

Grey Fantail (2 of 2)

Morphometrics:

	Nominate <i>R.a. albiscapa</i> (Tas)		ssp. <i>R.a. alisteri</i> (s-e mainland)	
	Adult Male	Adult Female	Adult Male	Adult Female
THL:			23.8 – 26.7 mm	24.3 – 26.1 mm
Wing:	72 – 77 mm	69 – 75 mm	67 – 80 mm	67 – 79 mm
Tail:	84 – 96 mm	80 – 88 mm	79 – 94 mm	80 – 92 mm
Bill:	10.8 – 12.7 mm	10.9 – 12.9 mm	10.9 – 12.6 mm	11.1 – 12.4 mm
Tarsus:	16.5 – 17.6 mm	16.4 – 17.5 mm	15.8 – 17.6 mm	14.8 – 17.5 mm
Weight:	7.0 – 10.5 g	7.4 – 9.9 g	6.8 – 10.2 g	6.0 – 11.8 g

	ssp. <i>R.a. keasti</i> (n-e Qld)	
	Adult Male	Adult female
Wing:	73 – 81 mm	74 – 75mm
Tail:	80 – 94 mm	79 – 88 mm
Bill:	10.7 – 13.3 mm	10.8 – 13.3 mm
Tarsus:	15.4 – 17.8 mm	16.2 – 17.3 mm
Weight:	7.0 – 10.0 g	8.2 – 10.0 g

	ssp. <i>R.a. priessi</i> (s-w WA)		ssp. <i>R.a. albicauda</i> (n. WA, SA, NT)	
	Adult Male	Adult Female	Adult Male	Adult Female
Wing:	71 – 81 mm	69 – 76 mm	69 – 76 mm	66 – 72 mm
Tail:	82 – 93 mm	80 – 90 mm	81 – 93 mm	82 – 88 mm
Bill:	10.9 – 13.0 mm	8.7 – 12.0 mm	9.8 – 12.2 mm	9.7 – 11.2 mm
Tarsus:	16.0 – 18.8 mm	16.2 – 19.8 mm	16.0 – 17.8 mm	15.4 – 17.4 mm
Weight:	6.2 – 10.0 g	6.9 – 8.4 g	6.4 – 8.0 g	5.7 – 7.6 g

Ageing:

The following descriptions apply to all subspecies:

	Adult (2+)	Immature (1)	Juvenile
Bill:	mostly black with cream or pale pink base to lower mandible;	upper mandible black, lower mandible orange or cream with black tip;	grey or grey-black with pale pink base to lower mandible;
Gape:	black or cream;	yellowish orange at first fading to pinkish-grey;	off-white or pale yellow
Iris:	black-brown or dark brown;	black-brown;	black-brown
Supercilium & stripe behind eye:	white;	white, but not as broad as adult;	rufous;

Juveniles have a general rufous suffusion throughout their plumage;

Immatures are basically adult-like, but retain juvenile alula, greater primary coverts, remiges, rectrices and some greater secondary coverts;

Retained juvenile greater secondary coverts have off-white tips suffused rufous brown;

Adult plumage is attained in a complete moult commencing at about one year old. Thus adults are aged (2+);

Sexing:

There is no sexual dimorphism in plumage, but adult males average larger than adult females;

Some birds of *R.a. alisteri* can be sexed on measurements as follows:

THL: male > 27.7 mm; female < 25.9 mm – correctly sexed 59.9%;

Tail: male > 89 mm; female < 82mm – correctly sexed 30.8%;

Field workers might develop similar statistics for the other subspecies;

Only females develop brood patches.

Similar Species:

Mangrove Grey Fantail *Rhipidura phasiana* (see undertail pattern above) and Northern Fantail *Rhipidura rufiventris* – see separate field data sheets.