

16 March 1994

SCHOOL OF ZOOLOGY  
FACULTY OF SCIENCE  
AND TECHNOLOGY

Dr R. Santharan  
Salim Ali Centre for Ornithology  
and Natural History  
Kalampalayam P.O.  
Coimbatore 641-010, India.

Dear Dr Santharan

Biological Conservation: mss AUS9404 (Nicobar Scrubfowl)

I have now received the reports of two referees on your paper, and copies of these are enclosed. Both referees acknowledge that your paper contains important information, but feel that it needs more attention and revision before it can be accepted for Biological Conservation. I agree.

Main points of significance are:

Ref 1. 'The first sections read very much as unrefined sections of a research report, and would benefit from severe pruning'.

'Some recent publications directly affect the conclusions and therefore the very aims of this work' [copies of relevant papers were enclosed for your reference: enclosed here].

[It seems that the epithet 'Megapode' will be recommended as a standard name in the forthcoming text on 'The Megapodes', due to be published (OVP) in late 1994].

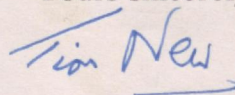
Ref 2. 'The population estimates are poorly argued and this should certainly be corrected' ..... 'apparently inflated estimates are also presented in the abstract (with absurd precision).

'Further discussion of Dekker 1992 needed - mention/discuss discrepancy between population estimations, clarification of nests etc'.

Both referees have clearly been through the paper very carefully. As substantial changes seem to be needed, I have not edited this manuscript critically at this stage.

If you care to submit a revised version of this paper in due course, I shall be pleased to seek further comments.

With kind regards,  
Yours sincerely,



Dr T.R. New  
Australasian Editor,  
Biological Conservation

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3 May 1999

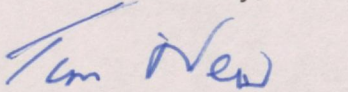
Dear Dr Sankaran,

Biological Conservation ms AUS 9905

I am sorry that refereeing your paper has taken so long. One report (copy enclosed) arrived promptly, but repeated attempts to liberate the other have so far failed, despite repeated promises.

However, the report to hand is strongly supportive of your apaper, and I se no real reason to delay further. The report raises a number of points which you might like to consider in revising your paper, but is supportive of publication once minor revisions have ben done. Please note, in particular, the general comment about shortening it somewhat. I am therefore pleased to accept your paper in principle for publication in Biological Conservation, and look forward to receiving the final version (two hard copies and a disc, please) in due course.

With kind regards,  
Yours sincerely,



T.R.New,  
Australasian Editor, Biological Conservation