

BIRD IN THE HAND.

H.J.de S.Disney, Australian Museum, Sydney.
Drawings by B.Bertram, Australian Museum Art Dept.

This is the first of a series giving the diagnostic characters of Australian Bronze Cuckoos.

The measurement of the Bill Width follows that taken by Ernst Mayr (1932) and is taken in millimetres with calipers just in front of the nostrils.

The tail is numbered from the outside to centre as this is easier in the field and causes less disturbance to the bird.

Descriptions have been taken from skins held at an angle with head down towards the light, but not full sunlight. In full sunlight the colours may be somewhat different, such as more iridescence and overall bronze.

The width of the bill separates the Golden and Shining Bronze Cuckoos.

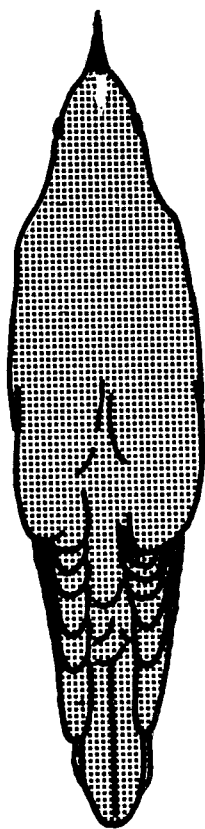
Ref: Mayr, E. 1932. Birds collected during the Whitney South Sea Expedition XIX

Notes on the Bronze Cuckoo Chalcites
lucidus and its subspecies.

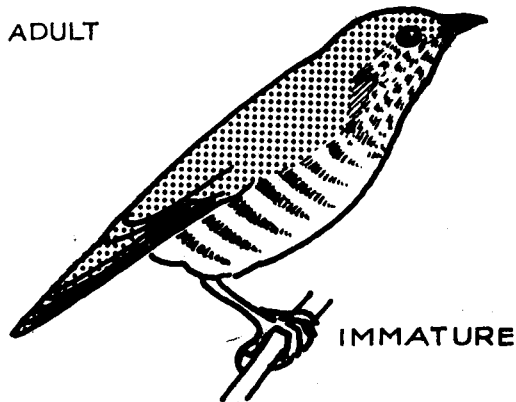
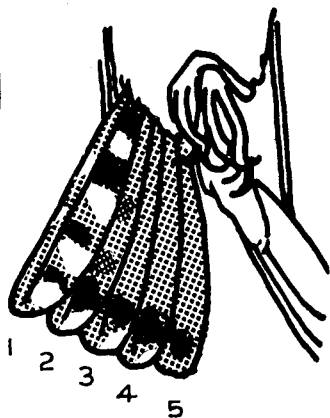
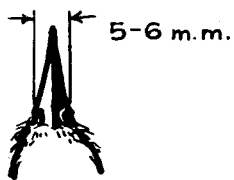
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BIRD IN THE HAND

Shining Bronze Cuckoo Chalcites lucidus RAOU No. 343



ADULT



IMMATURE



ADULT

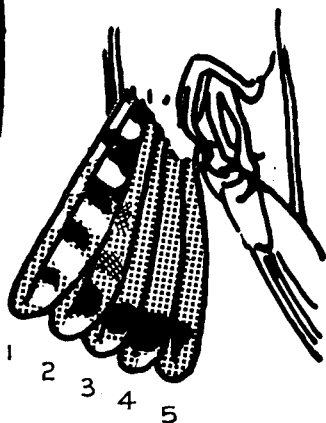
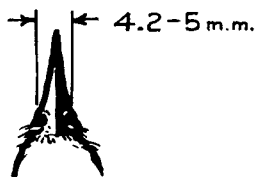
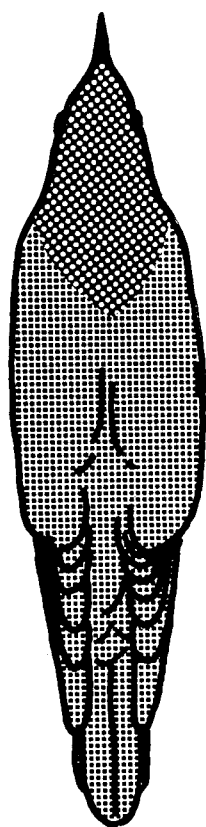
- Bill Width Broad 5-6
- Forehead Usually some white forming white line to centre of crown.
- Crown Bronze green, sometimes with purplish tinge. Sub-adult and Immature bright metallic green.
- Hind neck
- Mantle
- Back Similar to mantle and crown. No sudden change.
- Wing Coverts Similar to back and rump.
- Tail No.1 Generally 4, sometimes 5 large white spots.
- 2 & 3 with or without rufous spots, similar to Golden.
- Chin Bronze green bars
- Throat and Breast Bronze green bars. Immature. Dirty white mottled with greenish brown. Lower breast some bars.
- Belly White with crossing bars.
- Face White over eye extending down sides of neck to "Shoulders"

BIRD IN THE HAND

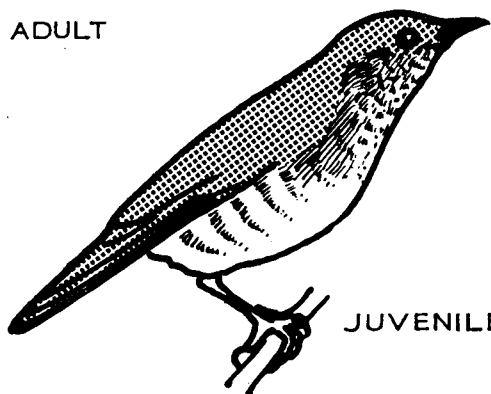
Golden Bronze Cuckoo

Chalcites plagosus

RAOU No. 344



ADULT



JUVENILE



ADULT

- Bill Width Medium 4.2-5
- Forehead No white or slight
- Crown Purplish copper
- Hind neck Bronze. Juv. Brown
- Mantle with slight metallic green tinge.
- Back Bronze green, contrasting with purplish mantle. Juv. as mantle.
- Wing No buff or light edges, similar to back and rump. Juv. Slight rufous edges.
- Coverts
- Tail No.1 5 large white spots
- 2 & 3 with or without rufous spots. Juv. Similar.
- Chin Copper Bronze bars. Juv. as Throat and Breast.
- Throat and Breast Copper bronze bars. Juv. Dark greyish brown with faint barring.
- Belly White with crossing bars. Juv. Whitish with brownish bars increasing with age, especially on flanks.
- Face White over eye not extending down sides of neck.