

188 Dunlin

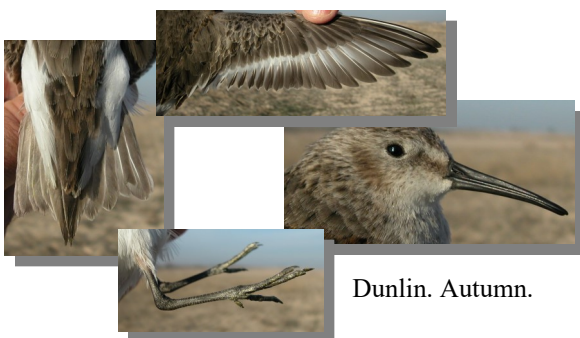
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Dunlin. Autumn. Adult with extensive moult (27-XI)

DUNLIN (*Calidris alpina*)**IDENTIFICATION**

17-18 cm. In **breeding** plumage with chestnut upperparts and black underparts; in **non-breeding** plumage with grey upperparts and white underparts; head with pale supercilium; wing with a white band; bill long and slightly curved; dark legs.



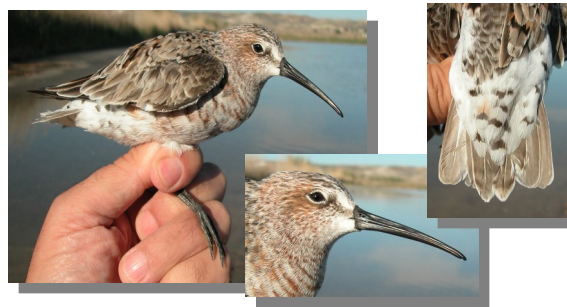
Dunlin. Autumn.

SIMILAR SPECIES

In **breeding** plumage unmistakable due to the black patch on belly. In **non breeding** plumage, dark legs separate the species from the other common small waders recorded in Aragon, except **Little Stint**, which has shorter and less curved bill and smaller size (13-14 cm) and **Curlew Sandpiper**, which has longer bill and white rump.



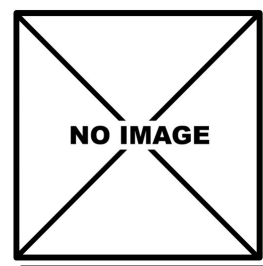
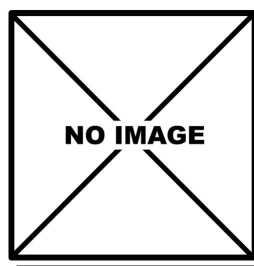
Little Stint



Curlew Sandpiper. Spring.

SEXING

In **breeding** plumage, **male** with nape pale grey thinly streaked dark contrasting with crown and mantle (**CAUTION**: some specimens lack a collar). **Female** with streaked brownish nape weakly contrasting with crown and mantle In **non breeding** plumage pattern of both sexes alike. **Note: female** has a larger size than **male** but it is necessary to know the geographical origin in order to sex without errors.



Dunlin. Spring. Sexing. Nape pattern: left male; right female.

MOULT

Complete **postbreeding** moult, starting in breeding places (amount of changed feathers variable depending of geographical origin), suspended during migration and finished in wintering sites. Partial **postjuvenile** moult involving body feathers, some wing coverts and occasionally some tertials and tail feathers. Both age classes have a partial **prebreeding** moult including body feathers and sometimes median wing coverts.

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AGEING

This species doesn't breed in Aragon so only 3 age groups are recognized:

1st year autumn similar to **adult** but underparts white with flanks with large brown spots; there may be retained **juvenile** feathers (with chestnut/buff fringes) on wing coverts, uppertail coverts, upperparts and tertials; tip of inner primary coverts with thin white edge; unmoulted tail feathers pointed.

2nd year spring with retained **juvenile** feathers heavily worn; retained inner median coverts with traces of buff fringes; unmoulted **juvenile** primaries very worn.

