

Fleming (1941) has shown that the *Pterodroma cookii* group is polyphyletic and not a single species as suggested by Murphy. In view of that it would perhaps not be surprising if subsequent field work made it necessary to modify the existing classification of the races of *Pterodroma leucoptera*, and in the meantime it would seem of little advantage to name formally a new subspecies on the basis of the Muriwai material. When the breeding station is eventually discovered, and a representative sample of the birds described, the status of its population in relation to the other races can be more definitely decided.

Additional facts in conclusion seem to prove that the specimens found at Muriwai did not originate directly from the Australian region. Prior to the final westerly on April 11 more-northerly winds had been prevailing, a fact which possibly suggests a more-northerly origin for the specimens. In actual distance from Muriwai there is little to choose between Cabbage Tree Island, the New Hebrides and the Kermadec Islands. My hypothesis that the northerly winds had brought them south was strengthened when shortly afterwards Mr. R. B. Sibson found the remains of two Red-billed Tropic-birds at Muriwai. The occurrence of this tropical species suggests an invasion of a more northerly element into the avian population of the Tasman on this occasion.

#### ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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#### REFERENCES

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1929 Murphy, R. C., "On *Pterodroma cookii* and its Allies," *Amer. Mus. Nov.*, no. 370.  
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**Swallow Family Together.**—I had the pleasing experience on August 11, 1942, of observing the four Australian representatives of the Swallow family (Hirundinidae), in one small area at the one time. The locality was a sparsely-timbered creekside bordering a closely-settled suburban area. In a direct line it is not beyond six miles from Sydney's G.P.O. Each of the four species has a wide distribution throughout Australia, but their respective choice of habitat generally differs to some extent. It is very probable that the observation was an exceptional one for a suburban area, but it may be unusual for rural areas also. It would be interesting to hear if others have recorded in their localities anything of a similar nature.—A. R. MCGILL, Arncliffe, N.S.W., 4/12/42.