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Spine-tailed Swifts.—Yesterday (March 8) a party of Spine-tailed Swifts passed over Devonport at 12.30 p.m., flying from north to south at a height of 400 to 500 feet. They were flying in a direct line at a good pace, not circling and feeding. They are the first I have seen for several years. Shortly after 1 p.m. Mr. J. M. Breaden, of Melrose (about five miles south from here), called in on his way home to tell me that he had passed a number of strange birds on the wing, and to ask what they were. From his description, there is no doubt that it was another party of Swifts, as he spoke of the long pointed wings and swooping flight. They were much lower than the party that I had seen, and were probably feeding on flying ants, of which there are numbers about lately. The day was fine, but cloudy, when Mr. Breaden called, but at 2 p.m. a sudden squall of wind and rain came from the north-west, so the birds were, as usual, harbingers of change. The remainder of the afternoon was cold and squally.

The Welcome Swallows have departed a month earlier than usual and none has been seen, either in the town or on the hill where I live, since the violent windstorm from the north-west we experienced on March 3.—H. STUART DOVE, Devonport, Tas., 9/3/41.