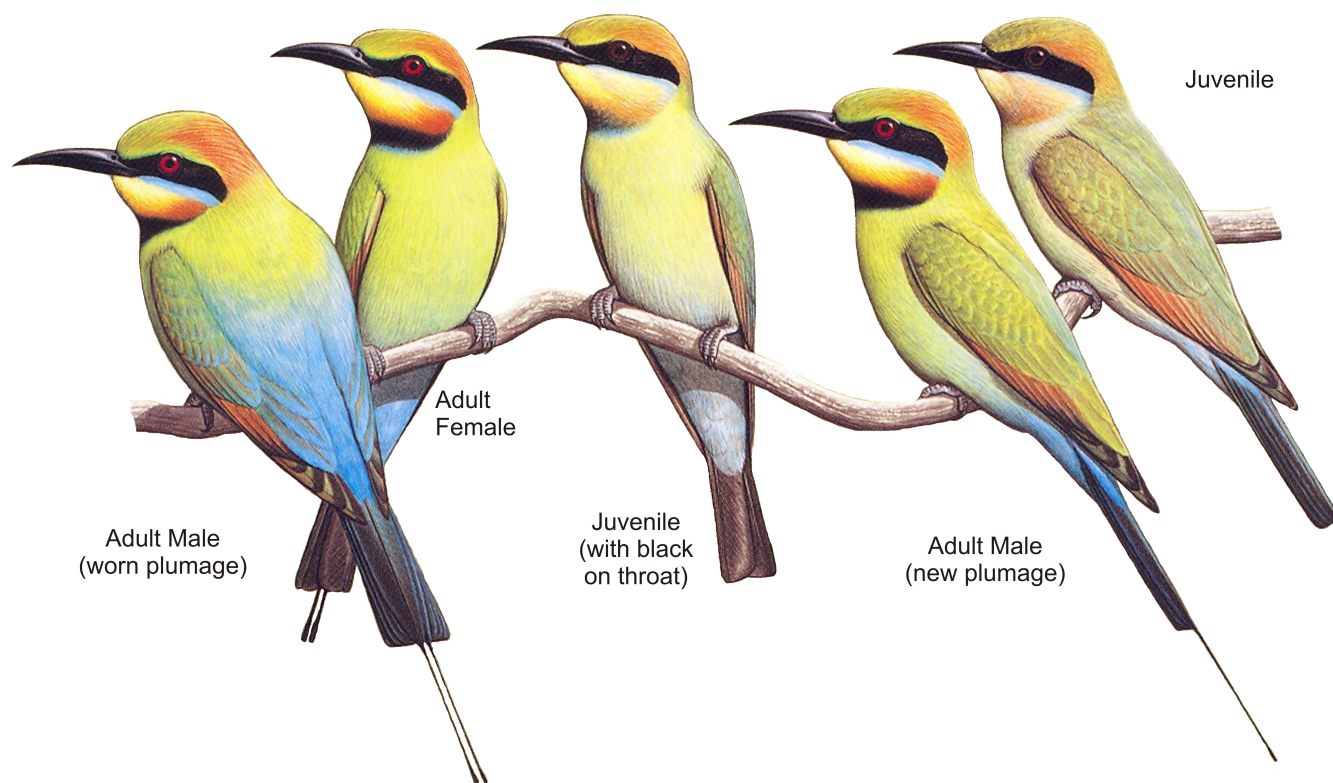


**Rainbow Bee-eater** *Merops ornatus*

Species No.: 329

Band size: K



**Morphometrics:**

	Adult Male	Adult Female	Juvenile
THL:			
Wing:	104 – 118 mm	102 – 116 mm	101 – 113 mm
Tail: (incl. streamer):	104 – 148 mm	87 – 199 mm	
Tail streamer:	26 – 67 mm	8 – 27 mm	absent
Bill length (skull to tip):	33.6 – 42.3 mm	32.3 – 40.6 mm	32.5 – 38.3 mm
Weight:	23.6 – 42 g	20 – 30 g	

**Ageing:**

Juveniles lack tail streamers and tail appears obviously forked, more so than in adults;  
 Juveniles have a shorter bill than adults;  
 Overall duller plumage & throat markings are diffuse or absent in juveniles & immatures;  
 Immatures moult to adult plumage in their first year but are still identifiable in Autumn.  
 Thus immatures (1) and adults (1+) in Spring or (2+) on Autumn.

**Sexing :**

Males have longer streamers than females: M > 28 mm – mean 45 mm;  
 F < 28 mm – mean 15.8 mm;  
 Male streamers are not as broad as females: M < 1 mm wide stem & 1 – 2 mm wide bulb at tip;  
 F > 1 mm wide stem & 2 – 3 mm wide bulb at tip.  
 Both sexes incubate.