

BIRD IN THE HAND.

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Drawings by B.Bertram, Australian Museum Art Dept.

Diagnostic differences between the adult and immature
Fan-tailed and Brush Cuckoos are given below.

Fan-tailed Cuckoo
Cacomantis flabelliformis
R.A.O.U. No.338

Brush (Square-tailed) Cuckoo
Cacomantis pyrrhophanus
R.A.O.U. No.339

Adult

Total length: 10½ in. 266mm. 9¼ in. 235 mm.
Tail: 5¼-5¾ in. 132-147mm. 4¾-4⅝ in. 110-117 mm.

Plumage:

Tail: Black with well marked white notches on both edges of feathers. Brown; notches on outer edge of feathers faint or absent.

Immature:

Tail: Buff and fawn notching similar or even more marked than adult. Buff and fawn notching similar to Fan-tailed and not a good diagnostic difference in immature.

Upper parts.

Uniform brown with narrow reddish edging to feathers. Dark brown boldly mottled with wide buff markings similar to tail colours.

Under parts.

Mottled uniform dull grey and buff; perhaps reddish on breast. Strongly barred with dark brown and whitish bars or mottled dark brown and buff.

Wings.

Upper wing coverts and secondaries with very narrow rufous edges. Upper wing coverts and secondaries with well marked buff tips and notches similar to tail. The amount present depending on age of bird. On young birds still some buff on primaries.

The Fan-tailed is a bigger bird and the length of the tail is diagnostic in all adults and most immature and young as it is longer than the tail of the adult Brush Cuckoo.

