

Southern Boobook *Ninox novaeseelandiae* Species No.: 242

Band size: mainland 10 (11) (09) - varies geographically

Tasmania: 09 (10)



ssp. *N.n. boobook*
(s. Qld, NSW, Vic % e. SA)



ssp. *N.n. leucopsis*
(Tasmania)



ssp. *N.n. ocellata*
(NT, most of Qld.
n. & w. SA, & WA)



ssp. *N.n. lurida*
(ne. Qld)

Morphometrics:

	ssp. <i>N.n. boobook</i>		ssp. <i>N.n. leucopsis</i>	
	Adult Male	Adult Female	Adult Male	Adult Female
Wing:	217 – 251 mm	222 – 251 mm	198 – 218 mm	196 – 220 mm
Tail:	117 – 147 mm	122 – 153 mm	110 – 124 mm	111 – 133 mm
Weight:	176 – 321 g	195 – 370 g	118 – 250 g	125 – 275 g

	ssp. <i>N.n. ocellata</i>		ssp. <i>N.n. lurida</i>	
	Adult Male	Adult Female	Adult Male	Adult Female
Wing:	203 – 239 mm	216 – 246 mm	206 – 220 mm	207 – 225 mm
Tail:	111 – 136 mm	114 – 144 mm	110 – 124 mm	111 – 133 mm
Weight:	172 – 245 g	194 – 285 g	200 – 225 g	184 – 260 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 basic downy white to adult like plumage is completed at 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;

In ssp *N.n. boobook* the upper forehead, crown, nape and hindneck of adults is dark brown with yellow-brown edges to most feathers of the forehead. The forecrown of first immatures (1) is heavily streaked and the hindcrown and nape are heavily spotted and mottled off-white. Second immatures (2) have more spotting on the crown than adults. First and possibly second immatures appear paler and more streaked on underparts than adults because spots on feathers are more elongated.

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;