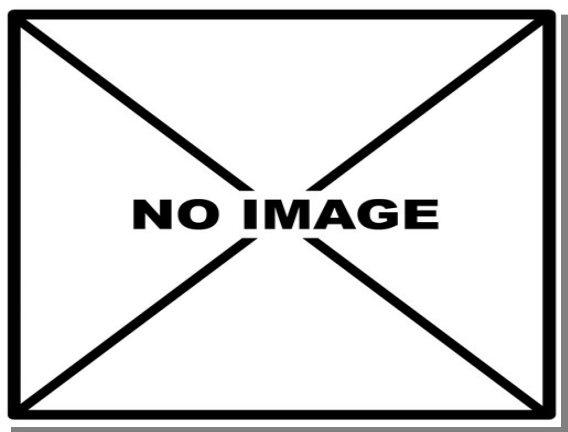
Adult in autumn, after **postbreeding** moult, with white underparts with flanks with sparse brown spots; grey wing coverts with whitish fringes; tip of inner primary coverts with broad white edge; grey upperparts (**CAUTION:** some breeding feathers may be retained on mantle); moulted tail feathers with rounded tips. In **breeding** plumage (**spring**) with brownish black upperparts with chestnut and pale grey fringes; grey coverts, outer paler at tip and inner fringed whitish; black belly; fresh primaries.

PHENOLOGY

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

STATUS IN ARAGON

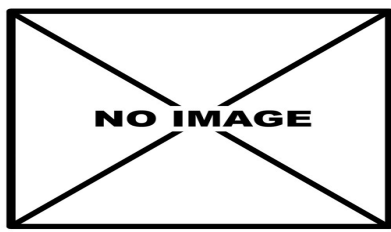
Common on passage with some wintering birds in wetlands of the Ebro Valley and Gallocanta.



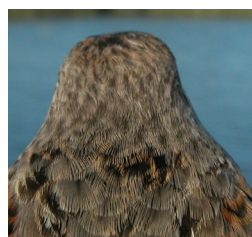
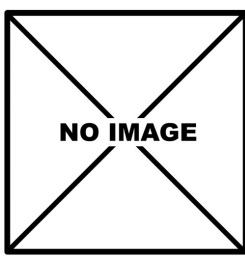
Dunlin. Autumn. Adult poorly moulted ()



Dunlin. Autumn. 1st year (02-IX)



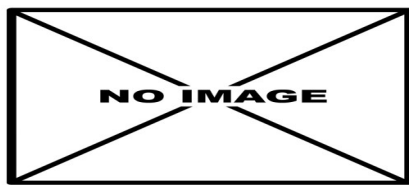
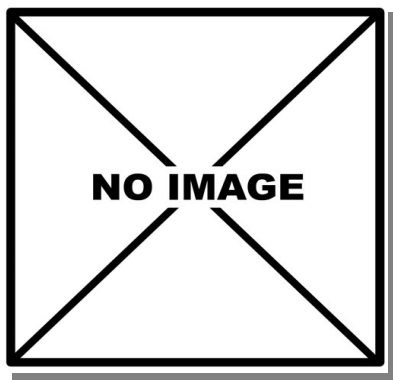
Dunlin. Autumn. Head pattern: top adult poorly moulted (); middle adult with extensive moult (27-XI); bottom 1st year (02-IX).



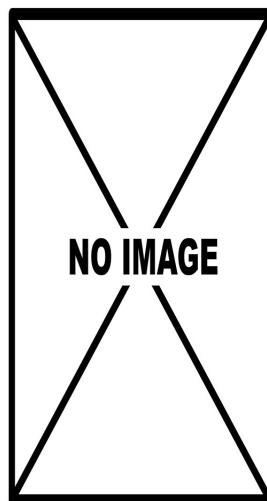
Dunlin. Autumn. Crown pattern: top left adult poorly moulted (); top right adult with extensive moult (27-XI); left 1st year (02-IX).

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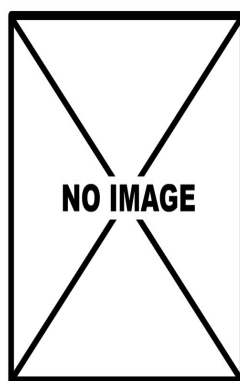
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Dunlin.
Autumn.
Breast
pattern: top
adult poorly
moulted ();
middle
adult with
extensive
moult (27-
XI); bottom
1st year (02-
IX).



Dunlin. Autumn.
Upperpart pattern:
top left adult
poorly moulted ();
top right adult with
extensive moult (27-
XI); left 1st year
(02-IX).



