

Morphometrics:

	Adult Male	Adult Female
Wing:	176 – 193 mm	176 – 192 mm
Tail:	51 – 71 mm	60 – 71 mm
Bill:	40.2 – 46.6 mm	38.1 – 46.1 mm
Tarsus:	32.6 – 17.6 mm	32.6 – 37.6 mm
Weight:	115 – 261 g	135 – 205 g

Ageing:

Juveniles have a distinctive plumage (see illustrations) that is held until February;

From February to July two age-classes are separable on the condition of primaries:

- Adults (2+) have fresh to slightly worn primaries with no active moult and development of full breeding plumage;
- Immatures (1) seldom or never develops breeding plumage;
- First austral autumn and winter immatures (1) can show a range of primary moult patterns which is not fully understood;

Age at first migration north to breeding grounds is not known;

Some birds captured in austral winter with wholly fresh primaries appear not to have been in their first year; these possibly were adults (2) that had not migrated back to the breeding grounds, or possibly maturity is delayed till at least three years.

Sexing:

No sexual dimorphism in size and sexes are similar in plumage although the females are often slightly duller than males.