

Watson and Bull suggest that courtship feeding may occur during communal display, but on no occasion did I see one Shining Cuckoo feed another. The clearest descriptions of courtship feeding in this species are found in the Classified Summ. Notes, of Notornis IV, 52 and VI, 103, and the description of this behaviour differs markedly from that in communal display. The observations occurred earlier than recorded for communal display, occurring on 17th October, 1939, and 2nd November, 1953, respectively and in neither were there more than two birds. There is no mention of the downward slur or chattering note, but in one of the observations on 2nd November, 1953, the male was described as giving the usual call with the female making quiet cheepings. Also the posture appears to be different, in the description of courtship feeding on 17th October, 1939, the male was described as "hunting for food, tail erect and vibrating with excitement."

These observations indicate that courtship feeding and communal display are separate and distinct forms of behaviour but further observation is required before we can determine their significance in the life of the Shining Cuckoo.



## SHORT NOTES

### A ROOSTING COLONY OF MYNAS NEAR ARDMORE COLLEGE

On 10/9/59 an observation was made of the roosting of the Mynas (*A. tristis*) near Ardmore College. With only one observer the count could not be accurate, but the behaviour of the birds after arrival at the roosting area was the main centre of interest.

The evening was almost cloudless, with no wind, but in spite of this the incoming groups flew low, gaining height to fly over the hedge when necessary.

6 p.m. — All quiet with a group of 20 Mynas and 20 Starlings perching in the *elaegnus* hedge. 30 Mynas on the grass between the latter hedge and a stand of *lawsoniana*.

6.5 — 10 birds arrived from Clevedon direction and flew to the *elaegnus*. 20 birds from the Papakura direction perched in a hawthorn hedge on the Ardmore College side of the road. Very little song at this stage.

6.10 — Small parties arriving continually from Clevedon direction, landing in the *elaegnus* hedge. Some of the earlier arrivals flew to the paddock. Many in the paddock flew to the *lawsoniana* hedge and began to sing, as did the birds in the *elaegnus*. Beginning to get dark.

90 birds now on the ground with others flying backwards and forwards to the hedges. 60 birds in the hawthorn hedge, all arrivals from the Papakura direction. Singing in the *elaegnus* hedge died away to the odd twitter.

6.13 — Starlings flew from the *elaegnus* hedge in a southerly direction, 30 Mynas from the paddock taking their place as they flew. Groups of 2 and 3 arriving from Clevedon at intervals of about 30 seconds.

6.15 — 80 birds left the hawthorn hedge at the passing of a car, and flew to the *elaegnus*. 7 birds from Clevedon direction arrived. A considerable fluttering developed in both hedges as the birds moved out to the tips of branches and started singing.

No increase in numbers in the *lawsoniana* hedge. 7 birds arrived in the hawthorn hedge from the Papakura direction.

6.20 — All birds in the paddock moved to the *elaegnus* hedge with one bird flying from the latter to the *lawsonianas*. Now 10 birds in the hawthorn hedge.

6.21 — 30 birds in two parties of 15 arrived from Clevedon direction, the leader singing.

6.22 — 10 arrivals from Clevedon. Considerable fluttering in the *elaegnus*. Estimated 200 birds in the *lawsonianas*. Getting darker with visibility three miles.

6.23 — Birds have moved deeper into the foliage and the volume of song is decreasing in the *lawsoniana* hedge. Loud chorus in the *elaegnus*.

6.26 — Sudden silence in the *lawsoniana* hedge for a second or two, and then only the odd call heard. Visibility 2 miles. *Lawsoniana* birds invisible with only about 12 visible in the *elaegnus*.

6.30 — All birds singing again.

6.31 — *Lawsoniana* birds stopped singing. Visibility 1 mile. Odd call heard from the latter roost but the *elaegnus* birds continued unabated.

6.32 — Same, except for odd pauses in *elaegnus* group.

6.33 — Similar. Visibility  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile. *Elaegnus* group quietening down and only the odd Myna and one Thrush audible in the *lawsonianas*.

6.37 — Sudden pause in the song of the *elaegnus* roost, with only a dozen birds taking up the song. Another pause and fewer still resumed singing.

6.38 — A few birds at the Clevedon end of the *elaegnus* hedge singing.

6.40 — Visibility 100 yards. Intermittent chorus with frequent interruptions.

6.41 — Sudden silence for 10 seconds, one bird called, 20 seconds silence, and then a small chorus.

6.44 — Final silence, except for the Thrushes and Blackbirds.

J. A. PEART



#### MORE RECORDS OF WELCOME SWALLOWS

In March, 1959, I first noticed a bird which I took to be a Welcome Swallow (*H. neoxena*) about two miles from Matata in the Bay of Plenty. Work was being done to make an improved habitat for wildfowl and the Swallow was hawking insects over about an acre of shallow open water in a very large area of swamps. It eventually alighted on a stump and allowed me to approach to about 20 feet before it again flew. On subsequent visits a single Swallow was seen by myself and others, including Mr. K. H. Miers, over this pool. In November, 1959, I observed three of these birds over the swamp near Secombe's Canal, which is only about half a mile from the place of the original sighting.

A. G. HALL

On 17/5/60, with my wife and son, I casually visited Ngawha Springs, near Kaikohe. Here at 450 feet above sea level is a small lake, Tuwhakino, about an acre in extent. It is an old blowhole among rather barren gumlands, where cinnabar was once mined. Springs