

FORK-TAILED SWIFT

Apus pacificus

Other: Pacific Swift, White-rumped Swift

A.p. pacificus

non-breeding visitor, vagrant

The Fork-tailed Swift breeds in e. Siberia and Kamchatka S through s. China, the Himalayas and Malay Peninsula, and it winters S to India, New Guinea, Australia, and New Zealand (Dement'ev and Gladkov 1951b, Ali and Ripley 1983, AOU 1998, Higgins 1999). In summer and fall it ranges casually to the western Aleutian and Pribilof Is, AK, with one sight record on Middleton I. in the Gulf of Alaska 29 Sep 1990 (Gibson and Kessel 1997). In the w. and c. Pacific, up to three Fork-tailed Swifts were seen at Kwajalein Atoll, Marshall Is., 31 Oct-7 Nov 1982 (Schipper 1985); they have also been observed on Guam and Saipan in the N Mariana Is. (Pratt et al. 1987, Wiles 2005). There are also three records from the *Northwestern Hawaiian Islands*.

At *Midway*, a Fork-tailed Swift was found 20 Sep 1995 near a runway, injured but still alive. It was taken to the USFWS office, photographed alive ([HRBP 1213-1217](#)), and died two hours later. The frozen specimen was photographed in Jan 1996 ([HRBP 1105](#)) and it was eventually preserved as a skeleton (BPBM.183983). A second individual was found freshly dead near the Midway hangar 30 Apr 1999 and was also taken to Honolulu and preserved as a skin (BPBM 184235, [HRBP 5403-5405](#) of specimen). It has been identified (PP examination) as the expected nominate subspecies (*A.p. pacificus*) which migrates from Siberia to Australia. At *French Frigate*, one was observed on Tern I 30 Oct 2010, spent the night roosting on a window screen ([HRBP 6729](#)) and was last seen the following day (Howard et al. 2013).

[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/>