

dark brown with a distinct lighter brown "M" across the wings and back.

Having reached the north-western side of the lake, the bird acted in a typical "harrier-like" fashion, closely following the irregular tree line and gliding low over the crowns. The manner of flight and the under-wing markings differed from those of the Whistling and Little Eagles (*Hieraaetus morphnoides*). This bird did not have the greyish upper surface of the Spotted Harrier (*Circus assimilis*) or the whitish rump of a Swamp Harrier, nor were the wings elevated in the usual manner of these species when gliding.

We are familiar with the birds of prey mentioned above and are certain that this bird was not one of them. After consultation with other ornithologists who have observed the Square-tailed Kite (*Lophoictinia isura*) in the field, we are satisfied that the bird we observed was one of that species. This constitutes the most southerly record of the Square-tailed Kite in Australia.

—Roger D. Cowley, Len N. Robinson, Don B. Taylor, Melbourne  
26/4/1965

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**A Boy's care of an injured bird.** The afternoon of February 12, 1964, was a humid one and swifts had been seen flying low over Geelong. Later that afternoon an injured swift was found on a roadway in East Geelong, under high tension wires, by E. Smith, who passed the bird on to T. Pescott, President of the Geelong Field Naturalists Club. Pescott identified the bird as a Spine-tailed Swift (*Hirundapus caudacutus*), and its injuries were a damaged lower mandible and an injured left wing, which did not appear to be broken.

I received the bird the following day and found that it would not take any moisture or food. It lapsed into long periods of sleep or coma, but on occasions it would revive and appear to be quite bright. I did not think that the bird would survive the third night, and as a last resort I mixed a diluted brandy and gave the bird five drops. Next morning, to my surprise, the bird appeared to be well and even got out of its box on several occasions.

That day Graeme Dumbrell, a boy of 15 years of age, who lived at Bell Park, expressed a wish to care for the bird, and it was transferred to its new home. After experimenting with several different kinds of insects it was found that the Swift readily swallowed the soft abdomen section of black crickets.

Being entirely insectivorous, and catching all of its food when in flight, the Swift could only take food that was thrust into its mouth. After killing the cricket it was necessary to remove the abdomen portion with tweezers, and then to hand feed the bird, three times daily. After each feed a few drops of water were taken.

On this regular feeding routine the bird gradually grew stronger, and appeared quite normal in every way, with the exception that it was still unable to fly.

Every evening it was taken out of doors, and each time we hoped that it would take off from some elevated position and fly. Only on one occasion did the bird utter a call or chirp; when it had taken off and was attempting to fly, but it landed in the grass.

After several unsuccessful attempts to fly the bird was examined by a veterinary surgeon. His verdict was somewhat reassuring, as no bones were broken, but the torn muscles would take some time to heal.

At least 20 crickets were needed to provide one meal for the bird, a total of 60 crickets for each day. This was not a difficult problem while the warm weather lasted, but with the approach of autumn came colder days and less crickets. Many a long and cold hour was spent by Graeme in his evening search for crickets. From a farm at Drysdale came several hundred to supplement the supply, and from Allansford, near Warrnambool, a consignment was despatched by rail.

By the first week in April, when the last Swift usually departs on its northward journey, it was apparent that the injured bird was too late to join its kind, en route for Asia.

One member of the Bird Observers Club contacted Qantas Empire Airways Ltd., and they agreed to fly the bird back to its native land, Japan. The Secretary, Mr. Roy Wheeler, communicated with Dr. Mikio Yasuda, of Nagoya University, Japan. Unfortunately he was in the United States at the time, but he promptly contacted Dr. Asakura and Dr. Hayashi, of the Tama Zoological Garden in Tokyo, and they agreed to receive and care for the bird.

However, while these arrangements were being made the bird became listless and died on April 24, 1964.

Graeme had kept the Swift alive for 68 days, on a diet that included approximately 4,000 crickets — a remarkable achievement.

—*Jack Wheeler, Belmont, Victoria. 1/6/1964.*

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**The Nesting of the Rufous Bristle-bird.** This species has a grim struggle for survival at Point Addis, Victoria. During the war years this area was a bombing range for the R.A.A.F. Early in November, 1964, it appeared that a CMF exercise had been carried out in the very small patch of scrub at the top of a cliff where our particular pair of Bristle-birds exist. Heavy vehicles had crushed down the low scrub, and spent cartridges littered the landscape. Of course, these exercises are necessary but they are tough on the Bristle-birds.

Two birds were observed, running across the road with their tails cocked at an angle of 30°. They were also heard, their calls being a clear "Cheep-cheep, chu-weep".

We found two old nests, each built in the outer foliage of a low pomaderris, approximately 3 feet from the ground. They could not be seen when one was looking directly at the bush, and they