

first day out of the nest, but further observation was prevented by the Cuckoo's death, probably due to wet weather, three days later.

The period between the laying of the egg and the fledgling becoming independent appears to be about 53 days. On several occasions the foster-parents have commenced building a new nest while still feeding the young Cuckoo.

It is interesting to note that one pair of Mudlarks reared three Koels during the 1961-62 season and one in each of the two following seasons.

During a season as many as five young Koels have been reared in what appears to be the territory of one pair of adults. This indicates that a female may produce a number of eggs during a season.

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R.M.B. 274, Great Marlow, Grafton, N.S.W.
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On the taxonomy of *Cuculus pallidus* (Latham).—Peters (Check-List, vol. 4, p. 20) rightly questioned the validity of *occidentalis* (Cabanis and Heine) 1863, proposed for West Australian birds. I can confirm that there is no difference, either in size or coloration, between eastern and western birds. It is likewise impossible to separate Tasmanian birds (*tasmanicus* Mathews 1916). Some wing measurements of adult males in the American Museum collections are as follows:

Victoria: 187, 190, 190, 190, 192, 192, 193, 193, 195, 195, 196, 196, 199, 201 (av. 193.8, 15 ♂ ad.)

Western Australia: 186, 188, 188.5, 189, 191, 192, 192, 192, 192, 194, 194, 196 (av. 191.2, 12 ♂ ad.)

Tasmania: 194, 194, 195, 196, 198 (195.4).

Mathews apparently never designated a type for his *tasmanicus*. The three adult males in his collection are thus presumably to be considered syntypes.

This species is such a perfect intermediate between *Cuculus* and *Cacomantis* that it throws doubt on the validity of the genus *Cacomantis*. In spite of its under-wing pattern the species *pallidus* is actually closer in some respects to *Cacomantis* than to *Cuculus*.—ERNST MAYR, Museum of Comparative Zoology, Cambridge, Mass., U.S.A.