- Petersen, W. R. 1985. A second record of Little Stint (*Calidris minuta*) in Massachusetts. *Bird Observer of Eastern Massachusetts* 13: 278–280.
- Phillips, A. R. 1975. Semipalmated Sandpiper: identification, migrations, summer and winter ranges. *American Birds* 29: 799–806.
- Prince, P. A., and J. P. Croxall. 1996. The birds of South Georgia. *Bulletin of the British Ornithologists' Club* 116: 81–103.
- Pyle, P. B., P. V. Donaldson, R. David, and R. L. Pyle. 1988. The status of small *Calidris* sandpipers in the Hawaiian Islands, documentation of the three first records for the state. *'Elepaio* 48: 71–77.
- Roberson, D. 1986. Ninth report of the California Bird Records Committee. *Western Birds* 17: 49–77.
- Rowlett, R. A. 1980. Little Stint (*Calidris minuta*) in Delaware. *American Birds* 34: 850–851.
- Sibley, D. A. 2000. *The Sibley Guide to Birds*. Knopf, New York.
- Tobish, T. 2002. The fall migration: Alaska region. *North American Birds* 56: 89–92.
- . 2003. The fall migration: Alaska region. *North American Birds* 57: 102–104.
- . 2004. The fall migration: Alaska region. *North American Birds* 58: 125–128.
- Tobish, T. G. Jr., and M. W. Isleib. 1991. The autumn migration: Alaska region. *American Birds* 45: 139–142.
- Tussig, J. 2003. Going to the birds. *The Boston Globe Magazine* 23 November: 16–18, 40–43.
- Tweit, B., and J. Gilligan. 1996. The fall migration: Oregon/Washington region. *Field Notes* 51: 105–109.
- Veit, R. R. 1988. Identification of the Salton Sea Rufous-necked Sandpiper. *Western Birds* 19: 165–169.
- Veit, R. R., and W. R. Petersen. 1993. *Birds of Massachusetts*. Massachusetts Audubon Society, Lincoln, Massachusetts.
- Veit, R. R., and L. Jonsson. 1984. Field identification of smaller sandpipers within the genus *Calidris*. *American Birds* 38: 853–876.
- Vinicombe, K. and D.M. Cottridge. 1996. *Rare Birds in Britain and Ireland: a photographic record*. Harper Collins, London.
- Wallace, D. I. M. 1974. Field identification of small species within the genus *Calidris*. *British Birds* 67: 1–17.
- Wilson, A. 2001. The status and origins of Curlew Sandpipers in New York State. *Kingbird* 51: 460–477.
- , ed. 2002. Report of the New York State Avian Records Committee for 2000. *Kingbird* 52: 291–320.
- Zimmerman, D. A., D. A. Turner, and D. J. Pearson. 1996. *Birds of Kenya and Northern Tanzania*. Princeton University Press, Princeton, New Jersey. 🐦

Table 1. All New World and Hawaiian records of Little Stint through 15 August 2004 by geographic region.

