Petrochelidon rufigula in Northern Rhodesia.

Mr. J. A. Cottrell, of the African Education Department, and a keen Zoologist, during a recent visit to Kabompo district in October located a breeding colony of Cliff Swallows on rock faces of the gorge of the Chikuta Rapids, and my collector Selamombo subsequently obtained specimens which prove to be this species. So far as I am aware it has hitherto only been found at Caconda and Pungo Andongo in western Angola. Since Anssorge's specimens from the latter locality were obtained forty years ago, the new Rhodesian records form virtually the rediscovery of the species.

P. spilodera (Sandevall) of South Africa, P. rufigula of Angola and P. preussi (Reichenow) of West Africa appear to me to be conspecific. The tail pattern is the same in two of them, and all have the same general pattern—blue back with reddish rump, nearly square tail, and light underside and streaked mantle. Their characters may be summarized as follows:

P. s. spilodera. Above blue-black with crown brownish and contrasting, rump dull rufous, mantle with white fringes to feathers, giving streaked effect; tail plain; throat deep buff, with black spots; a spotted pectoral collar; below white washed with sienna; wing 111–117; tail 51–58 mm.

P. s. rufigula. Crown like back; tail with white spots except inner pair; throat rufous and unsotted; no pectoral collar, but a trace of dark spots at sides of breast; below more rufous; wing 96–103, tail 50–56 mm.

P. s. preussi. Upper parts as in P. rufigula, but rump sandy, not rufous; tail like last; below pale fulvous brown with no spots and throat not darker than rest of underside; wing 92–99, tail 50–54 mm. There is thus a gradual change in the characters, P. rufigula linking the South African to the West African bird.

The nests and eggs of these three are similar, the eggs being spotted. P. fuliginosa (Chapin) is smaller (wing 86–94, tail 43–48 mm.), quite different in pattern, and lays white eggs; I feel doubtful of its close relationship.

P. spilodera seems to be only a breeding visitor to South Africa, but its winter quarters are not known. P. rufigula has only recently appeared at Chikuta Rapids; it was absent there in June, the month when Anssorge met it at Pungo Andongo in Angola. The migratory movements of this group of swallows are still virtually unknown.

This latest discovery adds one more strong link between Angola and this hitherto little-known corner of Northern Rhodesia.

Finally, I may add that I doubt whether there is any valid reason to separate these swallows generically from Hirundo.

9 October 1948.

C. M. N. White

A New subspecies of Pavo muticus.

In 'Ibis,' 1928: 31, I have pointed out for the first time the considerable difference existing between the western Burmese and the Malaysian-Indochinese forms of the Green Peacock. I now find that the population inhabiting French Indochina, eastern Burma and Siam south to the Isthmus of Kra can be separated from those of Malay. I assume for the present that the latter are identical with Javanese specimens, as the very inadequate material available to me at present seems to indicate. This will have to be verified later on. For the Indocheinese population I propose the name

Pavo muticus imperator subsp. nov.

Male.—Resembles P. m. muticus but is not quite so brilliantly coloured; the fringes of the feathers of the neck, upper back and breast are of a more coppery, less golden green, their inner part of a less dark and rich blue; the lower breast and flanks are of a duller and darker green, the mantle and back slightly more bluish, less golden.
wing-coverts and outer webs of secondaries bluer and less bright, with less green on the borders. Wing 505; train 1300; culmen 45; tarsus 160 mm.


Three adult males examined from the Bolovens and Ban Houaësi (Laos), and 40 miles east of Um-Pang (Siam).

Female.—Resembles muticus but has the borders of the neck and breast feathers less bright and more heavily marked with buffy brown, the wing-coverts also less bright.

Seven examined from the Bolovens (Laos) Ban-Methout (Annam), Um-Pang (Siam), Kavkeviet (Tenasserim) and Changlung, Salween River (Yunnan).

The range of P. m. imperator includes the whole of French Indochina, Siam and Tenasserim south of Kra, eastern Burma probably west to the Irrawaddy-Salween Divide, and the border of Yunnan. It is possible that more subspecific divisions could be established if suitable material was at hand, but the slight differences noticed seem to fall into the category of individual variations.

The form from western Burma is P. m. specifer Shaw and Nodder (not spiciferus as spelled by Ogilvie-Grant and other authors), a generally much duller bird in which the borders of the neck and breast feathers are verditer grey instead of coppery or golden green, the wing-coverts black with a narrow dark blue border, the secondaries almost entirely black, the abdomen and flanks darker and duller, and the under tail-coverts a lighter grey; the facial skin is of less brilliant blue and yellow colours. Pairs of live birds belonging to both the forms specifer and imperator were for several years kept in adjoining pens by Mr. A. Ezra at Foxwarren Park, Surrey, and the differences between the two subspecies were very striking.

I am obliged to Dr. H. Friedmann, National Museum, Washington, and to Mr. J. C. Greenway, Museum of Comparative Zoology, Cambridge, Mass., for the loan of specimens and for valuable advice.

8 November 1948.

J. DELACOUR

OCEAN LANES OF SEA BIRDS.

With reference to 'Ibis' 90, 1948: 564 (R. Meinertzhagen, "Birds of Ushant"), the last sentence of the notes on Puffinus puffinus refers to the study of sea birds using lanes on oceans. I venture therefore to record that while stationed at Kelibia, in Cap Bon, Tunisia, during July and August 1943, I noted a regular daily movement of Shearwaters (presumably Puffinus puffinus or P. kakii) off the shore. In the forenoon they were noted flying south in a lane which I estimated to be approximately 15,000 yards off shore, while in the evenings the flight was northerly and in a lane fairly close to the shore.

12 November 1948.

GERARD L. SANDEMAN

FIELD NOTES ON THE ORANGE-CRESTED MANAKIN

NEOPELMA CHRYSOCEPHALUM (PELZ.).

In the tropical evergreen forests of British Guiana the Orange-crested Manakin is a bird of the tall undergrowth. It frequents the middle zone of the forest from about ten feet above the ground up to the bottom of the crowns of the trees that form the main canopy at sixty or seventy feet, hopping about among the branches and making flycatching sallies like a leaf-warbler. It is a small olive-green bird with no very obvious field character except its voice. In appearance and general habits it suggests a tyrant flycatcher (Tyrannidae) rather than a manakin (Pipridae).