

04690 Little Ringed Plover (*Charadrius dubius*)



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

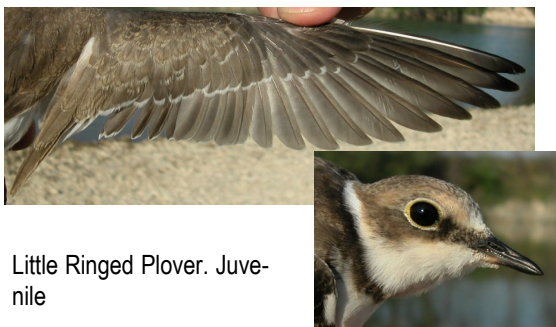
LITTLE RINGED PLOVER (*Charadrius dubius*)

IDENTIFICATION

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

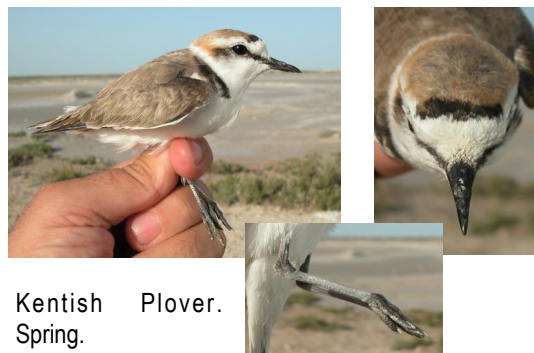
Recalls a **Ringed Plover** which in spring has orange base of bill and without yellow eye ring; in all plumages with a pale bar on wing. **Kentish Plover** has dark legs and lacks black band on forehead. **Juvenile Ringed Plover** has a white supercilium and breastband in **juvenile Kentish Plover**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



Ringed Plover. Spring. Adult



Ringed Plover. Juvenile



Kentish Plover. Spring.

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.



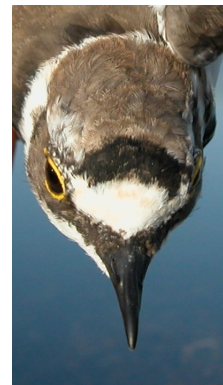
Little Ringed Plover. Spring. Sexing. Pattern of head: top male; bottom female



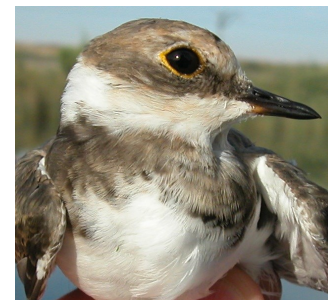
Little Ringed Plover. Spring. Sexing. Pattern of crown: left male; right female.



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



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



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

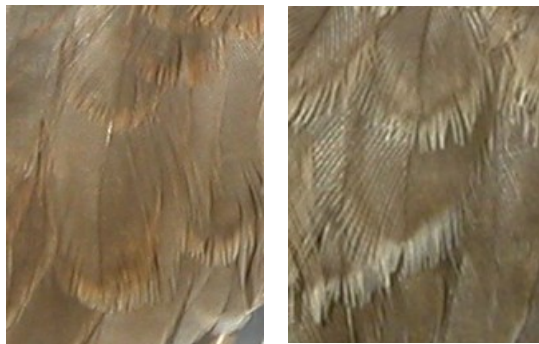
AGEING

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



Little Ringed Plover. Autumn. Ageing. Pattern of tips of central tail feathers: 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

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

- Summer visitor
- Resident
- Wintering
- On passage



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

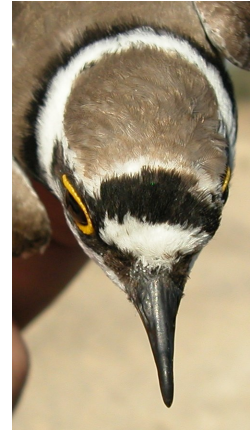


Little Ringed Plover. Spring. 2nd year. Male (28-IV).

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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. Spring. 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).



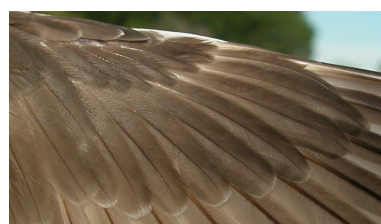
Little Ringed Plover. Spring. 2nd year. Upperpart pattern: left male (28-IV); right female (10-V)



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 covers: top male (28-IV); bottom female (28-IV).



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



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



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



Little Ringed Plover. Spring. Adult. Female: pattern of wing covers 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).



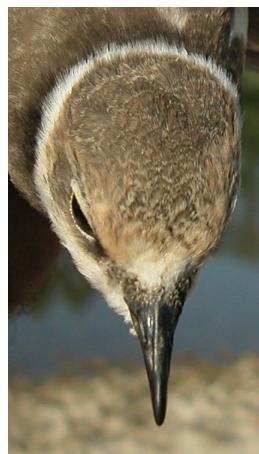
Little Ringed Plover. Autumn. Head pattern: top adult male (28-VIII); middle adult female (26-VIII); bottom juvenile (16-VII).



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. Upperpart 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. 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).



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



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