

Roseate Tern *Sterna dougallii* **Species No.: 113** **Band size: 05 AY**

Juvenile moulting to first Immature

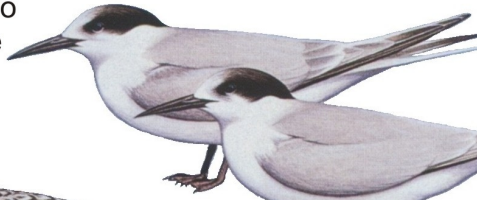


First Immature



Adult breeding

Late stage of moult from Juvenile to first Immature



Adult breeding - while incubating



Juvenile



Adult non-breeding



Adult breeding - while feeding chicks

Morphometrics:

A species distributed through Atlantic, Indian and western Pacific oceans. Three subspecies, but only *T.d. gracilis* breeds in Australia with measurements as follows:

	Adult Male	Adult Female
Wing:	221 – 229 mm	219 – 225 mm
Tail (T!):	61 – 66 mm	60 – 66 mm
Tail (tip T6 – tip T1):	90 – 110 mm	Few records
Bill:	36.1 – 45 mm	33.3 – 41.2 mm
Tarsus:	19.1 – 21.6 mm	17.7 – 20.3 mm
Middle Toe:	21.1 – 24.0 mm	20.6 -23.1 mm
Weight:	75 – 120 g	Few records

Ageing:

Breeding period appears opportunistic and may breed twice in one year, in late Spring and Autumn / Winter, so timing of moults is quite variable and dependent on breeding, but each plumage is assumed to last one year;

Juvenile (J) plumage is obvious – see illustrations;

First Immature (2-) plumage is similar to adult non-breeding (3+), but fist immature birds retain black-grey legs;

Adult breeding plumage, is readily identifiable (red bill & legs, complete black crown & nape) is attained prior to laying and is retained whilst incubating, but bill starts to revert to black whilst feeding chicks;

Breeding Adults will be at least in their third year, so age (3+).

Sexing:

No sexual dimorphism in size or plumage;

Both sexes incubate.