

148 Spotted Crake

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Spotted Crake. Spring. Adult. Male (21-III)

SPOTTED CRAKE (*Porzana porzana*)

IDENTIFICATION

21-23 cm. Head with black spotted brown crown and grey band on sides; feathers on upperparts and wing coverts dark brown, with olive edges and white streaks; breast white spotted; underparts grey with olive tinge; flanks barred with brown, black and white bars; green-yellowish bill with red base; green olive legs.



Spotted Crake. Pattern of head and undertail coverts.

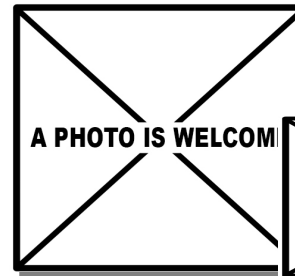


SIMILAR SPECIES

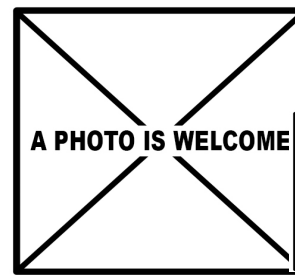
Water Rail has a long and red bill. **Little Crake** lacks white speckling on head, breast and nape. **Baillon's Crake** lacks white speckling on head and without red spot on base of bill.



Water Rail



Little Crake



Baillon's Crake



SEXING

In **spring**, during **breeding** period, **male** with supercilium, cheeks and throat pure slate grey with only a small area of white speckling bordering ear coverts; most **males** with bright and contrasted bill; wing longer than 124 mm. **Female** with supercilium, cheeks and throat dull slate grey with heavy white speckling bordering ear coverts; some **females** with dull and slightly contrasted bill; wing shorter than 116 mm.

In **autumn**, **adult male** with cheeks and throat heavily speckled with white; supercilium grey with some white speckling mainly to the rear of head. **Adult female** similar to **male**, but throat and cheeks heavily speckled white with pure grey restricted to front part of supercilium and to central chin (**CAUTION**: in both seasons, sexes have great overlap in pattern, colours and biometrics, so these characteristics are useful only for extreme birds).

1st year birds cannot be sexed using plumage pattern.

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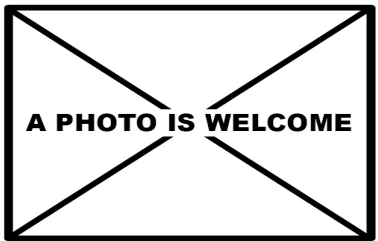
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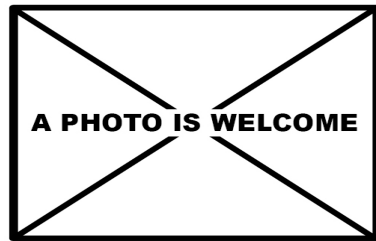
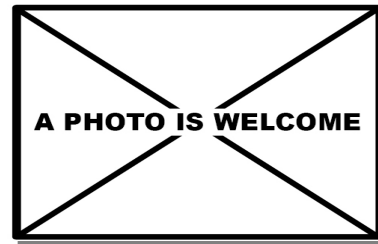
Spotted Crake. Spring. Sexing. Pattern of head: top male; bottom female



Spotted Crake. Spring. Ageing. Wear of primaries: top adult; bottom 2nd year.



Spotted Crake. Autumn. Sexing. Pattern of head: top male; bottom female



Spotted Crake. Ageing. Pattern of head and colour of bill: top adult; bottom 1st year.



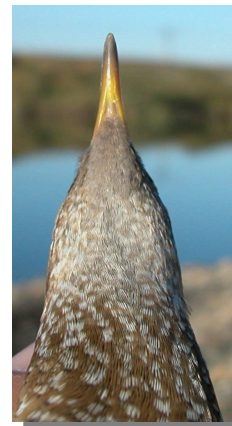
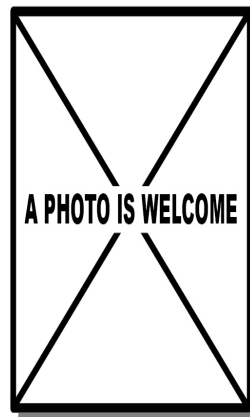
AGEING

This species is unlikely to breed in Aragon, so only 3 age groups are described:

1st year with whitish throat; sides of head and supercilium with extensive white speckles; dark brown iris.

2nd year spring similar to **adults** and many indistinguishable, but can retain old pale **juvenile** feathers on chin and throat; with **juvenile** flight feathers.

Adult with plumage described in **SEXING**; pale brown iris.



Spotted Crake. Ageing. Pattern of chin: left adult; right 1st year.

