



Biodiversity Observations

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An electronic journal published by the Animal Demography Unit at the University of Cape Town

The scope of Biodiversity Observations consists of papers describing observations about biodiversity in general, including animals, plants, algae and fungi. This includes observations of behaviour, breeding and flowering patterns, distributions and range extensions, foraging, food, movement, measurements, habitat and colouration/plumage variations. Biotic interactions such as pollination, fruit dispersal, herbivory and predation fall within the scope, as well as the use of indigenous and exotic species by humans. Observations of naturalised plants and animals will also be considered. Biodiversity Observations will also publish a variety of other interesting or relevant biodiversity material: reports of projects and conferences, annotated checklists for a site or region, specialist bibliographies, book reviews and any other appropriate material. Further details and guidelines to authors are on this website.

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CO-OPERATIVE FEEDING

Brian Vanderwalt

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**ECOLOGY****CO-OPERATIVE FEEDING**

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Most of us know of the Pale Chanting Goshawk tactic of following a Honey Badger to catch prey that escaped the badger's claws (Hockey et al. 2005).

Pale Chanting Goshawk – Cape Cobra

I have watched a PCG following a large Cape Cobra in the Kalahari on the Nossop road, first thought was "there is no ways this bird will tackle this HUGE snake!!", but the bird was walking behind the snake and had no intention of tackling it but waiting for the snake to enter some burrows. The snake would then flush prey out of the burrows that it was entering and the PCG said "thanks for the meal of a Brant's Whistling Rat"!!

Date: 16/3/2014 at co-ords 26° 23.008' S, 20° 41.875' E.

I am sure there are more stories of this nature but here is a new one for me anyway.

Karoo Chat - Karoo Korhaan

Whilst in the field waiting for a friend, I noticed a Karoo Chat hawking insects, nothing unusual about that you would say, but the Karoo Chat was following ANOTHER bird which feeds on the ground. It was following a Karoo Korhaan and using it's feeding mode to flush insects.... every bit helps at this time of the year I am sure!!

Date: 21/6/16 at co-ords 29° 47.603' S, 20° 33.633' E.

I don't think it is opportunistic or co-operative feeding but parasitic feeding comes to mind.... using another organism as your food source?

References

Hockey PAR, Underhill LG, Neatherway M, Ryan PG 1989 Atlas of the birds of the south-western Cape. Cape Bird Club, Cape Town.