

# 187 Curlew Sandpiper

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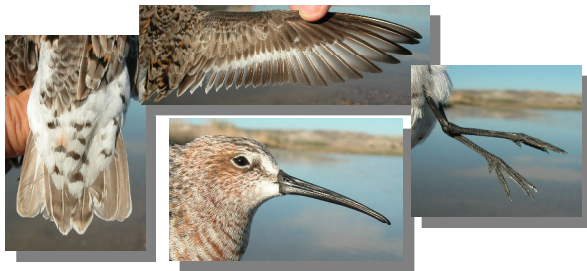


Curlew Sandpiper. Spring. Adult (07-V)

## CURLEW SANDPIPER (*Calidris ferruginea*)

### IDENTIFICATION

18-19 cm. In **breeding** plumage with dark brown upperparts and reddish underparts; in **non-breeding** plumage with grey upperparts and white underparts; head with pale supercilium; wing with a white band; bill long and curved; dark legs.



Curlew Sandpiper. Pattern of bill, rump, wing and legs.

### SIMILAR SPECIES

In **breeding** plumage unmistakable due to chestnut pattern on head and underparts. In **non breeding** plumage recalls a **Dunlin**, which has shorter bill and a dark line on rump.

Dunlin.  
Autumn

### SEXING

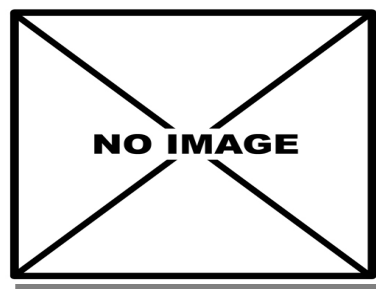
In **non breeding** plumage pattern of both sexes alike. In **breeding** plumage brightness and intensity of chestnut areas is highly variable in both sexes, so it is not a significant characteristic for sex identification. Also biometric measurements show overlap.

### AGEING

Since **2nd year** birds usually remain in their wintering sites, in Aragon only 2 age classes can be recognized:

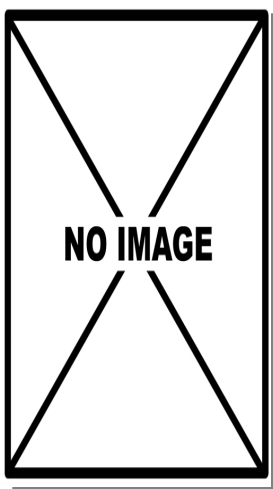
**1st year autumn** with very fresh plumage; lesser and median coverts light grey with dark shaft streak and a broad rounded buff to whitish edge; feathers of upperparts dull grey with a darker subterminal edge and white tip; flight feathers of single generation.

**Adult** in both **spring** and **autumn** migratory passage with chestnut feathers on head and breast; wing coverts with a mix of grey non breeding and black and chestnut breeding feathers; in **autumn** with all flight feathers worn if unmoulted or with a mix of old unmoulted and fresh changed feathers; moulted feathers of upperparts grey brown with darker shaft streak.

Curlew  
Sandpiper.  
Autumn.  
Ageing.  
Pattern of  
breast: top  
adult; bottom  
1st year.

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Curlew Sandpiper. Autumn. Ageing. Pattern of upperparts: left adult; right 1st year.



Curlew Sandpiper. Autumn. Ageing. Pattern of wing coverts: top adult (photo: Ottenby Bird Observatory); bottom 1st year.

## MOULT

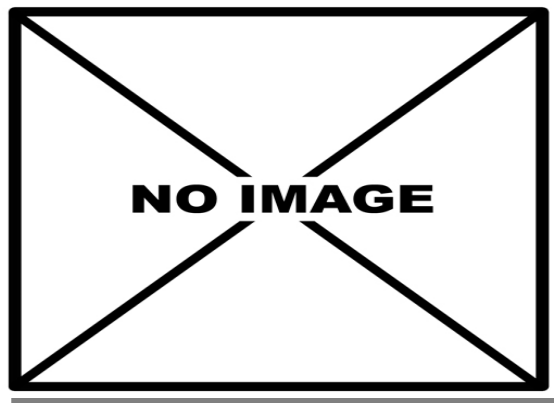
Complete **postbreeding** moult, starting in breeding places and finished in wintering sites. Partial **postjuvenile** moult similar to **adult** but usually not started, or it is very little, till arriving to wintering areas; some **juvenile** flight feathers can be retained. Both age classes have a partial **prebreeding** moult involving body feathers, most of scapulars, some tertials, some tail feathers and sometimes some wing coverts.

