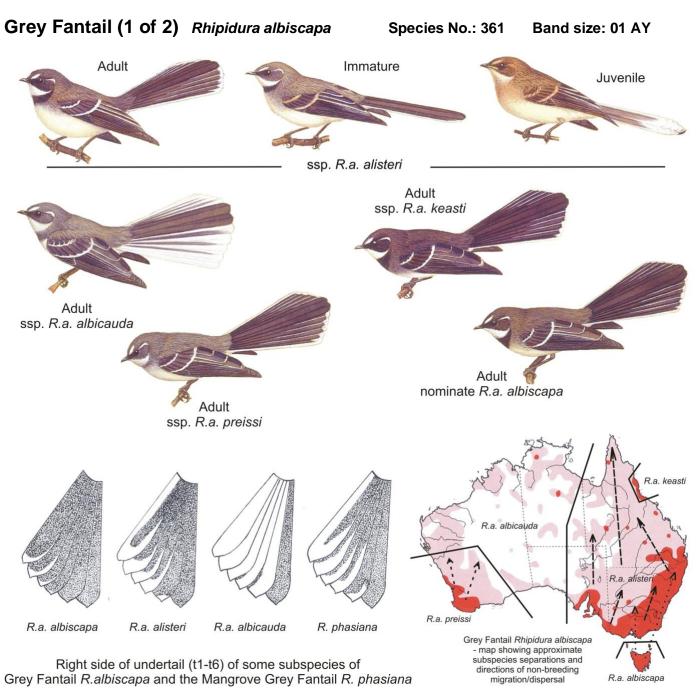
Australian Bird Study Association Inc. - Bird in the Hand (Second Edition), published on www.absa.asn.au - Revised August 2020



General:

This species was separated from *R. fuliginosa* of NZ in 2008. There are five extant subspecies in Australia and their approximate distribution is shown in the map above:

- the nominate *R.a. albiscapa* breeds in Tasmania, and the southern islands of Bass Strait, but some migrate in the non-breeding season at least as far as central and n-e NSW;
- o most *R.a. alisteri* migrate north in the non-breeding season, some as far as New Guinea;
- some *R.a. preissi* migrate north to central WA;
- o R.a. keasti remains sedentary; and
- o R.a. albicauda are nomadic in central and northern WA, SA and NT.

The illustrations of undertail patterns will separate the two subspecies in the s-e mainland where both occur in the non-breeding season and from the similar Mangrove Grey Fantail *R. phasiana*.

Grey Fantail (2 of 2) Morphometrics:

worphometri							
	Nominate <i>R.a. albiscapa</i> (Tas)				alisteri (s-e mainland)		
	Adult Male	Adult Female		Adult Male		Adult Female	
THL:				23.8 – 26.7 m	nm	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 m	nm	10.9 – 12.6 m	nm	11.1 – 12.4 mm	
Tarsus:	16.5 – 17.6 mm	16.4 – 17.5 m	nm	15.8 – 17.6 m	nm	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 female			
	Wing:	73 – 81 mm		74 – 75mm			
	Tail:	80 – 94 mm		79 – 88 mm			
	Bill:	10.7 – 13.3 m	nm	10.8 – 13.3 mm			
	Tarsus:	15.4 – 17.8 m		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 mr	n	9.8 – 12.2 mr	n	9.7 – 11.2 mm	
Tarsus:	16.0 – 18.8 mm	16.2 – 19.8 m		16.0 – 17.8 m		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:							
	ollowing descriptions	apply to all subs	necies:				
The following descriptions apply to all subs Adult (2+)				mature (1)		Juvenile	
Bill:		with cream		mandible black,	arev o	or grey-black with	
Dill.	or pale pin		•••	r mandible orange		pink base to lower	
	lower man			eam with black tip;		dible;	
Gape:	black or cre	,		sh orange at first		ite or pale yellow	
Cape.	black of cro	uni,		g to pinkish-grey;			
Iris:	black-brown or dark brown;		black-brown;		black-brown		
Supercilium & white;		white, but not as broad		rufous	rufous;		
stripe beh	ind eye:		as a	dult;			
luvor	vilos havo a gonoral r	utous suffusion t	brougho	ut thoir plumage:			
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;							
				off-white tips suffused	rufous	hrown.	

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.