

# 177 European Golden Plover

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Golden Plover. Winter. Adult (14-I)

## EUROPEAN GOLDEN PLOVER (*Pluvialis apricaria*)

### IDENTIFICATION

26-28 cm. In winter with dark upperparts with dense golden notches; pale underparts with brown streaks; white underwing; white axillaries; grey-greenish legs.



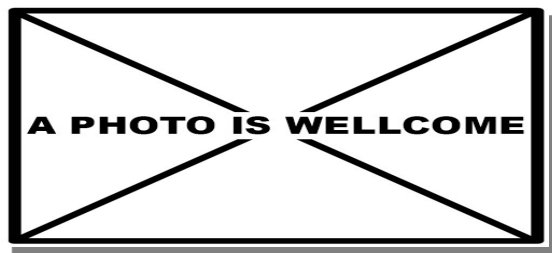
Golden Plover. Winter. Pattern of underwing, rump, wing and upperparts.

### SIMILAR SPECIES

Recalls a **Grey Plover**, with black axillaries, wide wingbar and white rump.



Grey Plover



### SEXING

In **winter**, plumage of both sexes alike.

### AGEING

It is not possible to find **juveniles** in Aragon, so only 2 types of age can be recognized: **1st year autumn/2nd year spring** similar to **adult** but with worn **juvenile** feathers on back, rump, tail, outer tertials and wing; wing always with only one generation of flight feathers; tail feathers with broken short off-white bars or spots; unmoulted inner median coverts and tertials with a broad dark shaft-streak to tips.

**Adult** with fresh feathers; if some secondaries remain unmoulted, then with a mixed of new and old feathers; tail feathers with narrow and shallow greyish-yellow chevrons; inner median coverts with a fine dark shaft-streak to tips; tertials without a dark shaft-streak on tips.

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Golden Plover. Winter. Ageing. Pattern of tail feathers: left adult; right 1st year (Photo: Ottenby Bird Observatory).



Golden Plover. Winter. Ageing. Pattern of wing coverts: left adult; right 1st year (Photo: Ottenby Bird Observatory).



Golden Plover. Winter. Ageing. Pattern of tertials: left adult; right 1st year (Photo: Ottenby Bird Observatory).

MOULT

Complete **postbreeding** moult, but many birds can retain secondaries and wing coverts: usually starts in July and suspended before migration. Partial **postjuvenile** moult including body feathers but remaining unchanged uppertail coverts, outer tertials, wings and tail. Both types of age have a **prebreeding** moult including body feathers, usually starting in wintering quarters in February.

PHENOLOGY

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

STATUS IN ARAGON

Winter visitor, it is a common species in



Golden Plover. Winter. 1st year (28-IX) (Photo: Ottenby Bird Observatory)

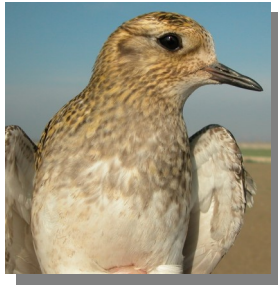


Golden Plover. Winter. Head pattern: top adult (14-I); bottom 1st year (28-IX) (Photo: Ottenby Bird Observatory).

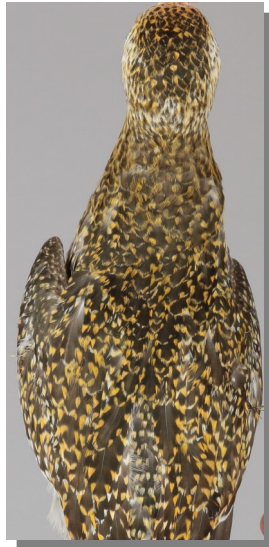


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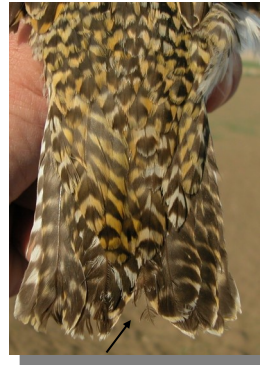
Golden Plover. Winter. Breast pattern: left adult (14-I); right 1st year (28-IX) (Photo: Ottenby Bird Observatory).



Golden Plover. Winter. Upperpart pattern: left adult (14-I); right 1st year (28-IX) (Photo: Ottenby Bird Observatory).



Golden Plover. Winter. Pattern of flank: top adult (14-I); bottom 1st year ().



Golden Plover. Winter. Adult: tail pattern (14-I).



Golden Plover. Winter. 1st year: tail pattern right 1st year (28-IX) (Photo: Ottenby Bird Observatory).



Golden Plover. Winter. Adult: pattern of wing coverts (14-I)



Golden Plover. Winter. 1st year: pattern of wing coverts (28-IX) (Photo: Ottenby Bird Observatory)



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Golden Plover. Winter. Adult: pattern of primary coverts (14-I)



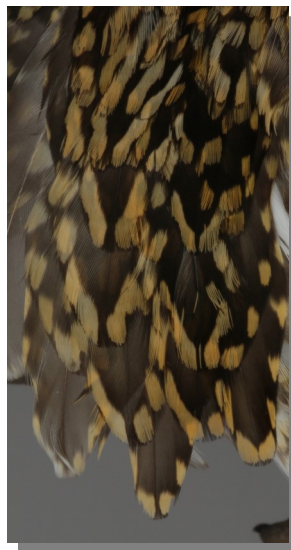
Golden Plover. Winter. Adult: pattern of primaries (14-I)



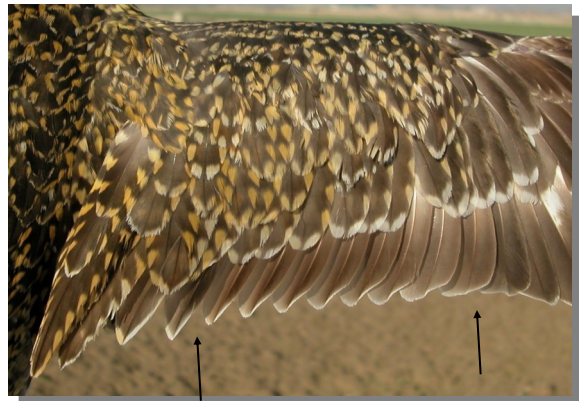
Golden Plover. Winter. 1st year: pattern of primary coverts (28-IX) (Photo: Ottenby Bird Observatory)



Golden Plover. Winter. 1st year: pattern of primaries (28-IX) (Photo: Ottenby Bird Observatory)



Golden Plover. Winter. Pattern of tertials: left adult (14-I); right 1st year (28-IX) (Photo: Ottenby Bird Observatory).



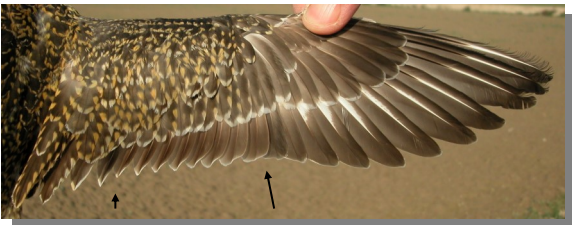
Golden Plover. Winter. Adult: pattern of secondaries (14-I)

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Golden Plover. Winter. 1st year: pattern of secondaries (28-IX) (Photo: Ottenby Bird Observatory)



Golden Plover. Winter. Adult: pattern of wing (14-I)



Golden Plover. Winter. 1st year: pattern of wing (28-IX) (Photo: Ottenby Bird Observatory)