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MOULT

Complete **postbreeding** moult, usually finished in October. Partial **postjuvenile** moult confined to body feathers; generally finished in October. Both age classes have a **prebreeding** moult confined to body feathers.

PHENOLOGY

I	II	III	IV	V	VI	VII	VIII	IX	X	XI	XII

STATUS IN ARAGON

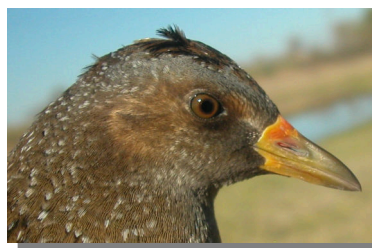
Poorly known status. There are some records in breeding period, being a more common species on passage.



Spotted Crake. Spring. 2nd year. Female (21-III)



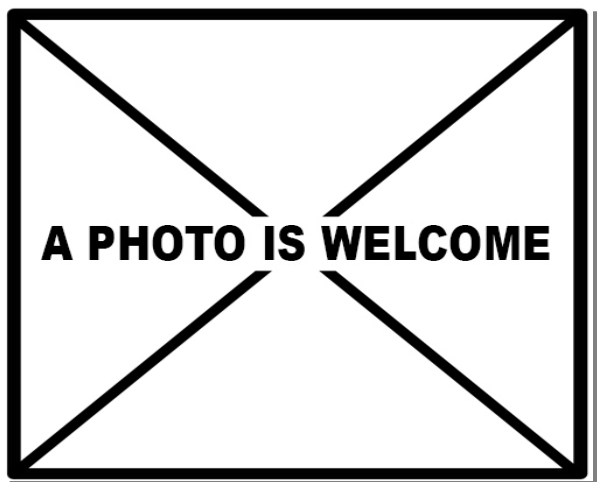
Spotted Crake. Spring. Adult. Female (21-III)



Spotted Crake. Spring. Adult. Head pattern: top male (21-III); bottom female (21-III).



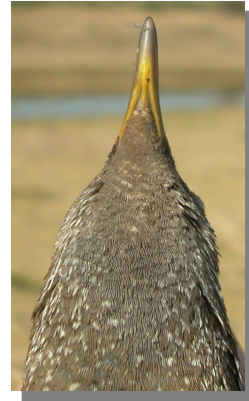
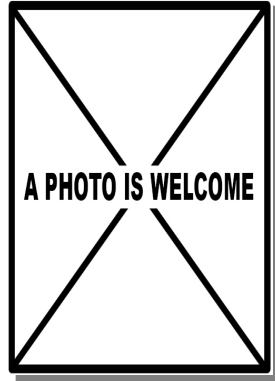
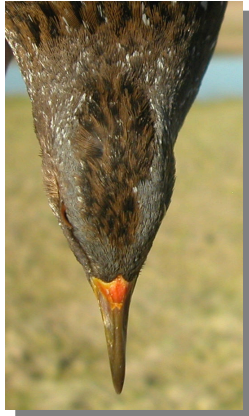
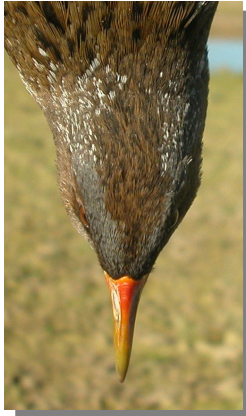
Spotted Crake. Spring. 2nd year. Head pattern: top male (25-IV) (Photo: Reinhard Vohwinkel); bottom female (21-III).



Spotted Crake. Spring. 2nd year. Male ()

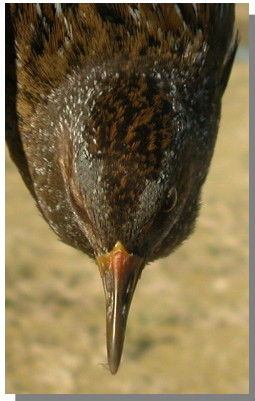
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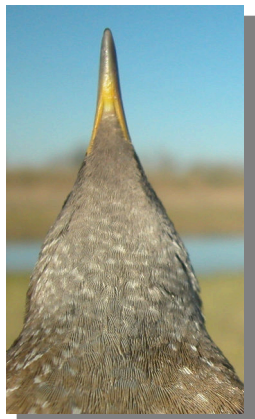
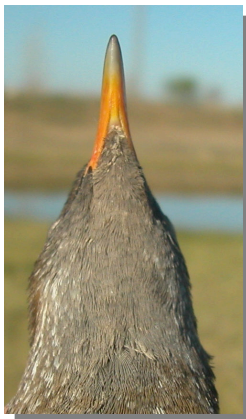
Spotted Crake. Spring. Adult. Crown pattern: left male (21-III); right female (21-III).

