dependent on the amount of underpart colouration retained.

4. Underparts

First year. White.

Second year. White. Older birds start assuming a few light grey feathers from July, younger birds from September. The older birds may have a good mixture of white, light and medium grey feathers by departure and may be inseparable from retarded third year birds except for wear on outer primaries.

Older. The grey of the underparts is only partially lost in non-breeding dress when a mixture of shades of grey results. Many adults arrive in this plumage whilst others moult out rapidly after arrival. Thereafter, variable moult back to full plumage. Many birds show mottled shades of grey but this assumes one hue on completion of moult back to breeding dress. It would appear from the small sample obtained to date that the race *sanctipauli*, with its much paler underparts, assumes the full colouration of the underparts as early as August.

5. Primary moult

As in Tree & Klages (1998) except that *Third year* should now be included with the *Older* birds and not treated separately. The range of active moult, even within nominate *vittata*, is very great.

The age structure example shown in the earlier article should now be ignored and we can only safely age first, second and older (adult) age groups. The corrected figures for the total winter catch then stand at first year (6.3%), second year (11.2%) and older (82.5%). That second year birds outnumber first year birds may indicate that the majority of the latter arrive later than the older age groups. This would not be evident in our trapping figures, as we did not catch any later than the 12 September. When trapping at Cape Recife in 1971 first year birds formed a far larger proportion (43%) of the catch with the majority caught in October into November; but there may also be roosting age biases at a mainland site because all 20 caught in August were first year birds. Despite this it still appears that these two age groups form a relatively small proportion of the overall population and this may support observations of the heavy predation of eggs and young suffered by the attentions of skuas, gulls and rats on the breeding grounds (e.g. Higgins & Davies 1996). Obviously there will be annual variation in productivity so a more accurate population structure may only be obtainable after several years work. Mortality after the first two years of life must be very low and potential longevity very high. Maybe some of these birds will even outlive the authors!

References

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Tree, A.J. & Klages, N.W.T. 1998. Ageing techniques and age structure of a mid-winter roost of Antarctic Tern. Safring News 27(1/2): 15–17.

Erratum

In the article:

Tree, A.J. & Klages, N.W.T. 1998. Ageing techniques and age structure of a mid-winter roost of Antarctic Tern. Safring News 27(1/2): 15–17.

the sentence on page 16, column 2 should be:

'. . . while the very low number of first year (juvenile) birds was also reflected in a count made on the 24th when some 1800 birds were carefully scanned with the aid of a telescope and only seven of this conspicuous age class seen . . .' *(18 000 birds should be 1800.)*