

Spine-tailed Swifts and their Association with Rainfall and Dry Conditions.—From this year's observations I am not disposed to consider that the appearance of the Spine-tailed Swift (*Hirundapus caudacutus*) has any relation to dry or wet weather in this area.

Their principal appearance here occurs at intervals during February and March. For some years the rainfall has been exceptionally low during March and considerably below average in February. In 1945 the February rainfall was 288 points, most of which fell during one week. March of the same year yielded only 78 points, 71 of which are recorded for March 31. In February 1946 there were 198 points, following a dry January with only 52 points. March records for 1946 were 170 points, the main fall being on March 25 and 26, which was three days before I recorded the departure of the Swifts on March 29, 1946—*The Emu*, vol. 46, part 3, pp. 232-233.

This year (1947) a closer watch was kept with relation to the rainfall and appearance of the birds. The rainfall of 414 points in February was the highest for many years and March yielded 163 points. The birds appeared on February 12, just prior to 231 points of rain on February 13 to 15. Again on February 24 they were seen just prior to the commencement of rain that resulted in 74 points over four days. The last record of their appearance was made by me on March 13, immediately prior to a storm which resulted in 43 points. These records would not suggest that their appearance indicates dry weather in this district, though for some years past the low rainfall, with resultant dry and hot conditions during the normal period in which we see the Spine-tailed Swifts, was apt to lead one to consider them dry weather birds.—E. O. EDWARDS, Menangle Park, N.S.W., 19/8/47.

News and Notes

CORRECTIONS

The following corrections should be noted to the January 1948 part:

- p. 174. For '*orthorhamphus*' read '*magnirostris*.'
- p. 193. Insert 'Tui' before '*Prosthemadera novæseelandiæ*,' the type having been dropped after return of proofs.
- p. 206. In the legend under the figure read '*arundinaceus*' for '*orientalis*.'

HONOUR FOR MEMBER

Mr. L. E. Richdale has been elected a Corresponding Fellow of the American Ornithologists Union, an honour upon which he is to be congratulated.

CONGRESS AND CAMP-OUT

Instead of 'the Sharks Bay region' mentioned in the January *Emu*, p. 235, the site of the 1948 Camp-out will be at the mouth of the Murchison River, 103 miles north of Geraldton. It is an area not previously worked by ornithologists and combines sand-plain, mallee and mulga environment. It is also the boundary of northern and southern birds.

Tentative Programme

Tuesday, Sep. 7. Leave Melbourne by 7 p.m. train.

Saturday, Sep. 11. Delegates from eastern States arrive in Perth at 6.15 a.m.

Sunday, Sep. 12. A full-day bus excursion, 'In the steps of John Gilbert.' Led by Major H. M. Whittell, O.B.E.

Monday, Sep. 13. The Congress opens and continues for three or four days. During this time there will be receptions and excursions and delegates will have the opportunity of attending the Wild Life Show in the Perth Town Hall.

Thursday, Sep. 16, or Friday, Sep. 17. The party will leave for the site of the Camp-out, where members will remain for about ten days.

At the Camp-out there is a small hostel where the party will stay. The tariff will be £3/3/- a week. In all probability the party will travel from Perth to Geraldton by train and then from there, a distance of 103 miles, by bus. The bus fare will be £3 return.

Fares from Melbourne to Perth

By Plane: £22/9/9 each way.

By Rail: 1st Return ..	£30/11/6	} Including booking and sleepers except between Melbourne and Ade- laide, which will be £1 extra each way.
2nd Return ..	£19/7/-	
1st Single ..	£15/5/-	
2nd Single ..	£9/13/-	

Members intending to attending the Congress and Camp-out are specially requested to notify the Hon. General Secretary or the State Secretary for Western Australia (Mr. V. N. Serventy, 34 Onslow Rd., Subiaco, Western Australia) at the *earliest possible date* so that accommodation may be reserved at the Hostel. Accommodation will also be reserved in Perth for the delegates.

It has been suggested that an excursion may be made to the Abrolhos Islands, but this would only be possible after the Camp-out for those members who were prolonging their stay in Western Australia.

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