

Chowchilla *Orthonyx spaldingii*

Species No.: 435

Band size: 07



Morphometrics:

	Adult Male	Adult Female
Wing:	127 – 141 mm	115 – 137 mm
Tail:	96 – 118 mm	90 – 117 mm
Weight:	143 – 213 g	120 – 148 g

Ageing:

Juvenile is easily identified by its plumage (see illustration);
 Timing of moult to adult-like plumage is not known but probably soon after fledging;
 First immatures of both sexes are mostly like adults, but retain juvenile alula, some median and greater secondary coverts, greater primary coverts and remiges and probably some rectrices;
 Retained juvenile median and greater secondary coverts differ from those of adults by more buffy tips and these contrast with replaced adult-like coverts;
 Pale wing bar across remiges also sometimes appears slightly more buff than that of adult, but this difference is less obvious with wear of feathers;
 Rest of retained juvenile plumage appears similar to adults but with greater degree of wear;
 Complete moult to adult plumage probably coincides with adult post-breeding moult during the first year;
 Thus immatures will be (1) and adults (1+);

Sexing:

Sexes are plumage dimorphic as both immature and adult (see illustrations);
 Males are generally larger than females but there is some overlap in measurements;
 Only the female incubates.