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Oriental cuckoo: pp 175-176.

**Oriental Cuckoo** *Cuculus optatus* Gould 1845, Vagrant (31)  
February 1902 Lake Te Anau, Fiordland  
12/1/1997 Norfolk Island

One was shot at Lake Te Anau in February 1902. The next was seen in December 1944, and later found dead, at Motupipi, near Takaka, Nelson and forwarded to the Dominion Museum. It was also possibly recorded in 1889 in Hawke Bay: "Amongst a collection of New Zealand bird-skins sent to the Museum I found a skin of what appeared to be *Eudynamis* with the long tail-feathers imperfect, some not fully grown. On taking up the bird to ticket it, I saw that the breast, instead of the usual brown marks, was distinctly transversely barred with black metallic bars, as in the Bronze Cuckoo (*Chrysococcyx*). These bars extend from the beak to the vent. The bill is less robust than *Eudynamis*. The feet are light in colour, like those of an albino specimen. It has certainly the character of *Eudynamis* when seen from the back; but from the under side it suggests a cross between *Eudynamis* and *Chrysococcyx*" (Hamilton 1888).

Higgins (1999) accepted this record, but the Checklist Committee (OSNZ) (2010) did not.

The Oriental Cuckoo has recently been split into three species: Himalayan Cuckoo *C. saturatus* Hodgson 1843, Sunda Cuckoo *C. lepidus* Muller 1845 and Oriental Cuckoo *C. horsfieldi* Moore 1857 (sic) (King 2005). The type specimen of *C. optatus* Gould 1845, formerly considered to be *C. saturatus* and used sub-specifically, is actually referable to *C. horsfieldi*. *Optatus* is therefore a senior synonym of *C. horsfieldi* and replaces it as the species name.

Christidis & Boles (2008) only admit *C. optatus*, so it appears that *C. saturatus* does not occur in Australia, as Clements (2000) had thought.