

FAN-TAILED CUCKOO PARASITISES FIJI WARBLER

On 11 March 1973 amongst dense undergrowth in a mahogany plantation some 100m above sea-level on Mount Korobaba near Suva, I saw a Fiji Warbler (*Vitia ruficapilla*) feed a young Fan-tailed Cuckoo (*Cacomantis pyrrhophanus*), thus proving that this species is parasitised by the cuckoo.

The young cuckoo, which was fully fledged, was flying from bush to bush after the warbler — which was working amongst dense fern just above ground-level — and uttering a plaintive, almost cicada-like “zeep zeep zeep zeep zeep” continuously. While I watched the warbler twice flew up and fed the cuckoo with small insects.

FERGUS CLUNIE

*Fiji Museum,
Suva, Fiji.*

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PROBABLE SIGHTING OF FORK-TAILED SWIFT

In early September 1972, I had a strange bird on my farm at Kaipara Flats, North Auckland, for one week. The farm is grazing country, moderately hilly.

It was a swallow-like bird, a little smaller than the Spine-tailed Swifts which I had previously closely observed there (Hudson 1968: 42). It fed at times up to about 150 feet, its frequent calling being audible up to a quarter of a mile. The Spine-tailed Swifts had not called at all although they were swooping right down at my dogs, no doubt seeking disturbed insects.

On a visit to H. R. McKenzie, “Slater” (1970) was studied and it was decided that “shrill excited chattering” fitted the call better than did the “shrill twittering or chattering” given for the Spine-tailed Swift.

The tail was definitely forked but I did not have the bird close enough to get detailed colour markings. It was certainly too large to be the fork-tailed birds, Welcome Swallow, Barn Swallow or White-backed Swallow, according to the illustrations given by Slater *et al.* (p. 130).

The Annotated Checklist (OSNZ 1970) gives four records of the Fork-tailed Swift in New Zealand, the last being in 1960.

REFERENCES

- HUDSON, F. P. 1968. Spine-tailed Swifts over Kaipara Flats. *Notornis* 15 (1): 42.
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SLATER, P., *et al.* 1970. A field guide to Australian birds. Non-Passerines. Pp. xxxii + 1-428, text illus., pls 1-64, 396 maps. Adelaide, &c.: Rigby Limited.

F. P. HUDSON

*Kaipara Flats,
North Auckland*