

BIRD IN THE HAND.

H.J. de S. Disney, and Drawings by Robin Hauenstein,
Australian Museum, Sydney.

Due to their similarity in size, the male Goshawk and the female Collared Sparrowhawk cannot be distinguished in the field. The available text-books merely state that when museum skins are compared the size difference is obvious, but banders are unlikely to be in the happy position of catching one of each kind at once. Methods of distinguishing the two species are given below. The drawings are life size from dried skins, so in the living birds the tarsus and toes may be slightly larger. The measurements are taken from skins and published records.

Measurement. Total length. This is measured from the tip of the bill to the tip of the tail, when the bird is lying on its back.

Collared Sparrowhawk.
Accipiter cirrocephalus
R.A.O.U. No.222

Australian Goshawk.
Accipiter fasciatus
R.A.O.U. No.221

Tarsus

Narrow

Thick

Toes

Middle Toe -

Slender. Third joint beyond base of claw of outer toe.

Third joint level or behind base of claw of outer toe.

Inner toe

Base of claw level with 2nd joint of middle toe

Base of claw halfway between 2nd and 3rd joints of middle toe.

Female

Total length: 14-15 in. 355-381mm.
Tail: $6\frac{1}{2}$ - $7\frac{1}{4}$ in. 166-182mm.
Wing: $9\frac{1}{2}$ - $9\frac{3}{4}$ in. 230-248mm.

Adult Male

15- $17\frac{1}{2}$ in. 381-438mm.
 $7\frac{1}{2}$ - $8\frac{1}{2}$ in. 191-216mm.
 $9\frac{1}{4}$ - $10\frac{1}{2}$ in. 247-269mm.

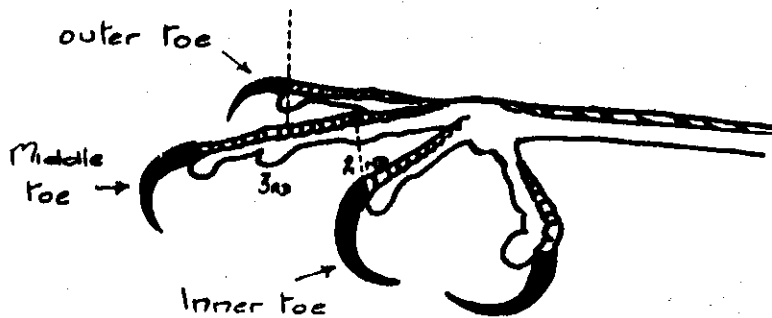
Size of opposite Sex

<u>Male</u>		<u>Adult Female</u>
Total length:	11 $\frac{1}{4}$ -13 in. 299-330mm.	18-22 in. 457-558mm.
Tail:	5 $\frac{3}{4}$ -6 $\frac{1}{8}$ in. 147-156mm.	9 $\frac{1}{2}$ -10 in. 240-254mm.
Wing:	7 $\frac{1}{2}$ -8 $\frac{1}{2}$ in. 195-219mm.	11 $\frac{1}{4}$ -12 $\frac{3}{8}$ in. 285-318mm.

Male and female Sparrowhawks can be distinguished by size. In the Goshawks it is only the fully adult males and females within the adult female size range, which can be separated in this way. At present a method has not yet been determined to distinguish young males and females where there is some overlapping of measurements.

If a 100 band must be used the bird must be a Goshawk.

SPARROW HAWK



GOSHAWK

