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Little Ringed Plover. Spring. Adult. Male (08-IV).

# **LITTLE RINGED PLOVER** (*Charadrius dubius*)

### **IDENTIFICACIÓN**

15-18 cm. Adult with sandy upperparts; white underparts; black breastband, narrower on shoulders; black bar on forehead and eyes; buff wings with white tips on coverts; pink legs; black bill; yellow ocular ring. Juvenile without black on head and with brown and incomplete collar.



Little Ringed Plover. Spring. Pattern of wing and the black bars on head







Little Ringed Plover. Juvenile



### SIMILAR SPECIES

Recalls a **Ringed Plover** which in spring has orange base of bill and without yellow eye ring; in all plumages with a pale bar on wing. **Kentish Plover** has dark legs and lacks black band on forehead. **Juvenile Ringed Plover** has a white supercilium and breastband in **juvenile Kentish Plover** is only a little patch on breast.



Ringed Plover. Spring. Adult





Ringed Plover. Juvenile





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#### SEXING

In **spring**, **male** with dark bands on head and breast pure black; central tail feathers with subterminal dark areas; prominent eye-ring. **Female** with dark bands on head and breast with some brown feathers; central tail feathers with subterminal dark brown areas; eye-ring slightly prominent (**CAUTION**: differences are sometimes subtle and some birds cannot be sexed). In **autumn**, differences in sexual characteristics related with plumage are attenuated after **postbreeding** moult, but extreme birds can be sexed. **Juveniles** cannot be sexed using plumage pattern.





Little Ringed Plover. Autumn. Sexing. Pattern of head: top male; bottom female



Little Ringed Plover. Spring. Sexing. Pattern of head: top male; bottom female





Little Ringed Plover. Autumn. Sexing. Pattern of crown: left male; right female.





Little Ringed Plover. Spring. Sexing. Pattern of crown: left male; right female.





Little Ringed Plover. Autumn. Sexing. Pattern of Breast: top male; bottom female

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#### AGEING

3 age groups can be recognized:

**Juvenile** with feathers of upperparts and wing coverts sandy with pale edges; brown breastband, usually incomplete; central tail feathers with buff tips; without active moult of primaries in **autumn**.

**2nd year spring** can retain some **juvenile** feathers on upperparts, rump and wing coverts; recognizable by worn primaries and larger numbers of brown feathers on breastband than **adults**.

Adult in spring with worn wing coverts, without buff edges; black breastband or with some brown feathers; central tail feathers without broad buff tips. In **autumn** similar to **juveniles**, but with active moult on flight feathers; the new wing coverts in **adults** have buff edges; dark pattern on head and breast slightly marked; central tail feathers without broad buff tips.

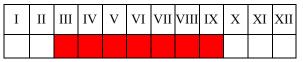


Little Ringed Plover. Autumn. Ageing. Pattern of wing coverts: left adult; right juvenile

### MOULT

Complete **postbreeding** moult starting in breeding sites, suspended before migration and finished in winter quarters. Partial **postjuvenile** moult including most of body feathers (some **juvenile** feathers retained on upperparts and rump), wing coverts (some retained), some tail feathers and inner secondaries; outer secondaries and primaries unmoulted; starting in August and finished in wintering sites. Both age classes have a **prebreeding** moult involving most of body feathers, scapulars, tertials and wing coverts.

### PHENOLOGY



#### STATUS EN ARAGON

Summer visitor, breeds on gravelly near the Ebro river and its tributaries.



Little Ringed Plover. Spring. Adult. Female (28-IV).



Little Ringed Plover. Autumn. Ageing. Pattern of tips of central tail feathers: left adult; right juvenile.



Little Ringed Plover. Spring. 2nd year. Male (28-IV).

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Little Ringed Plover. Spring. 2nd year. Female (10-V).



Little Ringed Plover. Spring. Adult. Crown pattern: left male (28-IV); right female (28-IV).



Little Ringed Plover. Spring. Adult. Head pattern: top male (28-IV); bottom female (28-IV).



Little Ringed Plover. Spring. 2nd year. Crown pattern: left male (28-IV); right female (10-V).



