



A Specimen Record of the Fork-tailed Swift from the Marshall Islands

Roger B. Clapp

The Fork-tailed Swift (*Apus pacificus*) is a bird of eastern Asia that migrates south to winter in the island archipelagos of southeast Asia and in Australia (Dement'ev and Gladkov 1966). It rarely straggled to the east; there are at least four records from the Pribilof and Aleutian Islands (Kessel and Gibson 1978), one report from the Marshall Islands in the central Pacific (Schipper 1985), and two sight records from Saipan in the Northern Marianas (Pratt *et al.* 1987, Glass *et al.* in prep.).

Schipper (1985) reported that one to three of these swifts were seen at Roi Namur Island on Kwajalein Atoll from 31 October to 7 November 1982. He described the birds as "mostly dark gray-blue with a prominent white rump and gray face and throat... [with] the tail... deeply forked, the wings long and narrow." The white rump and deeply forked tail are characteristic of *Apus pacificus*, but the rest of the description does not fit that species well. The face of the Fork-tailed Swift is always brown, and the dark brown body, even in poor light, should not appear dark gray-blue. The description led me to question the validity of the record, and through the courtesy of William Schipper I examined unpublished photographs that were taken 1 November. The somewhat blurry photographs (Fig. 1) show a dark bird with a forked tail and white rump and a profile that is indisputably swift rather than swallow. Consequently, I conclude that the birds seen were indeed *Apus pacificus*.

Figure 1. Fork-tailed Swift over Roi-Namur Island, 1 November 1982.

Photo by W.L. Schipper

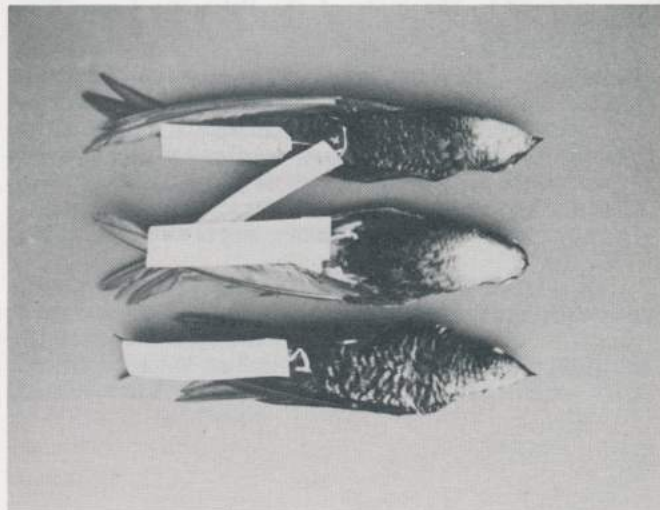


Unpublished information collected in the late 1960's by personnel of the Smithsonian Institution's Pacific Ocean Biological Survey Program provides two more records of swifts from the central Pacific, one equivocal as to species, the other a specimen. The unidentified swift was seen 11 December 1968 flying over the seaward portion of Janet Island, Eniwetok Atoll, Marshall Islands. Attempts to collect the bird were unsuccessful, and the only other information available is that the bird "had a dark brownish-black body, head, tail and wings... [and] its rump was white" (Amerson and Huber ms.). A.B. Amerson, Jr. (pers. comm.) could only add that the bird was larger than the swifts seen in American Samoa (i.e., *Collocalia spodiopygia*). Other *Collocalia* and the light-rumped Silver-rumped Swift (*Chaetura leucopygialis*) of southeast Asia can be excluded on the basis of size. It is likely that this bird was a Fork-tailed Swift, but positive identification is not possible.

A specimen of Fork-tailed Swift (USNM 544234, Fig. 2) was collected 22 October 1968 at sea (14° 14' N, 171° 54.5' E) in the north-

Figure 2. Specimens of *Apus pacificus kanoi* (bottom), *A.p. pacificus* from the Marshall Islands (center) and *A.p. cooki* (top). *A.p. kanoi* has darker, more glossed plumage than *pacificus* and stronger streaking on the throat, while *cooki* is much more heavily barred and streaked than either, and has a different wing formula. A fourth race, *A.p. leuconyx* is similar to *kanoi*, but much smaller than it or *pacificus*; the latter is the largest form and has the northernmost distribution.