Spotted Crake. Spring. 2nd year. Chin pattern: left male (); right female (21-III).



Spotted Crake. Spring. 2nd year. Crown pattern: left male (Photo: Reinhard Vohwinkel); right female (21-III).

Spotted Crake. Spring. Adult. Breast pattern: left male (21-III); right female (21-III).



Spotted Crake. Spring. 2nd year. Breast pattern: left male (Photo: Reinhard Vohwinkel); right female (21-III).

Spotted Crake. Spring. Adult. Chin pattern: left male (21-III); right female (21-III).

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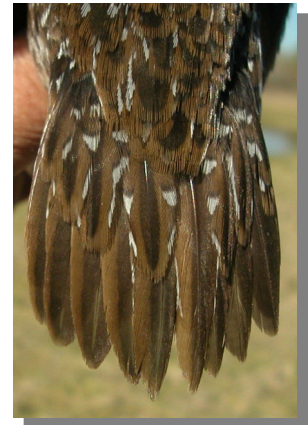
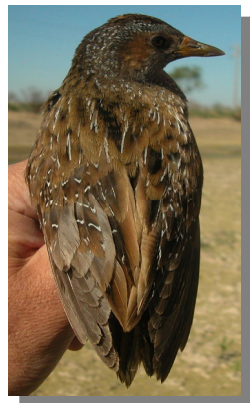
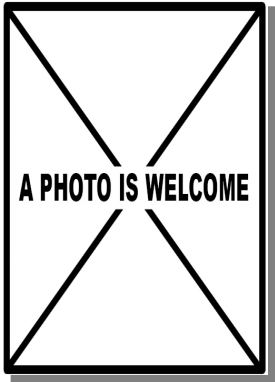
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Spotted Crake. Spring. 2nd year. Pattern of legs: top male (); bottom female (21-III).

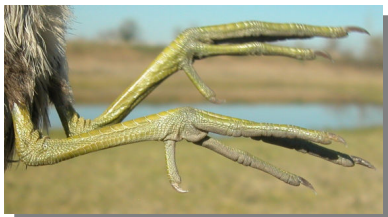


Spotted Crake. Spring. Adult. Pattern of upperparts: left male (21-III); right female (21-III).

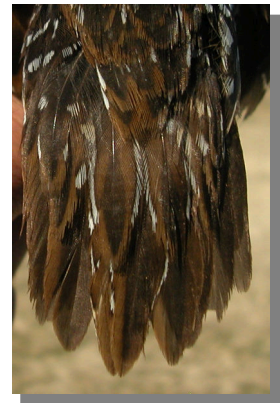


Spotted Crake. Spring. 2nd year. Pattern of upperparts: left male (); right female (21-III).

Spotted Crake. Spring. Adult. Tail pattern: left male (21-III); right female (21-III).



Spotted Crake. Spring. Adult. Pattern of legs: top male (21-III); bottom female (21-III).



Spotted Crake. Spring. 2nd year. Tail pattern: left male (Photo: Reinhard Vohwinkel); right female (21-III).

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Spotted Crake. Spring. Adult. Pattern of undertail coverts: left male (21-III); right female (21-III).



Spotted Crake. Spring. Adult. Female: pattern of flank (21-III).



Spotted Crake. Spring. 2nd year. Male: pattern of flank (Photo: Reinhard Vohwinkel).



Spotted Crake. Spring. 2nd year. Pattern of undertail coverts: left male (Photo: Reinhard Vohwinkel); right female (21-III).



Spotted Crake. Spring. 2nd year. Female: pattern of flank (21-III).



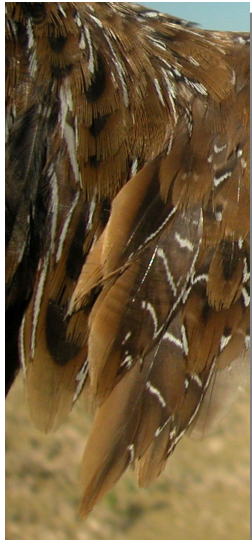
Spotted Crake. Spring. Adult. Male: pattern of flank (21-III).



Spotted Crake. Spring. Adult. Pattern of tertials: left male (21-III); right female (21-III).

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Spotted Crake. Spring. 2nd year. Male: pattern of primary coverts (Photo: Reinhard Vohwinkel).

Spotted Crake. Spring. 2nd year. Pattern of tertials: left male (Photo: Reinhard Vohwinkel); right female (21-III).



Spotted Crake. Spring. 2nd year. Female: pattern of primary coverts (21-III).

