

Do adult and juvenile Horsfield's Bronze-Cuckoos interact?

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I observed two adult and one juvenile Horsfield's Bronze-Cuckoos *Chrysococcyx basalis* in the front yard of my property at Wingen, NSW (31°53'50"S 150°52'41"E) on 18 January 2012. The juvenile cuckoo appeared to be begging from the adults. The adults flew off and a Yellow-rumped Thornbill *Acanthiza chrysorrhoa*, a known host of the Horsfield's Bronze-Cuckoo (Higgins 1999; Hoskin 1989), flew in and fed the juvenile cuckoo.

The only evidence that adult Horsfield's Bronze-Cuckoos have any interaction with juveniles relates to observations made by Hoskin at Centennial Park in Sydney, NSW, in 1985 (Hoskin 1989). When Hoskin imitated the call of an adult Horsfield's Bronze-Cuckoo, in the vicinity of a dependent fledged juvenile being fed by Superb Fairy-wrens *Malurus cyaneus*, the juvenile flew towards him and attempted to land on his head. Each time Hoskin repeated an imitation of the adult cuckoo,

the juvenile flew towards him in an excited manner continuously uttering a trisyllabic fledgling begging call before flying back to its foster parents. My observation provides support to Hoskin's (1989) suggestion that the assumption concerning the lack of interaction between adult and juvenile Horsfield's Bronze-Cuckoos may be subject to challenge.

REFERENCES

- Higgins, P.J. (Ed.) (1999). 'Handbook of Australian, New Zealand and Antarctic Birds Volume 4: Parrots to Dollarbirds'. (Oxford University Press: Melbourne).
- Hoskin, E.S. (1989). Response of a juvenile Horsfield's Bronze-Cuckoo to human imitation of an adult's call. *Australian Birds* **23**: 23.