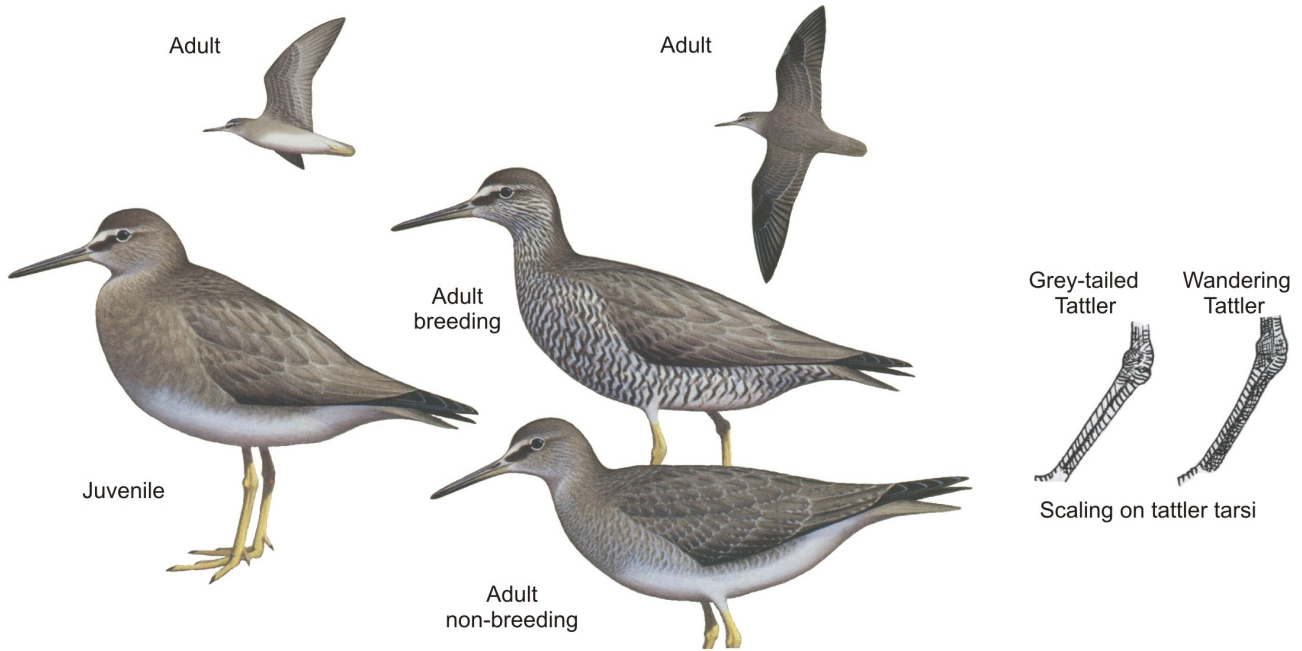


Wandering Tattler *Heteroscelus incana*

Species Code: 449

Band: [D/DP]



Morphometrics:

	Adult Male	Adult Female
Wing:	164 – 178 mm	167 – 185 mm
Tail:	65 – 81 mm	64 – 83 mm
Bill:	35.5 – 40.6 mm	36.9 – 45.1 mm
Tarsus:	31.1 – 35.0 mm	32.5 – 37.0 mm
Toe:	25.5 – 31.0 mm	25.5 – 32.8 mm
GVTT:	12.5 – 15.4 mm	12.5 – 15.7 mm
Weight:	110 – 122 g	105 – 165 g

Ageing:

On arrival in Australia/NZ in September-October, the primaries of Juveniles are fresh, whereas the primaries of adults (3+) are old or moulting, so they can be reliably separated on the condition of primaries until at least October – December;

In January - February first immature non-breeding birds (1) have worn retained juvenile primaries, whereas adults (3+) have finished moult and have fresh primaries;

In March immatures begin moult of outer primaries and then distinguished from adults by contrast between very worn inner primaries and fresh or moulting outer primaries;

Between February and May adults moult into breeding plumage and most migrate north, but most immatures remain in non-breeding areas;

Adults (3+) on returning on September – October have uniformly worn primaries with a little remaining breeding plumage and the Immatures which over-wintered - now aged (2) - are still separable by contrast between very worn inner primaries and less worn outer primaries which are replaced through October – December and immatures cannot then be separated from adults.

Sexing:

There is no sexual dimorphism in plumage, but females have significantly longer wing, bill and tarsus than males;

Similar Species:

Grey-tailed Tattler – see illustration above depicting the difference in scale pattern on the rear of their tarsi – Wandering are often reticulate, whereas Grey-tailed most scales are scutellate;

Significant differences between the two species in size of wing, tail, bill, GVTT and tarsus (see separate sheet on Grey-tailed Tattler).

