

about the face or lores. The male specimen from Mungindi has an olive-grey cap and a distinct whiteness about the lores.

It was hoped that the birds seen near Richmond would remain in that locality and breed, but a few subsequent visits to likely spots in that area by Sergeant Sharland (who resides in the district at present) failed to locate them again. The specimen taken at Tarana was, as far as can be ascertained, the nearest previous record to Sydney. Tarana is about 100 miles due west from Sydney on the western slopes of the Great Dividing Range.

There are numerous and extensive swampy areas adjacent to the Upper Hawkesbury river, near Richmond, and possibly the species occurs there on occasions but has been overlooked. There appears to be no suitable habitat for the birds between that river and the various streams in the Tarana-Bathurst district. Observations during future excursions to swamps on the western fringe of the County of Cumberland may possibly shed some light on whether the Red-kneed Dotterel is a regular migrant to that locality or merely a straggler. The species is confined to Australia (excluding Tasmania), but it does not appear to occur commonly in coastal areas.

The accompanying photograph was taken by Mr. Norman Chaffer at Tuckerbil swamp, near Leeton, New South Wales, in late September, 1942.

Fork-tailed Swifts.—Many thousands of Fork-tailed Swifts (*Micropus pacificus*) flew over the Footscray district (five miles west of Melbourne) on January 22, 1944. The direction of flight was north-west, being partly against the strong and hot north wind that was blowing at the time. Peak temperature of the day was 104.4 degrees, and at 4.45 p.m., when the Swifts were first seen by me, the temperature was still around 100 degrees. Visibility was poor because of dust brought from the interior by the north wind. The Swifts flew low (from 25 to 40 feet) and at moderate pace. The passage of birds over my residence took nearly two hours, and at times hundreds were in sight within the limited area of visibility. Many thousands must have passed over in the period. On two occasions some Fairy Martins (*Hylochelidon ariel*) and Welcome Swallows (*Hirundo neoxena*) were noticed flying along with the Swifts, the Martins and Swallows together on both occasions. At 8.15 p.m. (about one and a half hours after the Swifts had flown over) the wind changed to the south, and at 8.25 p.m. a moderate shower of rain fell. Showers continued to fall throughout the night, resulting in about $\frac{1}{2}$ -inch rainfall.—JACK JONES, Maidstone, Vic., 22/1/44.