

BARN SWALLOW

Hirundo rustica

non-breeding visitor, vagrant

H.r. gutturalis
H.r. erythrogaster

Barn Swallows breed throughout the Holarctic and undergo extensive migrations to winter in C-S America, s. Africa, India and n. Australia (Dement'ev and Gladkov 1954b, Ali and Ripley 1987, Cramp and Simmons 1988, AOU 1998, Higgins et al. 2006). In the Pacific they have been recorded on Clipperton I (Howell et al. 1993; up to 100), Micronesia E to the Marshall Is (Pratt et al. 1987, 2010; Wiles 2005), and the Hawaiian Islands on at least four occasions (five individuals).

In the *Northwestern Hawaiian Islands*, 2 observed on **Kure** 25 Sep 1964 were shot but the specimens dropped into thick vegetation and could not be recovered (Clapp and Woodward 1968, Woodward 1972). They were believed to be an adult and a first-cycle bird. The following spring, one was collected on Sand I, **Midway** 27 March 1965 and determined to be *H.r. gutturalis* of c. Asia (USNM 495966; Clapp and Woodward 1968; [HRBP](#) 5362-5364, 5484-5485 of specimen); this subspecies has also been recorded as a vagrant to Alaska and British Columbia (Brown and Brown 1999). It is a male, just completing its preformative or prebasic molt (PP examination), and conceivable could have wintered on Midway. Another was observed on Midway 13 Feb 1965 and there is an unsubstantiated report from 1 Mar 1963 (Clapp and Woodward 1968). The only substantiated record for the *Southeastern Hawaiian Islands* is of a well-described bird observed swooping over lava near the Headquarters of Volcano NP, **Hawai'i I** 17 Jan 1984. It was described well enough to confirm it as the North American subspecies *H.r. erythrogaster*, the most expected subspecies in the Southeastern Islands.

[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/rlp-monograph/>