

## IDENTIFICATION KEY - RED-BREASTED ROBINS

The identification of young and female *Petroica* “red breasted” robins can be confusing for inexperienced banders.

- Location, habitat, season and altitude all give clues;
- The answers to the four questions below may assist in cases of doubt;
- The colours in the tail will confirm identification.

Q1. Does it have a wing length greater than 70 mm?

YES. Go to Q2.  
NO. Go to Q3.

Q2. Does it show a reddish wash in the breast?

YES. SCARLET ROBIN.  
NO. FLAME ROBIN.

Q3. Are the outer tail feathers predominantly white?

YES. Go to Q4.  
NO. PINK ROBIN.

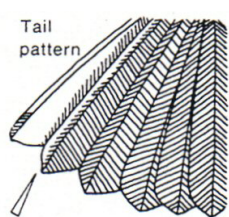
Q4. Does it have SMALL white (adult) or buff (immature) spot on the forehead?

YES. ROSE ROBIN.  
NO. RED-CAPPED ROBIN.

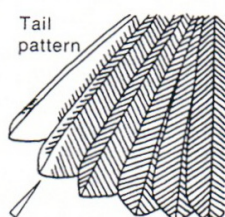
### Other Points

- Some adult female Flame Robins have an orange wash to the breast;
- Most Pink Robins have no white in the tail, but occasionally may have a narrow white tip to t5 and t6;
- Pink Robins are generally a dusker brown than other “red-breasted” robin species and have orange buff in the wing bar;
- Pink and Rose Robins have short legs with orange soles to the feet.

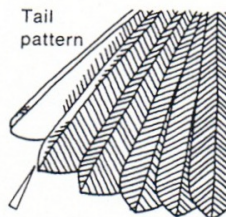
## UPPER-TAIL PATTERNS OF THE FIVE *PETROICA* ‘RED-BREASTED’ ROBINS



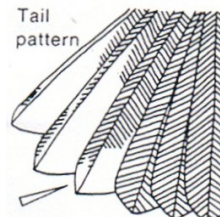
Flame Robin



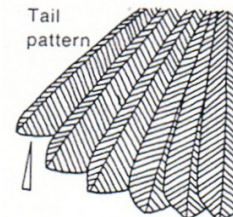
Scarlet Robin



Red-capped Robin



Rose Robin



Pink Robin