## PHENOLOGY

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

## STATUS IN ARAGON

Recorded on passage in any wetland of the region



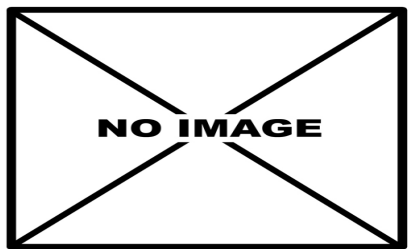
Curlew Sandpiper. Autumn Adult ()



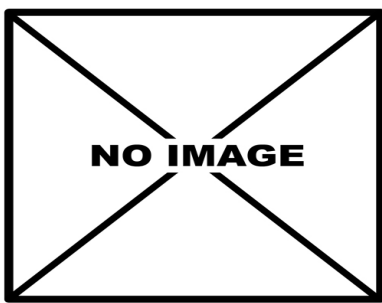
Curlew Sandpiper. Autumn 1st year (14-IX)

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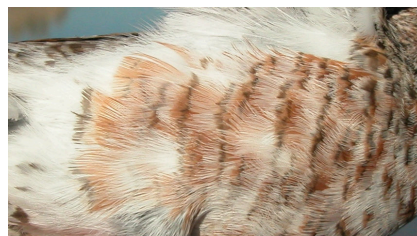
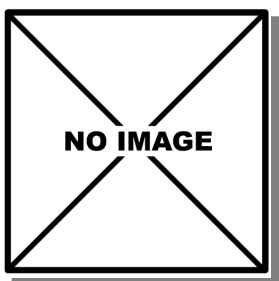
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Curlew Sandpiper. Pattern of head and bill: top adult in spring (07-V); middle adult in autumn (); bottom 1st year (14-IX)



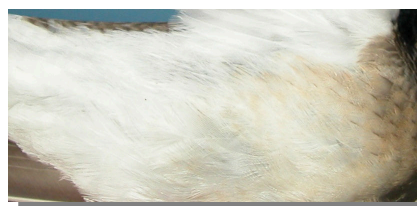
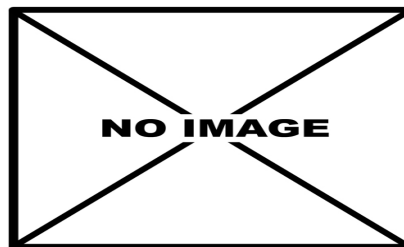
Curlew Sandpiper. Breast pattern: top adult in spring (07-V); middle adult in autumn (); bottom 1st year (14-IX)



Curlew Sandpiper. Flank pattern: top adult in spring (07-V); middle adult in autumn (); bottom 1st year (14-IX)

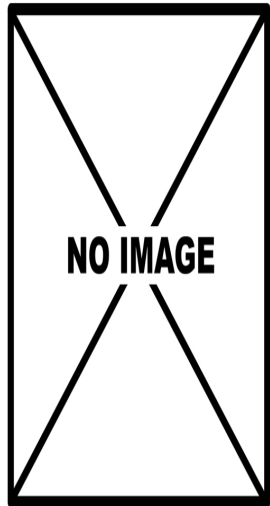


Curlew Sandpiper. Nape pattern: top left adult in spring (07-V); top right adult in autumn (); left 1st year (14-IX)



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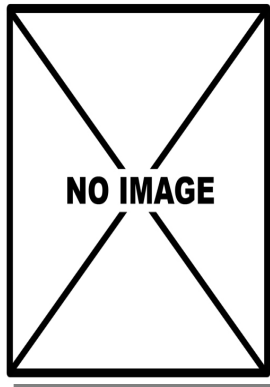
Curlew Sandpiper. Spring. Adult: pattern of wing coverts (07-V)



Curlew Sandpiper. Upperpart pattern: top left adult in spring (07-V); top right adult in autumn (); left 1st year (14-IX)



Curlew Sandpiper. Autumn. Adult: pattern of wing coverts (16-VII) (Photo: Ottenby Bird Observatory)



Curlew Sandpiper. Autumn. 1st year: pattern of wing coverts (14-IX)



