

In his bill he held a large lauraceous fruit, which he offered to the female. After she had swallowed it, I witnessed a copulation that lasted a few seconds, after which the male flew away. Shortly after, the female started feeding on the *Miconia* fruits.

The following day I returned to the same fruiting tree. Soon a female, apparently the same individual, came in and perched on the same branch I had been watching the previous day. After about 20 minutes the male arrived, offered another fruit of the same kind as before to the female, then copulated with her. This time the female flew away first, to a tree about 10 m away, and disappeared among the mass of epiphytes growing over the trunk. Later that morning I saw the two birds fly to exactly the same place, 5 m above the ground on a large trunk thickly covered with epiphytes. The female was carrying moss, evidently to a nest, but I was unable to examine it closely because of the masses of epiphytes on the trunk.

As far as I know, this is the first definite report of courtship feeding of any of the cotingas in the wild. In captivity, Everitt (1963, *Avic. Mag.* 69: 141–144) and Lint & Dolan (1966, *Avic. Mag.* 72: 18–20) observed male fruit-eaters (*P. riefferii* and *P. jucunda*) feeding incubating females, and also (*P. jucunda*) before the eggs were laid. Skutch (1989, *Ibis* 131: 303–304) reported what was apparently courtship feeding in the Rufous Piha *Lipaugus unirufus*, but did not observe copulation. Snow (*loc. cit*) has evidence that courtship feeding perhaps occurs in the genus *Carpornis*, which is probably quite closely related to *Pipreola*.

I am grateful to Alexander F. Skutch, Barbara Snow and David W. Snow for encouraging me to write this note and for helpful comments on an earlier draft.

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30 September 1991

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A RECORD OF GREAT KNOT *CALIDRIS TENUIROSTRIS* FROM  
MAURITIUS, INDIAN OCEAN

The largest concentration of waders on the Mascarene Islands, western Indian Ocean, occurs at Terre Rouge estuary, Mauritius (20°08'S, 57°30'E), a small (0.5 km<sup>2</sup>), polluted, tidal mudflat close to Port Louis, the capital city. African Waterfowl Census counts at Terre Rouge in 1991–1992 revealed up to 1201 waterbirds of which about 80% were Curlew Sandpipers *Calidris ferruginea* (Perennou 1991; pers. obs.).

On 28 December 1990 I found a single Great Knot *Calidris tenuirostris* in a mixed flock of waders on the southern shore of Terre Rouge estuary. I watched it for one hour at ranges down to 20 m through a 25X telescope,

and also photographed it. It was not seen on subsequent visits in January to March 1991.

Diagnostic features noted were as follows. Structurally it appeared to be a giant *Calidris*, but only one bird present was close in size: a Grey-tailed Tattler *Heteroscelus brevipes*, which had also been present in the 1989–1990 non-breeding season (details of the latter well-watched and photographed bird, found by P. A. R. Hockey, have not been published, although it is also new to the Mascarene Islands). The Great Knot was noted as similar sized but bulkier bodied, with a thick-based, tapering bill. Black breast spots over otherwise white underparts merged upwards into streaks, quite sharply cut off below next to the carpal joint but with a few dark flecks below this or continuing along the flanks. The crown was heavily streaked blackish. The mantle and scapulars were faded (lower scapulars warmer-coloured and almost pointed with wear), but still looked very dark and contrasted with the paler brown, more faded or washed-out wing coverts and tertials.

J. H. Marchant examined my photographs and description and agrees with the identification, commenting that the brownish tones to the plumage, worn scapulars and contrast on the wing indicate that the bird was in first non-breeding ('first winter') plumage.

Great Knots breed in northeastern Siberia and most spend the non-breeding season in Australia. The nearest known concentrations to Mauritius occur in Pakistan and the Arabian peninsula (Hayman *et al.* 1986, Perennou *et al.* 1990), but recent records in Morocco and north-western Europe (Anon. 1991) confirm the tendency to long-range vagrancy. The only previous records for the Afrotropical and Malagasy faunal regions have come from Seychelles but details have never been published (Marchant 1986, Turner & Dowsett 1988).

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Forestry Quarters,  
Tamarin,  
Mauritius,  
Indian Ocean

ROGER J. SAFFORD

16 December 1991



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