

pitched whinnying sound was uttered. Immediately it was over, the female ran uphill, the male took off to chase a Raven which had been watching the proceedings from a few yards away.

Both eagles then returned to the second tree. At my last view of them, they were being harried by six Ravens and a magpie.

The observation was made from a distance of about 200 yards, using 7 x 50 binoculars. The male bird, as distinguished in copula, was smaller and had a golden-brown nape which was almost dazzling in sunlight. The larger, darker female had a dark-brown nape no different in colour from the rest of the plumage.

The time was close to noon of a fine day.—A. D'ANDRIA, 9 Torrens Street, Braddon, A.C.T.

Courtship Feeding in Parasitic Cuckoos.—The final paragraph of the interesting article "Who Feeds the Fledged Pallid Cuckoo?" (J. Kikkawa and P. D. Dwyer, 1962) states "Courtship feeding is not known for the parasitic cuckoos and it is doubtful whether they ever normally feed another bird." The need for further observations is also noted.

I was prompted to look up a field-note of mine relating to the feeding of one cuckoo by another. On October 13, 1963, I saw two adult Horsfield Bronze Cuckoos, *Chalcites basalis*, suddenly alight on a branch only four feet from me, and one fed the other with a small smooth green caterpillar. They then sped off in rapid flight out of my sight, one chasing the other. Whether this was actually courtship feeding is of course not proven, but it seems the most likely explanation.

In the recently published *A Field Guide to the Birds of New Zealand*, a note on page 181 on the Shining Cuckoo, *Chalcites lucidus*, states—"Breeding: Needs intensive study. Courtship feeding occurs."

It is possible that if courtship feeding occurs in these two species it may also occur in the Pallid Cuckoo, *Cuculus pallidus*.—Mrs. ELLEN M. McCULLOCH, 6 Bullen Avenue, Mitcham, Victoria.

REFERENCES

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Kikkawa, J. and Dwyer, P. D. 1962. Who Feeds the Fledged Pallid Cuckoo? *Emu* 62: 169-171.