

An incidence of brood parasitism: Rufous Treepie *Dendrocitta vagabunda* feeding a juvenile Asian Koel *Eudynamys scolopaceus* at Rajkot

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Brood parasitism in Cuculidae family is very common (Praveen & Lowther 2020). Here, I witnessed an incidence of brood parasitism of Asian Koel (*Eudynamys scolopaceus*) on Rufous Treepie (*Dendrocitta vagabunda*). On 14 May 2021, in the morning at around 08:45 hrs, I was watching birds near University Road, Rajkot (22° 17' 7.53" N, 70° 44' 35.75" E). I heard the call of an Asian Koel from a nearby tree. There were three individuals. On one branch, I saw a young koel perched. Within a short time, a Rufous Treepie came to the tree. As soon as the Rufous Treepie arrived, the koel young opened its mouth, begging for food, and was fed by the Rufous Treepie. The incident was quite surprising for me. I came back home and looked for more references of such brood parasitism, but brood parasitism of Asian Koel was mostly by hosts like Black Drongo (*Dicrurus macrocercus*), Long-tailed Shrike (*Lanius schach*), House Crow (*Corvus splendens*), Large-billed Crow (*Corvus macrorhynchos*), Red-vented Bulbul (*Pycnonotus cafer*) and Common Myna (*Acridotheres tristis*) (Praveen & Lowther 2020).

The series of photographs shows the arrival of Rufous Treepie, and feeding of the koel juvenile. The Rufous Treepie as a foster parent of Asian Koel is quite unusual. Although, crows and treepies belong to the same family, Corvidae, the Rufous Treepie as a host for Asian Koel has not been noted before. It is possible that other species of Corvidae family could be hosts for Asian Koel. Further sightings of such incidents will be helpful in knowing the hosts for Asian Koel.

References

Praveen, J., & Lowther, P., 2020. Avian brood parasitism in South Asia. *Indian BIRDS* 16 (4): 103–119 □



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Co-operative hunting by Rufous Treepie *Dendrocitta vagabunda* pair

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On 5 October 2019, in the morning, I was on my routine morning walk in a garden near my residence at Rajkot. I observed a pair of Rufous Treepie (*Dendrocitta vagabunda*) attacking something on the ground near the boundary wall. I approached closer and I found the pair attacking and trying to kill a Garden Lizard there. I immediately started to record a video of this incident with my mobile phone. The fight between the treepies and the Garden Lizard continued for more than eight minutes. Both the Rufous Treepies were

attacking the lizard simultaneously from either side. The lizard was also rushing on to them, attacking and trying to bite the birds with its teeth. The treepies were moving back when the lizard attacked them. Once, a treepie caught the lizard by its tail and was trying to pull it from a depression in the ground. Then, another treepie succeeded in catching the lizard by its neck. But, the lizard also tried very hard to escape and succeeded. The lizard found some opening in the depression in the ground and managed to go inside the hole but one treepie