

When washing, the partly opened wings were fluttered to throw water over the body. The head and breast were forcibly bobbed under the water a number of times in quick succession.

When it approached a feeding Pied Stilt (*Himantopus himantopus*) too closely the phalarope was chased and finally put to flight. No flights of more than 30 m were observed and the bird was not heard to call.

It is interesting to note that the feet of phalaropes are partly webbed and partly lobed. This was noticeable in the bird to the extent that it had a flat-footed appearance, somewhat like a gull.

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SHORT NOTE

SWALLOWS AT SEA TO THE NORTH OF NEW ZEALAND

On 22 March 1978, at 1300 hours when in position 30°21'S 176°55'E (which is some 240 km (150 miles) north-east of Cape Brett) two Welcome Swallows (*Hirundo neoxena*) were seen flying about the ship. By 1600 hours the same day there were five swallows on board sitting on rails and pipes. Some, if not all, of these birds were still on board when *Marama* arrived at Auckland the following morning.

On 25 March 1978, at 1400 hours when in position 32°07'S 175°32'E (about 260 km (160 miles) north-eastward of North Cape), one Welcome Swallow flew about the ship for about twenty minutes. It did not land on board and was not seen subsequently.

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