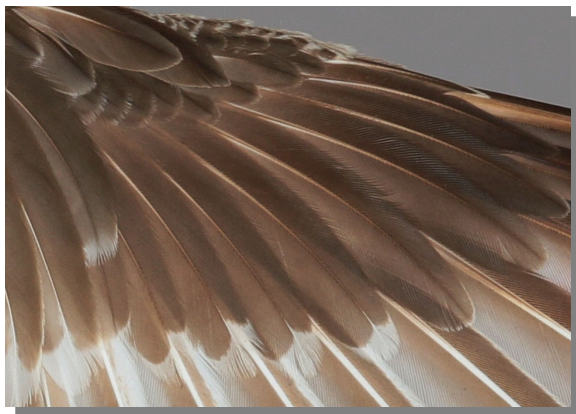
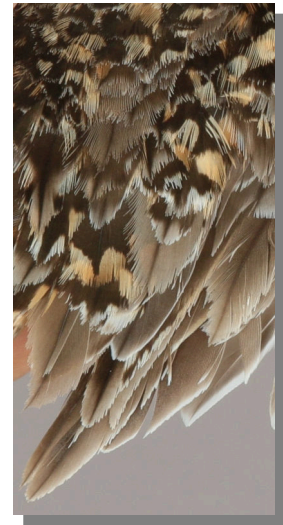
Curlew Sandpiper. Tail pattern: top left adult in spring (07-V); top right adult in autumn (); left 1st year (14-IX)

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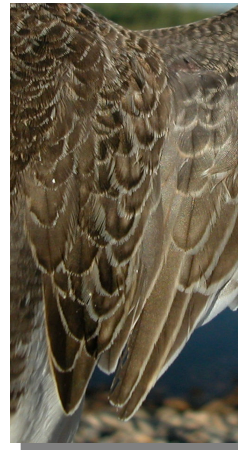
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Curlew Sandpiper. Spring. Adult: pattern of primary coverts (07-V)



Curlew Sandpiper. Autumn. Adult: pattern of primary coverts (16-VII) (Photo: Ottenby Bird Observatory)



Curlew Sandpiper. Pattern of tertials: top left adult in spring (07-V); top right adult in autumn (16-VII) (Photo: Ottenby Bird Observatory); left 1st year (14-IX)



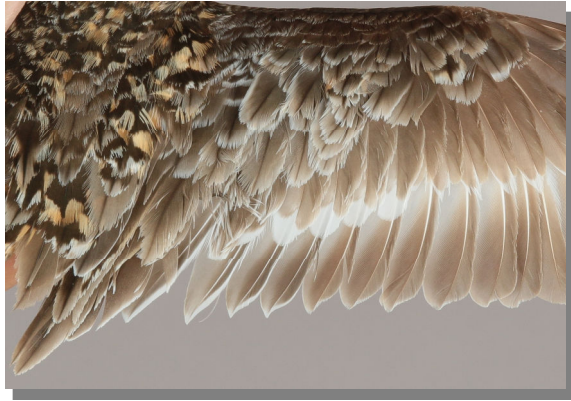
Curlew Sandpiper. Autumn. 1st year: pattern of primary coverts (14-IX)



Curlew Sandpiper. Spring. Adult: pattern of secondaries (07-V)

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Curlew Sandpiper. Autumn. Adult: pattern of secondaries (16-VII) (Photo: Ottenby Bird Observatory)



Curlew Sandpiper. Autumn. 1st year: pattern of secondaries (14-IX)



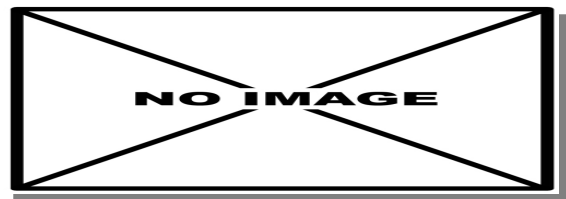
Curlew Sandpiper. Spring. Adult: pattern of primaries (07-V)



Curlew Sandpiper. Autumn. Adult: pattern of primaries (16-VII) (Photo: Ottenby Bird Observatory)



Curlew Sandpiper. Spring. Adult: pattern of wing (07-V)



Curlew Sandpiper. Autumn. Adult: pattern of wing (16-VII) (Photo: Ottenby Bird Observatory)

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Curlew Sandpiper. Autumn. 1st year: pattern of wing (14-IX)