

However, *C. fulgidus* lacks the trilling calls of *Tanysiptera* species. Its calls are remarkably similar to those of *Dacelo leachii*, *D. tyro* and *D. gaudichaud* in tone and delivery. Its main call is a rapid series of some 8 to 14 harsh notes 'kuff-kuff-kuff, delivered at about one per second. As with *Dacelo*, duetting is quite common. Another feature that it shares with *Dacelo* is its habit of cocking the tail when calling. The most striking feature that sets it apart from *Dacelo* would appear to be its bright red bin.

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## **OVERLOOKED EVIDENCE OF THE SHORT-TOED EAGLE *Circaetus gallicus* ON JAVA**

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(First Draft received 27 June 1988)

The Short-toed Eagle *Circaetus gallicus* is widely distributed over Africa, Eurasia, India, and North China, with an isolated, resident population in the Lesser Sundas (King at a7 1975; White & Bruce 1986). Northern populations are migratory and birds have been reported, uncommonly, south to Malaya (Medway & Wet ls 1976). The species has been recorded from a number of localities in the area between both main regions of distribution: Sumatra (Van Marle & Voous 1988), Java

(Baluran: Van Helvoort *et al.* 1976; Mackinnon 1988), and Bali (Ash 1984), but without substantiated evidence until recently.

It was by mere coincidence that in April 1988 a colour slide showing an (unidentified) bird of prey in flight, taken by A. Compost, was found in the slide collection of the Green Indonesia Foundation at Bogor, where it was stored for ten years. Closer investigation revealed its identity as the Short-toed Eagle, the large, dark-coloured head, four dark tail bands, of which the subterminal ones broadest, and light underparts with dark streaks and banding (see Figure 1) being diagnostic. B.-U. Meyburg (*pers. comm.*), who saw a photoprint of the slide and has extensive experience of the bird in Spain and other countries, confirmed the bird's identity.

Unfortunately no other data than the date of development of the slide (May 1978) and the locality (Baluran) were noted on the slide label. Inspection of other slides in the same series suggested that the bird was photographed at Sumba Battok (or Sumber Barok?) near Mesigit at the northeast coast of Baluran (114° 19' E, 7° 48' S: East Java), around noon and most likely in April or early May 1978.

An area such as Baluran is thought to be appropriate for Short-toed Eagles and wintering from time to time could be expected (B.-U. Meyburg, *pers. comm.*). The other possibility is that visiting (or even resident?) birds belong to the population of the Lesser Sundas (Lombok, Flores, Timor, Sumbawa). Mees (1975) discussed the resident status (confirmed by a juvenile bird) of the species in the Lesser Sundas. He pointed out the smaller size of the birds of the isolated population; furthermore three of seven birds were collected in April and May, *i.e.* during the northern breeding season (both Baluran birds were observed in April/May and June); finally the stage of primary moult shown by a bird from Roti. (East Lesser Sundas) was not synchronized with western birds, indicating a different population. Similar to the Roti bird, which was collected in April, the photographed Baluran bird shows advanced moulting, namely a complete set of primaries, without any of the ten feathers in growth, and probably all new, with the exception of the fourth (right) and fifth (left).

### **Acknowledgements**

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Figure 1. Short-toed Eagle *Circaetus gallicus* in flight, Baluran, April/May 1978 (drawn from a photograph by A. Compost).

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