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Hand-rearing of Black-faced Cuckoo-Shrikes.—On December 23, 1965, two fledgling Black-faced Cuckoo-Shrikes, *Coracina novae-hollandiae*, were brought to me at Green's Beach (northern Tasmania) by a local resident who had found them huddled together on the ground. They had been prematurely dislodged from their nest and were incapable of flying. When placed in an open box containing dry grass, arranged to simulate a nest, they settled readily and were thus kept inside the house in a position where they would become accustomed to the presence of humans. For the first day they were force-fed with small pieces of raw liver and steak but they soon learnt to recognize their source of food and readily accepted anything which was offered. After one week they showed a desire to perch and a stick placed across the open nest box then became their regular resting place.

As the birds became hungry they called vigorously and hand feeding was undertaken about six times a day, with about a cubic inch of chopped meat being accepted by each bird on each occasion. Feeding was invariably followed by prompt defaecation after which the birds settled on their perch and ceased their noisy calling.

By the second week in January they began taking short weak flights across the room and were noticed to occasionally peck at moving insects and manipulate small objects with their beaks. At

this stage they were presented with a small dish of water twice daily and soon learnt to drink freely without inducement.

As the days passed their flight became more powerful and inevitably one bird flew out an open window and perched in the upper branches of a tall tree. After being at liberty for about half an hour, a little calling from its feeder soon induced it to return. Such escape flights then became almost daily occurrences but the birds, still dependent on hand feeding, were easily recaptured.

Both birds were taken with us when we left Green's Beach to return home at the end of January. Here they were kept in a large aviary by night as a protection against predators and were given periods of freedom during the day.

On January 26 one bird died and upon examination its stomach was found to be filled with indigestible rough vegetable matter which had apparently been the cause of its death.

The remaining bird continued to flourish and was given complete liberty from morning to night. It spent this period in wattles and gum trees near the house and was often noticed to supplement its artificial diet by catching insects. However it still returned regularly to call for food and be hand-fed by my wife whose voice it learned to recognize. At this stage of the bird's dependence she was able to call it down from the tree-tops without difficulty.

By mid-February it began night roosting in nearby gum trees. Its need for hand-feeding became less and its visits were reduced to two daily. It was always hungry in the early morning and if not fed before the children walked to school, it followed them and would beg food from passers-by until carried home and fed. With its then rapidly approaching independence it was becoming noticeably interested in the others of its own species which were then passing northward on migration and for the purpose of individual identification a C.S.I.R.O. band, number 060/64570, was placed on its leg.

Towards the end of February its visits became still less frequent and were satisfied by one small piece of meat. It was often seen in the tree-tops and would always answer my wife's calls, but its independence was obvious. It disappeared in the first week in March and is assumed to have joined the northward migration.—
R. H. GREEN, Launceston.