ALASKA

Age	No.	Date	Location	Status	Reference	Comments
1	J	1	6 Aug 1961		Gibson and Kessel 1992	*USNM 476187, male
2	J	1	13 Aug 1975		Byrd and Day 1986	*UAM 3422
3	J	1	18 Aug 1975		Byrd and Day 1987	*UAM 3423
4	A	1	28 Jun 1976	p	Myers and Greenburg 1978	
5	A	1	8 Jun 1980	*	Gibson and Kessel 1992	*UAM 3753, male
6	A	1	23 Jun 1980	*	Gibson and Kessel 1992	*UAM 3762, female
7	J	1	20-21 Aug 1981	p	Gibson and Kessel 1992	
8	J	1	24 Aug 1981	p*	Gibson and Kessel 1992	*UAM 4132, male
9	A	1	31 May-1 Jun 1983	p	Gibson and Kessel 1992	with Red-necked Stint
10	J	2-3	5-10 Sep 1983	p	Gibson and Kessel 1992	
11	A	1	31 May 1984		Gibson and Kessel 1992	
12	J	1	10 Aug 1986		Gibson and Kessel 1992	
13	J	1	11 Aug 1986		Gibson and Kessel 1992	
14	J	1	14 Aug 1986		Gibson and Kessel 1992	
15	J	1	15 Aug 1986		Gibson and Kessel 1992	
16	J	1-2	16-21 Aug 1986		Gibson and Kessel 1992	
17	J	1	18 Aug 1986		Gibson and Kessel 1992	
18	J	1	24-25 Aug 1986		Gibson and Kessel 1992	
19	A	1	22 May 1987	p	Gibson and Kessel 1992	
20	A	1	10 Jun 1987	p	Gibson and Kessel 1992	
21	A	1	31 May-2 Jun 1988	p	Gibson and Kessel 1992	
22	A	1	19 May 1989		Gibson and Kessel 1992	
23	J	1	25-27 Aug 1989		Gibson and Kessel 1992	with juvenile Red-necked Stints
24	J	1	28 Aug 1989		Gibson and Kessel 1992	
25	U	1	9 Aug 1990		Tobish and Isleib 1991	I. L. Jones, no details
26	A	1	22-26 May 1991	p	Gibson and Kessel 1992	
27	A	1	19 Jun 1991	p	N. Warnock, pers. comm.	
28	U	1	7-8 Aug 1996		Gibson and Kessel 1992	
29	A	1	16 Jun 2001	P	A. Jamarillo, pers. comm.	dull adult
30	J	1	17-19 Aug 2001	p	Tobish 2002	
31	A	1	10-23 Jun 2002		B. R. Zimmer, pers. comm.	giving flight display
32	J	1	21-24 Aug 2002	a	Tobish 2003	
33	J	1	9 Sep 2002	*	Tobish 2003	
34	A	1	8-9 Aug 2003	p	Tobish 2004, G. Beiber pers. comm.	

WEST COAST

Age	No.	Date	Location	Status	Reference	Comments
1	A	1	Iona Sewage Ponds, Vancouver, BC	A	Di Labio 1992	
2	J	1	Bolinas, Marin Co., CA	P	Roberson 1986	
3	J	1	Tillamook Bay, Bayocean Spit, Tillamook Co., OR	P	Gilligan et al. 1994	
4	J	1	Moss Landing, Monterey Co., CA	P	Dunn 1988	ph. in Dunn 1988
5	J	1	Bandon Marsh, Coos Co., OR	P	Gilligan et al. 1994	
6	A	1	Upper Newport Bay, Orange Co., CA	a	Heindel and Garrett 1995	Not accepted by California B.R.C.; we consider details diagnostic
7	A	1	112th Street, Vancouver, BC	A	Campbell et al. 1990	
8	A	1	Esquimalt Lagoon, Colwood, BC	P	D. Cecile, pers. comm.	
9	A	1	Iona Sewage Ponds, Vancouver, BC	P	Di Labio 1992	
10	A	1	San Joaquin Marsh, Orange Co., CA	P	Heindel and Patten 1996	cf. <i>American Birds</i> 46: 1196
11	J	1	Bolinas, Marin Co., CA	P	Howell and Pyle 1997	
12	J	1	S. Jetty, Columbia R., Clatsop Co., OR	P	Tweit and Gilligan 1996	
13	A	1	Iona Sewage Ponds, Vancouver, BC	A	Holder 1995	molting
14	A	1	Rocky Pt. Banding Observatory, Matchosin, BC		D. Cecile, pers. comm.	
15	J	1	Iona Sewage Ponds and Iona South Jetty, Vancouver, BC	A	D. Cecile, pers. comm.	
16	A	1	Coos Bay North Spit, Coos Co., OR	P	Mlodinow and Tweit 2002	
17	A	1	Los Angeles R. mouth, Los Angeles Co., CA	P	McCaskie and Garrett 2002	fading alternate
18	J	1	Estero Punta Banda, Baja California, Mexico	p	Erickson et al. 2002	ph. in <i>North American Birds</i> 57: 144

