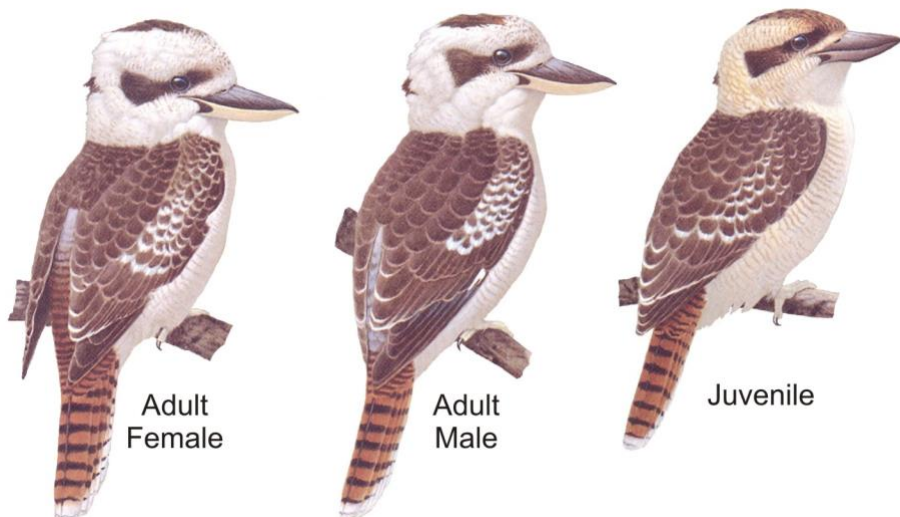


**Laughing Kookaburra** *Dacelo novaeguineae*      **Species No.: 322**      **Band size: 20 SS**



**Morphometrics:**

Two subspecies recognised as follows:

	Nominate <i>D.n. novaeguineae</i> (Qld, NSW, Vic, SA, introduced Tas & WA)		ssp. <i>D.n. minor</i> (tip of Cape York s. to Cooktown)	
	Adult Male	Adult Female	Adult Male	Adult Female
Wing:	188 – 237 mm	198 – 231 mm	193 – 199 mm	182 – 194 mm
Tail:	123 – 171 mm	137 – 170 mm	132 – 139 mm	130 – 141 mm
THL:	102 – 127 mm	111 – 129 mm		
Bill:	59.5 – 75.9 mm	61.0 – 77.3 mm	57.2 – 67.0 mm	61.3 – 65.9 mm
Tarsus:	23.5 – 31.1 mm	25.0 – 30.0 mm	24.1 – 26.0 mm	24.9 – 28.5 mm
Weight:	196 – 450 g	245 – 468 g	214 g (1)	196, 270 g (2)

**Ageing:**

All juveniles appear much darker than adults, but are similar to adults within six months of fledging; Juvenile tail feathers are pointed, whereas older birds have rounded tips; Dark lower mandible of juveniles fades to adult colour within six months of fledging; By the end of the first year when all plumage is worn, juvenile/immature birds are probably indistinguishable from adults. Thus juveniles (1) and adults (2+).

**Sexing :**

Laughing Kookaburras live in co-operative family groups. Only the primary male and female breed and both incubate. Other group members, or auxiliaries, occasionally assist with incubation, but always assist with feeding young birds; There is no reliable size dimorphism to sex birds in the field and plumage variations can be problematic; Adult breeding (primary) males are possibly the only birds that can be positively sexed by external characters. The lower back and rump of primary males have an overall appearance of very blue, though these feathers are usually dark brown with light blue tips varying in width from 7 – 10mm; Breeding (primary) females have mostly white feathers on lower back grading to rufous brown on the rump all barred dark brown. Some birds also have light blue tips to some of these feathers, but they never have a bright blue lower back and rump like the primary male; Adult auxiliary and immature males and females cannot be reliably separated from the primary female by plumage characters.