

BIRD NOTES

In one mixed flock, six starlings formed an advanced party and 12 swallows followed closely. The swallows walked about 50 cm and then flitted into the air and landed again still behind the starlings. The behaviour pattern was repeated again and again as the mixed flock advanced. Although not "hawking", the swallows still fed in the air.

Other swallows were observed following Murray Magpies and feeding in the manner described. The larger birds no doubt disturbed the small insects on which the swallows were feeding. The comparison with cattle and egrets may be made.

The birds were seen feeding at about 0930. A strong, cold wind blowing across the playing field may have rendered "hawking" aerobatics difficult. — B. J. BROCK.

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UNUSUAL FEEDING BEHAVIOUR OF SWALLOWS — It is common enough to see Welcome Swallows *Hirundo neoxena* 'hawking' over sloping lawns or pools. However, they are not so commonly seen feeding from the ground. On August 3, 1977, I saw Welcome Swallows co-operatively feeding with Starlings *Sturnus vulgaris* and Murray Magpies *Grallina cyano-leuca* on the ground. The birds were feeding on a grassed playing field area at Torrens College of Advanced Education, Underdale.