

Migratory Birds

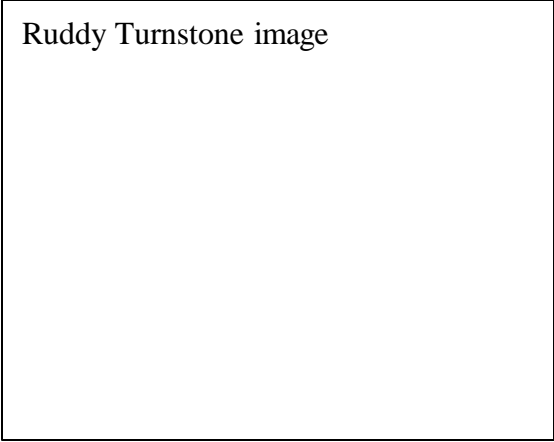
Akekeke or Ruddy Turnstone

Arenaria interpres

SPECIES STATUS:

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

Ruddy Turnstone image



SPECIES INFORMATION: An opportunistic feeder, it is known to eat coastal invertebrates, small fish, carrion, human garbage, and eggs of other avian species. Winters in the Hawaiian Islands. Generally use same routes and staging areas during migration and wintering grounds year after year.

DISTRIBUTION:

Map of Ruddy Turnstone distribution



ABUNDANCE: The North American breeding population is estimated to be 267,000 individuals. Estimated population for Hawai'i is 5-7,000.

LOCATION AND CONDITION OF KEY HABITAT: Inhabits coastal areas with mostly shorelines that are stoney and rocky with seaweed growth, but also seen on mudflats and sandflats. Prefers ocean beaches and sheltered coastlines as well as beaches with pools, wetlands, inlets with large inter-tidal flats, and estuaries. Also found in high elevation pastures

(up to 7,000 feet) and park lawns. Most important habitat is found in the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands.

THREATS: Reasons for its past decline have been attributed to hunting pressure and the millinery trade. Currently, it has been shown that ruddy turnstone populations are affected most by loss or alteration of coastal habitats and predator issues.

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

MONITORING:

- Continue monitoring population levels

RESEARCH PRIORITIES:

- Better understanding of habitat and ecological requirements, particularly as it relates to critical staging grounds

References:

Nettleship, David N. 2000. Ruddy Turnstone (*Arenaria interpres*). In the Birds of North America, No. 537 (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.