

THE TREE SPARROW REACHES MEW GUINEA

By D.A. Holmes

On 27 May 1989, five or six Tree Sparrows *Passer montanus* were seen around the office of Animal Quarantine and adjacent Sub-Balai PHPA at Biak, Irian Jaya. The birds were visiting sites beneath the eaves of the buildings and showed indications of being in residence.

At the suggestion of the author, S.V. Nash visited the site on 12 July 1989 and noted a similar number of Tree Sparrows, confirming the record.

The nearest limit of previously known range is Ambon (White & Bruce, 1986) where the species is common (D.A. Holmes pers. obs). Assuming the birds have reached Biak on board ship, it seems unlikely that they will be able to spread around Irian Jaya's inhospitable coasts unassisted, but a search should be made at other ports along the coast.

Reference:

White, C.M.N. & M.D. Bruce. 1986. *The Birds of WaUacea*. British Ornithologists' Union, Checklist no.7. London.

RINGKASAN

Catatan penemuan pertama *Passer montanus* untuk Irian Jaya.

WHITE-WINGED WOOD DUCK, A MEW SITE FOR JAMBI PROVINCE

By Marcel J. Silvius and Hans de longh

While travelling by speedboat along the Berbak river on 7 April 1989 at 17.45, both authors observed a large duck flying across at about 50m height. It had almost completely white wing coverts and a white neck and head, while remaining parts were dark. It was thus identified as an adult male White-winged Wood Duck, *Cairina scutulata*. It crossed the river coming from the forested south side near Kampung Sekumbang. It disappeared over the forest fringe of the northern river side.

There are few sightings of White-winged Wood Duck from this province (Holmes 1976, 1977; Lambert, 1988) which may reflect the low density of birdwatchers rather than the rarity of the species. However, suitable feeding areas may be less common in this province than in South Sumatra and Lampung. During intensive survey work in the coastal region of the Berbak