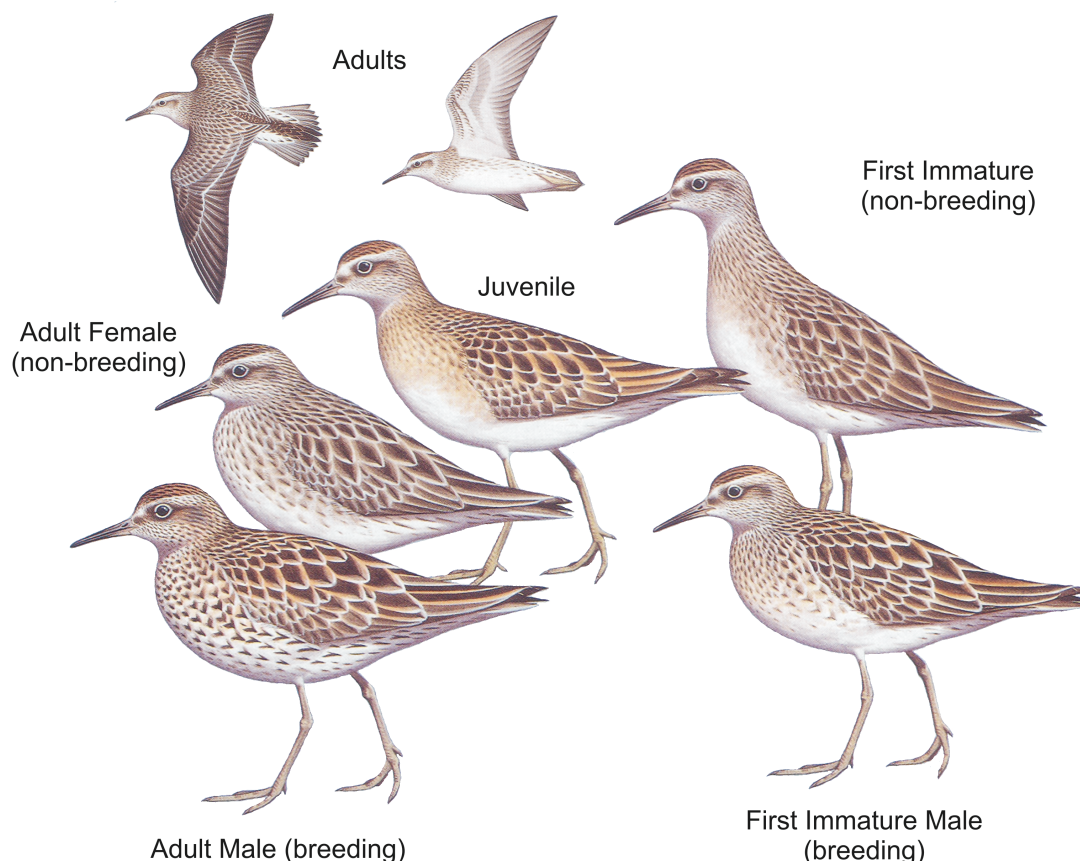


Sharp-tailed Sandpiper

Calidris acuminata

Species No.: 163

Band size: 05 (04) IN



Morphometrics:

	Male	Female
Wing - adult:	131 – 142 mm	120 – 131 mm
- sub-adult with juvenile p10 & t1:	134 – 146 mm	126 – 136 mm
Tail: - adult:	52 – 60 mm	47 – 60 mm
- sub-adult with juvenile p10 & t1:	51 – 62 mm	48 – 59 mm
Bill:	22.6 – 27.9 mm	21.8 – 26.8 mm
Tarsus:	26.6 – 32.8 mm	26.3 – 30.2 mm
Toe (middle toe – base to tip of claw):	26.3 – 32.0 mm	25.2 – 31.0
Weight (increases over austral summer):	54 – 111 g	51 – 105 g

Ageing:

Juvenile (J) has distinctive orange-buff or cinnamon, grading to pale brown foreneck, upper breast and foreflanks on arrival in Australia but undergo rapid feather bleaching to first immature plumage (see illustrations above). Some first immatures retain some juvenile rufous-brown to buff tertial coverts or secondaries, but some replace all juvenile plumage in their first Austral summer and can then not be separated from adults.

Thus all birds without obvious juvenile plumage should be aged (1+).

Sexing:

Sexes similar in plumage, but females have shorter wing than males – see measurements above.

Similar species:

Pectoral Sandpiper – see below:

Pectoral Sandpiper
 Breast/belly: sharply defined contrast (see illustration);
 Supercilium: broad white with narrow brown eyestripe;
 Orbital ring: narrow white & extends into supercilium;

Sharp-tailed Sandpiper
 uniform plumage over breast & belly;
 narrow white with broad eyestripe below;
 broad clean white ring contrasts with supercilium.