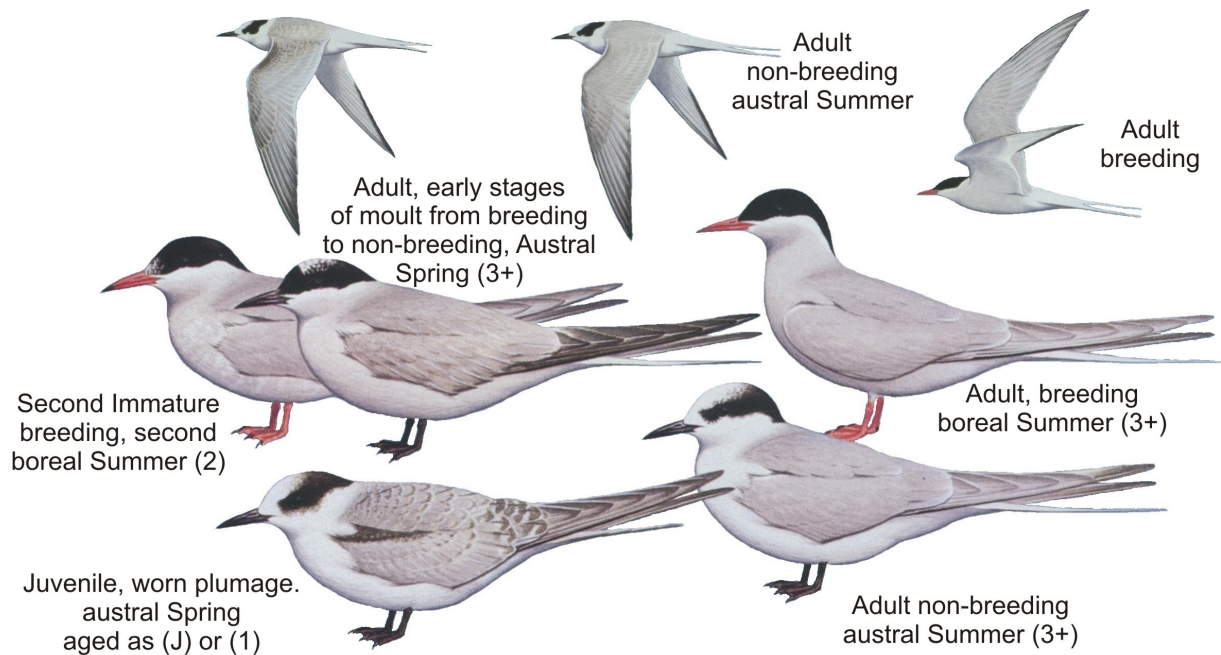


Arctic Tern

Sterna paradisaea

Species No.: 952

Band size: 06 AY



Morphometrics:

Measurements are given for the full range of recorded for birds of all ages - maximum from breeding birds in the boreal Summer and minimum from juveniles in their first austral Spring:

	Male	Female
Wing:	239 – 290 mm	235 – 288 mm
Tail (T1):	57 – 78 mm	56 – 82 mm
Tail (tip T6 – tip T1):	41 – 130 mm	44 – 118 mm
Bill:	28.8 – 35 mm	27.2 – 33 mm
Tarsus:	14.5 – 17.0 mm	14.5 – 16.7 mm
Middle Toe:	20 – 23.5 mm	19.5 – 23.4 mm
Weight:	87 – 145 g	80 – 125 g

Ageing:

Juveniles (J) in their first austral Spring are readily identifiable (see illustration). These birds moult to a first Immature non-breeding plumage (1) before migration back to the arctic breeding grounds, but they don't breed;

On their return to the southern hemisphere for their second austral Spring/Summer they are in their second year (2) and moult to a second immature non-breeding plumage which closely resembles adults (see illustration). Some may breed in this plumage when they return to the breeding grounds toward the end of their second year, but most do not breed until (3) or (4);

Adults in non-breeding plumage should thus be aged (3+).

Sexing:

There is no sexual dimorphism in size or plumage.