Little Ringed Plover. 2nd year. Head pattern: top male (28-IV); bottom female (10-V).





Little Ringed Plover. Spring. Adult. Breast pattern: top male (28-IV); bottom female (28-IV).

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Little Ringed Plover. Spring. 2nd year. Breast pattern: top male (28-IV); bottom female (10-V).





Little Ringed Plover. Spring. Adult. Upperpart pattern: left male (28-IV); right female (28-IV).



Little Ringed Plover. Spring. Adult. Tail pattern: left male (28-IV); right female (28-IV).



Little Ringed Plover. Spring. 2nd year. Upperpart pattern: left male (28-IV); right female (10-V)



Little Ringed Plover. Spring. 2nd year. Tail pattern: left male (28-IV); right female (10-V)



Little Ringed Plover. Spring. Adult. Pattern of primary coverts: top male (28-IV); bottom female (28-IV).

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Little Ringed Plover. Spring. 2nd year. Pattern of primary coverts: top male (28-IV); bottom female (28-IV).



Little Ringed Plover. Spring. 2nd year. Male: pattern of wing coverts and secondaries (28-IV).



Little Ringed Plover. Spring. Adult. Male: pattern of wing coverts and secondaries (28-IV).



Little Ringed Plover. Spring. 2nd year. Female: pattern of wing coverts and secondaries (10-V).



Little Ringed Plover. Spring. Adult. Female: pattern of wing coverts and secondaries (28-IV).



Little Ringed Plover. Spring. Adult. Male: pattern of primaries (28-IV).



Little Ringed Plover. Spring. Adult. Female: pattern of primaries (28-IV).



Little Ringed Plover. Spring. Adult. Female: pattern of wing (28-IV)



Little Ringed Plover. Spring. 2nd year. Male: pattern of primaries (28-IV).



Little Ringed Plover. Spring. 2nd year. Male: pattern of wing (28-IV)



Little Ringed Plover. Spring. 2nd year. Female: pattern of primaries (10-V).



Little Ringed Plover. Spring. 2nd year. Female: pattern of wing (10-V)



Little Ringed Plover. Spring. Adult. Male: pattern of wing (28-IV)

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Little Ringed Plover. Autumn. Adult. Male (28-VIII).





Little Ringed Plover. Autumn. Head pattern: top adult male (28-VIII); middle adult female (26-VIII); bottom juvenile (16-VII).



Little Ringed Plover. Autumn. Adult. Female (26-VIII).



Little Ringed Plover. Autumn. Juvenile (16-VII).







Little Ringed Plover. Autumn. Crown pattern: top left adult male (28-VIII); top right adult female (26-VIII); left juvenile (16-VII).

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Little Ringed Plover. Autumn. Breast pattern: top left adult male (28-VIII); top right adult female (26-VIII); left juvenile (16-VII).











Little Ringed Plover. Autumn. Tail pattern: top left adult male (28-VIII); top right adult female (26-VIII); left juvenile (16-VII).







Little Ringed Plover. Autumn. Pattern of primary coverts: top adult male (28-VIII); middle adult female (26-VIII); bottom juvenile (16-VII).



Little Ringed Plover. Autumn. Upperpart pattern: top left adult male (28-VIII); top right adult female (26-VIII); left juvenile (16-VII).



Little Ringed Plover. Autumn. Adult. Male: pattern of wing coverts and secondaries (28-VIII).



Little Ringed Plover. Autumn. Adult. Female: pattern of wing coverts and secondaries (26-VIII).



Little Ringed Plover. Autumn. Juvenile: pattern of wing coverts and secondaries (16-VII).



Little Ringed Plover. Autumn. Adult. Male: pattern of primaries (28-VIII).



Little Ringed Plover. Autumn. Adult. Female: pattern of primaries (26-VIII).



Little Ringed Plover. Autumn. Juvenile: pattern of primaries (16-VII).



Little Ringed Plover. Autumn. Adult. Male: pattern of wing (28-VIII).

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Little Ringed Plover. Autumn. Adult. Female: pattern of wing (26-VIII).



Little Ringed Plover. Autumn. Juvenile: pattern of wing (16-VII).