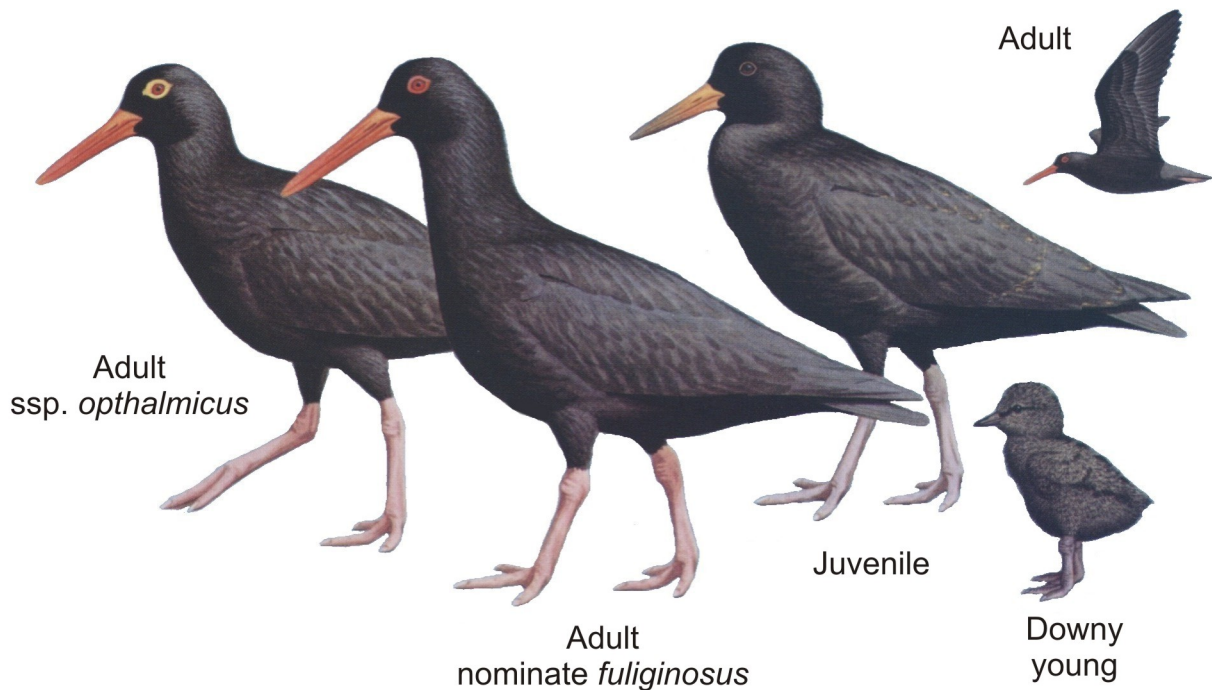


Sooty Oystercatcher *Haematopus fuliginosus* Species No.: 131 Band size: 10 SS



Morphometrics:

Two subspecies, the nominate *H.f. fuliginosus* occurs around most of the Australian coastline except where *H.f. ophthalmicus* occurs around the Gulf of Carpentaria and Cape York:

	<i>H.f. fuliginosus</i>		<i>H.f. ophthalmicus</i>	
	Adult Male	Adult Female	Adult Male	Adult Female
Wing:	271 – 310 mm	275 – 300 mm	283 – 300 mm	271 – 300 mm
Tail:	112 – 126 mm	112 – 125 mm	(no records)	
Bill:	62.7 – 90.7 mm	69.1 – 89.6 mm	66.4 – 90.5 mm	69.5 – 85.8 mm
Tarsus:	52.6 – 59.5 mm	50.8 – 57.7 mm	51.6 – 56.8 mm	50.0 – 55.6 mm
Weight:	600 – 825 g	640 – 950 g	(few records)	

Ageing:

Soft parts differences between adults, immatures and juveniles are as follows:

	Adult	Immature	Juvenile
Bill:	orange to orange-red;	basal half to 2/3 – orange, distal half to 1/3 – brown or grey-black;	basal half – dull orange-grey, distal half grey-black;
Orbital ring <i>fuliginosus</i> :	orange to orange-red;	pale orange;	orange-grey;
<i>ophthalmicus</i> :	very large – yellow;	not recorded;	not recorded;
Iris:	red;	brown to red-brown;	brown;
Legs:	pink;	dull pinkish-grey;	grey;

Juvenile plumage is brown-black, with light grey bases to body feathers; scapulars, median secondary coverts & tertials have orange-buff tips and remiges have thin white fringes; First immatures have glossy black plumage with some retained juvenile buff-tipped plumage and remiges
 Adult-like glossy black plumage is attained at about one year old, but the glossy plumage fades to black-brown with wear and body feathers of adults have concealed dark grey bases;
 Moults details poorly known and age of first breeding not known, so adults should only be aged (2+).

Sexing:

There appears to be no sexual dimorphism in size or plumage;
 Both sexes incubate;