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## SHORT NOTE

## WELCOME SWALLOW IN MID TASMAN SEA

On 10 May 1978, a Welcome Swallow (*Hirundo neoxena*) was seen fluttering around the DSIR ship R.V. *Tangaroa* in the mid Tasman Sea, at 36°07'S 163°24'E. The bird was clearly identified as it flew close to the ship, briefly landing several times. No other ships came in sight on the cruise. A few days later the swallow was seen again, looking rather weak, sheltering under a tarpaulin. A brief search was made on returning to Wellington but it was not found.

For about a week before the sighting a large anticyclone had been moving slowly eastwards across the Tasman, giving light winds. By 10 May this had moved off and most of the Tasman was having northerly winds; 15-20 knots at our position.

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