

SHORT NOTE

Two Shining Cuckoos (*Chalcites lucidus*) fed by one Grey Warbler (*Gerygone igata*)

On 12-13 December 1995, while visiting Mokoia Island in Lake Rotorua, Karen Mason, Brent Stephenson and myself observed two Shining Cuckoos (*Chalcites lucidus*) being fed by one Grey Warbler (*Gerygone igata*). They were observed for a total of 50 minutes over the two days. It was noticed that the bars on the cuckoos did not meet across the breast and no bars were seen on their throats, indicating that they were both juveniles.

The Grey Warbler foraged about in the leaves of a weeping willow (*Salix babylonica*). Sometimes both cuckoos travelled with the Grey Warbler, each calling twice a second but more often they took turns to wait quietly, resting, on a branch under the canopy while the other followed its benefactor. Sometimes the Grey Warbler would leave them to fly to the next tree which was also a willow, returning within a minute carrying small caterpillars. The cuckoos' calls resembled those of Grey Warbler chicks but perhaps louder.

On the first day another Grey Warbler infrequently and briefly appeared but was not seen to feed the cuckoos. During the two days they were observed they had covered a distance of about 150 m around the shoreline, travelling from one tree to another.

In the only published reference to a similar behaviour, Parkin (1954) reported seeing three Shining Cuckoos being fed by one Grey Warbler.

LITERATURE CITED

PARKIN, C.H. 1954. Three Shining Cuckoos fed by one Grey Warbler. *Notornis* 5: 207.

KEYWORDS: Shining Cuckoo, Grey Warbler, feeding, behaviour.

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