

CLIFF SWALLOW

Hirundo pyrrhonota

non-breeding visitor, vagrant

subspecies?

The Cliff Swallow breeds throughout N America n. to Alaska and n. Canada, and winters to S America (AOU 1998). Vagrants have been recorded in Greenland and Britain, and on Clipperton I in the Pacific (Howell et al. 1993). There is a single record for the *Northwestern Hawaiian Islands*, of two birds arriving at Tern I, *French Frigate* 24 Oct 1991, one disappearing 30 Oct, and the other remaining until 5 Nov 1991 ([HRBP 5580-5581](#)). This species is known in California to undergo large and poorly understood northward flights during the final ten days of October (e.g., *NAB* 51:116), and these individuals may have been part of such a movement pattern. Photographs are diagnostic to species but do not provide enough detail to diagnose subspecies. Nominate *H.p. pyrrhonota*, which breeds in Alaska, may be the most likely subspecies but that or those involved with northern incursions along the Pacific Coast are unknown, and may also include other subspecies from the sw. U.S and Mexico.

[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/>