Photo by R.B. Clapp



eastern Marshall Islands, about 160 nautical miles (305 km) north-east of Bikar Atoll and 180 nautical miles (333 km) east-southeast of Taongi Atoll. It is an immature female with no fat (wt. 22.4 g), an empty stomach, and not in molt. Its long wing (174 mm), wing formula (outermost primary shorter than the adjacent one), and more brownish, less blackish plumage indicate that it is an example of the nominate race (*Apus p. pacificus*) that breeds in Siberia, Kamchatka, the Kuriles, Japan, and northern China (Vaurie 1959, 1965).

The reports of swifts from the central Pacific are all from late October to early December and, from what is known of migration in this species (Dement'ev and Gladkov 1966, Mees 1973, Feare 1979, Blakers *et al.* 1984), are presumably of wandering fall migrants. Kamchatka and northeastern Siberia are due north of the Marshall Islands. The swifts found in the Marshalls were probably migrants that were blown out to sea and then continued south instead of following the Asian coast to New Guinea and Australia.

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MAE E. MULL: TWO DECADES OF DEDICATION TO CONSERVATION OF HAWAIIAN ECOSYSTEMS

On 6 December 1988, Mae E. Mull, Hawaii Audubon Society's Corresponding Secretary and Island of Hawaii Representative, died of cancer. She was 67. Surviving Mrs. Mull are her husband Bill, her daughter Linda, and two brothers, Albert and Robert Abramson, and two sisters, Irene Krelle and Carol Jessen. Mae Mull, an HAS member for two decades, was known for her dedication, tenacity, and integrity as a conservationist fighting for "the better protection of native Hawaiian wildlife." For the last 15 years, she devoted her attention to conservation issues on Hawaii Island, where she lived with her husband William P. Mull, naturalist and photographer.

The Mulls became active in HAS in the late 1960's; Mae and Bill Mull's first article in the 'Elepaio appears in the October 1969 issue, where they reported on a field trip to Waipio Peninsula, Oahu. From that date onward, articles contributed by Mae or Bill Mull appear regularly, with field observations being the subject of earlier publications, and conservation emerging as the primary focus, particularly for Mae, within a few years. Her last contribution appeared only last month and dealt with the impacts of astronomy development on the summit of Mauna Kea, a subject she became involved in back in 1974. It was largely through Mae's efforts that the Mauna Kea Master Plan Committee first formed and worked to produce its plan in the mid-1970's.

In 1970, Mae Mull was elected secretary of the HAS, and continued in that post until she became the Island of Hawaii



Photo by Bill Mull

representative in 1974. In late 1973, the Mulls moved to Volcano on the Big Island, where they settled down to enjoy life amidst native plants and animals. The January 1974 issue of *Elepaio* carries a letter from Mae that enthusiastically describes their backyard plants and animals: 'ohi'a, hapu'u, predacious caterpillars, 'Oma'o, 'Amakihi, 'Apapane, 'Tiwi, and 'Io. She wrote, "...Bill and I feel great joy and contentment to be in this house surrounded by a lush 'ohi'a-tree fern rain forest--in this place where we want to be for the rest of our lives." For Mae, there began in 1974 a nearly continuous 15-year period of service as HAS's Big Island Representative, an office she served with tremendous energy.

Among the many conservation issues Mae Mull pursued, several stand out. Mae was instrumental in the drafting and passage of Hawaii's first Endangered Species Act in 1972, and it provided a focal point for her conservation interests. Mauna Kea, with its endangered Paliia, feral goats and sheep, and astronomy development were the focus of more than one controversy, and Mae was involved in all of them, helping to establish and then doggedly championing HAS positions on ungulate eradication and development on the summit.

In the early 1980's, geothermal development threatened prime conservation lands at Kahaulea, and it was again in large part because of Mae's concern and expertise--she was a meticulous researcher and had a thorough knowledge of environmental laws and regulations--that the Puna Geothermal Committee was formed. The final settlement of this controversial issue involved land exchanges and a scaledown of the originally proposed development, and represented a compromise that most conservationists and public figures could live with. Mae's numerous *Elepaio* articles on geothermal development in Puna kept HAS members and the public informed.

Forest conservation was perhaps dearest to Mae's heart, and she spent many hours preparing testimony, attending meetings, giving talks, and promoting the concept of sound forest management for the protection of watershed and the native forest she loved. Establishment and then protection and management of State Natural Area Reserves were an important component of her forest conservation platform. One of Mae's favorite places to enjoy the forest was the Puu Makaala Natural Area Reserve near Puu Kulani, where she and Bill spent many hours with the plants, insects, and birds around them.

