

Southern Boobook *Ninox novaeseelandiae* **Species No.: 242** **Band size: 09 (10)**



ssp. *N.n. leucopsis*

Adult

Adult

Juvenile

nominate *N.n. novaeseelandiae*

ssp. *N.n. undulata*

Status:

Australian mainland sub-species, along with others in PNG and surrounding islands, were separated in 2017 from Southern Boobook *Ninox novaeseelandiae* of NZ, Tasmania, Norfolk Island and Lord Howe Island (now extinct) on the basis of genetics. Data for the two surviving Australian subspecies are provided below.

Former Australian mainland subspecies of *N. novaeseelandiae* are now recognised as within the species Australian Boobook *Ninox boobook* which are dealt with in a separate profile sheet.

Morphometrics:

	nominate <i>N.n. leucopsis</i> (Tasmania)		ssp. <i>N.b. undulata</i> (Norfolk Island)	
	Adult Male	Adult Female	Adult Male	Adult Female
Wing:	198 – 218 mm	196 – 220 mm	189 – 205 mm	197 – 209 mm
Tail:	110 – 124 mm	111 – 133 mm	124 – 132 mm	115 – 137 mm
Bill tip to cere:	13.8 -17.1 mm	13.9 – 17.5 mm	23 – 36 mm	23.5 – 27.0 mm
Bill tip to skull:	21.7 – 25.0 mm	21.8 – 24.8 mm		
Tarsus:	33.6 – 38.8 mm	31.5 – 44.5 mm		
Toe:	21.7 – 25.5 mm	21.9 – 25.9 mm		
Claw:	11.6 – 13.8 mm	11.5 – 16.0 mm		
Weight:	118 – 250 g	125 – 275 g		

Ageing:

	Adult (3+)	Juvenile (J)
Iris:	straw-yellow, light greenish-grey, or orange-buff;	powder-blue changes to straw-yellow;
Legs & feet:	light grey or pink-grey;	pale pink or grey;

Post-juvenile moult from downy Juvenile (J) to adult-like First Immature (1) plumage is completed about 3 months after fledging;

First immatures retain juvenile remiges and rectrices (often with fault bars) until commencement of a complete moult at the end of the first year;

Full adult plumage is not attained until third or fourth year. Thus adults are aged (3+).

Sexing:

Sexes are similar in plumage and size, but females tend to be slightly larger than their mates, especially in weight;

Incubation by female only;