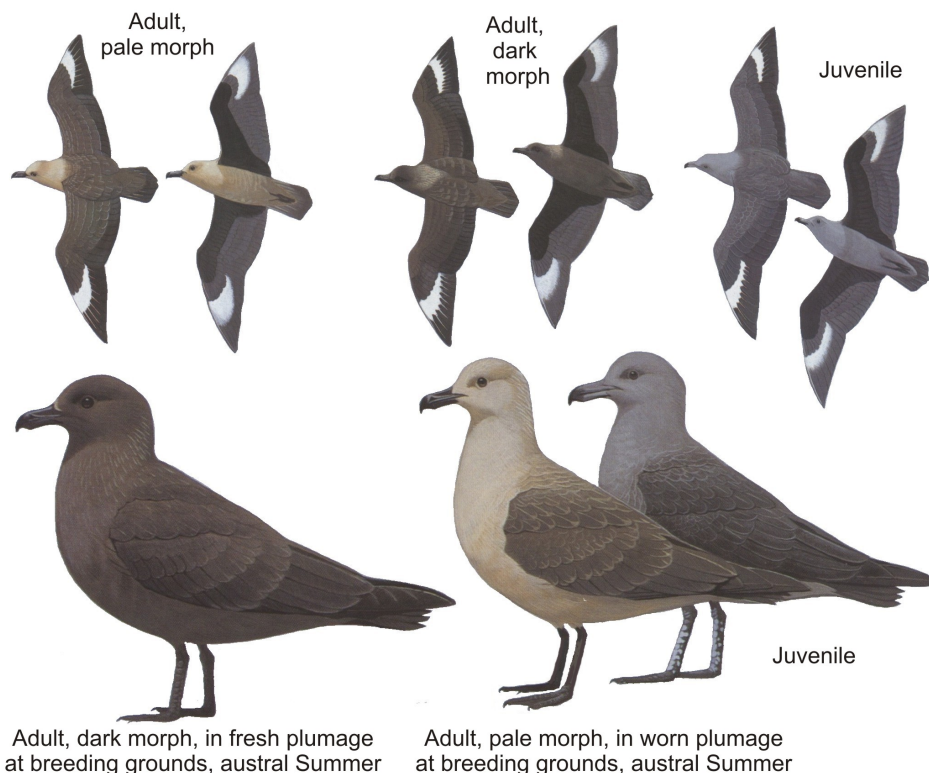


South Polar Skua *Catharacta maccormicki* **Species No.: 979** **Band size: 12 SS**



Morphometrics:

	Adult Male	Adult Female
Wing:	383 – 415 mm	377 – 413 mm
Tail:	142 – 163 mm	135 – 165 mm
Bill:	44.4 – 52.0 mm	44.0 – 52.5 mm
Tarsus:	56.1 – 68.0 mm	57.1 – 67.5 mm
Weight:	905 – 1502 g	1003 – 1619 g

Ageing:

Juveniles (1) are distinguished by combination of:

- uniform grey head and underbody (see illustrations above);
- neatly scaled upperparts;
- more pointed primaries than older birds;
- wing-flash is generally narrower than older birds, but not definitive;
- some have bicoloured bill.

After post-juvenile moult, Immature (2) birds gradually transition to adult plumage probably up to their third year, but differ only slightly and cannot be reliably separated on current knowledge; Minimum age at first breeding is 4 - 6 years, so record unknown-aged breeding birds as (4+); Adults have three plumage morphs: pale brown, intermediate, which intergrade, and a discrete dark morph (see illustrations above).

Sexing:

Sexes similar in plumage and size;
Both sexes incubate.