

# 05 Little Grebe

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Little Grebe. Summer. Male (08-VIII).

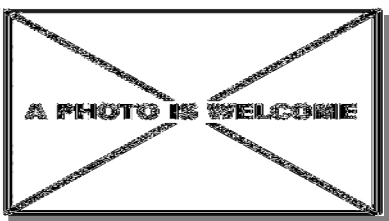
## LITTLE GREBE (*Tachybaptus ruficollis*)

### IDENTIFICATION

25-29 cm. In **summer** with dark grey plumage, with chestnut cheeks and foreneck; bill with pale yellow gape. In **winter** and **juveniles** paler, with brown upperparts and pale grey underparts, without yellow gape on bill.



Little Grebe. Pattern of head: top summer; bottom winter.



### SIMILAR SPECIES

This species is unmistakable by its little size and neck pattern.

### SEXING

Both sexes with similar plumage, although in **breeding** plumage **females** are usually duller than **males**. (**CAUTION:** plumage pattern is not always an useful character). In **adults**, size can be useful for extreme birds: **male** with wing longer than 102 mm; **female** with wing shorter than 95 mm.

### AGEING

4 types of age can be recognized:

**Juvenile** with remnants of nestling pattern (dark brown or white striping) on sides of head and neck; cheeks or back of neck streaked white; iris dark.

**1st year winter** similar to **adults**, but easily determined if keep juvenile downy feathers on back or remnants of white or dark brown striping on sides of face or neck; iris dull reddish; outermost primaries narrow.

**2nd year spring** similar to **adults**, but with primary coverts and the outermost juvenile primaries narrow.

**Adult** with brick red iris; primary coverts and the outermost primaries rounded.



Little Grebe. Summer. Ageing. Pattern of head and iris colour: top adult; bottom juvenile.



### MOULT

Complete **postbreeding** moult, usually finished by November. Partial **postjuvenile** moult, confined to head and body feathers; finished between August and November. Both types of age have a partial **prebreeding** moult changing body feathers to acquire the breeding plumage.

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**PHENOLOGY**

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

**STATUS IN ARAGON**

Resident, with contribution of wintering European birds. Breeds in ponds with good vegetated margins in the Ebro Valley and Gallocanta.



Little Grebe. Summer. Head pattern: top male (08-VIII); middle female (08-VIII); bottom juvenile (18-VII).



Little Grebe. Summer. Female (08-VIII).



Little Grebe. Summer. Breast pattern: top left male (08-VIII); top right female (08-VIII); left juvenile (18-VII).



Little Grebe. Summer. Juvenile (18-VII).



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Little Grebe. Summer. Upperpart pattern: top left male (08-VIII); top right female (08-VIII); left juvenile (18-VII).



Little Grebe. Summer. 2nd year: pattern of secondaries (08-VIII).



Little Grebe. Summer. Juvenile: pattern of secondaries (18-VII).



Little Grebe. Summer. Adult: pattern of secondaries (08-VIII).



Little Grebe. Summer. Adult: pattern of primary coverts (08-VIII).

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Little Grebe. Summer. 2nd year: pattern of primary coverts (08-VIII).



Little Grebe. Summer. 2nd year: pattern of primaries (08-VIII).



Little Grebe. Summer. Juvenile: pattern of primary coverts (18-VII).



Little Grebe. Summer. Juvenile: pattern of primaries (18-VII).



Little Grebe. Summer. Adult: pattern of primaries (08-VIII).



Little Grebe. Summer. Adult: pattern of wing (08-VIII).



Little Grebe. Summer. 2nd year: pattern of wing (08-VIII).

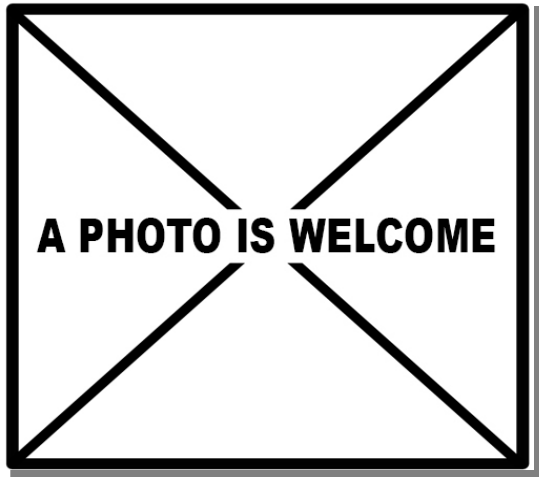


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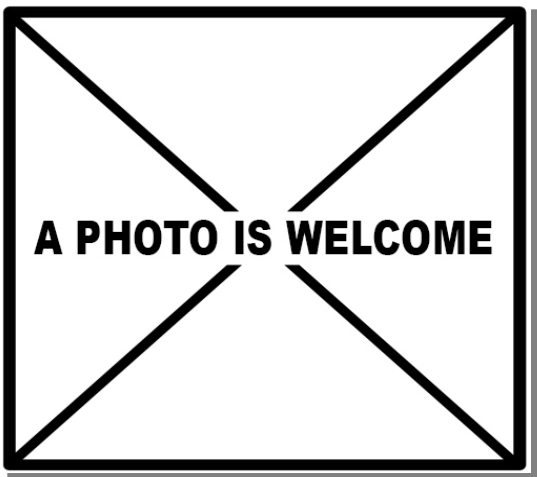
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Little Grebe. Summer. Juvenile: pattern of wing (18-VII).



