
Bird Notes.

By Alfred Crompton.

At Stonyfell there is still living a White Cockatoo (*Kakatoe galerita*), which was given to Miss Crompton as an unfledged nestling in October, 1876. The bird is now say 57 years and four months old*.

About mid-February, 1912 or 1913, at Port Willunga jetty, I saw for the first time, a flock of say thirty Swifts. They were flying north into an approaching storm, some 30 feet above the jetty, and 30 or 40 yards from me, as I stood at the lower end of the cutting. At the time I was struck with their large size. Later I saw skins of the two species that visit southern Australia, and I was satisfied that it was the Spine-tailed Swift (*Hirundapus caudacutus*) that I noted. On 11th January, 1928, I saw in the same neighbourhood a large flight of a smaller species, which were undoubtedly the Fork-tailed Swift (*Micropus pacificus*).

* In the Ibis, 1899, p. 19, etc., Mr. J. H. Gurney mentions instances of this species living to 81?, 80, 50, and 45 years. Major Flower, in the Proceedings of the Zoological Society of London, 1925, p. 1,365, etc., gives the following:—"Sir Herbert Maxwell, in a very interesting letter to Mr. N. B. Kinnear, of 15th June, 1925, writes:—'*Cacatua galerita*. Early in the Indian Mutiny campaign, the 93rd Highlanders, under command of Colonel Leith Hay, carried by assault an entrenched position defended by the rebels. Within the enemies' lines was found a fine Cockatoo, which Colonel Hay bought from one of his men, put in a cage, and appointed a special bearer for it. The 93rd had plenty of hard fighting before peace was restored. The Cockatoo was present in every action and escaped unhurt, though his first bearer was killed by a roundshot. At the end of the war the Colonel brought the bird home to Leith Hall, Aberdeenshire, where it lived till March, 1908, having passed 51 years with its latest owner. Unfortunately, there is no means of ascertaining its age at the time it came into the Colonel's possession.'"—Editors.