

## Ageing:

Juveniles undergo a partial moult to first immature plumage, similar to adult female, soon after fledging. At least some then undergo a partial pre-breeding season moult at about 1 year of age resulting in an immature breeding plumage in males (2) and breeding plumage in all females (2+); Complete adult male pied breeding plumage is acquired for the first in the pre-breeding period of Winter / Spring toward the end of the second year. Thus adult male breeding-plumaged birds should be aged (2+) at the beginning of the breeding season and (3+) at its end; Post breeding season in Summer / Autumn all adults undergo a complete moult in which the males

revert to a non-breeding "brown" plumage and females just replace adult female plumage; A partial pre-breeding moult in late Winter / early Spring results in the adult male replacing all brown plumage with black and white. The adult female replaces some rectrices and coverts but otherwise

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	Non-Breeding Adult Male (3+)	Adult Female (2+)	Immature (2-)
Bill:	black with pale base to lower mandible;	grey-black or brown with pinkish base to lower mandible;	upper mandible black or brown & lower mandible brown or pink-orange;
Back, rump & upper tail coverts:	light grey with cream to off-white fringes to feather tips;	brownish-grey to light brown with diffuse bars;	light brown to brown;

## Sexing :

Juveniles and 1<sup>st</sup> year immatures are probably not sexable on plumage; Adults are readily sexable on plumage – see illustrations above; Males average a slightly longer wing and tail than females; Incubation is by both sexes.