

concluded that this species was dimorphic with the dark phase evenly distributed throughout the breeding range.

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SHORT NOTE

SOME NOTES ON THE NESTING OF WELCOME SWALLOWS IN CENTRAL NORTHLAND

For some years the Welcome Swallow *Hirundo neoxena* has been a common bird in Central Northland and breeding seasons have been surprisingly long and successful.

At Waioitira, on the northern boundary of the Otamatea County and a little south of the area covered by Murray Munro (Notornis 16, 198-201), Welcome Swallows start breeding at the beginning of August. This year three nests were found containing eggs on 21/8/70. The clutches were 3, 3, 1 respectively. Several days later two of the nests contained four eggs, which is not an uncommon clutch in this area. As early as 31/8/70 one of the nests contained chicks. These three nests were located under wooden farm bridges, typical nesting sites, but recently two nests were found in more unusual sites.

In October a nest was found inside a large hollow totara tree. The birds entered the dark cavern inside the trunk by either of two natural holes. The nest when found contained four fully fledged chicks which left the nest on 25/10/70. The nest was firmly cemented to rotten wood about five feet off the ground.

Another nest was found under a large fallen log on an open hillside. Part of the log had fallen over a small undulation in the ground so that the nest, tucked away beneath, was about a yard above the ground. It contained one egg on 25/10/70.

— T. G. LOVEGROVE