

Electronic Supplementary Material Table S1.

Overview of study sites (listed from south to north) and the presence (1) or absence (0) of common cuckoo, Himalayan cuckoo, and Asian lesser cuckoo.

Country	Locality	Latitude	Longitude	Mean altitude (m)	Common cuckoo	Himalayan cuckoo	Asian lesser cuckoo
China	Diaoluoshan	18°40'	109°55'	900	0	1	0
	Qiandaohu	29°30'	118°40'	100	1	1	1
	Dongzhai	32°15'	114°25'	200	1	1	1
	Xiaolongmen	39°58'	115°26'	1300	0	1	1
	Zuojia	44°03'	126°04'	270	1	1	1
Czech Republic	Velky Kosir	49°32'	17°04'	350	1	0	0
	Sumperk	50°00'	16°59'	500	0	0	0
Denmark	Aalborg	57°08'	10°01'	50	0	0	0
	Brovst	57°11'	09°33'	10	0	0	0
Norway	Røros	62°28'	11°48'	700	1	0	0
	Vikhammer	63°26'	10°37'	10	0	0	0
	Stjørdal	63°29'	10°53'	60	0	0	0

Electronic Supplementary Material Table S2.

Rejection frequencies of four types of experimental eggs (always swapped with a single host egg) and desertion frequencies at control unmanipulated great tit nests where the first number refers to rejected eggs and the second number the number of experiments. Deserted experimental nests (n =13) were excluded (desertion was not a specific response to parasitism, see Results). Treatments where desertions occurred are indicated by *.

Country	Locality	Blue model	White model	Blue conspecific egg	Conspecific egg	Control nests
China	Diaoluoshan	10/10				
China	Dongzhai	6/9*				
China	Qiandaohu	9/10				
China	Xiaolongmen	13/24 ¹			0/3	
China	Zuojia	29/37				
Czech Republic	Sumperk	1/20*	0/3	0/1	0/15	0/18
Czech Republic	Velky Kosir	0/15	1/11	0/23	0/23*	4/66
Denmark	Aalborg		0/5			
Denmark	Brovst		1/24			
Norway	Røros	9/26			0/11	0/21
Norway	Stjørdal	1/12				
Norway	Vikhammer	2/5				

¹ Includes one egg buried.

Electronic Supplementary Material Table S3. Egg colour, body size and mass of great tits, cuckoos and their subspecies in China and Europe. Most data from Europe were from Norway, where many rejection experiments were conducted.

Species	Subspecies	Egg color	Sex	Mass (g)	Body length (mm)	Wing length (mm)	Tarsus length (mm)	Sample size	Reference	
<i>Parus major</i> (great tit)	<i>P. m. minor</i>		male	13.7 (12-15)	128.5 (120-139)	66.5 (64-71)	19.1 (18-21.5)	20	Li et al. 1982	
		White with brown spots	female	15.7 (13-16)	128.2 (116-141)	65.4 (61-69)	18.8 (18-20)	20		
	<i>P. m. commixtus</i>		male	13.9 (13-15)	129.3 (121-140)	65.2 (61-68)	19 (18-20)	20	Li et al. 1982	
		White with brown spots	female	12.6 (11-14.5)	125.5 (116-131)	62.7 (58-67)	18.4 (17-20)	20		
	<i>P. m. hainanus</i>		male	12.7 (10-14)	118.2 (110-133)	61.5 (60-63)	17.1 (17-18.5)	15	Li et al. 1982	
		White with brown spots	female	11-14	114-125	57-61	17-18	8		
	<i>P. m. major</i>			male	19.1		77.3	20.8	314	Cramp and

