

#### IV. A CASE OF DEATH BY MISADVENTURE IN THE HOUSE SWIFT (*Apus affinis*)

On 15th. October 1965 in the town of Betong, changwad Yala, peninsular Thailand, I was watching House Swifts (*Apus affinis*) as they flew through and over the town, and inspecting their nests. These nests, built under the eaves of the houses along the main street in successive mounds, one on top of the other over the years, had in places become vast clusters.

Some of the fibres hung loosely from the nests, and hanging from one such fibre was a dead Swift. It was not possible to reach the bird from the ground, but from an examination through binoculars it appeared that this bird had been garroted by the loop of a hanging thread tightening around its neck as it was either sweeping up towards, or down from, a nest—more probably the latter.

A similar occurrence has been noted by BENNETT for the House Martin (*Delichon urbica*)—a palearctic species with strong resemblances in plumage and nesting habits (Cf. *British Birds* 55: 1962. p. 135).

E.C.D.

#### V. A MIXED BREEDING COLONY OF BEE-EATERS AND SAND-MARTINS

On May 21st. 1966 I took a boat for some distance down the Mekong river from Chiang Khong, changwad Chiengrai. On the way down stream I noticed some Blue-tailed Bee-eaters (*Merops philippinus*) at nest holes in the Laotian bank of the river.

Coming back up slowly against the current we passed close inshore beside them. They were feeding young and about 8–10 nest holes seemed to be in use. All round these nest holes were smaller holes in the bank and we stopped the boat to see whether these were in use. After several minutes wait one of the small Brown-throated Sand Martins (*Riparia paludicola*) entered one of these small holes.

Many such Sand Martins were in the vicinity but no others showed a pressing interest in the holes and perhaps the majority of the small holes were either not yet or no longer occupied.

The location of this colony was between Ban Pha Kam and Ban Phaoy which stand on the bank of the Mekong just south of Ban Houei Sai, Laos.

*E.C.D.*

## VI. A NEST OF THE RED-CAPPED FORKTAIL

(*Enicurus ruficapillus*)

Near Tharn Toh waterfall, which lies close to the road between Bannang Sata and Betong in changwad Yala, on 28th. July 1966 I found a nest of the Red-capped Forktail (*Enicurus ruficapillus*).

Like a nest of the Slaty-backed Forktail (*Enicurus schistaceus*) previously found in Khao Yai National Park, the nest was built on the side of a bank. The Khao Yai nest was on a stream bank but the nest at Tharn Toh was in a bank of the roadway that leads from the main road to the fall. It was comprised of moss and lined with mud to give a firm cup.

There were 2 eggs of whitish ground colour marked with a more or less regular ring of red-brown spots just above the point of greatest width. A parent was disturbed from the nest.

MADOC (Malayan Nature Journal 11:31-34) has given an interesting account of the breeding of this species in Malaya, but I cannot trace a previous record for Thailand although it has been found as a resident and Dr. W.L. ABBOTT collected a female near Trang on 1st. February 1897 which contained two nearly mature eggs (Cf. RILEY, U.S. Nat. Mus. Bull. 172. 1938. p. 403).

*E.C.D.*