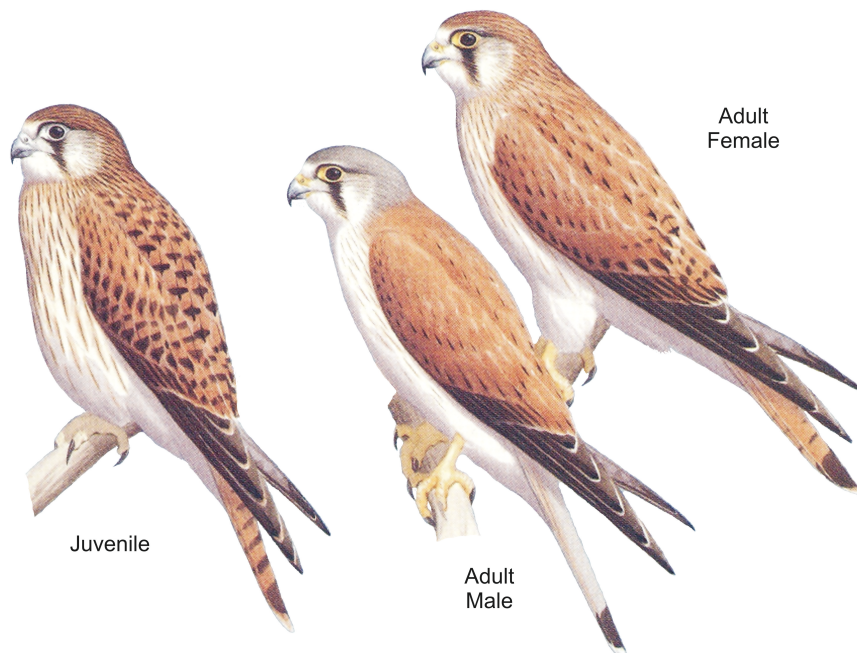


Australian Kestrel *Falco cenchroides* **Species No.: 240** **Band size: 08**



Morphometrics:

	Adult Male	Adult Female
Wing:	235 – 260 mm	248 – 273 mm
Win Span:	620 – 772 mm	748 – 790 mm
Tail:	146 – 168 mm	151 – 176 mm
Weight:	121 – 195 g	115 – 255 g

Ageing:

	Adult (2+)	Juvenile
Bill:	black, grading to pale grey or blue-grey at base;	dark grey or grey-black with small grey base;
Orbital skin & cere:	yellow, dull yellow, or greenish- yellow;	pale grey with greenish or yellow tinge;
Crown, rump & tail:	may or may not have grey feathers;	no grey feathers;
Legs & feet:	yellow to orange-yellow;	pale-yellow;
Breast & belly:	white with fine brown streaking;	white with broad, dense streaking
Upperparts:	rufous-brown feathers with, or without, subterminal black-brown spots;	rufous-brown with prominent, large dark diamond-shaped spots;
Tail:	grey or rufous (see below for sexing);	rufous-brown with prominent dark bars;

Plumage traits are variable and not well understood beyond juvenile, but adults are aged (2+);
 Second year (immature) males have a grey rump.

Sexing:

Females average slightly larger than males, but there is considerable overlap in most measurements, so morphometrics alone will not always sex a bird;
 Earlier researchers suggested that sexes could be reliably determined in most cases by wingspan measurements (< 760 are males and > 770 are females), but the HANZAB study of skins of sexed specimens revised the figures for wingspan to < 748 mm are males and > 772 mm are females, but there is a substantial overlap within the range 748 - 772 mm which could be either sex;
 Plumage characteristics, in combination with morphometrics, will accurately sex most adult birds:

	Adult Male	Adult Female
Crown & rump:	normally uniform grey, but feathers may have narrow rufous fringes;	mostly rufous-brown with thin blackish feather shafts and occasionally feathers have greyish centres;
Tail:	grey with black subterminal band and whitish tip, may have faint discontinuous dark bars;	light rufous-brown with black subterminal band and whitish to light brown tip, usually with incomplete black-brown bars;
Breast & belly:	white with light rufous tinge or buff-white;	whitish with rufous–brown wash and black streaks.

Both sexes incubate.