The most recent Big Island issue she tackled was development on the Kona Coast, and her work resulted in raising the consciousness of HAS members and Big Island residents about the tremendous changes developers plan for this vast stretch of dramatically scenic Hawaiian coastline.

In 1979, at the grand celebration of its 40th anniversary, the HAS honored Mae Mull for her outstanding service to the Society in conservation. The work she did in the decade following that award was equally distinguished, and there are few conservationists that command the respect Mae Mull does from environmentalists themselves, government officials, hunters, educators, and many others. Although we are saddened that she leaves us on the eve of our golden anniversary, we will always remember Mae Mull: her integrity, her unflappable determination in the face of controversy, her quiet resignation at battles lost, her meticulously researched testimonies, but most of all her boundless delight in nature, for that is what brought us all together. Aloha, Mae.

Donations to organizations working for conservation of native Hawaiian wildlife would be appropriate and welcome. The HAS has established a special fund in memory of Mae Mull to be dedicated to funding conservation actions on Hawaii Island issues.

Sheila Conant

AUDUBON NEWS

AUDUBON OPENS OFFICE -- The joint National Audubon Society/Hawaii Audubon Society office is open. It is located in the Arcade Building, 212 Merchant Street (between Richards and Alakea Streets), Suite 320. The probable phone number for Hawaii Audubon is 528-1432. Hawaiian Telephone was unable to give a confirmed number as installation was not complete at press time.

Initially, the chapter office will be open evenings and weekends for committee meetings. Scheduled for January are meetings of the *Elepaio*, Field Trips, Fund Raising, and Program Committees. (See the following article for more information.)

HELP WANTED--JOIN A COMMITTEE -- New committee members are needed this year to plan and carry out Hawaii Audubon Society's busy schedule. All committees welcome novices as well as persons with specific experience. The following committees have scheduled meetings in January and seek your active participation.

Field Trips--Meets Monday, 9 January, at 7 PM. This committee plans and coordinates our monthly field trips. Members are needed to suggest activities for the day trips, plan the calendar for the year, line up trip leaders, and answer questions that potential attendees may have. Also possible are weekend trips. Call Bruce Eilerts at 599-4795 if you can attend.

Fund Raising--Meets Tuesday, 24 January, at 7 PM. This committee plans our annual fund raising campaign and other donor activities. Help is also needed for the phonathon. Hawaii Medical Services Association (HMSA) is assisting us by kindly making their phones available. We will be calling Oahu members from the HMSA offices on Tuesday, 10 January and Wednesday, 11 January, from 6 to 9 PM. Calls will also be made from the neighbor islands on those evenings. We need your help in seeking pledges from members. Call Lynne Matusow at 531-4260 if you can make phone calls or would like to join the committee.

Program--Meets Wednesday, 18 January, at 7 PM. Volunteers are needed to suggest programs, line up speakers, handle publicity and arrange refreshments for our monthly meetings. Call Peter Luscomb at 261-3645 if you can attend.

'Elepaio--Volunteers are also need to help with the production of the *Elepaio*, journal and newsletter of Hawaii Audubon. We always need assistance in writing, proof-reading, and paste-up. We usually meet on the third Saturday of the month (21 January; date always posted in the *Elepaio*); however volunteers may schedule their own time by contacting Production is moving from Thane Pratt's apartment to the new Audubon office

With the exception of the phonathon, all meetings take place in our new office, 212 Merchant Street (Arcade Building), between Richards and Alakea Streets, Room 320. Please note that the building doors are locked at 6 PM on weekdays and 4:30 PM on Saturday. A representative will be posted at the Merchant Street door to let you in for the meeting. If you are late, please call information, 1-411, for the Hawaii Audubon Society telephone number (not available at press time, but try 528-1432) and call the office to gain admittance.

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY NEEDED -- At press time we were still seeking to fill this important position on the Board. The Corresponding Secretary conducts the correspondence of the Society. If you are interested in filling this position, call Bruce Eilerts at 599-4795.



WE NEED AN ANSWERING MACHINE -- Do you have a spare answering machine? Perhaps you got a new one for the holidays and put the old one in the closet. Hawaii Audubon Society needs an answering machine (nothing fancy) so we can receive messages when no one is in the office. Please call Lynne Matusow at 531-4260 if you can help. All contributions are tax deductible, to the extent permitted by law.

