

## CACOMANTIS CASTANEIVENTRIS, *Gould.*

### Chestnut-breasted Cuckoo.

*Cuculus (Cacomantis) castaneiventris*, Gould in Ann. & Mag. of Nat. Hist., 3rd ser. vol. xx. p. 269.

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THIS is a new species belonging to a small section of the *Cuculidae* which is peculiar to Australia and the islands lying to the northward of that continent as far as the Philippines. In their general contour, the *Cacomantes* are slender and elegant; on the other hand their colours are in general plain and unobtrusive; while in their demeanour they are sedate and quiet, making less display in their attitudes and actions than the true Cuckoos, and they never emit that well-known sound. Of the other Australian species, it is most nearly allied to the old *Cacomantis flabelliformis*, but differs in its smaller size and in the uniform deep chestnut colouring of its under surface. Its native country is undoubtedly Queensland, as the specimen I have figured was received thence direct, in a collection formed by J. Jardine, Esq., in the Cape York district. In all probability this is the species spoken of by Mr. E. P. Ramsay, in the 'Ibis' for 1866, p. 331, where he says: "Since 1862, I have several times, throughout various parts of the year, received specimens of a second Cuckoo from Port Denison; and as I am unable to find any description at all fitting it in Gould's 'Birds of Australia,' or any other publication, I believe it to be in all probability a new species, the decision of which, however, I shall leave to those better acquainted with the group. All the specimens that have been received from Port Denison are exactly alike in plumage, and were procured from February to December. In size they are slightly smaller than *Cacomantis flabelliformis*."

I may remark that I have compared my specimen with the Cuckoos in the collection at the British Museum without finding a corresponding example. Its nearest ally is a Philippine bird which may be the *Cacomantis sepulchralis* of Bonaparte. The *Cacomantis bronzina* of Mr. G. R. Gray is also very similarly coloured, but is a much larger bird.

Chin, ear-coverts, crown, and upper surface deep purplish grey; all the under surface, including the under tail-coverts, bright chestnut-red; wings brown, glossed with olive; upper tail-coverts and tail deep greyish purple, all the feathers tipped and the lateral ones toothed on their inner web with white, which assumes on the two outer ones the appearance of interrupted bars; bill purplish black; legs and feet orange; nails black.

Total length  $9\frac{1}{2}$  inches, bill  $\frac{7}{8}$ , wing  $4\frac{1}{4}$ , tail 5, tarsi  $\frac{1}{4}$ .

The Plate represents the bird of the size of life.