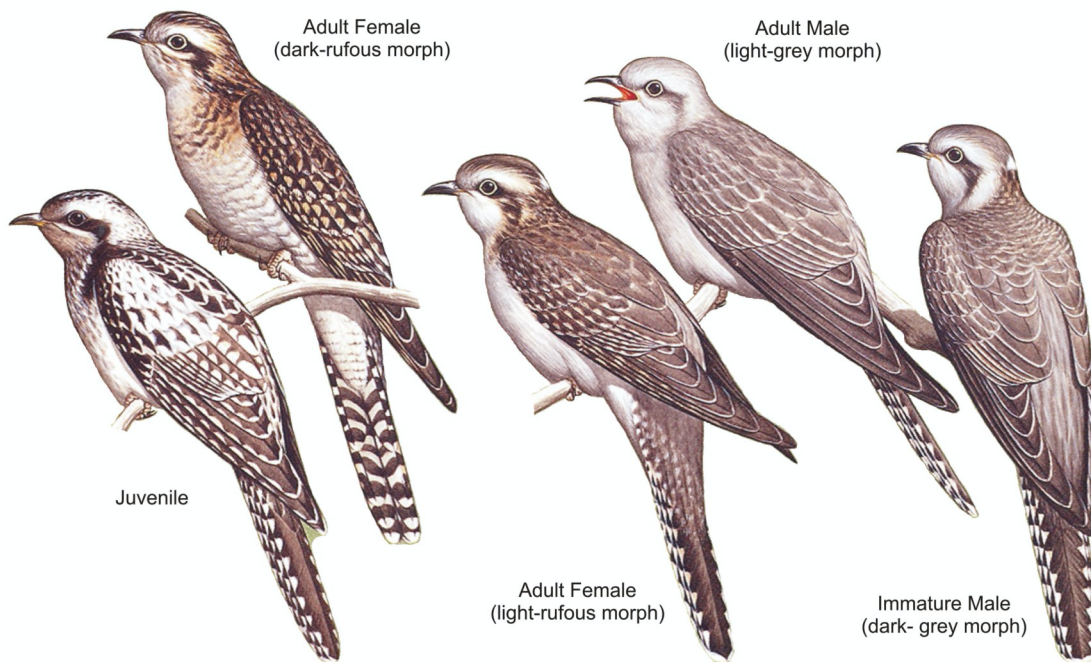


Pallid Cuckoo *Cuculus pallidus* Species No.: 337 Band size: 06 AY

(1 of 2)



A detailed description of Pallid Cuckoo plumages by H.J. de S. Disney in 1977 (*Corella* 1 (1) for *Bird in the Hand 1st Edition*) claimed there are five recognisable plumages over the first four years, but this and claims that adults of both sexes are identical, have been questioned in HANZAB. The HANZAB plumage/moult study concludes that Immature plumage is attained in a complete post-juvenile (first basic) moult about two months after fledging and adult plumage is achieved in the second pre-basic moult early in a birds second year of life, probably coinciding with adults' post-breeding moult. This data sheet presents information compiled from HANZAB which should be sufficient (both text and illustrations above) to accurately age and sex live birds in the hand. Note - all have a white spot on the nape.

Morphometrics:

	Adult Male	Adult Female
Wing:	179 – 204 mm	182 – 204 mm
Tail:	151 – 177 m	151 – 178 mm
Bill:	23.8 – 29.3 mm	24.8 – 29.1 mm
Tarsus:	19.5 – 25.3 mm	20.2 – 25.7 mm
Weight:	64 – 118 g	63 – 106 g

Ageing & Sexing:

	Imm. & Adult Male	Imm. & Adult Female	Juvenile (J)
Bill:	black to grey black with paler base;	as for males;	grey grading to off-white tomtia and tip;
Gape:	orange to dark orange;	as for males;	off-white;
Iris:	brown to black-brown;	as for males;	brown sometimes with grey tinge;
Crown, nape:	light morph – light grey; dark morph – dark grey to light brown;	light-morph – dark brown, finely streaked rufous; dark-morph – dark brown, streaked with broad light rufous brown;	dark brown coarsely streaked by white edges to feathers
Throat & upper breast:	pale grey;	light morph -pale grey; dark morph – pale grey with brownish tinge with rufous-brown gorget;	dark brown fading to grey -brown with wear & finely streaked by narrow off-white edges to feathers;
Rear of eye & ear-coverts	light morph – dark grey; dark morph – dark grey-brown;	light morph - dark brown; dark morph – dark rufous-brown;	very dark brown;

Pallid Cuckoo **(2 of 2)**

Ageing & Sexing (cont.)

Immatures (1) are difficult to separate from adults, but they retain juvenile secondaries;
First breed when about one year old, so adult-plumaged birds should only be aged as (1+).

Similar species:

Oriental Cuckoo *Cuculus saturates* – differences as follows:

Breast & belly:	Oriental Cuckoo heavily barred;	Pallid Cuckoo lacks barring;
Legs and feet:	orange;	grey.