

Mostly fairly large, accipiter-like raptors with rather long, red legs. The three large species have loud, cuckoo-like calls, hence the common name. The smaller Gabar Goshawk is rather different and sometimes placed in its own genus *Micronisus*. Sexes alike; juvs differ.



1 GABAR GOSHAWK *Micronisus gabar*

28-36 cm

A medium-small accipiter with a red cere and legs, prominent white rump, and plain grey (not finely barred) throat and upper breast, which distinguishes it from Ovambo Sparrowhawk (p. 92). Resembles Dark Chanting Goshawk, but is much smaller and has shorter legs. All-black melanistic form (5-25% of population) is more common in arid areas; smaller than melanistic Ovambo or Black (p. 90) sparrowhawks, with red (not yellow or orange) legs and cere. Juv. is brown above, with yellow eyes and orange legs; is only juv. accipiter with white rump. Breast is rufous-streaked; belly and underwing coverts are barred rufous. **Habitat:** Savanna and semi-arid scrub with at least some trees. **Status:** Locally common. **Voice:** High-pitched, whistling 'kik-kik-kik-kik-kik'. [C5.42, G2.2.1]



2 DARK CHANTING GOSHAWK *Meiierax metabates*

43-48 cm

A large, long-legged goshawk with red legs and cere. Adult is darker grey than Eastern and Pale chanting goshawks, with a grey (not white) rump and dark lesser upwing coverts contrasting with paler median and greater coverts. Much larger than Gabar Goshawk (which also has a white rump) or Ovambo Sparrowhawk (which has a barred breast, p. 92). Lacks throat stripe of smaller, more compact Lizard Buzzard (p. 86). Juv. has orange legs and cere and yellow eyes. Plumage is brown above, barred and streaked below; superficially harrier or Buteo-like. Best told from other juv. chanting goshawks by darker, barred rump. **Habitat:** Savanna and open woodland. **Status:** Uncommon; less obtrusive than other chanting goshawks. **Voice:** Piping 'kleu-kleu-klu-klu-klu'. [C1.85, G2.2.3]



3 EASTERN CHANTING GOSHAWK *Meiierax poliopterus*

45-50 cm

Endemic to NE Africa. Paler and slightly larger and longer-legged than Dark Chanting Goshawk, with a white (or lightly barred) rump at all ages. Adult has a yellow cere, orange legs and uniform grey (not two-toned) upwing coverts. In flight, barred underwing coverts are uniform with the belly (not paler). Juv. and imm. are brown, with yellow legs. **Habitat:** Arid savanna and semi-desert; more open habitats than Dark Chanting Goshawk. **Status:** Locally common. **Voice:** Slightly lower pitched than Dark Chanting Goshawk s.



4 PALE CHANTING GOSHAWK *Meiierax canorus*

48-54 cm

Endemic to SW Africa. Paler and larger than Dark Chanting Goshawk, with a white rump and very pale grey secondaries contrasting strongly with the dark primaries. Juv. is paler than juv. Dark Chanting Goshawk and has a white (not barred) rump. Often treated as a race of Eastern Chanting Goshawk, but is much paler, especially on secondaries; ranges do not overlap. **Habitat:** Arid savanna, semi-desert and karoo scrub. **Status:** Common; 3 adults often breed together. **Voice:** Piping 'kleu-kleu-klu-klu-klu', usually uttered at dawn. [G2.2.2]

