## CUCKOOS - AN IDENTIFICATION COMPARISON TABLE (Adults Birds Only)

The emphasis of this table is to narrow the range of possible alternatives.- then refer to the Field Guides for confirmation - - which then sometimes offer a range of opinions

4/11/2004

Mor	P&K	S&D	SSS	Name	Size	Key Markings		Behaviour / Habitat	4/11/20
192	296	154	182	Little Bronze-	14-15 cm	Cap & upperparts	Even bright green	Coastal Qld, N.T. & Kimberleys Forests, Mangroves	Soft, quick call of 4-5 notes, descending, repeated.
				Cuckoo		Face	Pizzey - Dark barring (also forehead) is WRONG		No other call recorded.
						Opinions differ	Morc, S&D - Paler like Shining		(Except a call similar to the Fantail trill but not sure how to describe that)
						Eye ring	(M) Red, (F) Pale creamy green		
						Iris	(M) Red, (F) Brownish		
						Eyebrow	White		
						Eyestripe	None		
						Chestbars	Complete but scalloped		
100	20/	154		Cauldia	1415	Tail -underside	Rufous centre feathers only - & can be hidden		
192	296	154	see Little	Gould's Bronze- Cuckoo	14-15 cm	Upperparts	Edged bronze Iridescent Rufous Bronze	Coastal Qld & N coast NSW Forests, Mangroves	Like Little B-C Also descending 'tiew-tiew' Long descending grasshopper like trill
			Little			Cap Wing Bonol	Rufous Bronze		
						Wing Panel Breast Bar	Complete pale rufous		
						Chestbars	Complete but scalloped. Bronze		
							intermediate in appearance between above		
							Cuckoo & are usually Gould's		
192	296	154	182	Horsfield's	14-17	Uppermost Uppermost	Buff tips create a diagnostic fine scaly pattern	All Australia	Soft, high pitched single 'pseeuww'
172	270	154	102	Bronze- Cuckoo	cm	feathers	Bull tipo ordate a diagnostic fine soary pattern	Calls from high points and forages low	Each call descends in pitch Also a short trill very similar to call of House Sparrow.
						Eyestripe	Dark		
						Eyebrow	Long & white curving down behind eye to shoulder		
						Chest stripes	Do not meet across the breast - have distinct gap.		
						Tail	Rufous sides to base visible from above and below		
192	296	6 154	4 182	Shining	16-18	Largest of the Br		Australia except inland Singles and parties. Mid to upper strata Nominate race lucidus breeds N.Z. & winters SW Pacific Islands (esp' the Solomons) via east Aust. Race plagosus breeds sthn Aust then migrates to the north Aust, Most of Aust except E coast Solitiary & inconspicuous Keeps to shrubby vegetation	Like a dog whistle, 'fewee, fewee, fewee' (can be reminescent of a Whistling Kite) Notes rise in pitch versus descending in Horsefield's, except last note in a series can often descend. Also, less often, 'peeuw, peeuw, peeuw, chew ip'.  Single high pitched whistle 'tseeuw' repeated similiar to Horsefield's but sounds more mournful, slightly lower pitched and quieter, with notes more drawn out.
				Bronze- Cuckoo	ed 19-21 cm	Сар	In Sun: More bronze-coloured than upperparts In Shade:Purplish-brown		
						Eye Colour	Variable - not reliable		
						Eyestripe	None		
						Chest stripes	The most heavily barred of the small cuckoos		
							- across chest right down to vent		
						Tail	Usually NO rufous in tail		
190	296	152	182	Black-eared		Upperparts	Grey (Morcombe grey-brown)		
170	2,0	132	102	Cuckoo		Evebrow	White		
						Eyestripe	Distinct 'mask', starts from beak		
						Underparts	Buff to white (No barring)		
						Rump (in flight)	Pale.		
192	294	152	180	Chestnut-	22-25	Upperparts	Pluo gray	Far North Queensland.	Also 'pewew, pewew'.  Male: like Fan-tailed Cuckoo
192	294	152	180	breasted Cuckoo	22-25 cm	Underparts	Blue-grey Orange-chestnut	Sightings do occur as far south as Mossman and Julatten area	Female: Hoarser 'pee-poo-drrrr'
						Eye-ring	Yellow		
						Upper tail	Usually looks all dark apart from small white tip		
190 294	294	152	180	Brush		Head	Pale grey	Often heard but harder to see. Sits motionless and cometimes at night, can become	Loud, far carrying call of 'fear, fear, fear', sometimes at night, can become quite fast. Also 'weep-be-wee', this can become quite
	274		100			Back			
						Orbital ring	Grey-brown Grey		
						Breast (see	Pale buff-washed		
						Fan-tailed)	Breast duller than belly & vent (No barring)		
						Belly & vent	Stronger coloured than breast		
						Shoulder	Small white tip		
						Tail feathers	Sparsely barred under and squarer than Fan-tailed		
						100011010	Shorter than Fan-tailed		
							Shorter than Fan-talled		

