

PRESENCE OF DOWN-LIKE NESTLING PLUMAGE IN PALLID SWIFT, *APUS PALLIDUS*

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In Apodiformes the presence of down-like nestling plumage has been reported for *Cypseloides niger* (Dixon 1935), *C. rutilus* (Snow 1962), *Cypselus parvus* (= *Cypsiurus parvus*; Moreau 1941), *Micropus caffer* (= *Apus caffer*; Moreau 1942a), and *Colletoptera affinis* (= *Apus affinis*; Moreau 1942b). It is present in all the three species of *Hemiprocne*, namely *H. longipennis*, *H. mystacea*, and *H. comata* (Lack 1956).

Collins made detailed study on the down-like plumage of *Cypseloides niger*, *C. rutilus* (1963) and *Cypsiurus parvus* (1965), and has shown that these plumage consists of plumaceous semiplume portion of the first teleoptile plumage. Siddiqui (1968) has described the same of *Apus affinis*.

The down-like plumage in the Pallid Swift *Apus pallidus* nestling (Fig. 1) has not been previously reported and hence worth recording. This plumage in *A. pallidus* is confined to trunk region mostly in apteria of dorsal and ventral sides. Unlike *Cypseloides rutilus*, *C. niger*, and *Cypsiurus parvus* these semiplumes are absent from neck and head in the Pallid Swift. A preliminary study on the general distribution of nestling down in *A. pallidus* shows that it resembles *A. affinis* but for the absence of crural tract, which is reported so far only in *A. affinis*.

A search through the literature reveals that the presence of down-like nestling plumage has also been shown in *A. apus* (Weitnauer 1947) and *A. melba* (Arn 1960).

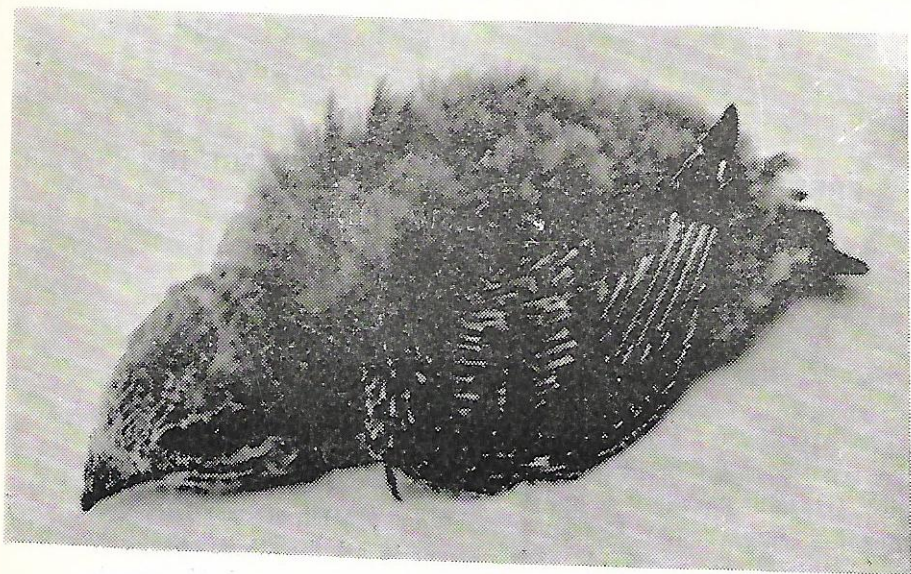


Fig. 1. The Pallid Swift *Apus pallidus* nestling about sixteen-day-old with down-like nestling plumage. (George Kainady)

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الخلاصة

يعرض هذا البحث ولاول مرة وجود مايشابه ريش الزغب فى كساء
 طير السمامه الباهته (**Apus pallidus**)