Spotted Crake. Spring. Adult. Male: pattern of primary coverts (21-III).



Spotted Crake. Spring. Adult. Male: pattern of primaries (21-III).

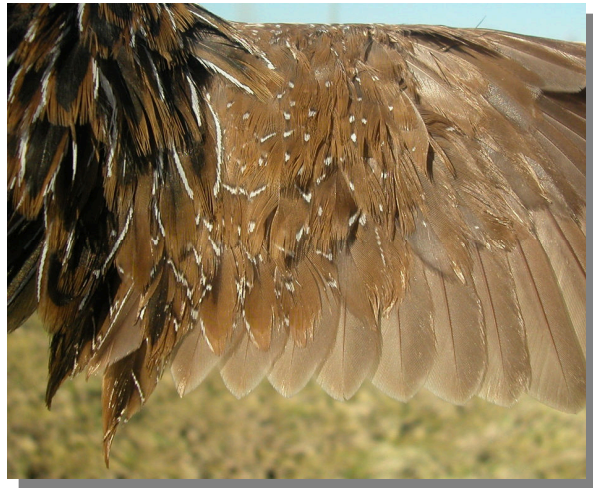
Spotted Crake. Spring. Adult. Female: pattern of primary coverts (21-III).

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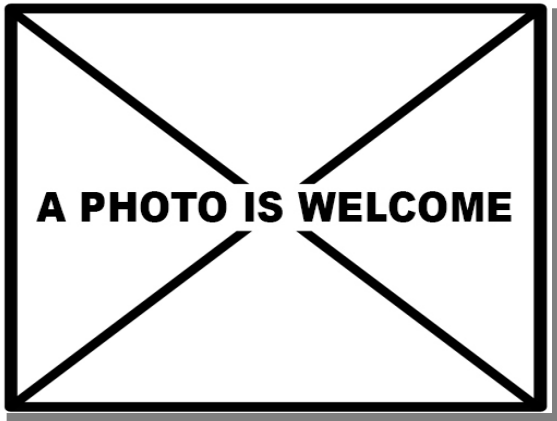
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Spotted Crake. Spring. Adult. Female: pattern of primaries (21-III).



Spotted Crake. Spring. Adult. Male: pattern of secondaries (21-III).



Spotted Crake. Spring. 2nd year. Male: pattern of primaries ().



Spotted Crake. Spring. Adult. Female: pattern of secondaries (21-III).



Spotted Crake. Spring. 2nd year. Female: pattern of primaries (21-III).



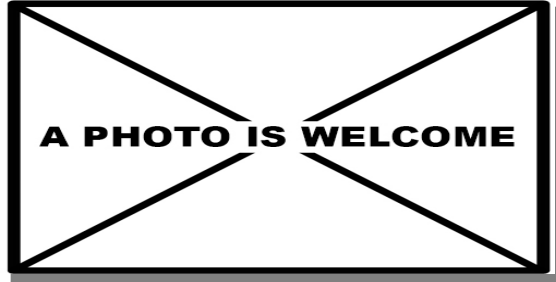
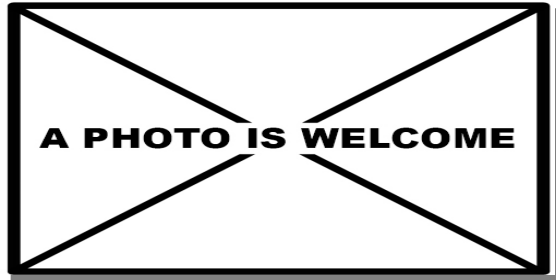
Spotted Crake. Spring. 2nd year. Male: pattern of secondaries (Photo: Reinhard Vohwinkel).

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Spotted Crake. Spring. 2nd year. Female: pattern of secondaries (21-III).



Spotted Crake. Spring. 2nd year. Male: pattern of wing ().



Spotted Crake. Spring. Adult. Male: pattern of wing (21-III).



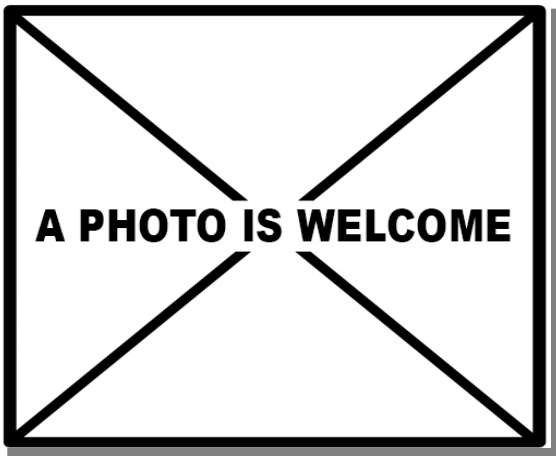
Spotted Crake. Spring. 2nd year. Female: pattern of wing (21-III).



