

Ageing:

Underparts of juveniles have duller, less distinct spotting than immatures and adults; Juveniles undergo a partial post-juvenile moult to adult-like immature moult within the first few months of fledging;

First immatures are distinguishable from adults by retained juvenile plumage which show a moult contrast with greater secondary coverts of upperwing, with moult-step between inner 1-5 adult-like coverts (replaced in post-juvenile moult). Retained juvenile coverts have pale rosethorn-shaped tips and shaft streaks, while new adult-like coverts are have more uniform shaped tips and lack pale shaft streaks;

Most, if not all, immatures retain juvenile rectrices which are narrower and more pointed at tips than those of adults;

Adult plumage is thought to be attained at the end of the first year or early in the second year; Because of lack of definitive data, all birds should be aged (1+) unless plumage characteristics identify it as definitely a first year bird.

Sexing:

Sexes are not dimorphic in size or plumage; It is thought that the female alone incubates.