



## BirdLife Australia Rarities Committee Unusual Record Report Form

This form is intended to aid observers in the preparation of a submission to document a major rare bird in Australia. Its use is NOT mandatory. Please attach and/or include all relevant information including any digital images. Please Email the completed form/submission to the BARC Chair, Tony Palliser [tonyp@bigpond.net.au](mailto:tonyp@bigpond.net.au)

BARC considers submissions that include a minimum of the submitter's name(s), the bird species claimed and the location and date(s) of the record. However, more information and evidence will usually be required for BARC to accept a record. So, please submit as much detailed information about the bird as possible.

If you choose not to use this form please make sure all relevant information requested in this form is included in your submission. However, it is our preference that you fully complete sections "A" and "B", or follow their headings, so that BARC has some continuity between all submissions.

Section A: Submitter details	
Your name(s) Joint submissions are fine	Demetrios Bertzeletos
Your email, phone or address	

Section B: Record details	
Common and scientific names Include subspecies if relevant	Glossy Swiftlet- <i>Collocalia esculenta stresemanni/spilura</i>
Site location (with GPS if possible)	Batemans Bay Water Gardens
Date(s) and time(s) of record (First and last date of occurrence if known)	13.06.2022 13:25-13:28
How many individuals were there?	1
What was the distance to the bird(s)?	10m-30 meters
Habitat description	Small urban with adjacent remnant bush and public gardens
Sighting conditions (e.g. weather, visibility, light conditions)	Seen in very strong midday light.
How confident are you in the identification (as a %) and why?	80% the lack of literature around the identification of the <i>Collocalia</i> and swiftlets in general has made the process hard. Additionally the brevity of the sighting is of no help as is a lack of picture of the underparts. I have also never observed the genus before
Did you find and/or identify the bird initially? Who else recorded the bird and do they agree with the identification?	I was the sole observer.
What experience have you had with this species?	None
Has this species been seen at this location before? When?	No
Have photographs of the bird or discussion of it occurred on the internet? (Please provide the site name, a summary, electronic link, etc.)	Yes- on the NSW rare bird and Australian twitchers facebook groups
Do you permit BARC to display your images	Yes

etc. electronically (credited with your name)

You may choose to delete or ignore this page, but please include as much of the requested information in your submission as possible, especially Sections C and E.

### Section C: Supporting evidence

Please include evidence that supports the identification, such as photographs, video, call recordings, etc. Digital images can be pasted into this document below, at the end, or provided separately. Digital video and sound recordings can be sent separately to this form. Label photos etc or insert captions to make note of relevant features they show.

These will be attached to the email.

### Section D: Description of the bird(s)

Please provide a description of the bird(s) including all identification features recorded. Provide all possible details that might corroborate the identification.

<b>Plumage</b>	<p>A very dark swiftlet. Appeared wholly dark in the field. Underparts probably slightly paler than upperparts. It is possible that underparts were noticeably paler or perhaps patterned, but the strong light and brevity of the sighting did not permit me to confirm this.</p> <p>The single image I managed to get reveals overall blackish-brown upperparts with a slightly paler dark throat and loreal spot. There is a slight blue iridescence to the wing feathers. Rump was dark with pale saddlebags.</p>
<b>Bare parts</b>	Black
<b>Moult details</b>	The bird did not show any molt
<b>Structure and 'jizz'</b>	A typical swiftlet. Flew around with fluttering, stiff wingbeats intercepted by shallow glides. Extremely agile and acrobatic. It was slightly bigger than the accompanying welcome swallows.
<b>Calls</b>	No calls
<b>Behaviours</b>	The bird possibly came in to drink in the company of a very large swallow flock. The Welcome Swallows did not appear to like it and chased it away. All birds scattered when a Collared Sparrowhawk appeared and it was never seen.
<b>Age, sex and/or taxonomy</b>	Possibly of the subspecies <i>stresemanni</i> or <i>spilura</i> given how dark the bird was. I do not know if juveniles or immatures have drabber plumage than adults or if they can potentially lack white rumps- Satin Swiftlet.

### Section E: Confusion species

Please indicate other species that the bird(s) might be confused with and how they can be eliminated

Combination of very dark blackish plumage, gloss to the flight feathers and dark rump with pale saddlebags appear to rule out all the *Aerodramus* swiftlets. Leaving *Collocalia* as the only likely genus. I do not have the knowledge or

references to rule out all of the possible species but distribution wise Satin and Glossy Swiftlet are most likely.

None of my reference material covers Satin Swiftlet. The images on the net seem to indicate that it always has a clean white rump. As such I do not think it is a Satin Swiftlet.

Some races of Glossy Swiftlet do have underparts and can also have paler rumps/saddles e.g. races *stresemanni/spilura*. As such I am submitting it as a Glossy and fully expect that it may not be possible to identify the bird to a species level.

**Section F: References and aids**

<p>Did you use books, journal articles or on-line sites or pages to help you prepare this submission? Which ones?</p>	<p>The Australia Bird Guide, All the birds of the world, google search.</p>
<p>Would you like to acknowledge the assistance of others in the identification process or preparation of this submission?</p>	



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