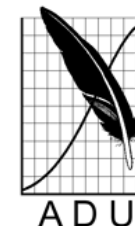


# Ornithological Observations



An electronic journal published by BirdLife South Africa and the Animal Demography Unit at the University of Cape Town



Ornithological Observations accepts papers containing faunistic information about birds. This includes descriptions of distribution, behaviour, breeding, foraging, food, movement, measurements, habitat and plumage. It will also consider for publication a variety of other interesting or relevant ornithological material: reports of projects and conferences, annotated checklists for a site or region, specialist bibliographies, and any other interesting or relevant material.

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## FIRST RECORD: LEVAILLANT'S CUCKOO FED BY KURRICHANE THRUSH

**AM Archer**

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## FIRST RECORD: LEVAILLANT'S CUCKOO FED BY KURRICHANE THRUSH

*AM Archer\**

Klerksdorp

\* Corresponding author: [tony@archer.co.za](mailto:tony@archer.co.za)

On 28 January 2012 I observed a juvenile Levallant's Cuckoo *Clamator levaillantii* begging food from a Kurrichane Thrush *Turdus libonyanus*. This observation was recorded at Kranskop 1 Stop (S24°48' E28°26') petrol station next to the N1 highway north east of Bela Bela, Limpopo Province.

The Kurrichane Thrush was actively foraging and carrying back items of food to the begging juvenile Cuckoo. This previously unrecorded feeding behaviour carried on for the 20 minutes we could watch the two birds.

This observation appears to be the first record of the Kurrichane Thrush being used as host by Levallant's Cuckoo. Vernon and Dean (2005) note the following on the hosts of the Levallant's Cuckoo: "Only authentic records in Southern Africa of babblers; major host Arrow-marked Babbler, with 7.8% of 217 nests parasitised; in Zimbabwe, ca 7.5% of 146. Also parasitises Hartlaub's Babbler and Bare-cheeked Babbler. 1 record of parasitism of Southern Pied Babbler in N Cape, but no records of parasitism of Black-faced Babbler." Johnson (2005) mentions that brood parasitism is rarely observed in Kurrichane Thrush nests – an estimate of 0.5% only and then mostly by unidentified cuckoos which may include the African Cuckoo *Cuculus gularis*. The Levallant's Cuckoo is not mentioned as a possible parasite to the Kurrichane Thrush.

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### References

**Johnson DN 2005.** Kurrichane Thrush *Turdus libonyanus*. In Hockey PAR, Dean WRJ, Ryan PG (eds). Roberts – Birds of Southern Africa, VIIth Edition. Cape Town: The Trustees of the John Voelcker Bird Book Fund.

**Vernon CJ, Dean WRJ 2005.** Levallant's Cuckoo *Clamator levaillantii* in Hockey PAR, Dean WRJ, Ryan PG (eds). Roberts – Birds of Southern Africa, VIIth Edition. Cape Town: The Trustees of the John Voelcker Bird Book Fund.



**Fig 1** – Juvenile Levillant's Cuckoo begging food from the host – a Kurrichane Thrush.