

January 29.—Swifts of both species flying very high over Portland from 7 a.m. till 10 a.m. Very hot. Calm. Barometer steady and rising in afternoon. No rain.

February 8.—A few birds flying south over Portland at 4 p.m. Very hot, light east breeze. Barometer falling. No rain.

March 3.—Brig. H. Officer reported a large flock flying low down off and around the coast at Point Danger (three miles from Portland) about noon. Weather conditions not noted.

March 7.—Brig. Officer saw one bird fly past him at Cape Grant. North wind and warm.

March 11.—A large flock passed over Portland from the south about 5 p.m. Clear and hot, S.E. breeze. Barometer falling. No rain.

March 29.—About fourteen birds at Tyrendarra, noon. Came from east and returned same direction, probably out-flyers of a flock. A very late appearance, as after the middle of March I have seldom seen swifts in this district. Cool, strong S.W. wind, misty. Barometer rising.

FORK-TAILED SWIFTS

January 18.—A small flock seen by C. Beauglehole near Mt. Richmond 11 a.m. On same morning Percy Finck saw four birds of the same species at Heathmere. Weather: Hot, light S.E. breeze. Barometer falling. No rain followed.

January 28 and 29.—See foregoing references under these dates. * * *

The season under review has been one of the best for swifts that we have ever had in the Portland district, both for the size of flocks and the number of them. Their appearance, as usual, has generally been when the barometer is falling, in other words the birds follow the recurring meteorological depressions. This fact leads me to advance the theory that the number of swifts in south-east Australia is confined to very few flocks, which, owing to the birds' fast flight, appear at many places in one day. Only observations as suggested will clear this matter.

Corrections.—In the interests of the records it should be pointed out that in my note on 'Gouldian Tragedies' in *The Emu* for July (vol. 51, p. 79) a printer's error turned the date of the death of John Gilbert from June 28, 1845, to April of that year. Actually, in April of '45, Gilbert, very much alive, was making useful bird-observations in the Burdekin Valley and was taking the first specimens of what became known as the White-browed Robin, *Poecilodryas superciliosa*.

Another minor error occurs in my note on *Hylacola* in *The Emu* for April, p. 238—a previous reference to the subject is given as vol. 47, p. 36, whereas it should read vol. 47, p. 367.—A. H. Chisholm, Sydney, N.S.W., 11/9/51.