

Western Bowerbird *Chlamydera guttata* Species No.: 681 Band size: 07 SS



Morphometrics:

Two subspecies with measurements as follows:

	nominate <i>C.g. guttata</i> (central WA – except North-west Cape, s-w NT & n-w SA)		<i>ssp. C.g. carteri</i> (North-west Cape, WA)	
	Adult Male	Adult Female	Adult Male	Adult Female
THL:	55.7 – 59.3 mm	56.1 – 59.9	No data	57.1 mm (1)
Bill:	23.8 – 31.0 mm	23.3 – 30.4 mm	27.8 – 28.7 mm	87 – 95 mm
Wing:	141 – 153 mm	140 – 152 mm	134, 135 mm (2)	135 – 141 mm
Tail:	82 – 99 mm	92 – 105 mm	83 – 102 mm	87 – 95 mm
Tarsus:	37.4 – 41.2 mm	37.3 – 41.0 mm	37.3 – 38.6 mm	35.5 – 39.0 mm
Weight:	128 – 148 g	135 – 148 g	127 – 139 g	No data

Ageing:

	Adult (2+)	Juvenile
Bill:	black;	dark brown;
Forehead, crown & nape:	coarsely spotted rufous-brown with finer blackish-brown scalloping & mottling;	yellow-brown with dense dark brown streaking;
Hindneck:	feathers pink grading to mauve at tips that together form an erectile mauve-pink nuchal crest;	pale brown with cream mottling, feathers are cream with broad with broad brown fringes and no pink;

A post-juvenile moult results in a first immature plumage with all or most juvenile remiges and rectrices and greater primary coverts retained and a small pink nuchal crest develops; Probably attain adult plumage in complete first immature post-breeding moult, at about one year of age; Thus adults should only be aged (2+);

It is not known at what age females breed, or at what age males build and maintain a complete bower in which to successfully display and attract females. However, from studies of other bowerbirds, it is reasonable to conjecture that it is probable that males do not acquire sufficient display and construction skills to attract females to mate until about four to six years old. So age males displaying at a bower (4+).

Sexing:

Adults are sexually dimorphic with plumage differences as follows:

	Males	Females
Hindcrown:	pale grey with glossy silvery-grey flecking;	spotted rufous brown, rarely any silver-grey; flecking;
Nuchal crest:	larger than most females;	smaller than bower-owning males;
Lower breast & belly:	pale straw-yellow;	pale cream-yellow, duller than males;

Females alone incubate and raise young.