

Australia pass through the region on occasion, just as they do farther west.

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Koel eats a Silvereye.—At 10.20 a.m. on February 1, 1964, two local naturalists, Mr and Mrs R. Grieves, observed a Koel, *Eudynamis orientalis*, eat a Silvereye, *Zosterops lateralis*. Mrs Grieves has kindly given me a description of the event, which reads as follows:

While we were busy out of doors at the back of our house we were suddenly conscious of distress noises among the small birds. We found a little flock of Silvereyes harrying some large bird in a *Cassia* bush at the back fence, some 40 feet away. I immediately recognized it for a female Koel—the markings were very noticeable. My husband went for the binoculars and when we got the glasses on it we could see it had a Silvereye in its beak. The little bird's wings were still fluttering and its cries were echoed by the rest of the flock. The cuckoo turned the Silvereye about in her beak till either it ceased to struggle or she got it in a suitable position for swallowing, and in a few gulps she got it down. The clamour died down and the other Silvereyes quietened as the cuckoo sat and preened herself . . . she made no attempt to dismember the Silvereye or pluck it. . .

To me it appears very unusual that a Koel, whose diet consists mainly of berries, should prey on a small bird. My experience with the species has been that small birds such as Silvereyes are not particularly disturbed by the presence of this large cuckoo and do not harry it. I have not heard of any similar previous observation, but would be pleased to learn if there have been other records.—

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