****AUDUBON SOCIETY SEEKS ASSISTANT FOR HAWAII STATE OFFICE**** -- The National Audubon Society seeks qualified applicants for the position of administrative assistant in the newly opened Hawaii State office located in downtown Honolulu. This is a full-time, entry-level position with a salary of \$15,000 per year, plus excellent benefits. Candidates should have demonstrated clerical skills, including word-processing. Previous involvement in conservation activism in Hawaii is a plus, as well as a willingness to learn and work on conservation issues.

The administrative assistant's primary responsibilities will be 1) day-to-day maintenance of the Hawaii State Office and 2) recruiting and training volunteers to serve as phone receptionists, typists, etc.

As time permits, the administrative assistant may assist the Hawaii State Director with conservation and fund-raising by drafting letters and action alerts, assisting with fund-raising administration, and recruiting new volunteer activists.

Candidates should be able to get along with a variety of people. Skill in motivating others will be important.

Interested applicants should request an application form and send a cover letter, resume, and non-returnable writing sample to: National Audubon Society, Hawaii State Office, 212 Merchant Street, Suite 320, Honolulu, HI 96813.

JANUARY PROGRAM: EXPLORING NATURE SAFELY -- At the Monday, 16 January General Meeting of Hawaii Audubon Society, Ed Arrigoni will give a slide presentation on outdoor safety. The material covered during his presentation is based on his recent book, *Guide to Environmental Safety*. Ed has been active in outdoor activities for many years. Fifteen years ago he developed a seminar on outdoor safety because of his concern that many people were not prepared to deal with the potential hazards of the outdoor environment. The meeting place will be the Atherton Halau, B.P. Bishop Museum, at 7:30 PM. Refreshments will be served.

ANNIVERSARY T-SHIRT -- A new t-shirt (there is also a golf shirt style) will be available at general meetings. Imprinted with the Society's logo, the 'Elepaio, the new 50th anniversary shirt comes in silver grey, light green, and pink. It is \$10 at meetings or \$12 per shirt for mail orders. Mail orders should be sent to: Hawaii Audubon Society, P.O. Box 22832, Honolulu, HI 96822.

GOOD-BYE 'ELEPAIO! -- After three years as Managing Editor of the 'Elepaio, this will be my last issue. Suzan Harada will be the new Managing Editor. I'd like to express thanks to the many volunteers who gave their Saturday afternoons (and sometimes evenings) to the production of our journal. Special recognition is due to Marie Morin for insuring a smooth transition from when she was editor, to Bruce Eilerts, Mae Mull, and Bob Pyle for regularly contributing articles, to Leann Syrotuck for volunteering her professional skills in laying out the journal, to Lynne Matusow for many late nights typing, and above all to Sheila Conant, who went beyond her duties as Scientific Editor to regularly assist in production and to spell me when I went on annual vacation. Without this dedication, the 'Elepaio could never be. **MAHALO!**

TKP

BEQUESTS

Do you know it's possible to leave money to Hawaii Audubon Society? George C. Munro, tireless and enthusiastic field ornithologist and naturalist and a major force in founding HAS, did more than 20 years ago. Today the George C. Munro Fund provides monies for research projects on the conservation of dryland forests.

A bequest to HAS is an excellent way to help us in our conservation efforts. Although an attorney should be consulted in the drafting of your will, a model clause for bequests is set forth below.

"I hereby give, devise and bequeath to the Hawaii Audubon Society, Honolulu, HI, the sum of _____ dollars (or set forth a description of the property) to be used for the general purposes of said organization."

For more information and assistance in the specifics of the manner and form of gifts and bequests contact HAS, P.O. Box 22832, Honolulu, HI 96822.

IF NOT A MEMBER, PLEASE JOIN US

JOINT MEMBERSHIP -- National and Hawaii Audubon Societies

Individual	\$30.00
Family	38.00
Sustaining	50.00
Supporting	100.00
Contributing	250.00
Donor	500.00
Life (single payment)	1500.00
Dual Life (single payment)	2000.00

Students and Senior Citizens may apply for discounted rate.

LOCAL MEMBERSHIP -- Hawaii Audubon Society only

Regular	\$6.00
Junior (19 years and under)	3.00
Subscriber (off-island residents)	6.00
Life (payable in three equal annual installments)	150.00

All local memberships and subscriptions are for the calendar year.

