

Disturbance of habitat is also a common cause of hybridization but only in the situation where habitat preferences constitute a barrier to interbreeding. Eastern and Crimson Rosellas have widely overlapping habitat preferences. Hence habitat disturbance or rather disturbance of their relationship to their habitat cannot be invoked as a casual mechanism of hybridization between them.

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SHORT NOTE

WELCOME SWALLOWS AT LAKE OKAREKA

We have had several sightings of the Welcome Swallow *Hirundo neoxena* in the Bay of Plenty particularly at the mouth of the Kaituna River (Kaituna Cut), Matata Lagoon and Tarawera River estuary. Up to date we had not seen the Welcome Swallow on the Volcanic Plateau till 11/3/70 when three birds were observed from our house on the lakeside at Lake Okareka. Following the long dry spell (our driest for many years) the lake level is now the lowest we have known in 11 years and this has turned what was water up to 3 feet deep, with a strong stand of reeds giving excellent nesting sites for many waterfowl, into a barren mud mire (reeds dried and died off) and obviously an excellent breeding ground for insects. The three Welcome Swallows were flying in their usual energetic and spectacular manner over this area eventually landing and perching on the top of three sticks standing upright in the mud.

We noted them resting, one on each stick for nine minutes.