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WELCOME SWALLOW AT STEWART ISLAND.

By Olga Sansom, Invercargill.

Early in September, Mr. J. C. Carrington, of Stewart Island, found a strange bird on a pile of timber on Greenvale Wharf. It was dead. He sent it to the Southland Museum. A few days later the Stewart Island school children found another of these birds and it also was sent on to the Museum. I sent one specimen to the Dominion Museum and one to the Ornithological Society. The latter specimen also reached the Dominion Museum.

Dr. R. A. Falla, who identified the bird, writes as follows:—"The little bird luckily reached us on Friday and Mr. Lindsay has been able to save it as a specimen. The second New Zealand record of the Australian welcome swallow (*Hirundo neoxena*), in one sense it is the first New Zealand record, for the other specimen was obtained in 1943 at the Auckland Islands. These swallows arrive in great numbers in Australia from the Northern Hemisphere during September. It is rather surprising that there have not been earlier and more numerous records, but such a small bird is likely to be overlooked although it should be recognized on the wing by anyone who has seen swallows in their normal habitat."

The remains of the second bird from Stewart Island also have been preserved.