Dunlin. Autumn.
Tail pattern: top
left adult poorly
moulted (); top
right adult with
extensive moult (27-
XI); left 1st year
(02-IX).

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Dunlin. Autumn. Adult poorly moulted: pattern of wing coverts (28-VIII). (Photo: Pere Josa)



Dunlin. Autumn. Adult poorly moulted: pattern of primary coverts (28-VIII). (Photo: Pere Josa)



Dunlin. Autumn. Adult with extensive moult: pattern of wing coverts (27-XI).



Dunlin. Autumn. Adult with extensive moult: pattern of primary coverts (27-XI).



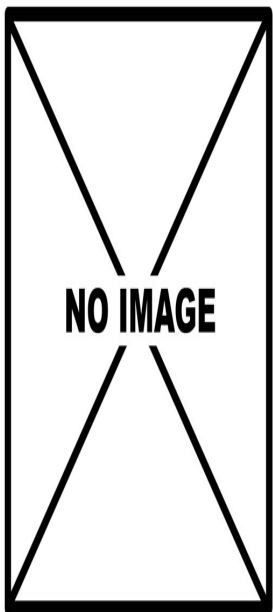
Dunlin. Autumn. 1st year: pattern of wing coverts (02-IX).



Dunlin. Autumn. 1st year: pattern of primary coverts (02-IX).

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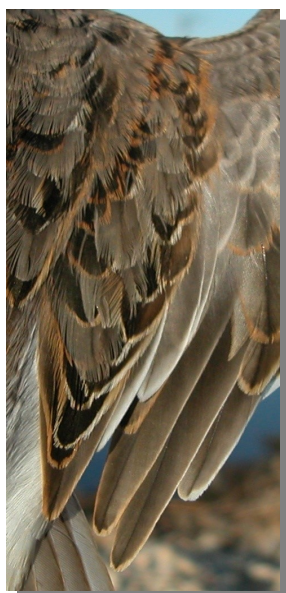
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Dunlin. Autumn. Adult with extensive moult: pattern of primaries (27-XI).



Dunlin. Autumn. 1st year: pattern of primaries (02-IX).



Dunlin. Autumn. Pattern of tertials: top left adult poorly moulted (); top right adult with extensive moult (27-XI); left 1st year (02-IX).



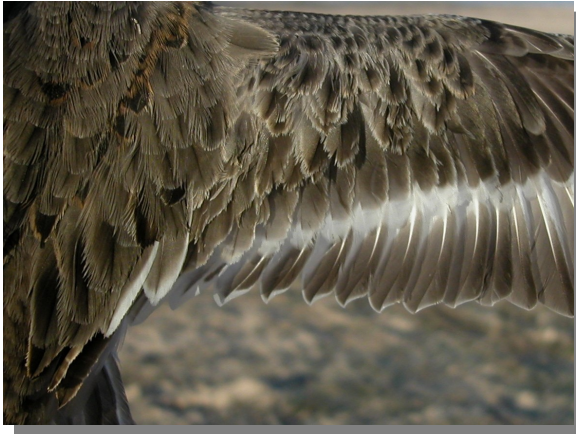
Dunlin. Autumn. Adult poorly moulted: pattern of secondaries (28-VIII). (Photo: Pere Josa)



Dunlin. Autumn. Adult poorly moulted: pattern of primaries (28-VIII). (Photo: Pere Josa)

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Dunlin. Autumn. Adult with extensive moult: pattern of secondaries (27-XI).



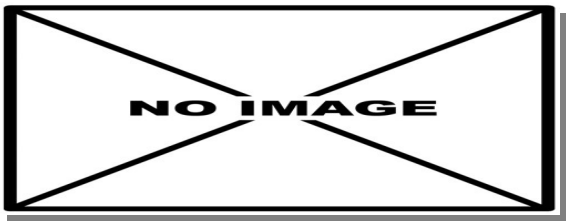
Dunlin. Autumn. Adult with extensive moult: pattern of wing (27-XI).



Dunlin. Autumn. 1st year: pattern of secondaries (02-IX).



Dunlin. Autumn. 1st year: pattern of wing (02-IX).



Dunlin. Autumn. Adult poorly moulted: pattern of wing (28-VIII). (Photo: Pere Josa)