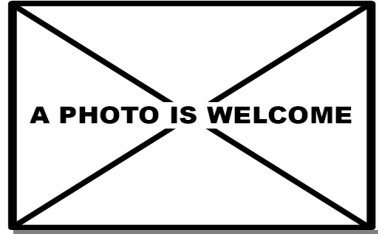
Spotted Crake. Spring. Adult. Female: pattern of wing (21-III).

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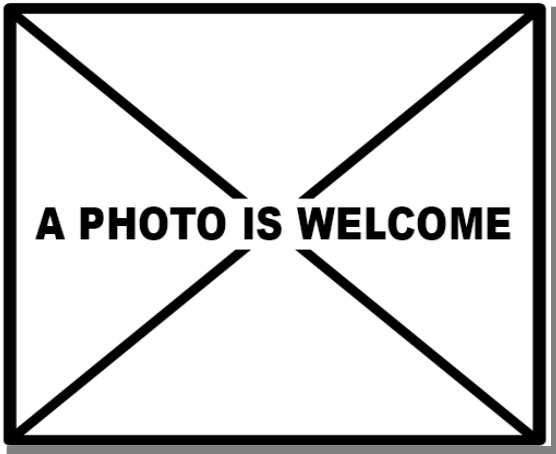
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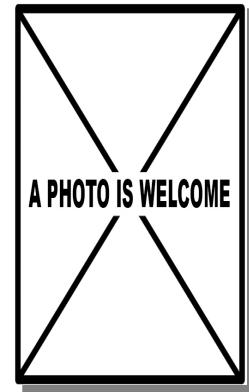
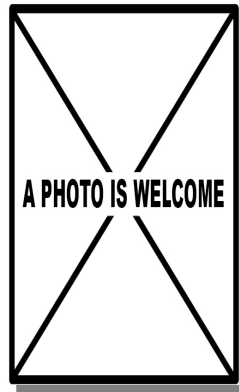
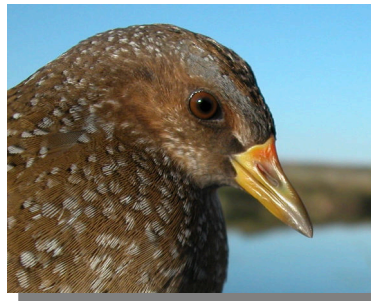
Spotted Crake. Autumn. Adult. Male ().



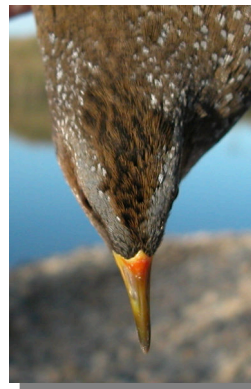
Spotted Crake. Autumn. Head pattern and bill colour: top adult male (); middle adult female (); bottom 1st year (28-X).



Spotted Crake. Autumn. Adult. Female ().



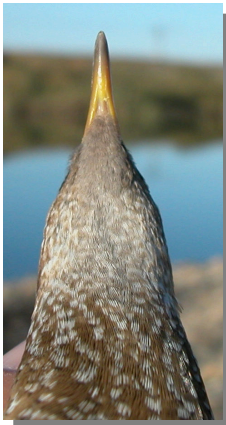
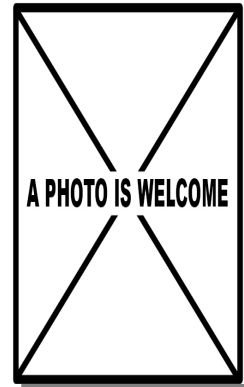
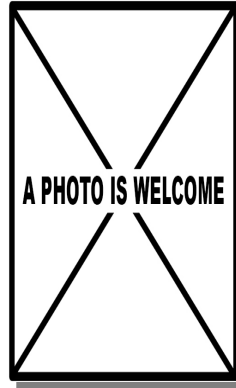
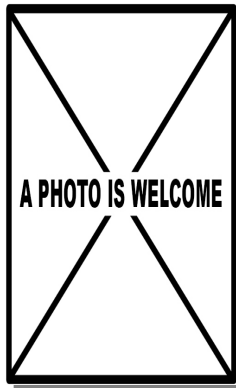
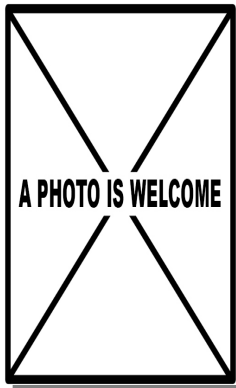
Spotted Crake. Autumn. 1st year (28-X).



