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CONFIRMING SOUTHERN DOUBLE-COLLARED SUNBIRD AS HOST FOR THE KLAAS’S CUCKOO

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During July 2013 I contributed a description of the calling behaviour of a male Klaas’s Cuckoo Chrysococcyx klaas at our home property in Bunker Road, Lakeside, Cape Town (Little 2013). On Saturday 7 December 2013 I was alerted to a fledgling birds’ repeated, almost monotonous, begging call at the same property. Investigating the identity of the calling fledgling, I was a little surprised to see that it was a Klaas’s Cuckoo. It was giving the husky tseek call described as the nestling begging call of Klaas’s Cuckoo in Roberts VII (Dean, 2005). But, perhaps more surprising was that the fledgling Klaas’s Cuckoo was being fed by a pair of Southern Double-collared Sunbirds Cinnyris chalybeus. Although 11 sunbird species are listed as known hosts for the Klaas’s Cuckoo in Roberts VII, Southern Double-collared Sunbird was not yet listed and there are only a few records confirming this species as hosts since.

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References