

Micropus pacificus, Fork-tailed Swift.

By T. Brandon.

At 8.30 a.m. on 20th November, 1937, a flock of eighteen of these birds was seen eight miles east of Wilmington, flying from about 100 to 300 feet from the ground, circling around and gradually working away in a north-easterly direction. No more were seen on that date. A thunderstorm was working up and the weather was becoming sultry. From 8.30 a.m. until 2 p.m. on the 27th November, 1937, at the same place, these birds were seen in flocks from fifteen to fifty in number, flying from the south-west to north-east at varied heights, some as low as about sixty feet and others up almost out of sight. Usually one flock would be almost out of sight whilst the next one would be appearing; but at times a few minutes would pass when none would be seen. These birds were not circling as much as those seen on 20th November, 1937, and at times they uttered short twittering calls. The weather was very sultry, and two days later 230 points of rain were recorded.

On 20th February, 1938, at Berri, at 6 a.m., when the writer got up, birds of this species were noted flying past towards the north-east from about 30 up to 200 feet. Attention was first called to them by their twittering calls, which they often uttered. They seemed to be in small parties of twelve or so, but occa-

sionally many would be seen and at times none was visible at all. The weather had been sultry and hot, but was rough at this time, and the birds were flying into a strong head-wind, which caused them continually to fly in a zigzag manner, and thus they avoided the full force of the wind. No more birds were seen flying north-easterly after 10 a.m. At 12 noon the weather turned to a cool change with misty rain and southerly wind, and from 2 to 3 p.m. a few Swifts were seen circling around "hawking insects," coming from the north-east and working slowly away to the south-west. Some birds were quite close to the ground. The writer would like to ask, where do these birds come from; do they settle; and where do they migrate to when they leave here?*

P.S.—I might also add that on 20th February, 1938, my mate at Wilmington saw Swifts flying to the north-east for three hours during the morning (the same day as the birds were seen at Berri)—thus showing that they must have had a fair spread on).*
