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## SHORT NOTE

## LONG-TAILED CUCKOO FLIGHT SPEED

On 30 December 1983, while driving on State Highway 5 about 12 km south of Rotorua, I had the opportunity to measure the ground speed of a Long-tailed Cuckoo (*Eudynamys taitensis*) in flight. The time was 10.30 a.m. and the weather sunny and calm. The cuckoo was in open country flying at the side of the road 15-20 metres up. The bird flew parallel to the road and beside my car for 5 seconds before the road curved away from its flight path. The speed of my vehicle was exactly 80 km/h, and the cuckoo appeared untroubled in matching my speed for the 5 seconds.

How long the Long-tailed Cuckoo spends in transit to and from its winter or summer quarters may always be a matter for conjecture, but perhaps my brief observation may hint at its capabilities.

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