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The Little Bronze and Rufous-breasted Bronze Cuckoos are separated from all other Australian Bronze Cuckoos by their small size, red round the eyes and usually red iris. Little is known about these species. The best distinguishing characteristics between these two species appear to be the overall rufous wash on the upper parts in the Rufous-breasted and the contrasting mantle and crown with only rufous on the tail in the Little.

RAOU No. 345 — Little Bronze Cuckoo
(Chalcites minutillus)

Bill width: 4.5-5.3mm (9 measured).

Forehead: a few small white feathers in front beside beak.

Crown and back of head: Dark bluish bronze green.

Hind neck, mantle, back: Light bronzy brown-green to bronze green contrasting with head.

Wing: Secondaries and secondary coverts with very pale rufous edges sometimes worn off.

Tail: No. 1 Black and white bands or spots on inner web sometimes with rufous bands. No. 2, 3, 4. Rufous on inner webs only, sometimes very slight rufous edge on outer webs.

Chin: Narrow well marked bronze green bars on white.

Throat and Breast: Similar. Sometimes very slight pale fawn on sides of breast.

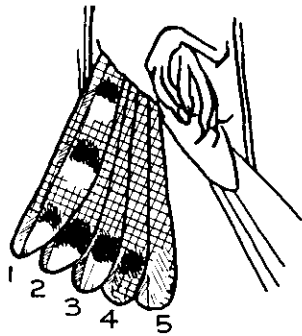
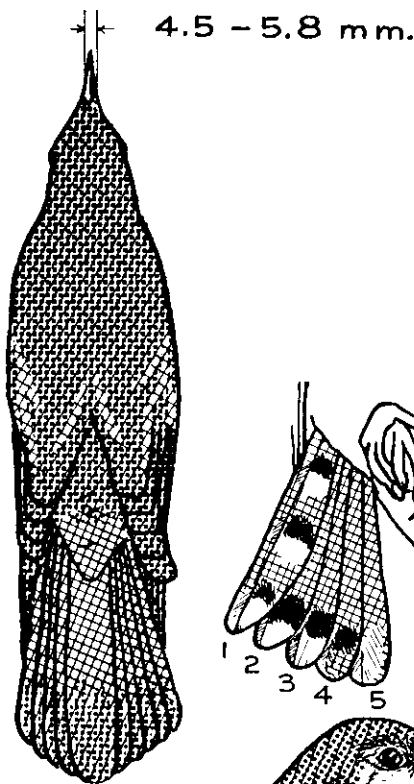
Belly: Bars wider and more copper bronze than breast.

Face: Eyelids red or scarlet; White lores; White line above eye and white patch above back of eye and mainly white ear coverts extending down to "shoulder" of wing, gives same effect of a white face as in Shining Bronze Cuckoo.

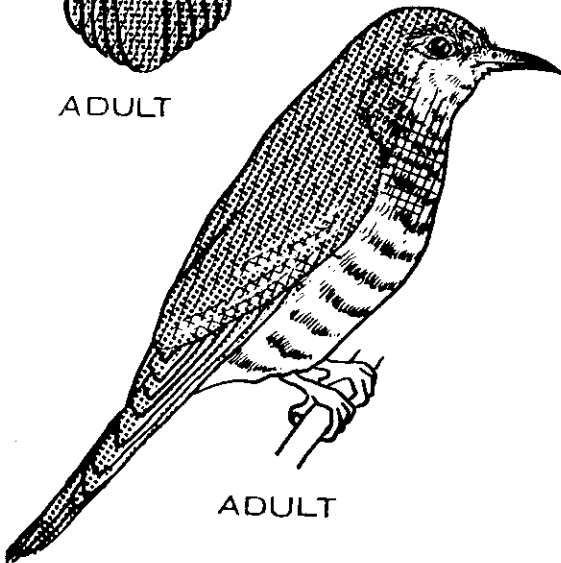
RAOU No. 346 — Rufous-breasted

Bronze Cuckoo

(*Chalcites russatus*)



ADULT



Bill width: 4.5-5.8mm (24 measured; only three less than 5.0mm; eight 5.4mm or more.)

Forehead: No white feathers on front.

Crown, back of head: Rufous bronze green.

Hind neck, mantle, back: Rufous bronze green not contrasting with head.

Wing: Deep rufous edging to primaries (sometimes lost in wear) and secondary coverts edged and often tipped with rufous.

Tail: No. 1. Well marked black and white with rufous (occasionally very pale) bands on inner web. No. 2, 3, 4, rufous on inner web, with well marked deep rufous edge on outer webs; in older birds rufous increases until tail almost entirely rufous except for terminal bands.

Chin and throat: Whitish with a few greeny brown marks or bars, or with many narrow dark green bars.

Breast: Rufous with under barring. Amount of rufous variable, sometimes only sides of breast, and sometimes very faint or absent (sub-adults?)

Belly and flanks: White with broad dark copper bronze bars.

Face: Eyelids red or scarlet. Lores not white and no well marked line above eye, but sometimes a few white feathers. Only sometimes white above and behind eye, but not forming prominent patch. Ear coverts mainly dark and not extending down to "shoulder".

Correction: Horsfield Bronze Cuckoo

(*Chalcites basalidis*)

Tail: No. 1. 5-7 large white spots. No. 2, 3, 4: Rufous for 2/3rds on both webs. 4 sometimes outer web only. Juv. similar, but rufous less intense.