

DICHOTOMOUS KEY FOR THE SPECIES IDENTIFICATION OF ADULT GIBBONS

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- 1a. Both sexes entirely black with no other markings; stocky build and very large (20-35 lbs.); large inflatable throat sac; produces doglike barks; males with large genital tuft.....H. syndactylus
- 1b. Not like 1a.....2
- 2a. Both sexes entirely black with no other markings; relatively small (10-20 lbs.); broad chest, with very long arms, legs, thumbs, and great toes; throat sac absent; short muzzle; hair on head flat and directed fanwise from the front of scalp.....H. klossii
- 2b. Not like 2a.....3
- 3a. Males entirely black, but could have markings on cheeks; females are generally yellowish-golden buff with a black cap or streak on head and could have black on chest; very slender build (10-20 lbs.) with long arms; crown hair points upward; lower border of ear fused; nose long and almost connecting with lip.....H. concolor
- 3b. Not like 3a.....4
- 4a. Both sexes intermediate in size (15-25 lbs.); males black with no lighter color on lower back, brow streak only with a 'flick up' at ends, always with a genital tuft that could be white; females with silvery-tan color, dark brown on sides of face and chest, brow band that 'flicks up' at ends that connects to a thin face ring; large face muzzle; chin tufted; convex nose extending to upper lip.....H. hoolock
- 4b. Not like 4a.....5
- 5a. Males black with a very thin constricted face ring, hands & feet only partially white, entire genital patch white; females are silvery-grey, with black inverted triangle on chest and large black cap, long hair curved over temples; both sexes have 'Dagwood tufts'; relatively small gibbon (10-20 lbs.); females produce long sustained 'bubbling sounds' and both sexes produce exhaled 'hoo' and inhaled 'aa' notes...H. pileatus
- 5b. Not like 5a.....6
- 6a. Both sexes with complete face rings and white hands and feet of varying degrees; relatively small gibbon (10-20 lbs.); males and females could be either dark or light colors ranging from a creamy buff to black but never grey; hair on head is generally flat and directed back but could point upward; hair texture ranges from straight to frizzy.....H. lar
- 6b. Not like 6a.....7

- 7a. Both sexes virtually identical in color; silvery-grey coat color; long shaggy fur at neck and shoulders; distinct and large black cap of varying colors; white brows and white around chin to form a broken face ring; both sexes produce a 'wa-oo-wa' note, females produce long calls of 'wa' notes.....H. moloch
- 7b. Not like 7a.....8
- 8a. Both sexes could be either dark or light colors ranging from creamy-grey to black, but always lighter on lower back; always a brow band (without a 'flick up'), the presence of faint cheek patches appears mostly in males; darker on cap and chest; both sexes produce exhaled 'wa' and inhaled 'aa' sounds, only the females produce long and drawn out low notes followed by inflective notes.....H. agilis
- 8b. Not like 8a.....9
- 9a. Both sexes could be either dark or light colors ranging from grey to a chocolate brown, never lighter on lower back; light brow-band in brown phase, could have cheek whiskers and brow-band in grey phase; short hair throughout; hands and feet could be paler than rest of body; cap and breast often darker than rest of body; females produce a 'bubbling sound' somewhat similar to that in H. pileatus, both sexes tend to produce 'wa' sounds most often, and never inhaled notes.....H. muelleri

KEY FOR THE IDENTIFICATION OF SOME GIBBON SUB-SPECIES

H. concolor (all females are same as males when juveniles):

1. Adult males with white cheek patches connecting at chin and extending up to and around the ear; adult females with creamy-orange coat color and relatively long black streak from top of head to nape of neck.....H. c. leucogenys
2. Adult males with white cheek patches connecting at chin and extending up only halfway to ear, if that far; adult females almost indistinguishable from females described in 1.....H. c. siki
3. Adult males with pale (sometimes very pale) orange cheek patches not connecting at chin and extending only past the mouth; females tend to be a light strawberry color, with a short but distinct black streak on head.....H. c. gabriellae
4. Adult males with a silvery line from eye to ear; females with a drab coat color and black on chest.....H. c. lu
5. Males with no cheek patches or markings but with short, brittle appearing fur; females are light greyish with some brown tones and only a small black cap with no black on chest.....H. c. hainanus
6. Males same as 5, but with long softer looking fur; females coat color ranges from creamy to brownish-grey, black sprinkling on chest with a small black cap.....H. c. concolor

H. hoolock (all females are same as males when juveniles):

1. The white brow in males is connected, the genital tuft is black; Females with hands rarely lighter than body.....H. h. hoolock
2. The white brow in males is separated at the bridge of the nose, and all males have a white genital tuft; the hands and feet of the females are usually lighter than rest of body.....H. h. leuconedys

H. lar (either sex could be dark or light colored):

1. Either sex could be creamy-fawn to honey or black; wide face ring; ring goes straight across forehead; hair on head generally directed back from front of scalp; hair on body straight.....H. l. entelloides
2. Either sex could be creamy-white or dark chocolate to black; thin constricted face ring; ring dips down at bridge of nose to form an almost heart-shaped face ring; hair on head directed upward; hair is usually frizzy.....H. l. carpenteri
3. Either sex could be dark creamy or off-white to dark brown; thin face ring often thicker at cheeks, sometimes seems almost broken; white on hands and feet do not extend to wrist and ankle.....H. l. lar
4. Light phase only - a light golden brown or fawn to greyish-brown; rather smaller than the other sub-species; cap and ventral surface are darker; white hands and feet may have dark patches, extending up to over the wrists and ankles.....H. l. vestitus

H. agilis (either sex could be dark or light):

1. One phase only - medium brown pelage color, with light buff lower back; black hands and feet; darker cap and chest; brow-band only; .....H. a. albibarbis
2. Either sex could be creamy-grey or light brown to blackish; lower back always lighter than rest of body; some with darker underparts; males with faint white cheek whiskers.....H. a. agilis