Spotted Crake. Autumn. Crown pattern: top left adult male (); top right adult female (); left 1st year (28-X).

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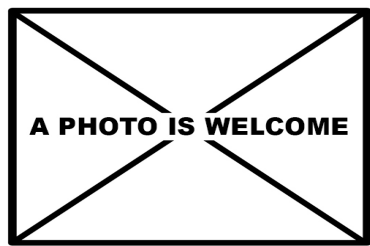
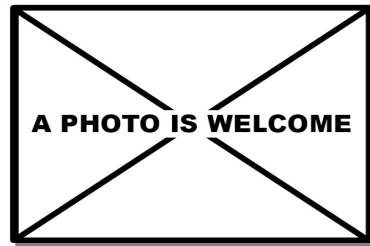
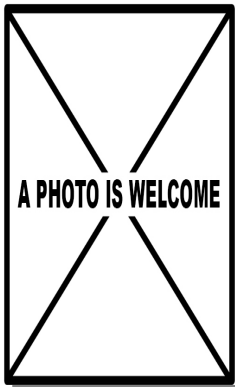
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Spotted Crake. Autumn. Chin pattern: top left adult male (); top right adult female (); left 1st year (28-X).



Spotted Crake. Autumn. Upper part pattern: top left adult male (); top right adult female (); left 1st year (28-X).



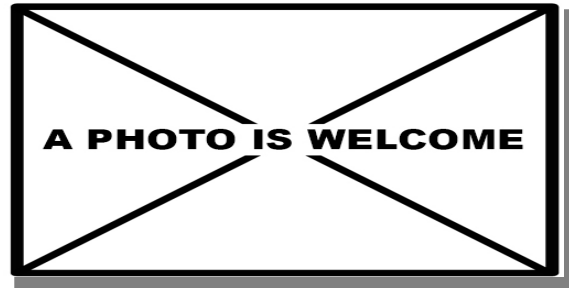
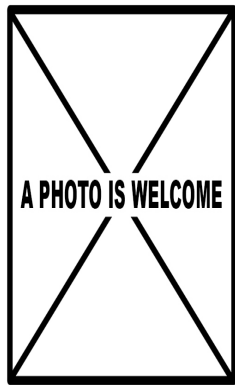
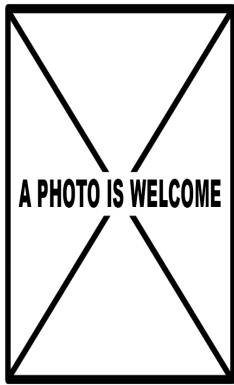
Spotted Crake. Autumn. Breast pattern: top left adult male (); top right adult female (); left 1st year (28-X).



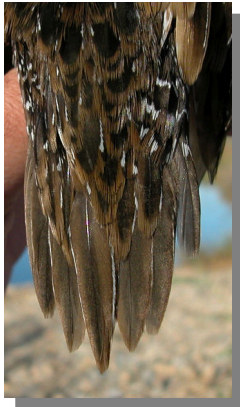
Spotted Crake. Autumn. Pattern fo legs: top adult male (); middle adult female (); bottom 1st year (28-X).

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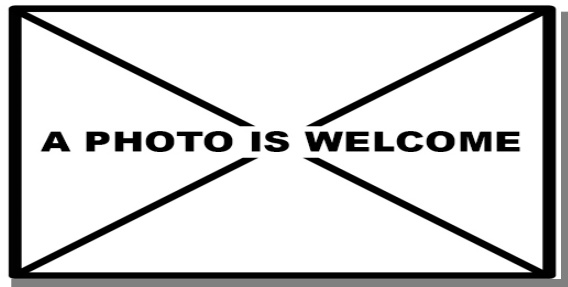
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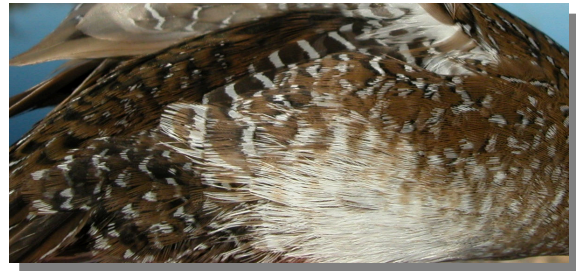
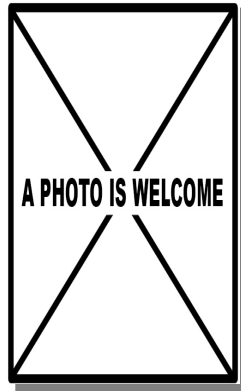
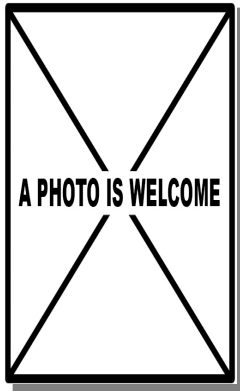
Spotted Crake. Autumn. Adult. Male: pattern of flank ().



