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OMNIVOROUS DIETS OF KAROO THRUSH AND DARK-CAPPED BULBUL

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AVIAN DIET

OMNIVOROUS DIETS OF KAROO THRUSH AND DARK-CAPPED BULBUL

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Abstract

The diets of the Karoo Thrush *Turdus smithii* and Dark-capped Bulbul *Pycnonotus tricolor* were observed. 26 items were confirmed and bread was added to their diets.

Keywords: Dark-capped Bulbul; diet; Karoo Thrush.

Introduction

The Karoo Thrush and Dark-capped Bulbul are common in gardens, plantations and parks in and around human settlements, and the Karoo Thrush is listed in the top 8 most common birds in Johannesburg (Biodiversityexplorer web). The diet of both species have been reported to include insects and fruit making them both insectivores and frugivores, respectively.

In this paper I observed the presence of bread in their diet in human suburbia. This inclusion confirms these birds are adaptable and can feed on a variety of different sources. Although both species eat a variety of fruit and small animals, doing most of their foraging above ground, this appears to be new documentation of the consumption of bread.

Methods

Karoo Thrushes and Dark-capped bulbuls were observed feeding in the garden of 57 Worcester Road, Parkwood, Johannesburg, South Africa from March to May 2017. Their foraging behaviour was observed for at least once a day for three days in a month, and their diets tabulated. The web was searched for bread in their natural diet.

Results

Karoo Thrushes were observed from 16h27-16h29 (29-04-2017); 08h05 (30-04-2017); and 17h48-17h51 (30-04-2017) eating pieces of bread provided on the lawn of the property (n=3). This was also true for the Dark-capped Bulbul at 18h20 (1-05-2017). No records of bread in the diets of these species were found.

Discussion

18 diet items were listed for the Karoo Thrush and 8 items for the Dark-capped Bulbul (Biodiversityexplorer web). This study adds bread to their diet so that they may be considered omnivorous *sensu lato*.

Acknowledgements

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References

http://www.biodiversityexplorer.org/birds/pycnonotidae/pycnonotus_tricolor.htm

http://www.biodiversityexplorer.org/birds/muscicapidae/turdus_smithi.htm