

278 Pallid Swift

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Pallid Swift. Adult (01-VII).

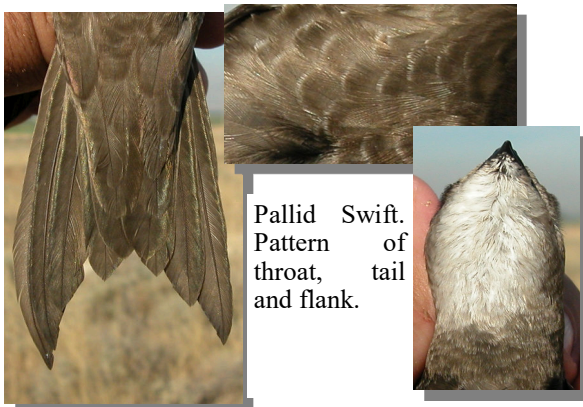


Swift

PALLID SWIFT (*Apus pallidus*)

IDENTIFICATION

14-16 cm. Plumage brown-greyish; whitish throat; feathers on flanks with diffuse pale edges; secondaries lighter above than the rest of the wing; long and arched wings; forked tail.

Pallid Swift.
Pattern of
throat, tail
and flank.

SIMILAR SPECIES

Very similar to **Common Swift**, with smaller pale patch on throat, flanks with only a little pale streaked, darker plumage and more forked tail.

Common Swift.
Pattern of throat,
tail and flank.

SEXING

Plumage of both sexes alike.

AGEING

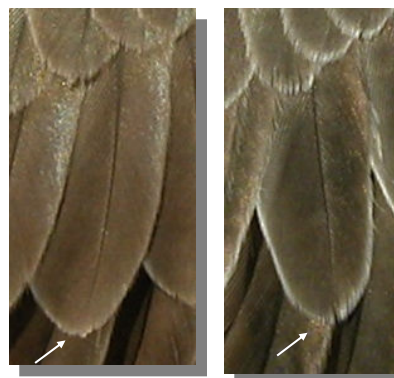
4 age groups can be recognized:

Juvenile with feathers on body, wing and tail edged white; outermost tail feather with both webs rounded and curved. **CAUTION:** in late summer some birds have lost much of their white edging by wear.

2nd year similar to **adult**, but recognizable by retained **juvenile** flight feathers and wing coverts, which will be very worn; outermost tail feather more rounded than in **adults** but less than in **juveniles** (**CAUTION:** this characteristic is not always useful due to overlap).

3rd year only in birds which have retained **juvenile** 10th primary, which is very strongly worn and reduced to the shaft.

Adult with plumage without white edges; flight feathers and wing coverts less worn than in **2nd year**; if outer primaries retained, then brownish and worn contrasting with the neighbouring moulted feathers; outermost tail feather with both webs straight.

Pallid Swift.
Ageing. Pat-
tern of a wing
covert: left
adult (01-VII);
right juvenile
(01-VII).

278 Pallid Swift

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Pallid Swift. Ageing. Pattern of the outermost tail feather: left adult (01-VII); right juvenile (01-VII).



Pallid Swift. Juvenile (01-VII).

MOULT

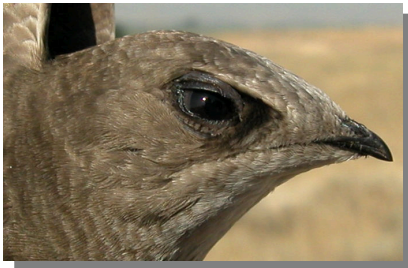
Complete **postbreeding** moult but some birds can retain 10th primary and, sometimes, two or three outermost primaries; usually started in wintering sites but some birds begin moulting in breeding areas. Partial **postjuvenile** moult involving body feathers, tail and only lesser wing coverts; always started in winter quarters.

PHENOLOGY

I	II	III	IV	V	VI	VII	VIII	IX	X	XI	XII

STATUS IN ARAGON

Summer visitor, breeding only in the city of Zaragoza.



Pallid Swift. Head pattern: top adult (01-VII); middle 2nd year (01-VII); bottom juvenile (01-VII)



Pallid Swift. 2nd year (01-VII).



278 Pallid Swift

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Pallid Swift. Crown pattern: top left adult (01-VII); top right 2nd year (01-VII); left juvenile (01-VII)



Pallid Swift. Breast pattern: top left adult (01-VII); top right 2nd year (01-VII); left juvenile (01-VII)



Pallid Swift. Throat pattern: top left adult (01-VII); top right 2nd year (01-VII); left juvenile (01-VII)



Pallid Swift. Upper-part pattern: top left adult (01-VII); top right 2nd year (01-VII); left juvenile (01-VII)

278 Pallid Swift

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Pallid Swift.
Flank pattern: top adult (01-VII); middle 2nd year (01-VII); bottom juvenile (01-VII)



Pallid Swift. Juvenile: pattern of tail and the outermost feather (01-VII)



Pallid Swift. Adult: pattern of tail and the outermost feather (01-VII)



Pallid Swift. Adult with complete moult: pattern of primary coverts (01-VII)



Pallid Swift. 2nd year: pattern of tail and the outermost feather (01-VII)



Pallid Swift. Adult with retained feathers: pattern of primary coverts (01-VII)

278 Pallid Swift

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Pallid Swift. 2nd year: pattern of primary coverts (01-VII)



Pallid Swift. Juvenile: pattern of primary coverts (01-VII)



Pallid Swift. Adult: pattern of secondaries and wing coverts (01-VII)



Pallid Swift. 2nd year: pattern of secondaries and wing coverts (01-VII)



Pallid Swift. Juvenile: pattern of secondaries and wing coverts (01-VII)



Pallid Swift. Adult with complete moult: pattern of primaries (01-VII)

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Pallid Swift. Adult with retained feathers: pattern of primaries (01-VII)



Pallid Swift. 2nd year: pattern of primaries (01-VII)



Pallid Swift. Juvenile: pattern of primaries (01-VII)



Pallid Swift. Adult with complete moult: pattern of wing (01-VII)



Pallid Swift. Adult with retained feathers: pattern of wing (01-VII)



Pallid Swift. 2nd year: pattern of wing (01-VII)



Pallid Swift. Juvenile: pattern of wing (01-VII)