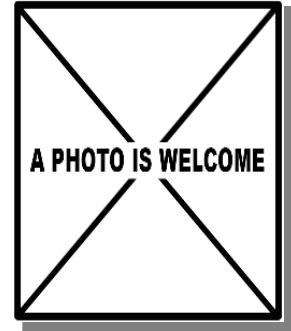
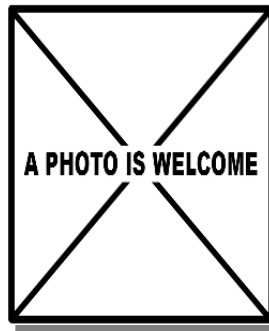
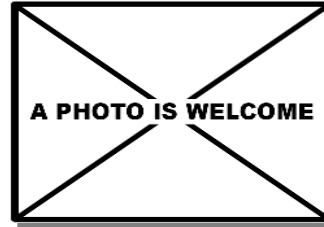
Little Grebe. Winter. Adult ().



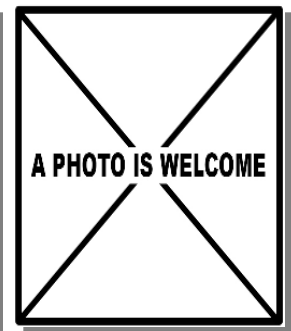
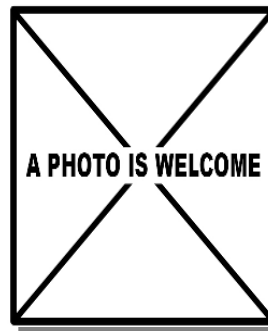
Little Grebe. Winter. 1st year ().



Little Grebe. Winter. Head pattern: top adult (); bottom 1st year ().



Little Grebe. Winter. Breast pattern: left adult (); right 1st year ().



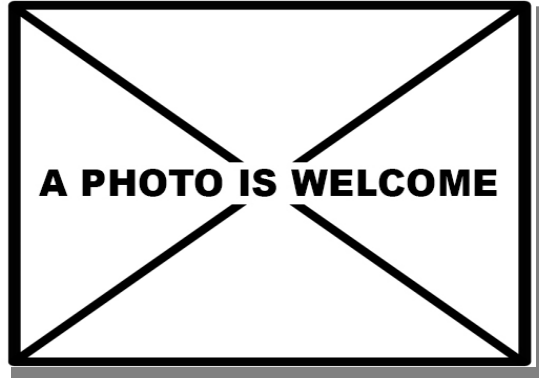
Little Grebe. Winter. Upperpart pattern: left adult (); right 1st year ().

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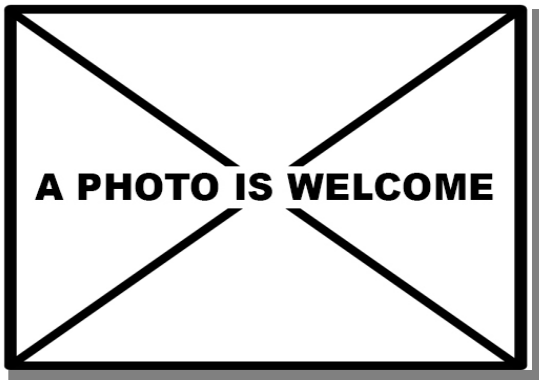
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Little Grebe. Winter. Adult: pattern of secondaries (08-I).



Little Grebe. Winter. 1st year: pattern of primary coverts ().



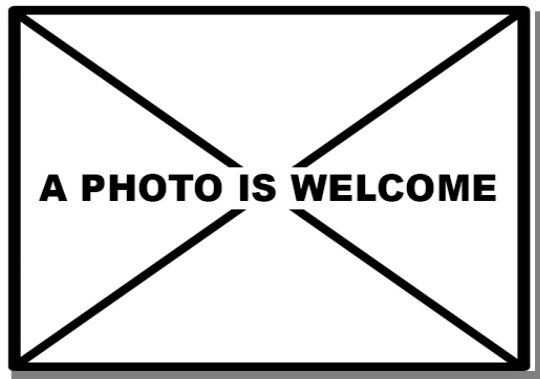
Little Grebe. Winter. 1st year: pattern of secondaries ().



Little Grebe. Winter. Adult: pattern of primaries (08-I).



Little Grebe. Winter. Adult: pattern of primary coverts (08-I).



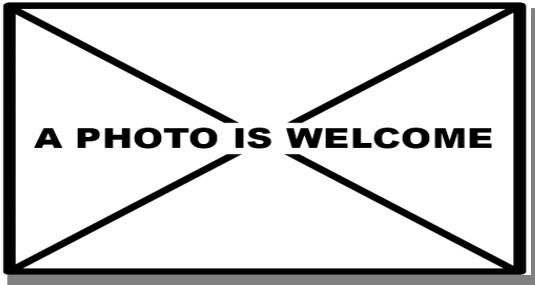
Little Grebe. Winter. 1st year: pattern of primaries ().

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Little Grebe. Winter. Adult: pattern of wing (08-I).



Little Grebe. Winter. 1st year: pattern of wing ().