Spotted Crake. Autumn. Tail pattern: top left adult male (); top right adult female (); left 1st year (28-X).



Spotted Crake. Autumn. Adult. Female: pattern of flank ().



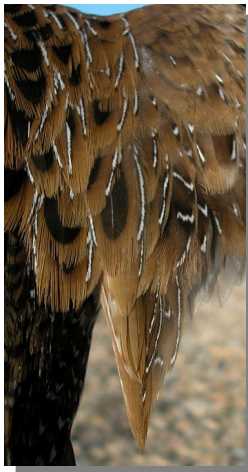
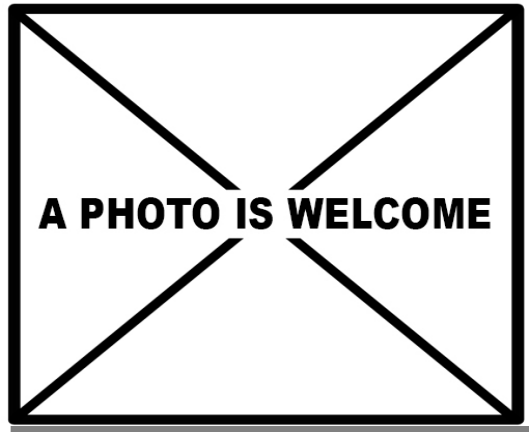
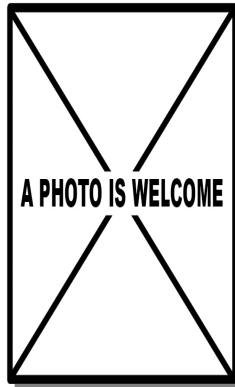
Spotted Crake. Autumn. 1st year: pattern of flank (28-X).



Spotted Crake. Autumn. Pattern of undertail covers: top left adult male (); top right adult female (); left 1st year (28-X).

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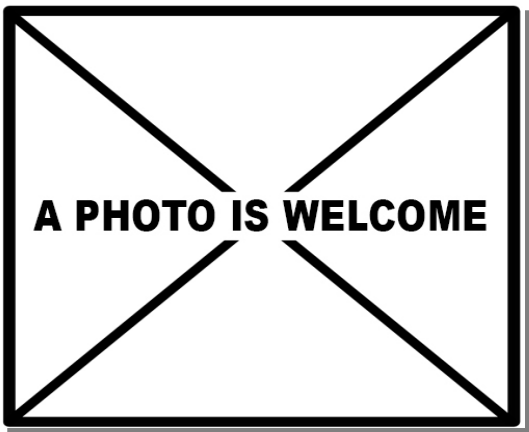


Spotted Crake. Autumn. Pattern of tertials: top left adult male (); top right adult female (); left 1st year (28-X).

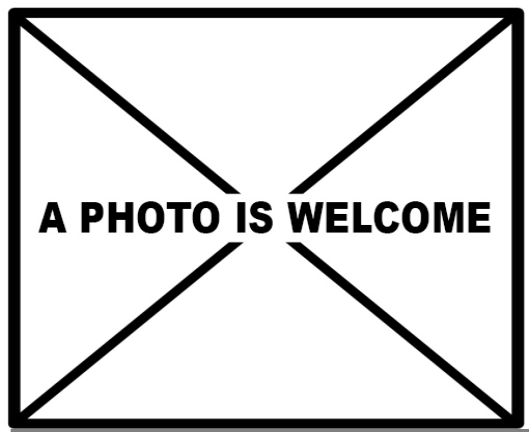
Spotted Crake. Autumn. Adult. Female: pattern of primary coverts ().



Spotted Crake. Autumn. 1st year: pattern of primary coverts (28-X).



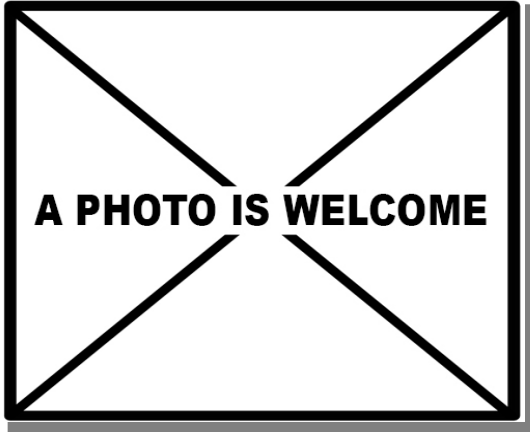
Spotted Crake. Autumn. Adult. Male: pattern of primary coverts ().



