

Spine-tailed Swifts (*Hirundapus caudacutus*), etc.

By H. H. Howard, Nargultie, via Streaky Bay.

Letter of 29th January, 1938.—Once again I have the pleasure in reporting the presence of the Spine-tailed Swifts*. These were seen passing over "Perlubie" travelling north on 19th January, 1938. This locality is situated due south from Nargultie on the shore of Streaky Bay "proper," about twenty miles from here. Several hundreds of birds were sighted flying

* [According to the records, no specimen of this Swift has been taken in South Australia, and there are but six reports in all of its occurrences in this State given by four observers.—Editors.]

low and apparently feeding; time, approximately 6 a.m.; later on birds were again seen flying high, but I was unable to say definitely what species of Swift they were.

My first definite sight of the Australian Dotterel (*Peltohyas australis*) at Nargultie took place last August, later on two young were seen, soon to be followed by about a score of birds which remained till late in December. During that period I ploughed the paddock and the birds became very friendly, very much so if I were with the sheep.

Letter of 1st March, 1938.—I have pleasure in again reporting the occurrence of the Spine-tailed Swifts. This flight was noted on 16th February, following a hot day with approximate shade temperature of 112 degrees; time, a little before sundown. They were flying fast and low with an east-to-west direction; forty-three birds were counted and several passed within sixty to seventy feet only. I do admit that no "spines" were noted, but that short bluff characteristic tail was very noticeable. It was the first occasion that I noticed how definite was the colouring, especially that blackish-green that shines brightly in the sunlight.

The Rock Parrots (*Neophema petrophila*) were plentiful on Eba Island, Streaky Bay, during February, 1938.
