

King Quail *Synoicus chinensis* **Species No.: 12** **Band size: 04 AY**



Morphometrics:

Eight subspecies recognised with two in Australia - ssp. *S.c. victoriae* in coastal and sub-coastal eastern Australia and ssp *S.c. colletti* in the NT and n-e WA. There are few data records for *colletti* which is said to be marginally smaller than *victoriae*. The following measurements are from all Australian adult specimens:

	Adult Male	Adult Female
Wing:	68 – 78 mm	68 – 74 mm
8 th primary:	47 – 56 mm	47 – 53 mm
Bill:	8.5 – 10.2 mm	9.0 – 11.4 mm
Tarsus:	17.6 – 20.0 mm	14.1 – 16.3 mm
Weight:	34.5 – 48.0 g	30.5 – 41.8 g

Ageing:

	Adult (1+)	Juvenile
Bill:	grey-black to dark grey;	dark grey distally with pale pinkish base;
Iris:	dark red-brown;	dark brown
Legs & feet:	orange-yellow;	pale orange-yellow;

The most obvious differences between immature and adult males are:

	Adult Male (2+)	Immature male (2-) or (1)
Forehead & ear coverts:	blue-grey;	grey-brown;
Upper breast:	blue-grey;	grey-brown to light grey-brown;
Belly, vent and tail coverts:	red-brown;	light grey mottled grey-brown;

Adult and juvenile females are very similar – the most obvious differences are:

	Adult Female (1+)	Juvenile/Immature Female (1)
Crown, nape & hindneck:	black with rich brown fringes;	black-brown with broad brown fringes at tips of feathers;
Forehead, ear coverts, malar and gorget:	orange-rufous grading to white on chin & throat;	generally grey-brown with throat dirty white;

Full male adult plumage is not attained until the start of the second year. Thus adult males should be aged (2+). However, adult female plumage may be attained earlier, so females should only be aged (1+).

Sexing:

Adults are sexually dimorphic on plumage (see illustrations);
Incubation is by female only.