

Watola, G. 2011. The Discovery of New Zealand's Birds. (3rd Edition in prep.)
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Page numbers follow Watola, G. 2009 (2nd Edition)
Fork-tailed swift: p 181.

Fork-tailed Swift *Apus pacificus pacificus* (Latham 1801), Vagrant (21)
December 1884 White Cliffs, Taranaki
7/12/1978 Norfolk Island

Major W. B. Messenger saw four swifts flying about his camp at White Cliffs, north of New Plymouth.
“Respecting the Swift I shot here, I am glad to be able to furnish you with particulars. One evening, at about 6 P.M., four strange birds were flying about the camp, evidently in pursuit of insects. Their flight so reminded me of that of the Swift, that to make sure I shot one and took it to the office of the ‘Taranaki Herald’. I believed it to be an English Swift, but from what I have since heard, I conclude that it is an Australian bird. I did not know until I received your letter that Swallows had ever been seen in New Zealand” (Buller 1888).