

**Lesser Sooty Owl** *Tyto tenebricosa multipunctata* Species No.: 730 Band size: Trial



**Species Status:**

Prior to 2008 the Lesser Sooty Owl *Tyto multipunctate* and Sooty Owl *Tyto tenebricosa* were regarded as separate species. They are now recognised as subspecies of *T. tenebricosa*, but for the purposes of *Bird in the Hand* (2<sup>nd</sup> Edition) they are dealt with in two separate profile sheets, as they were treated as separate species in HANZAB which predated the 2008 reclassification); Distribution is confined to n.e. Qld south of Cooktown to Townsville area.

**Morphometrics:**

	Adult Male	Adult Female
Wing:	226 – 245 mm	253 – 264 mm
Tail:	105 – 135 mm	110 – 132 mm
Bill (cere to tip):	22.8 – 25.8 mm	24.5 – 27.6 mm
Bill (skull to tip):	31.5 – 39.0 mm	34.4 – 41.2 mm
Tarsus:	54.8 – 64.5 mm	56.9 – 65.4 mm
Toe:	31.8 – 36.5 mm	30.8 – 40.5 mm
Claw:	17.2 – 24.8 mm	19.2 – 23.6 mm
Weight:	330 – 410 g	500 – 600 g

**Ageing:**

Juveniles fledge in almost full adult-like juvenile plumage with little remaining down, but may be darker than adults;

Difficult to age: combination of three methods has potential but criteria need refining:

- plumage of juveniles is very dark;
- shallow notches of the flange of the pectinate claw of the middle toe have developed within 6 months of fledging and the notches become deeply slotted within the second year;
- the staggered wing moult (*staffelmauser*) is slow and gradual and may be a guide to aging birds up to their second or third year;

Age of first breeding is not known;

Because of difficulty of aging free-flying birds, age them all as (1+).

**Sexing:**

Females are larger than males and often have a lighter facial mask and underparts than males; Females alone incubate.