

29-30/3/71. Ringed Plover present and just loafing in a large flock of Wrybills. H.R.McK.

29/5/71. The Ringed Plover was located by Sylvia Reed and B.B. near Kairito Creek. It and a single Red-necked Stint were attached to a comparatively small breakaway flock of c.250 Wrybills. This date seems to provide conclusive evidence for over-wintering. If the Ringed Plover does not travel south with the main body of Wrybills in spring, it may well be found again at Miranda during the summer of 1971-72.

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- 4 1958 Hindwood, K. A., and McGill, A. R.: Birds of Sydney.
- 5 1961 Bannerman, D. A.: Birds of British Isles Vol. 10.
- 6 1962 Dorst, Jean: Migrations of Birds.
- 7 1964 Clancy, P.A.: Birds of Natal and New Zealand.
- 8 1965 Vaurie, C.: Birds of the Palearctic Fauna Vol. 1.
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## SHORT NOTE

### JOTTINGS ON WELCOME SWALLOWS IN NORTHLAND

#### *Runaruna (Hokianga County)*

In 1967/68 there were nine occupied nests in a limited area near my home at Runaruna. In 1970/71 there were fifteen occupied nests in the same area.

On 25/10/70 I found two nests attached to vertical surfaces; both were made of mud, straw and rootlets, lined with sheeps' wool and feathers, and each containing one dead juvenile Welcome Swallow. One of the chicks was about ten days old and had died in the nest; the other, fully fledged, was hanging below the nest with one foot entangled in the sheeps' wool. From the amount of excreta in the nest it seemed that the parents had continued to feed the chick for a few days after it could normally have flown. Insect remains in the excreta included *Tipulidae* (Diptera) and *Carabidae* (Coleoptera).

#### *Aupouri Peninsula (Mangonui County)*

A survey made during the January 1971 Study Course showed that most bridges in the area have now been occupied, and that other sites, i.e. buildings, covered water-tanks, jetties, old boats, over-hanging cliffs and shallow caves are being increasingly used. One nest, in a culvert at Houhora, was attached entirely to the inner side of festoons of Kikuyu grass (*Pennisetum* sp.) hanging over the entrance.

Miss E. Madgwick tells me she has seen a nest attached to an old sack hanging over a rafter in an open shed at Pukepoto, and also one nearby, in a corrugated iron tank lying on its side; both were used successfully in the 1969/70 breeding season.

#### *Nest Materials*

Nests made of the sandy muds available in the Far North appear to be less durable than those further south which are constructed of clay muds. This is less noticeable in nests attached to culverts and buildings than in nests under bridges, which are exposed to vibration from passing traffic.

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— R. S. COWAN