



Ruff. Autumn. Adult. Male (18-VIII)

**RUFF** (*Calidris pugnax*)

**IDENTIFICATION**

21-29 cm. In **non breeding** plumage with brownish head and upperparts; pale underparts; tail with white uppercoverts on both sides; wing with a white band; orange legs.



Ruff. Autumn. Pattern of tail, breast, legs and wing.



**SIMILAR SPECIES**

Recalls a **Redshank**, with broader wing band and without two white bands on sides of uppertail



Redshank

**SEXING**

It is not likely to find **males** with display plumage in Aragon, so size is an useful characteristic for sexing: **male** with wing longer than 175 mm; **female** with wing shorter than 170 mm.

**AGEING**

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

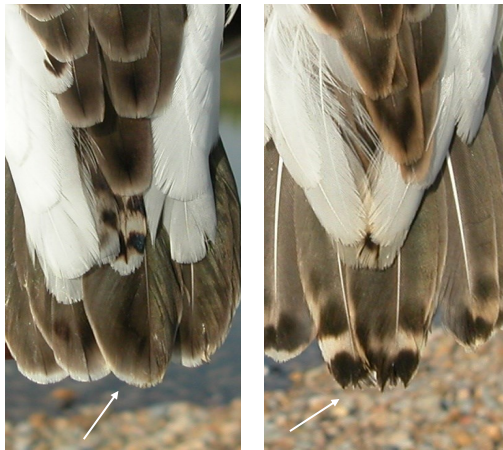
**1st year autumn** similar to **adults**, but with very fresh flight feathers; if some **juvenile** feathers retained on rump are buff rather than grey; retained **juvenile** median coverts dark grey with broad buff edge; pale tips of tail feathers with darker bands subterminally; tail feathers and primaries narrow and pointed; underparts white with plain buff breast; brownish green or orange green legs.

**2nd year spring** only in birds with retained **juvenile** buff fringed inner median wing coverts and/or outer tail feathers; primaries very worn; sometimes primaries with moult limit within the older inners and fresh outers.

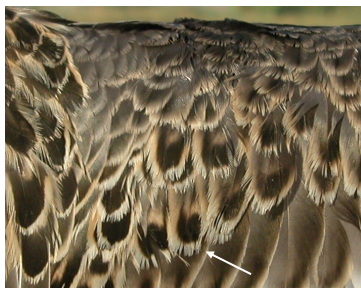
**Adult in autumn** with worn unmoulted flight feathers; grey moulted wing coverts with thin pale edge; pale tips of tail feathers without dark subterminal bands; tail feathers and primaries broad and rounded; white underparts with breast streaked grey; pinkish or orange red legs. In **spring**, without buff fringed median coverts; wing coverts grey brown, paler at tips; breast and mantle mottled with blackish brown feathers; primaries slightly worn.



Ruff. Autumn. Ageing. Pattern of rump: left adult; right 1° year.



Ruff. Autumn. Ageing. Pattern of tail feathers: left adult; right 1° year.



Ruff. Autumn. Ageing. Pattern of wing coverts: top adult; bottom 1° year.



Ruff. Autumn. Ageing. Colour of legs: top adult; bottom 1° year.

**MOULT**

Complete **postbreeding** moult starting in breeding areas, usually suspended during migration and finished in wintering sites. Partial **postjuvenile** moult involving body feathers, scapulars, many wing coverts, outer tail feathers and a few tertials; starts in breeding areas and finished in wintering sites. Both age classes have a **prebreeding** moult in wintering sites involving most of the body feathers, scapulars, tertials and some tail feathers; after arriving in breeding areas have another moult in which **adult males** acquire the display plumage; this second moult in **2nd year** birds is only restricted to a few feathers.

**PHENOLOGY**

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

- Summer visitor
- Wintering
- Resident
- On passage

**05170 Ruff** (*Calidris alpina*)



Ruff. Autumn. Adult. Female (18-VIII)



Ruff. Autumn. Adult. Head pattern: top male (18-VIII); bottom female (18-VIII)



Ruff. Autumn. 1st year. Male (06-IX)



Ruff. Autumn. 1st year. Head pattern: top male (06-IX); bottom female (18-VIII)



Ruff. Autumn. 1st year. Female (18-VIII)



Ruff. Autumn. Adult. Breast pattern: top male (18-VIII); bottom female (18-VIII)

**05170 Ruff** (*Calidris alpina*)



Ruff. Autumn. 1st year. Breast pattern: top male (06-IX);  
bottom female (18-VIII)



Ruff. Autumn. Adult. Upperpart pattern: left male (18-VIII);  
right female (18-VIII)



Ruff. Autumn. 1st year. Upperpart pattern: left male (06-IX);  
right female (18-VIII)



Ruff. Autumn. Adult. Legs pattern: top male (18-VIII);  
bottom female (18-VIII)



Ruff. Autumn. 1st year. Legs pattern: top male (06-IX);  
bottom female (18-VIII)



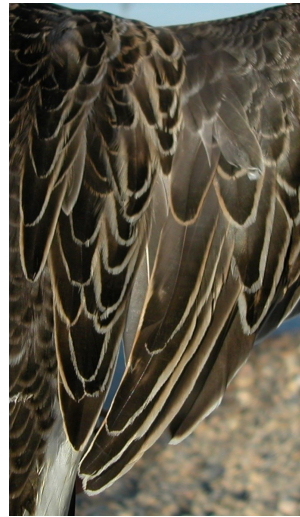
Ruff. Autumn. Adult. Tail pattern: left male (18-VIII); right female (18-VIII)



Ruff. Autumn. 1st year. Tail pattern: left male (06-IX); right female (18-VIII)



Ruff. Autumn. Adult. Pattern of tertials: left male (18-VIII); right female (18-VIII)



Ruff. Autumn. 1st year. Pattern of tertials: left male (06-IX); right female (18-VIII)



Ruff. Autumn. Adult. Male: pattern of wing coverts (18-VIII).



Ruff. Autumn. Adult. Female: pattern of wing coverts (18-VIII).



Ruff. Autumn. 1st year. Male: pattern of wing covers (06-IX).



Ruff. Autumn. 1st year. Female: pattern of wing covers (18-VIII).



Ruff. Autumn. Adult. Male: pattern of primaries in active moult (18-VIII).



Ruff. Autumn. Adult. Female: pattern of primaries in active moult (18-VIII).



Ruff. Autumn. 1st year. Male: pattern of primaries (06-IX).



Ruff. Autumn. 1st year. Female: pattern of primaries (18-VIII).



Ruff. Autumn. Adult. Male: pattern of secondaries in active moult (18-VIII).

**05170 Ruff** (*Calidris alpina*)



Ruff. Autumn. Adult. Female: pattern of secondaries in active moult (18-VIII).



Ruff. Autumn. Adult. Male: pattern of wing in active moult (18-VIII).



Ruff. Autumn. 1st year. Male: pattern of secondaries (06-IX).



Ruff. Autumn. Adult. Female: pattern of wing in active moult (18-VIII).



Ruff. Autumn. 1st year. Female: pattern of secondaries (18-VIII).



Ruff. Autumn. 1st year. Male: pattern of wing (06-IX).





Ruff. Autumn. 1st year. Male: pattern of wing (18-VIII).