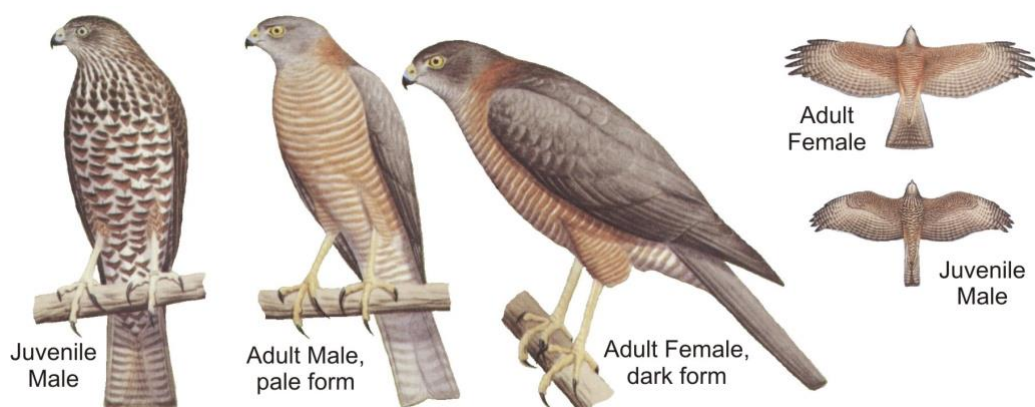


Collared Sparrowhawk

Accipiter cirrhocephalus

Species No.: 222

Band size: 07M 08F SS (mainland), 08M 20F SS (Tas.)



Morphometrics:

Three subspecies recognised with two in Australia as follows:

| | Nominate <i>A.c. cirrhocephalus</i> (Tas. & s. mainland Aust. s. of 20° S.) | | ssp. <i>A.c. quaesitandus</i> (n. Aust. n. of 20° S.) | |
|--------------------------|--|----------------|--|----------------|
| | Adult Male | Adult Female | Adult Male | Adult Female |
| Wing: | 196 – 216 mm | 228 – 250 mm | 197 – 207 mm | 231 – 246 mm |
| 8 th Primary: | 147 – 162 mm | 165 – 182 mm | 144 – 151 mm | 170 – 182 mm |
| Tail: | 141 – 155 mm | 162 – 180 mm | 140 – 148 mm | 159 – 172 mm |
| Bill (cere): | 9.7 – 11.8 mm | 12.4 – 14.2 mm | 10.6 – 11.8 mm | 13.2 – 14.2 mm |
| Tarsus: | 54.2 – 60.4 mm | 59.8 – 66.6 mm | 52.6 – 58.6 mm | 61.6 – 66.1 mm |
| Middle toe: | 30.1 – 35.3 mm | 35.4 – 41.2 mm | 33.2 – 36.0 mm | 35.4 – 39.6 mm |
| Weight: | 101 – 156 g | 162 – 300 g | 101 – 156 g | 162 – 300g |

Ageing:

Juvenile plumage (see illustration above) is retained for the first year;
Moult to adult plumage commences at approximately one year. Thus adults are aged (2+);
Note there are light and dark adult birds of both sexes, but this is not related to age.

Sexing:

Sexes are similar in plumage, but females are considerably larger than males (see measurements above);
Both sexes incubate, but predominantly by female.

Similar Species:

Male Brown Goshawks are similar in size to female Collared Sparrowhawks, but both sexes of the two species are easily separated by the length of the middle toe in comparison to the outer toes and the undertail feather pattern of the closed tail is as illustrated below - the fanned tail of the goshawk is rounded and in the sparrowhawk it is square. Also, the sparrowhawk has pale blue on the upper mandible in front of the cere, whereas the goshawk is uniform black:



Comparison of middle toe length and undertail tip feather pattern of Brown Goshawk *A. fasciatus*
Collared Sparrowhawk *A. cirrhocephalus* (from *Bird in the Hand* Ed. S.G. Lane, 1974)