Mor	P&K	S&D	SSS	Name	Size	Key Markings		Behaviour / Habitat	Call
192	294	152	180	Fan-tailed	25-27	Upperparts	Mid slaty grey	Elevates tail on alighting	Very sad downwards trill, often repeated 2-
				Cuckoo	cm	Eye Ring	Yellow	Adopts a upright posture with	3 times, often at night.
						Underparts	Pale buff to warm cinnamon buff	tail downwards.	Also a double note 'pew wee' repeated.
						Shoulder	Small white tip	Sits still for long periods,	
						Tail	Longer than Brush Cuckoo	calling from high vantage	
							From top - Conspicuous white notches along edges Underneath - Boldly barred	points.	
190	292	152	180	Oriental	28-33	Upperparts	Grey (at times a slight iridescence)	Uncommon to rare.	Sad trll on three notes rising in volume as
				Cuckoo	cm	Throat	Grey	Generally solitary. Shy and elusive. Swift & undulating flight, like a small falcon. Breeds Mongolia, China, Japan.  repeated. Also harsh 'gak,gak,gak' like Dollarbird Not often heard in Australia	
						Underparts	Heavilly barred		
						Feet	Yellow		Not often heard in Australia
						Wings	Long & pointed - falcon like		
						Tail	White tips to underside.		
						Rufous morph Fem.only	Upperparts - barred chestnut & black Underparts - barred black		
190	292	152	180	Pallid Cuckoo	28-34 cm	Upperparts	(M) Grey, (F) Browner with pale speckling	Open country Tail sometimes raised on alighting. Sits still for long periods. Feeds on ground and foliage.	After a stuttering start, moves up the scale for 8 or 9 notes. Also several short, harsh 'bssshhht' calls.
						Eyestripe	Dark marking thru eye.		
						Eye-ring	Yellow		
						Nape	White spot		
						Wings	Long & pointed - falcon like		
							1		
						Tail	Long, white tips & bars		
						Rufous morph	Upperparts - mottled dark brown		
						Fem. only	Breast - rufous barred		
194	298	154	184	Common	40-46	Male	Glossy black with red eye.	A summer visitor from the N	Well known 'cowel' call, also
				Koel	cm	Female	Dark brown above with white spots	Male frequently chased by	'quoddle, quoddle'
							Pale underparts with fine stripes and	other birds.	When chased by other birds, a very high
101	000	45.	101		50.75		Also red eye	Female keeps itself hidden.	pitched 'kik, kik, kik'.
194	298	154	184	Channel-	58-65	Body	Grey	A summer visitor from the	Very loud, hoarse 'squaaark, squaaark',
				billed Cuckoo	cm	Bill	Massive	north	descends into staccato 'laugh'.
104	200	154	104		(0.75	Eye Ring	Red	Flies high like a "flying cross"	Often call through the night!
194	298	154	184	Pheasant Coucal	60-75	Eye	Red	Spends most time on the ground. Very clumsy flight.	Loud, far carrying 'coop, coop, coop' like water bubbling out of bottle.
				Coucai	cm	Tail	Very long	Makes its own nest.	Also harsh scolding <i>mew</i> like cat with sore
							(M) Head & underparts - Black	wakes its own nest.	throat.
							(F) Body streaked Cinnamon		unoat.

Ref's	1974 Bird in the Hand, Disney (Ed.) Bird Banders of Aust, pages 53-64 1980 Distinguishing Bronze-cuckoos in the field, Grahame Chapman, Atlas News Letter No.14, June, page 2 1990 The Bronze-Cuckoos, Fred T Smith, The Bird Observer, No.700, August, page 75 1999 Hanzab Vol 4 2000 Cuckoos, Cowbirds and Other Cheats, N.B.Davies, Poyser, ISBN 0-85661-135-2					
Note	Little Bronze-Cuckoo & Gould's Bronze-Cuckoo species relationship still under review					
Also	Long-tailed Cuckoo inhabits Australian Island Territories: see P&K page 292, SSS page 184, S&D pages 333,335,					
Hepatic:	Brown coloured morph found in some cuckoos e.g. Oriental					

Cuckoos parasitize other birds nests. Examples are - Little Bronze Cuckoo: Gerygones, Shining Bronze-Cuckoo: Yellow-rumped Thornbill, Brown Thornbill, Horsefield's Bronze-Cuckoo: fairy-wrens, Black-eared Cuckoo: Speckled Warbler, Redthroat, Brush Cuckoo: in Nth Aust - Honeyeaters with enclosed Nests, in Sth Aust - Fantails & Robins, Fan-tail Cuckoo: White-browed Scrubwren, Brown & Inland Thornbills, Origma, Pallid Cuckoo: Honeyeaters with open cup nests, Common Koel: Magpie-lark, Figbird, Friarbirds, Channel-bill Cuckoo: Crows, Currawongs, Magpies.

This table based on another compiled by Murray and Julie-Anne Coward for the September 2004 issue of the NSW Bird Atlassers Newsletter.

Content was expanded for inclusion on the Birds Queensland Webpage <a href="http://birdsqueensland.org.au">http://birdsqueensland.org.au</a> by Bob Forsyth, Mount Isa after considerable input from Merrian Keurschner and Danny Rogers
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