
BIRD NOTES

SOUTHERLY WINTER RECORD OF A SWIFT—Over a period of several years, observers in the Milang, Langhorne Creek, Strathalbyn and Finniss area have studied the Fork-tailed Swift *Apus pacificus*. The resultant records show that, while the species is often seen early in April it is rarely seen thereafter, the latest sightings having been two in the Langhorne Creek area on April 23 and 25 respectively.

In the township of Normanville on June 13, 1973, I saw a number of Swallows *Hirundo tahitica neoxena* feeding overhead during the morning. On casually looking up at 10.35, I noticed a much larger bird at about 80 ft., obviously a Fork-tailed Swift

because of its larger size, curved wings and long tail which on occasions parted momentarily to give the forked effect. It was observed for about four minutes as it circled overhead; then it flew off towards Normanville Beach. Cloud cover was about 70%; and although it did not rain on this day it rained on the following day.

Records of Fork-tailed Swifts wintering in Australia are rare but not unknown. They are summarised by A. Blackburn (*Emu*, 70, 90), who mentions sightings of single birds in the north of South Australia in July and August of different years; but the sources of these two records are unpublished. The previous most southerly winter record was that of E. Lindgren (*Bird Observer*, Nov. 1964, p. 5) who recorded a single bird with martins at Kings Park, Perth, on June 4, 1964.—ROSS D. ROBINSON.