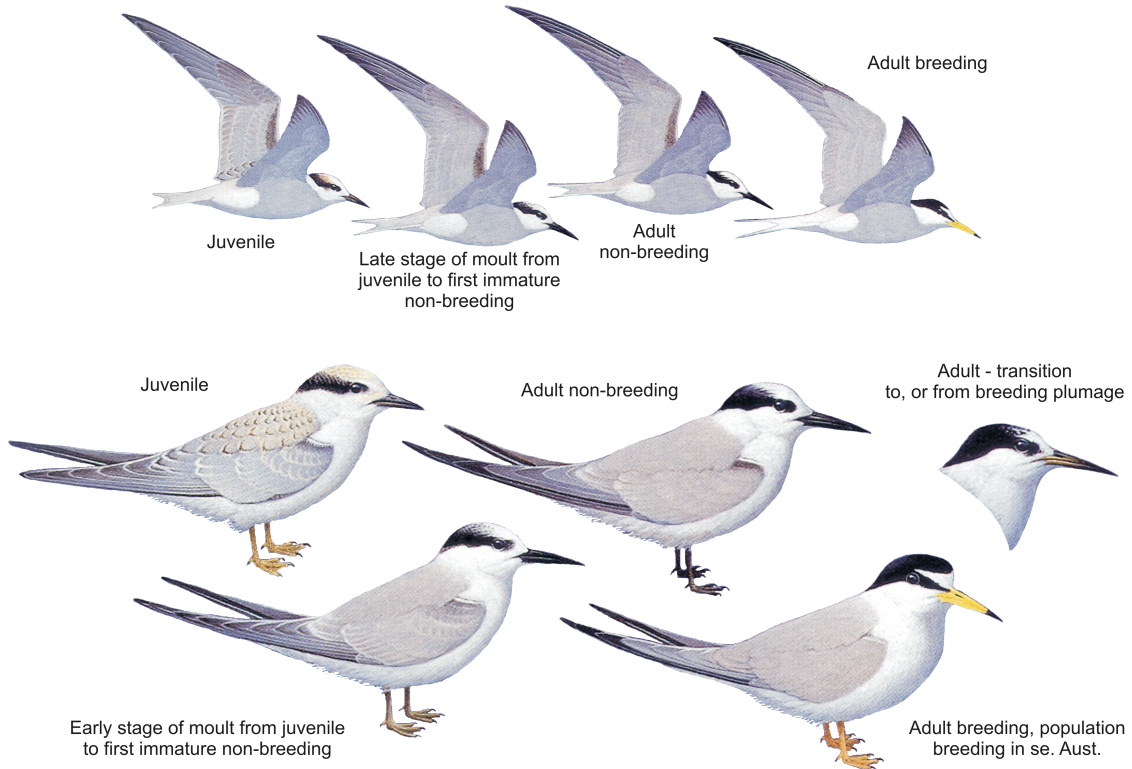


Little Tern *Sternula albifrons* **Species No.: 117** **Band size: 04**



Morphometrics:

| | | |
|---------|-------------------|---------------------|
| | Adult Male | Adult Female |
| Wing: | 180 – 198 mm | 178 -193 mm |
| Tail: | 91 – 112 mm | 75 – 109 mm |
| Bill: | 28.4 – 34.7 mm | 27.7 – 30.3 mm |
| Weight: | 35 – 60 g | 39 – 60 g |

Ageing & Sexing:

See illustrations for various stages of moult and plumage phases;
 Sexes are similar in plumage and size, though males tend to be marginally larger than their mates;
 Both sexes incubate; Breeding birds can 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;

