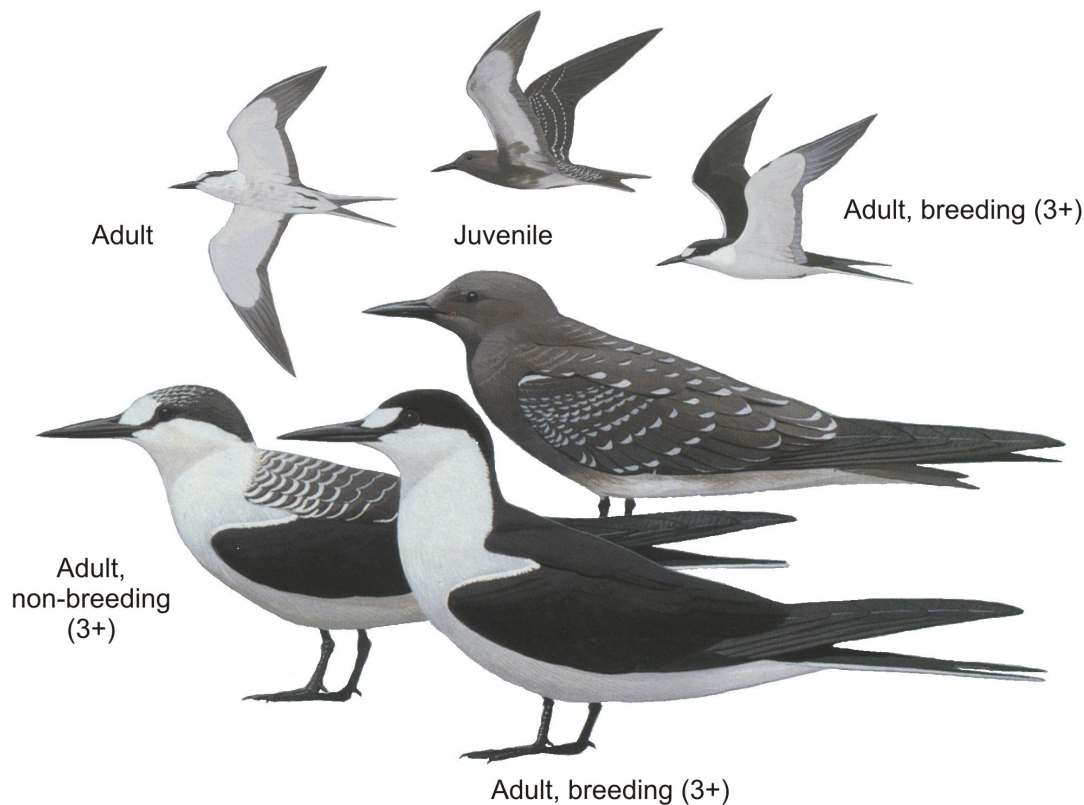


Sooty Tern

Sterna fuscata

Species No.: 120

Band size: 06 AY



Morphometrics:

	Adult Male	Adult Female
Wing:	282 – 315 mm	279 – 304mm
Tail:	176 – 222 mm	158 – 217 mm
Bill:	38.0 – 45.8 mm	37.3 – 46.5 mm
Tarsus:	21.7 -25.8 mm	21.8 – 26.5 mm
Weight:	102 – 285 g	117 – 280 g

Ageing:

For Juvenile and adult breeding and non-breeding plumages see illustrations;

Post-natal moult to Juvenile plumage completed by 8 weeks of age –see illustration for Juvenile (1);
Post-juvenile moult to first Immature non-breeding plumage which is very similar to juvenile plumage is achieved between 6 to 9 months after fledging;

First Immatures (2) are very similar to Juvenile, but forehead, lores and cheeks are mottled black-brown and grey; Eye patch, ear coverts and nape are dark brown; chin, throat and upper neck are pale grey contrasting with dark brown band on upper breast; underparts below the breast-band are mottled brownish-grey and white;

First Immature moult to Second Immature non-breeding plumage occurs between 15 & 18 months;
Second Immatures (3-) are similar to First Immatures with retained dark breast band, but the chin, throat and belly below the breast-band are paler;

Subsequent immature plumages (from 3 to 5 years old) resemble non-breeding adults except for pale edges to black feathers of upperparts and dark edges to feathers of forehead and underparts;
Adult plumage is attained between 3 and 6 years, so age all adults, whether in breeding or non-breeding plumage, as (3+).

Sexing:

No sexual dimorphism in plumage or size;
Both sexes incubate.