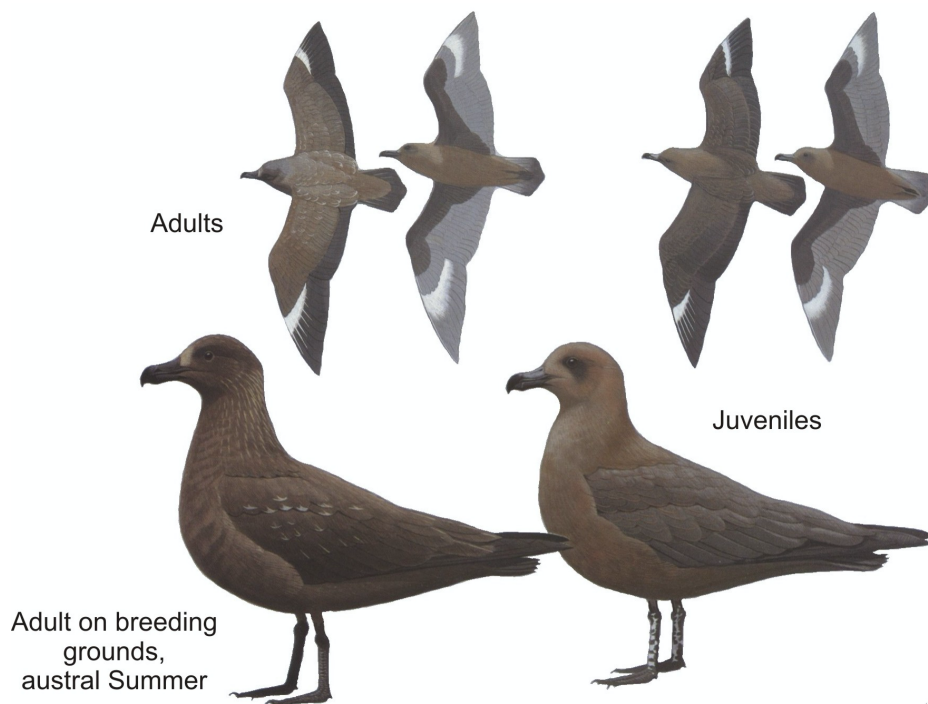


Brown Skua *Catharacta antarcticus* Species No.: 8698 Band size: 12 (11) SS



Status:

The taxonomy of the Brown Skua is highly complex and disputed and the whole Antarctic Group may be subspecies of the Great Skua of the northern hemisphere. Several subspecies are recognised, but only ssp. *C.antarcticus lonnbergi*, which breeds on subantarctic islands, Antarctic Peninsular and Chatham Is., occurs in Australian waters.

Morphometrics:

The measurements below are for *C.a. lonnbergi*:

	Adult Male	Adult Female
Wing:	375 – 447 mm	181 – 475 mm
Tail:	138 – 193 mm	143 – 183 mm
Bill:	43.5 – 61.5 mm	44.0 – 62.0 mm
Tarsus:	62.3 – 95.0 mm	64.0 – 92.0 mm
Weight:	1250 – 2150 g	1432 – 2180 g

Ageing:

Juveniles (1) are readily separated from immature (3-) and adult (4+) plumages by:

- uniform, rich dark-brown plumage without contrasting pale nape and shaft streaks whereas Immatures and adults are entirely rich dark brown;
- often, rufous tinge at tips of feathers, especially on scapulars and breast;
- bicoloured bill (black on ridge and tip with dull grey sides) whereas bill is completely uniform dull black in Immature and adult birds;

After post-juvenile moult, Immature (2+) birds gradually transition to adult plumage probably up to third year, but differ only slightly and cannot be reliably separated on current knowledge;

Minimum age of breeding is probably 4 years, but not recorded breeding until 6 to 8 years old, so record unknown-aged breeding birds as (4+).

Sexing:

Sexes similar in plumage, but females slightly larger than males;
Both sexes incubate.