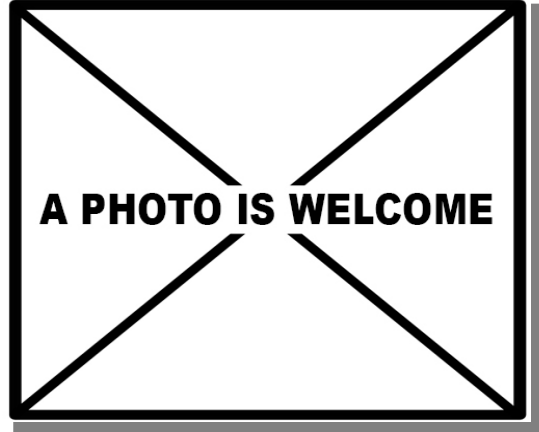
Spotted Crake. Autumn. Adult. Male: pattern of primaries ().

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Spotted Crake. Autumn. Adult. Female: pattern of primaries ().



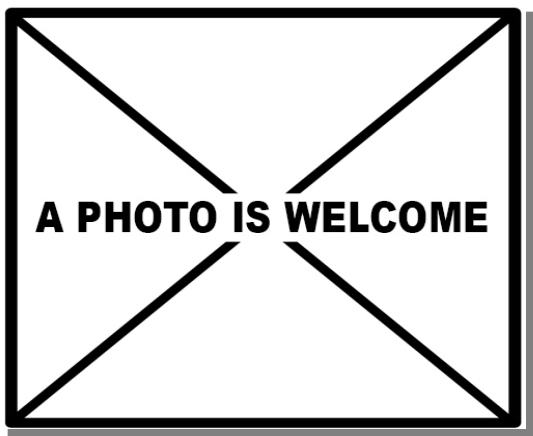
Spotted Crake. Autumn. Adult. Female: pattern of secondaries ().



Spotted Crake. Autumn. 1st year: pattern of primaries (28-X).



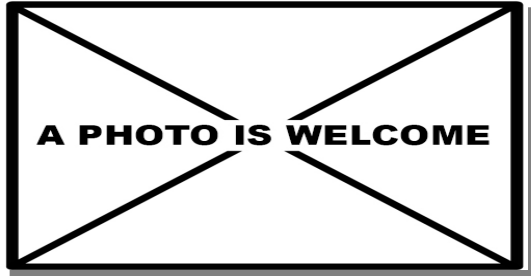
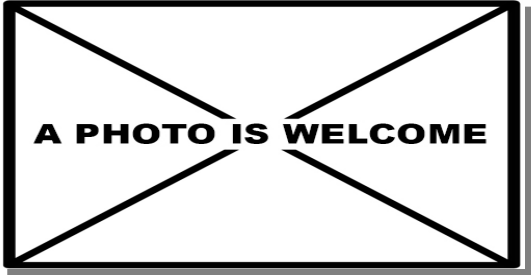
Spotted Crake. Autumn. 1st year: pattern of secondaries (28-X).



Spotted Crake. Autumn. Adult. Male: pattern of secondaries ().

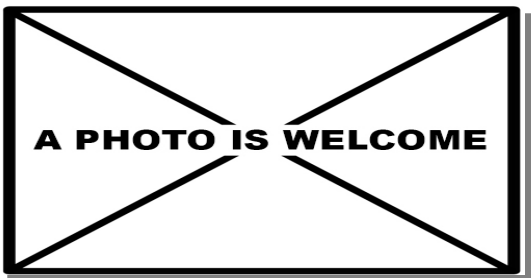
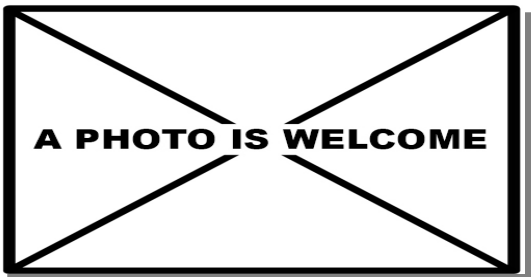
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Spotted Crake. Autumn. Adult. Male: pattern of wing ().

Spotted Crake. Autumn. 1st year: pattern of wing (28-X).



Spotted Crake. Autumn. Adult. Female: pattern of wing ().