

General.

Micropus pacificus (Fork-tailed Swifts).—On 29th November, 1928, Mr. S. Sanders, at Sturt, saw a good number flying rather high and northerly over his house at 11 a.m. Mr. W. W. Weidenbach saw a few on the same date about 7 p.m. hawking north-east to south-west at Glen Osmond. The day was fairly hot.

Dr. C. Sullivan saw about 20 Swifts on 3rd November, 1928, at Warrnambool, Victoria. It was a dull day, rather cold than sultry, and the birds, some of whom were definitely identified as Spine-tailed Swifts (*Hirundapus caudacutus*), were scattered and flying leisurely to the south-west.

A Nightingale's Song.—The following paragraph is taken from the London "Times" Weekly Edition of 7th June, 1928:—"A message from Wellington, New Zealand, says that a wireless listener there heard a Nightingale's song transmitted from Pangbourne by the Chelmsford short-wave experimental station during an interval in the London dance programme.

The song was perfectly clear and sweet, and was audible through a loud speaker. It is stated that this is the first time such an item has been heard in New Zealand. The Nightingale was broadcast just before midnight. Great difficulty was experienced by the B.B.C. engineers in locating the bird. Four separate lines were run out from the control point, which was situated in a private house at Pangbourne, Berkshire. Two of these were led to separate places on the edge of a coppice. A third was led to a point half a mile away, while the fourth was about 200 yards from the control point. The localities were chosen after the positions of Nightingales heard singing on the previous evenings had been ascertained. Although four microphones were got ready, only one of them was actually called into use. A very sensitive magnetophone type of microphone was employed, and a two-valve amplifier was placed near to the microphone, which picked up the song, in order to amplify the note of the singer before they were 'fed' on to the field line."
