

Channel-billed Cuckoo *Scythrops novaehollandiae* **Species No.: 348** **Band size: 11 AM**



Morphometrics:

	Adult Male	Adult Female
Wing:	337 – 367 mm	336 – 368 mm
Tail:	253 – 278 mm	253 – 276 mm
Bill:	83.7 – 93.5 mm	70.3 – 79.0 mm
Tarsus:	41.8 – 49.8 mm	38.7 – 46.3 mm
Weight:	560 – 935 g	560 – 800 g

Ageing:

Complete post-juvenile body moult commences soon after fledging, but some or all remiges are retained until migration to non-breeding areas in New Guinea and Indonesia where remaining juvenile wing feathers are moulted;

This results in a plumage that is often identical to adults, though some juvenile remiges may be retained until migration back to non-breeding areas in Australia;

The illustrations above clearly identify the plumage differences between juveniles and adults.

Sexing:

Males are significantly larger than females, especially in bill size;

Sexes differ slightly in adult plumage and bare parts as follows:

	Adult Male (2+)	Adult Female (2+)
Bill:	grey-black with cream tip slightly more extensive on upper mandible;	grey-black, but distal 30-50% is cream;
Breast & belly:	mostly pale grey feathers grade to grey-white bases and these can be partly exposed to give a paler colour especially on the belly;	ground-colour of underparts are paler than in males grading from pale grey on upper breast to off-white on most of the breast, belly & flanks;
Thighs & undertail coverts:	barred dark grey-brown to light brownish-grey; Diffuse and narrow grey barring extends from thighs onto flanks, axillaries and sometimes belly; these markings are faint and often difficult to see; axillaries are barred like the flanks but narrowly tipped white;	dark grey-brown barring of thighs encroaches onto flanks & belly; barring is more extensive and slightly more conspicuous than in males and diffuse light brownish-grey barring extends over all of the flanks and often merges to lighter brownish-grey barring up to centre of breast;