

## 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). 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, Wiles 2005), and the Hawaiian Islands on at least three occasions (four 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). 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. 2009. The Birds of the Hawaiian Islands: Occurrence, History, Distribution, and Status. B.P. Bishop Museum, Honolulu, HI, U.S.A. Version 1 (31 December 2009) <http://hbs.bishopmuseum.org/birds/rlp-monograph/>