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First North American record of the Asian Needle-tailed Swift, *Hirundapus caudacutus*.—On 21 May 1974, a swift with a weak and languid wing beat was collected on Shemya Island, Aleutian Islands, 52°43' N, 174°07' E, as it slowly foraged along a tundra hillside. This is the first New World record for a swift of this genus and species. The pattern of flight suggested that the bird was in poor condition and under a nutritional stress. Examination showed it to have an extremely reduced pectoral muscle, but the bird, deposited in the National Museum of Natural History (No. 526402, male, right testis 5 × 2 mm) weighed 88 g, which suggests a near average condition. As we were unable to locate spring weight data for this species, weights on another swift of nearly identical size, *Apus melba* from the Aegean region, were provided by G. E. Watson. The average weight of 12 breeding males of *A. melba* was 85.8 g.

The specimen is referable to the nominate form (*H. c. caudacutus*) based on wing length and forehead color. This race breeds essentially in central and eastern Asia and migrates to winter in Australia and Tasmania. Vaurie (1969, *Birds of the palearctic fauna*, vol. 2, Non-Passeriformes, London, H. F. and G. Witherby, Ltd., pp. 647-648) indicates that it breeds eastward to near the mouth of the Amur River, and on Sakhalin and the Kurile Islands, westward and northward to about 85° E, 56° N (Tomsk) in western Siberia, and southward to northern China and Japan. It is a straggler to England and Finland and its breeding range is moving westward and northward (in the region of 58° N, 78° E) in Siberia (Vaurie, op. cit.). Other races occur farther south in southeastern Asia.

In view of its breeding range in the northmost part of the Kuriles, it is not too surprising that this migrant wandered to the Aleutians, especially as the spring prevailing winds are from the southwest. Shemya is about 900 miles (1440 km) directly over water from the northern Kuriles or about 1100 miles (1760 km) following along the land masses of the Kamchatka Peninsula thence out the Aleutians to Shemya. This does not seem to be an extensive distance considering the statements of Vaurie (op. cit.: 647) "... swifts of this genus are credited as being the most powerful and fastest flyers of all birds" and of Slater (1971, *A field guide to Australian birds, non-passerines*, Pennsylvania, Livingston Publishing Company, p. 400) "Entirely aerial; not known to land in Australia." The southernmost record of this species wandering beyond Tasmania is from Macquarie Island, 54°37' S, 158°54' E (Warham 1961, *Emu* 16: 189).

Several English names are currently used for the species, the commonest and preferred one being White-throated Needle-tailed Swift.—CLAYTON M. WHITE, *Department of Zoology, Brigham Young University, Provo, Utah 84602*, and WILLIAM M. BAIRD, *69 Hartwell Avenue, Littleton, Massachusetts 01460*. Accepted 24 Feb. 76.

Parasitic Jaegers prey on adult ptarmigan.—During 1972-1974, we noted Parasitic Jaegers (*Stercorarius parasiticus*) in the Kashunuk River region of western Alaska feeding commonly on microtine rodents, eggs and young of shorebirds and passerines, waterfowl eggs, and infrequently on fish obtained by harassment of Red-throated Loons (*Gavia stellata*), Arctic Terns (*Sterna paradisaea*), and Mew Gulls (*Larus canus*). We once saw Parasitic Jaegers prey on a larger organism as described below.

On 8 August 1974, we watched a pair of Parasitic Jaegers hunting the heath tundra near Old Chevak; one member of the pair swooped over an adult Willow Ptarmigan (*Lagopus lagopus*), which flushed and gave an alarm call. A shallow dive by the second jaeger passed close to the ptarmigan's back. The first jaeger then intercepted the ptarmigan, striking it with its beak near the dorsal base of the neck. Following this the ptarmigan gained about 2 m in altitude, and was immediately struck by the other pair member. The ptarmigan plummeted to the ground, flushed within seconds, and flew some 4 m before being struck again near the head. The ptarmigan was lost from view in high sedge adjacent to a small pond. The same jaeger that forced the ptarmigan from the air in both cases landed in the sedges.

We approached the pond edge and found the jaeger standing on the ptarmigan, which was in 10 cm of water. Examination showed the ptarmigan to be a molting adult male, weighing 680 g. Extensive tissue damage was visible on the dorsal surface of the neck near the base of the head.