

## SHORT NOTES

### WELCOME SWALLOWS NESTING IN HAWKES BAY

I wish to record the first known nesting of the Welcome Swallow (*Hirundo neoxena*) in Hawkes Bay. Having been informed that Mr. Roy Baker, of Taihape, had sighted what he believed were two swallows near Waipukurau, Mr. N. B. Mackenzie, his son, Roderick, and I went to look for them on 25/11/62.

At Arlington Station we met a Mr. Chapman, who directed us to a small wooden bridge on the farm. After we had flushed a pair of Welcome Swallows from under the bridge, we found a nest attached to one of the stringers. It contained four eggs, which we checked for size, colour and markings.

As soon as we withdrew, the Swallows returned and spent some time flying above the bridge. Then after passing under the bridge a number of times, they settled back at the nest.

On 10/12/62 we checked the nest, which now held two chicks, just hatched, and two eggs still unhatched. Unfortunately this brood must have come to grief when later the stream came down in flood. After the flood abated, we inspected the nest and found debris inside.

B. D. HANKINS

★

### ADELIE PENGUIN FROM MARLBOROUGH COAST

While walking along the coast to Long Point, which is three miles north of the Flaxbourne Rivermouth, to band Black-backed Gull chicks on 22/12/62, Mr. J. Cowie and I found the dried corpse of a strange penguin. The corpse was taken home and after consulting Oliver's "New Zealand Birds" (1955) we decided it was an Adelie Penguin (*Pygoscelis adeliae*). Dr. R. A. Falla confirmed this identification when the remains were forwarded to him, and pointed out that it was an adult.

Owing to the activities of the Americans and others in Antarctica there is the possibility that the bird had been tossed overboard from a ship. This was not overlooked and the bird was examined closely to see any possible marks that would indicate that it had been held in captivity. Nothing could be found and it was especially noted that the tail was in perfect order. This would indicate that it had not been held in captivity as the tail feathers would probably be the first to be affected by wear or other damage.

Although there must always remain a margin of doubt it appears that this could well be the first New Zealand mainland record of this species and in fact possibly the most northerly record in the world.

S. R. KENNINGTON

[According to Serventy and Whittell, Birds of Western Australia, 1962, p. 72, 'the two supposed Australian occurrences should be held on the "suspense" list.' — Ed.]

★

### MONGOLIAN DOTTEREL AT KARAKA

At 9.30 a.m. on 8/1/63, when there was a small high tide, I was doing a routine patrol of Kidd's Beach and the Karaka shellbanks which are situated near the south-eastern corner of the Manukau