PUBLICATIONS OF THE SOCIETY

HAWAII'S BIRDS by H.A.S. (1984, revised 1987). An excellent, pocket-sized field guide to all native and well-established introduced birds. \$4.95 plus \$0.90 surface mail or \$1.25 air mail. Hawaii residents add \$0.20 State excise tax.

FIELD CHECKLIST OF BIRDS OF HAWAII by R. L. Pyle and A. Engilis, Jr. (1987). Pocket-sized card listing 125 species, with space for field notes. Post paid. \$0.25 or \$0.10 for 10 or more.

GUIDE TO HAWAIIAN BIRDING by H.A.S. and C. J. Ralph, ed. (1977). Where to go, what to see. All regularly visited islands. Post paid. \$1.50.

CHECKLIST TO THE BIRDS OF HAWAII by R. L. Pyle (1988). Our reference for avian nomenclature in Hawaii. All naturally occurring birds, plus introduced species well-established. Post paid. \$2.00.

CHECKLIST TO THE BIRDS OF MICRONESIA by P. Pyle and J. Engbring (1985). Similar to preceding but covers Micronesia. Post paid. \$2.00.

ENDANGERED WATERBIRDS OF THE HAWAIIAN ISLANDS by R.J. Shallenberger (1978). Hawaiian Stilt, Coot, Moorhen, and Duck, each described in 2 pages of photos and text. Post paid. \$1.00.

BACK ISSUES OF 'ELEPAIO and INDICES TO 'ELEPAIO:
 Vol. 1-40 -- \$1.00 per issue, \$10.00 per volume
 Vol. 41 to present -- \$0.50 per issue, \$5.00 per volume
 Complete set (Vols. 1-43) -- \$350
 INDEX Vols. 36-40 -- \$2.50
 INDEX Vols. 41-45 -- \$2.50

Overseas orders cost more. Contact the Society for added cost.

NOTICE TO AUTHORS

The 'ELEPAIO, Journal of the Hawaii Audubon Society, invites authors to submit scientific articles on natural history of Hawaii and the Pacific. Scientific articles are subject to peer review. The 'ELEPAIO also serves as a newsletter to inform members of conservation issues, Society events, and other subjects of interest to members. Manuscripts of articles and newsletter items may be sent to Sheila Conant, Department of General Science, University of Hawaii, 2450 Campus Rd., Honolulu, HI 96822. Articles not subject to peer review MUST BE RECEIVED BY THE 15TH OF THE MONTH to be considered for publication in the next month's issue.

SCIENTIFIC ARTICLES should be typewritten and double-spaced, and three copies should be submitted. Any photographs should be submitted as photographic prints, in color or black and white (they will appear in black and white). The prints should be 3.5 X 5 inches, or larger, and should be adequately cropped if cropping is required. Original copies of figures (e.g., maps, graphs) should be clear and clean, with lettering large enough to remain legible upon reduction to fit the newsletter format. Authors are advised to design their illustrations with the 'ELEPAIO's columnar format and size in mind (please look at a copy of the journal).



Io or Hawaiian Hawk

Photo by Greg Vaughn

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Jan. 9 (Mon.) Field Trips Committee Meeting at HAS Office at 7 PM. Call Bruce Eilerts at 599-4795.
- Jan. 10 (Tues.) and Jan. 11 (Wed.) Phonathon. Call Lynne Matusow at 531-4260.
- Jan. 13 (Fri.) Board Meeting and pot luck dinner at Sheila Conant's house, 7 PM. Call Sheila at 948-8241 (wk).
- Jan. 16 (Mon.) General Meeting at Atherton Halau, B.P. Bishop Museum, at 7:30 PM. Program: Exploring Nature Safely, by Ed Arrigoni. Announcement on page 4.
- Jan. 18 (Wed.) Program Committee Meeting at HAS Office at 7 PM. Call Peter Luscomb at 261-3645.
- Jan. 21 (Sat.) 'Elepaio paste up at HAS Office at 1 PM. Call Suzan Harada at 988-7378 (wk).
- Jan. 24 (Tues.) Fund Raising Committee Meeting at HAS Office at 7 PM. Call Lynne Matusow at 532-4260.

****Note: There will not be an HAS field trip this month.**

TABLE OF CONTENTS

A Specimen Record of the Fork-tailed Swift from the Marshall Islands. *Roger B. Clapp*.....1

Mae E. Mull: Two Decades of Dedication to Conservation of Hawaiian Ecosystems. *Sheila Conant*.....2

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