

Blue-winged Kookaburra *Dacelo leachii* Species No.: 323 Band size: 09 AM



Morphometrics:

Four subspecies recognised with the following three in Australia:

	Nominate <i>D.l. leachii</i> (n-e and n. Aust.)		ssp. <i>D.l. cervina</i> (Melville Is & adjoining NT coast)	
	Adult Male	Adult Female	Adult Male	Adult Female
Wing:	180 – 210 mm	181 – 221 mm	176 – 192 mm	178 – 190 mm
Tail:	100 – 134 mm	110 – 135 mm	105 – 116 mm	111 – 122 mm
Bill:	69.5 – 87.4 mm	69.3 – 95.8 mm	65.6 – 73.3 mm	66.7 – 75.5 mm
THL:	114 – 128 mm	115 – 128 mm		
Tarsus:	24.0 – 29.9 mm	24.5 – 30.0 mm	24.4 – 29.0 mm	25.3 – 28.2 mm
Weight:	200 – 330 g	267 – 447 g	242 – 278 g	264 – 286 g

ssp. *D.l. cliftoni*

(Hamersley & Pilbara Region WA)

	Adult Male	Adult Female
Wing:	196 – 203 mm	200 – 209 mm
Tail:	120 – 138 mm	115 – 137 mm
Bill:	73.3 – 91.0 mm	70.0 – 90.2 mm
Tarsus:	26.3 – 29.3 mm	26.9 – 29.1 mm
Weight:	260, 280 g (2)	345 g (1)

Ageing:

Juvenile has mostly black or dark grey upper and lower mandibles with white tips. White tips are lost and lower mandible gradually becomes paler, changing to pink-buff or cream of adults within a few months after fledging;

Juvenile iris is much darker (dark grey, dark brown or brown) than adults (pearl-grey, cream or light grey-brown);

The orbital ring of juveniles is bluish-grey, whereas the adults are brownish-grey;

Juveniles generally have a light brown suffusion to feathers of forehead, centre of crown & cheeks;

Tail feathers (rectrices) of Juveniles and immatures are pointed;

Immatures are indistinguishable after complete tail moult at approximately 15 months. Thus

Immatures (2-) and Adults will be at least (2+);

Sexing:

Sexes of all ages can be identified by the colours of the rump and tail feathers;

Adult males have dark blue lower tail coverts and rectrices, whereas adult females are rufous brown with tail feathers being lighter at the tips;

Juveniles/Immatures have either blue tail coverts (male) or brown (female) and the rectrices have both male and female characters;

Both sexes incubate.