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Société d'Ornithologie de l'Ouest
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29 (55%) had moderately contrasting 'back face' and 16 (30%) showed less contrast. Of the 8 strongly marked birds two were fully mature, with spotted crowns, and six, without crown spots, were immature. All the other 45 specimens had crown spots. This suggests that the nuchal 'face' of Pearl-spotted Owlets is a feature better developed in immature than adult birds.

Now that *G. perlatum* is known to possess erectile feathers on the sides of the crown, attention needs to be given to the whole genus. Perhaps a conspicuous 'back face', revealed under threat by elongation of body and neck, may confer some advantage especially important to the juvenile bird.

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REQUEST FOR INFORMATION: CLAMATOR HOSTS

We are investigating host selection in Striped or Levillant's Cuckoo *C. levillantii* and Jacobin Cuckoo *C. jacobinus* (races *pica* and *serratus*), and wish to know the whereabouts of preserved skins of nestlings or fledglings of either species which record their host species. Whereas *C. levillantii* parasitizes babblers of the genus *Turdoides* probably exclusively, we are anxious to confirm whether *C. jacobinus* ever parasitizes babblers in Africa. The best proof of this would be the existence of preserved material. We are conversant with the literature giving general statements and specific examples of parasitism by *C. jacobinus pica* with *Turdoides* babblers in East and northeastern Africa. As far as we know these records have been based either on blue eggs found in babblers' nests or on sight records of young *Clamator* cuckoos being fed by these hosts. Notwithstanding the fact that *C. jacobinus* commonly parasitizes babblers in India, positive proof that this cuckoo does so anywhere in Africa is lacking.

We would be grateful if curators of collections which contain skins of young *Clamator* cuckoos would re-examine their material and, others who may have field information, would report their findings to M.P.S. Irwin.

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