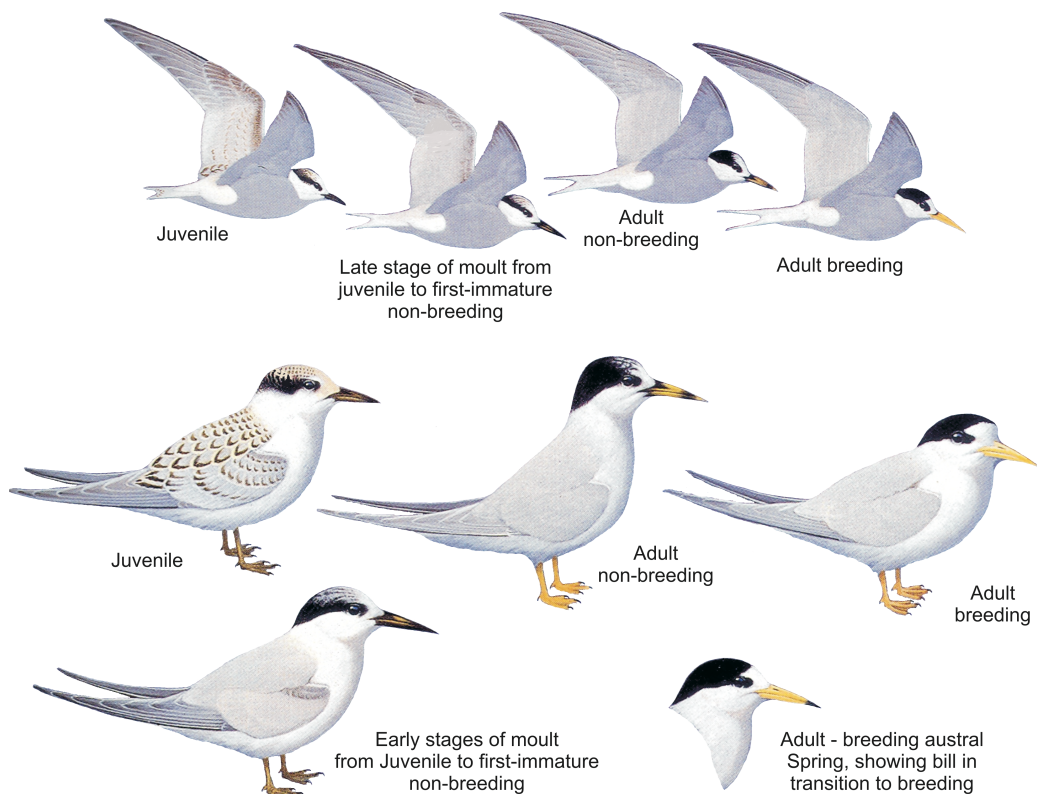


Fairy Tern

Sterna nereis

Species No.: 118

Band size: 04



Morphometrics:

	Adult Male	Adult Female
Wing:	180 – 193 mm	177 – 189 mm
Tail:	82 – 101 mm	74 – 89 mm
Bill:	31.7 – 36.5 mm	29.6 – 32.6 mm
Weight:	68 – 80 g	64 – 80 g

Ageing & Sexing:

See illustrations for various stages of moult and plumage phases;
 Sexes are similar in size and plumage and both sexes incubate;
 Breeding birds should be aged (2+).

Similar Species:

In se. Australia both Little and Fairy Terns, which are of similar size, may be found together during the breeding season.
 Downy young of the two species cannot be reliably separated until diagnostic plumage emerges on the mantle and wing;
 The legs and feet of immature Little Terns are yellow with a brown tinge, whereas those of Fairy Tern are brown with a yellow tinge;
 Post fledging, birds of both species in all plumage phases can always be reliably identified by the pattern of the outer primary and head plumage as shown in the illustrations below;

