

Migratory Birds

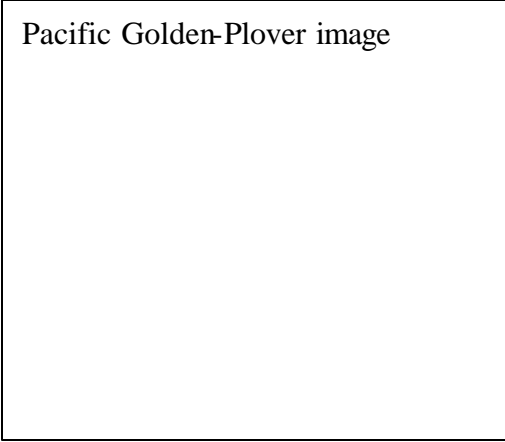
Kolea or Pacific Golden-Plover

Pluvialis fulva

SPECIES STATUS:

State recognized as indigenous
High Concern in U.S. Shorebird Conservation Plan

Pacific Golden-Plover image



SPECIES INFORMATION: Winters in the Hawaiian Islands, usually migrates from breeding grounds in Alaska. Most adults arrive in August with juveniles in October with spring departures in late April-early May. Show high site fidelity to wintering grounds on O'ahu. Diet consists mostly of invertebrates (both terrestrial and aquatic), berries, leaves, and seeds. Hawai'i supports a large percentage of the Alaskan breeding population.

DISTRIBUTION:

Pacific Golden-Plover distribution



ABUNDANCE: No accurate knowledge of world population. Conservative population estimates for Hawai'i is 15,000-20,000.

LOCATION AND CONDITION OF KEY HABITAT: Winter range habitats are extremely varied and can include cultivated fields, beaches, grassy borders of airport runways, parks, residential lawns, golf courses, roadsides, wetlands, and open pastures/clearings. In addition to these areas, plovers in Hawai'i also use open stands of ironwood, tiny lawns and gardens in

heavily urbanized areas, military bases and on mountain slopes up to 2,500 meters. They use the widest range of habitats and can be seen from sea level to 13,000 feet. Most important habitat is found in the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands.

THREATS: Historically, hunting is believed to have caused a decline in plover populations. In Hawai'i specific threats to the Pacific Golden-Plover come from predators such as the feral cats, mongoose, Barn Owl and Short-eared Owl as well as habitat degradation and loss. Collisions at Lihue and Kahului airports have also been documented.

CONSERVATION ACTIONS: The goals of conservation actions are to protect current populations. In addition to common state-wide and island conservation actions, specific actions include:

- Protection of current habitat;
- Reduction of feral cat, and other predator populations.

MONITORING:

- Continue monitoring population levels to assess size and trends of over-wintering populations

RESEARCH PRIORITIES:

- Better understanding of stopover requirements and importance of certain regions or sites;
- Ecological and behavioral comparison of Hawaiian Island populations with unstudied populations elsewhere;
- Better understanding of adaptability to human activities such as agriculture, urbanization, pollution, and reclamation;
- Predator reduction methods;
- Investigate migration routes and determine Hawaii's roles and linkages to Alaska and Asian populations;
- Identify important wintering sites, migratory stopover sites, and staging areas, particularly habitat use and selection.

References:

Johnson, Oscar W. and Peter G. Connors. 1996. Pacific Golden -Plover (*Pluvialis fulva*). In the Birds of North America, No. 201-202 (A. Poole and F. Gill, eds). The Academy of Natural Sciences, Philadelphia, PA and The American Ornithologists' Union, Washington, D.C.

Brown, Stephen et al. 2001. United States Shorebird Conservation Plan. Manomet Center for Conservation Sciences. Manomet, Massachusetts.