

Angry Dollarbird attacking Brown Goshawks

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On the morning of 7 January 2013 I went outside my house at Wingen (31°53'50"S 150°52'41"E) to investigate alarm calls from the local birds and found a male Brown Goshawk *Accipiter fasciatus* circling overhead. The goshawk was being very aggressively attacked by a Dollarbird *Eurystomus orientalis*, which was continually swooping at the goshawk, showing great speed and agility. At first glance I thought the aggressor was another hawk; such was the display of speed and determination to drive off the intruder. The attacks continued until

the Brown Goshawk left the area. I was surprised by the ferocity of the attack, which apparently involved territory rather than nest defence. I have seen no evidence of the resident Dollarbirds having a nest or feeding dependent young.

On 22 January I observed the same behaviour, but this time the "victim" was a female Brown Goshawk. I think the goshawks may have had a nest nearby, because the male appears regularly in the mornings and the female in late afternoon.