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



## Morphometrics:

Separated from Asian (Common) Koel *E. scolopacea* in 2012. *E. orientalis* is variously called Eastern, Pacific or Australian Koel with two subspecies recognised which vary in morphometrics, but both appear to have the same range of plumage variations:

	<i>E.o. cyanocephala</i> (e. Aust s. of Burdekin R., Qld)		<i>E.o. subcyanocephala</i> (northern Qld, NT & WA)	
	Adult Male Adult Female		Adult Male Adult Female	
Wing:	204 – 230 mm	200 – 235 mm	193 – 221 mm	193 – 214 mm
Tail:	190 – 213 mm	187 – 219 mm	180 – 216 mm	174 – 202 mm
Bill:	30.7 – 36.8 mm	29.8 – 36.4 mm	27.2 – 34.6 mm	29.3 – 35.0 mm
Tarsus:	31.5 – 38.0 mm	33.3 – 38.5 mm	31.8 – 37.0 mm	32.3 – 36.2 mm
Weight:	175 – 340 g	167.3 – 330 g	215 – 244 g	158 – 267 g

## Ageing:

- Post-juvenile moult commences soon after fledging, but does not finish until the birds have migrated from Australia for the non-breeding season in PNG or Indonesia;
- On return to Australia toward the end of their first year Immatures of both sexes are usually distinguishable from adults by some retained juvenile remiges and rectrices;
- Moult to adult-like plumage commences when about one year old after their return to Australia; Immature (2-) Males are readily separable from Adult (3+) Males because underparts retain some traces of pale barring (see illustrations);
- Immature (2-) Females may have stronger buff or rufescent tinge to pale bars and spots on upper parts, but otherwise may be indistinguishable from adult (3+) females;
- Adult Females (3+) may be either light or dark form as shown in the illustrations above.

## Sexing:

Plumage is sexually dimorphic from the second year (see illustrations).