

The Didric Cuckoo *Chrysococcyx caprius* is a brood-parasite of the Slender-billed Weaver *Ploceus pelzelni* in Nigeria

I undertook three biodiversity survey visits to Bonny Island, one of Nigeria's coastal barrier islands, between 2008 and 2010, aimed at compiling a checklist of the island's avifauna. In all three visits, the Slender-billed Weaver *Ploceus pelzelni* was recorded. During the December 2010 survey, I saw a Slender-billed Weaver feeding a Didric Cuckoo *Chrysococcyx caprius* fledgling (Fig. 1).



Figure 1. The Didric Cuckoo fledgling (left); the Slender-billed Weaver feeding the cuckoo fledgling (right).

The observations and photographic records were made at about 9h00 on 7 Dec 2010 in an area of a marshy overgrown refuse dump site in the Nigerian Liquefied Natural Gas (NLNG) operational area, near the mouth of the Bonny River. Prior to spotting the Didric Cuckoo fledgling, the presence of the species in the area had been manifested by the high-pitched calls of an overflying adult. However, it was an intermittent shrill cheeping that drew my attention to where the young cuckoo was perched at the top of a low bush. A Slender-billed Weaver male then landed close to the Didric Cuckoo fledgling. The fledgling then began to beg vigorously by wing quivering, with its beak touching that of the Slender-billed Weaver, which had hopped to a closer position directly in front of the fledgling. The begging action ended with the fledgling opening its mouth and the Slender-billed Weaver thrusting its beak inside and depositing food; then it flew off. Shortly afterwards, the cuckoo fledgling flew off in the same direction as its foster-parent. According to Reed (1968) a Didric Cuckoo fledgling may be fed for up to 38 days after it leaves the nest.

Direct observations of host and brood-parasite interactions are infrequent. Fry *et al* (1988) listed the Slender-billed Weaver among the many bird species parasitized by

the Didric Cuckoo in Africa (with probable records from the Democratic Republic of Congo and Ghana). Elgood *et al.* (1994) listed the main hosts of the species in Nigeria as the Village Weaver *P. cucullatus* and Black-necked Weaver *P. nigricollis*. Wilson & Sallinen (2003) also reported Didric Cuckoo parasitizing a Cricket Warbler *Spiloptila clamans* in northern Nigeria. The observation I report here brings to four the number of confirmed host species of the Didric Cuckoo in Nigeria.

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Hivernage au Sénégal d'un Phragmite aquatique *Acrocephalus paludicola* "isabelle": longévité de l'espèce et liens de migration

Les 13 et 21 février 2011, près du village de Tiguet (16°27'41"N, 16°16'42"O) dans la région du Parc national des oiseaux du Djoudj au nord-ouest du Sénégal, un Phragmite aquatique *Acrocephalus paludicola* présentant une anomalie pigmentaire est capturé. L'oiseau déjà portait une bague posée le 23 août 2009 à la station