EAST COAST

Age	No.	Date	Location	Status	Reference	Comments
1	A	1	23 May 1979	p	Rowlett 1980	not yet reviewed by B.R.C.
2	A	1	19-25 Jun 1980	P	Nikula 1980	with Red-necked Stint
3	A	1	30 Jun-4 Jul 1980	P	Godfrey 1986	
4	A	1	24-30 Jul 1982		Hess et al. 2000	not yet reviewed by B.R.C.
5	A	1	17-22 Jul 1983	P	Levine 1998	
6	J	1	23-25 Oct 1983	P	Godfrey 1986	ph. in <i>American Birds</i> 38: 176
7	A	1	5 Jun 1984		Levine 1998	not yet reviewed
8	A	1	22-24 Jul 1985	A	Paxton et al. 1985	fading alternate
9	A	1	25 Jul-5 Aug 1985	P	Petersen et al. 1985	
10	A	1	6-14 Aug 1986	P	Veit and Petersen 1993	molting (bright but fading)
11	A	1	28 Jul-8 Aug 1987		Forster 1988	
12	J	1	2 Sep 1987	A	Levine 1998	
13	J	1	20 Sep 1987	A	Peterjohn and Davis 1996	
14	A	1	3 Aug 1988	A	Mactavish 1989	convincingly described
15	A	1	22-25 Jul 1989	P	Mlodinow and O'Brien 1996	slightly worn
16	A	1	19 Aug 1989	A	Veit and Petersen 1993	not yet reviewed by B.R.C.
17	A	1	28 Jul-5 Aug 1990	A	Veit and Petersen 1993	
18	A	1	7 Jul 1996	A	Gordon 1997	
19	A	1	11-18 Jul 1999	P	Paxton et al. 1999	fading alternate, ph. in <i>North American Birds</i> 53: 460
20	A	1	16 Jul 2000	P	Wilson et al. 2002	fading alternate
21	A	1	9-10 Jul 2003	p	Paxton et al. 2004	
22	A	1	7-11 Aug 2003	P	Ellison and Martin 2004	molting; ph. in <i>North American Birds</i> 58: 172

INTERIOR NORTH AMERICA

Age	No.	Date	Location	Status	Reference	Comments
1	A	1	10 Jul 1979	P*	Morrison 1980	NMNS #68651 (Ottawa), male
2	J	1	21 Nov 1988	P*	Heindel and Garrett 1995	SBCM #52766
3	A	1	18 May 1991	P	Patten et al. 1995	
4	A	1	25 Jul 1992	P	Di Labio 1992	
5	A	1	19 May 1997	P	Eckert and Sinclair 1997	
6	A	1	4-5 Jul 2003	p	Martin 2004	ph. in <i>North American Birds</i> 57: 574
7	A	1	5-13 Aug 2004	p	vide B. and N. LaFramboise	

OCEANIC ISLANDS

Age	No.	Date	Location	Status	Reference	Comments
1	A	1	8-11 Jun 1975	p	Pellow 1976	
2	J	1	26 Sep-10 Oct 1983	P	Pyle et al. 1988	
3	J	1	14-25 Sep 1985	P	Pyle et al. 1988	
4	A	1	25 Apr-2 May 1987	P	Pyle et al. 1988	transitional plumage
5	A	1	1-6 May 1997	p	E. Massiah, pers. comm.	
6	A	1	11 May 1997	a	E. Massiah, pers. comm.	
7	A	1	16 May 1999	p	E. Massiah, pers. comm.	
8	A	1	3 May 2002	a	E. Massiah, pers. comm.	
9	A	1	17 Aug 2003	p	Norton et al. 2004	
10	A	1	31 Dec 1977	*	Mazar Barnett and Pearman 2001, Prince and Croxall 1996	female; date incorrectly reported as 29 Dec in Prince and Croxall 1996

Age Codes

A = Adult, J = Juvenile, U = Unknown

Status Codes

P = accepted by Bird Records Committee (B.R.C.) with photographs

p = identifiably photographed

A = accepted by B.R.C. based on written details

a = acceptable based on descriptive details

* = museum specimen