

Guinea, and eastern Indonesia, including Sulawesi and Maluku. Within Nusa Tenggara, it has been recorded on Sumba, Flores, Babar and Tanimbar, islands to them north-west and north-east of Timor, respectively (White & Bruce 1986, Holmes *in litt.*). This appears to be the first published record of the species from Timor.

Further confirmation of the Channel-billed Cuckoo at Camplong is provided by Alan McBryde who recorded the species there on 12 January 1993.

### References

- Beehler, B.M., Pratt, T.K. & D.A. Zimmennan. 1987. *Birds of New Guinea*. Princeton University Press, Princeton, New York.
- Blakers, M., Davies, S.J.J.F. & P.N. Reilly. 1984. *The atlas of Australian birds*. RAOU, Melbourne.
- Mayr, E. 1944. The birds of Timor and Siimba. *Bull. Amer. Mus. Nat. Hist.* 83: 123-194.
- Mees, G.F. 1975. A list of birds known from Rod and adjacent islets (Lesser Sunda Islands). *Zoologische Mededelingen* 49: 115-140.
- White, C.M.N. & M.D. Bruce. 1986. *The birds of Wallacea (Sulawesi, the Moluccas and Lesser Sunda Islands, Indonesia): an annotated checklist*. Brit.Om.U. Checklist No. 7. London.

### Address

:Science Faculty, Northern Territory University, P.O.Box 40146, Casuarina, N.T. 0811, Australia.

## MIGRATION OF SWIFTS IN THE GENUS *APUS* THROUGH NUSA TENGGARA

By

**DA. Holmes**

(Received 18 May 1994)

Very few records are given in White & Bruce (1986) of the Fork-tailed Swift *Apus pacificus* in Wallacea, and even fewer of the Little Swift *A. affinis*. For *pacificus*, there was sufficient evidence to indicate that this species at least passes through Wallacea regularly en route to Australia, but there was only one record known from Nusatenggara (from Flores). A number of observers have reported the species subsequently, from Flores (Verhoeve, in prep.), Timor (Andrew 1986), and Sumba (Manchester Polytechnic, in litt., and Holmes pers. obs.). In Flores, Verhoeve found it to be present from mid-August to mid-April, common from September to November and often in large flocks.

By contrast, *affinis* was confirmed as a resident in Sulawesi only in 1978 (Escott & Holmes 1980). There were no records from elsewhere in Wallacea, although there was a single record from North Australia in 1979 (Robertson 1980). Subsequently, however, Verhoeve (in prep.) found this species to be very local along the south coast of Flores, with two pairs occupying disused nests of Striated Swallow *Hirundo striolata* near Paga in November 1990, so it would appear that it may have arrived as a breeding resident.

In 1993, the author first encountered *pacificus* in Flores on 24 Sept, with a small party at Kolisia, on the north coast west of Maumere. From that date onwards, small numbers were encountered on nearly every day spent in the field, in eastern Flores (Maumere - Larantuka and Tanjung Bunga) from 30 Sept-4 Oct, and in western Flores (Labuhanbajo - Ruteng) from 10-13 October. They were also seen near Kupang (Timor) on 8 Oct, 22-25 Oct and 5 Nov (the last date in the field before leaving the region). Although numbers were small, there were repeated observations through many of these days, indicating a steady passage over a broad front in substantial numbers. The largest party was up to 50 birds at Lasiana, near Kupang, on 5 Nov. The majority of sightings were near the coast, but this may be coincidental; swifts were seen high over the Ruteng mountains on 13 Oct.

On 24 September at Kolisia, one *affinis* was seen with the Pork-tailed Swifts, and direct comparison was possible. One or two more individuals were seen at Nebe on 30 Sept, Tanjung Bunga on 2 Oct, and again at Nebe on 4 Oct. Others may have been overlooked, as time could not be taken from official duties to examine every swift. It was after this time that the author saw a paper on swift identification (Chantier 1993), and armed with this guide, it was hoped to make more direct comparisons in western Flores in mid-October. However, all the swifts encountered on this visit proved to be *pacificus*.

Any lingering doubts about identification were dispelled on 5 Nov, when one *affinis* was seen very clearly at Lasiana, Timor. The bird was instantly identified by its thicker tail base, and the slightly forked tail, and then by its overall less slender and graceful appearance than the *pacificus* with which it was associating. There may have been others present, but most of the swifts in this party were rather distant and could not be identified.

These records of *affinis* in Flores and Timor provide the first indications of passage through the region, in support of the single record from North Australia. The Australian bird was referred to *subfurcatus* of the Malay Peninsula, Borneo and the Philippines, rather than *furcatus* of Java. It seems possible that Little Swifts from the Asian continent become associated with parties of Fork-tailed Swifts and accompany them southwards.

A striking return passage of *pacificus* was observed over Timor on a brief visit to the region on 6 March 1994. The birds were seen flying west in the evening over Baun, south of Kupang. They were estimated to be passing over at a rate of about 57 per minute, for at least half-an-hour, probably on a

front of about 3 km width. Baun lies on a low ridge orientated east-west, which is the first ridge that would be encountered by birds arriving on the south coast (none were seen when we drove to the next ridge 2-3 km to the north). Assuming birds were visible over a width of 0.5 km, this might indicate a total of some 340 per minute, or 10,200 over the period of observation. Presumably the passage was by no means confined to this period, but any further extrapolation of numbers would not be valid.

### References

- Andrew, P. 1986. Notes on some birds of Timor. *Kukila* 2:92-95.
- Chantler, P. 1993. Identification of Western Palearctic Swifts. *Dutch Birding* 15(3): 97-135.
- Escott, C.J. & D.A. Holmes. 1980. The avifauna of Sulawesi, Indonesia: faunistic notes and additions. *Bull. Brit. Orn. Cl.* 100: 189-194.
- Robertson, D.G. 1980. First record of the House Swift *Apus affinis* (Apodidae) in Australia. *Aust. Birdwatcher* 8:239-242.
- White, C.M.N. & M.D. Bruce. 1986. *The birds of Wallacea (Sulawesi, the Moluccas and Lesser Sunda Islands, Indonesia): an annotated checklist*. London. B.O.U. Check-list No. 7.

**Address:** *Kukila*, P.O. Box 4087, Jakarta 12040.

### A RED JUNGLEFOWL FEEDING IN CLOSE PROXIMITY TO OTHER PHEASANT SPECIES IN ALAS PURWO, JAVA

By

**M. Indrawan**

(first draft received 12 March 1994)

While studying the behaviour of Javan Green Peafowl *Pavo muticus*, I recorded an instance of a male Red Junglefowl *Gallus gallus* feeding in close association with a pair of Green Junglefowl *Callus varius*, and more briefly with two Green Peafowl. The observation was made on the grassland edge of "Sadengan" savannah at Alas Purwo National Park, East Java (8°37'-47'S, 114°21'-36'E). During the previous six days, a pair of Green Junglefowl was seen to travel the same crescentic route in the morning and sometimes in the afternoon. It is believed that only one pair of Green Junglefowl was involved, whereas at least two crowing males of Red Junglefowl were heard regularly in the nearby woodland. Details of the incident are recorded below.