

Comment: Sex Differentiation of Adult Crested Goshawks

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The Crested Goshawk *Lophospiza trivirgata* is a common bird of prey, primarily forest-dwelling but adaptable to city urban parks. The plumage difference of the adult female and male are hard to appreciate unless they are seen side by side. Some key features to differentiate them are illustrated below (Plate 1).

1. There is size dimorphism with the adult female being larger. However, this is hard to appreciate unless a pair is perched side by side or mating.
2. The side of the head and face in males is grey, with black moustachial and throat stripes. The females have a browner head and face and brown underpart streaks and bars.
3. The central mesial stripe from chin to breast in the male is thinner and longer. In the female this is thicker and 'broken'.
4. Similarly, the breast streaks and belly bands are more 'broken' in females and better defined in males. Females have darker breast 'tear drops' compared to the lighter and more rufous breast streaks of males.
5. It is possible that white undertail-coverts are more prominent in males.
6. 'Winnowing' flight displays (extending ventral feathers and rapid shallow wing beats) may be more common in males.



Plate 1: Sex Differentiation of adult Crested Goshawks, male on the left. Image copyright Li-Li Wong.

References & Sources of Information

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