



Alpine Swift. Adult (10-VII).

**ALPINE SWIFT** (*Tachymarptis melba*)

**IDENTIFICATION**

21-22 cm. Brown-greyish upperparts; white underparts with a brown-grey band on upper breast.

**SIMILAR SPECIES**

This species is unmistakable.

**SEXING**

Plumage of both sexes alike.

**AGEING**

3 age groups can be recognized:

**Juvenile** with body feathers pale edged; median and greater wing coverts narrow with white edges; outermost tail feather with convex edges.

**2nd year** with **juvenile** flight feathers, which will be worn; wing coverts with fresh **adult** and worn **juvenile** feathers admixed; outermost tail feather with straight edges.

**Adult** with plumage without white edges due to wear; median and greater wing covers, when fresh, only with a white spot on tips; median and greater wing coverts broad with rounded or squared tips; outermost tail feather with concave edges.



Alpine Swift. Ageing. Pattern of a wing covert: left adult; right juvenile.



Alpine Swift. Ageing. Pattern of the outermost tail feather: left adult; right juvenile.

**MOULT**

Complete **postbreeding** moult, starting in July and finished in breeding areas or, in some birds, in wintering sites. Partial **postjuvenile** moult involving body feathers, tail and some wing coverts; takes place in wintering sites.

**PHENOLOGY**

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

■ Summer visitor    ■ Resident  
■ Wintering        ■ On passage

**07980 Alpine Swift** *Tachymarptis melba*



Alpine Swift. 2nd year (10-VII).



Alpine Swift. Juvenile (21-VIII)



Alpine Swift. Head pattern: top adult (10-VII); middle 2nd year (10-VII); bottom juvenile (21-VIII)



Alpine Swift. Head pattern: top left adult (10-VII); top right 2nd year (10-VII); left juvenile (21-VIII)



Alpine Swift. Upper part pattern: top left adult (10-VII); top right 2nd year (10-VII); left juvenile (21-VIII)



Alpine Swift.  
Adult: pattern  
of the outer-  
most tail feath-  
er (10-VII)



Alpine Swift.  
2nd year: pat-  
tern of the  
outermost tail  
feather (10-  
VII)



Alpine Swift.  
Juvenile: pat-  
tern of the  
outermost tail  
feather (21-  
VIII)



Alpine Swift. Adult: pattern of primary coverts (10-VII)



Alpine Swift. 2nd year: pattern of primary coverts (10-VII)



Alpine Swift. Juvenile: pattern of primary coverts (21-VIII)



Alpine Swift. Adult: pattern of primaries (10-VII)



Alpine Swift. 2nd year: pattern of primaries (10-VII)



Alpine Swift. Juvenile: pattern of primaries (21-VIII)



Alpine Swift. Adult: pattern of wing coverts and secondaries (10-VII)



Alpine Swift. 2nd year: pattern of wing coverts and secondaries (10-VII)



Alpine Swift. Juvenile: pattern of wing coverts and secondaries (21-VIII)



Alpine Swift. Adult: pattern of wing (10-VII).



Alpine Swift. 2nd year: pattern of wing (10-VII).



Alpine Swift. Juvenile: pattern of wing (21-VIII).