

Australian Owlet-nightjar *Aegotheles cristatus* Species No.: 317 Band size: 05 AY



Morphometrics:

Although there are considerable differences in plumage colour related to habitat - darker and greyer in humid areas and paler and redder in arid areas, there are only two recognised subspecies in Australia as follows:

	nominate <i>A.c. cristatus</i> (mainland)		ssp. <i>A.c. tasmanicus</i> (Tasmania)	
	Adult Male	Adult Female	Adult Male	Adult Female
Wing:	120 – 143 mm	125 – 141 mm	119 – 127 mm	118 -130 mm
Tail:	104 – 127 mm	108 – 128 mm	104 – 109 mm	104 – 109 mm
Bill:	11.4 – 17.1 mm	11.3 – 17.3 mm	13.5 – 14.0 mm	10.8 – 14.5 mm
Tarsus:	20.0 – 26.0 mm	20.5 – 26.5 mm	21.5 – 23.9 mm	20.0 – 23.8 mm
Weight:	35 – 54 g	21 – 65 g	37 – 44 g	31 – 60 g

Ageing:

	Adult (1+)	Juvenile / Immature
Mouth:	light pink to white;	bright pink;
Iris:	rufous-brown, brown or dark brown;	dark rufous brown;
Orbital ring:	inconspicuous light grey;	conspicuous pale buff to dark grey;
Bristles on forehead:	no downy tufts on tips;	whispy white tufts of retained natal down clinging to bristle tips;
Marking on head:	well defined – see illustrations;	very subdued and poorly defined, usually without distinct striping;

Juveniles undergo a partial moult to immature plumage soon after fledging, followed by a complete moult to adult plumage toward the end of the first year. Thus adult birds are aged (1+).

Sexing:

There is no reliable sexual dimorphism in size or plumage; Both sexes are thought to incubate, but not certain.