Watola, G. 2011. The Discovery of New Zealand's Birds. (3rd Edition in prep.)
Based on: Watola, G. 2009. The Discovery of New Zealand's Birds. (2nd Edition)
Arun Books, Orewa, New Zealand.
Updated and amended text supplied by George Watola, October, 2011.
Page numbers follow Watola, G. 2009 (2nd Edition)
White-throated needletail: pp 180-181.

White-throated Needletail *Hirundapus caudacutus caudacutus* (Latham 1801), Vagrant March 1888 Manaia, Taranaki 16/11/1968 Norfolk Island

This swift was first collected at Manaia near Hawera in March 1888. "Mr. Drew also brought with him a very good specimen of this bird. It was shot at Manaia, Hawera County, in March, 1888, and was given to the present owner by Mr. Budge. This latest Migrant is a female, as proved by dissection, the only difference between the sexes being that the male is rather larger than his mate. This speciesis common in Australia, and now has visited New Zealand. Large flocks visit the eastern parts of Australia and Tasmania in the summer, but only stay a short time. It is probable that our specimen was merely an exhausted straggler from one of these flocks" (Kirk 1888).

The next record was not until 1915, again in Taranaki, at New Plymouth. Occasionally invasions occur, as in summer 1942/43, 1968/69, and 1979. They have even turned up on Macquarie Island, as has Fork-tailed Swift.