White Stork

WHITE STORK \((Ciconia ciconia)\)

IDENTIFICATION
100-115 cm. White plumage with black wings; red bill; long and red legs. **Juveniles** with duller bill, legs and dark areas.

SIMILAR SPECIES
This species is unmistakable

SEXING
Both sexes with similar plumage. In **adults**, **male** with lower mandible of bill slightly curved; gular patch with a large posterior orange area mottled black; in **breeding** season, with colourfull bare skins. **Female** with lower mandible of bill straight; gular patch without or with a small orange area; in **breeding** season, with dull bare skins. In **adult** birds, **male** with wing longer than 590 mm (CAUTION: birds with wing shorter than 590 mm can belong to both sexes).

White Stork. Spring. Adult (08-V)


AGEING
3 types of age can be recognized:
- **Juvenile** with brown tinge on black scapulars and wing coverts; grey brown bill, sometimes with reddish base; dull red legs.
- **2nd year** with retained brown juvenile flight feathers, having two ages of feathers in spring and three ages in summer.
- **Adult** with green or purple gloss on black flight feathers; bright red bill and legs; with one or several ages of feathers, but all with black glossy with adult pattern.

PHENOLOGY

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STATUS IN ARAGON
Summer visitor in origin, but now resident.
A common species in the Ebro Valley near irrigated areas.

MOULT
Complete postbreeding moult, starting in breeding season and finished during winter. Usually complete postjuvenile moult but some birds can retain juvenile flight feathers; wing feathers moulted from spring to winter of their 2nd year.

White Stork. Spring. Head pattern and colour of bill: top adult (08-V); bottom 2nd year (02-IV).
White Stork. Spring. Breast pattern: left adult (08-V); right 2nd year ().

White Stork. Spring. Tail pattern: left adult (08-V); right 2nd year ().

White Stork. Spring. Upperparts pattern: left adult (08-V); right 2nd year ().

White Stork. Spring. Adult: pattern of primary coverts (08-V)

White Stork. Spring. Legs pattern: left adult (08-V); right 2nd year (02-IV).

White Stork. Spring. 2nd year: pattern of primary coverts (04-I)
White Stork. Spring. Adult: pattern of primaries (08-V)

White Stork. Spring. Adult: pattern of secondaries (08-V)

White Stork. Spring. 2nd year: pattern of primaries (04-I)

White Stork. Spring. 2nd year: pattern of secondaries (04-I)

http://blascozumeta.com
White Stork. Spring. Adult: pattern of wing (08-V)

White Stork. Spring. 2nd year: pattern of wing (04-I).

White Stork. Summer. Adult (09-VIII)

White Stork. Summer. 2nd year (17-VIII)
White Stork. Summer. Head pattern and bill colour: top left adult (09-VIII); top right 2nd year (17-VIII); left juvenile (20-VI).

White Stork. Summer. Breast pattern and bill colour: top left adult (09-VIII); top right 2nd year (17-VIII); left juvenile (20-VI).

White Stork. Summer. Upperparts pattern and bill colour: top left adult (09-VIII); top right 2nd year (17-VIII); left juvenile (20-VI).

White Stork. Summer. Juvenile (20-VI)
White Stork. Summer. Tail pattern and bill colour: top left adult (09-VIII); top right 2nd year (17-VIII); left juvenile (20-VI).

White Stork. Summer. Adult: pattern of primary coverts (09-VIII)

White Stork. Summer. 2nd year: pattern of primary coverts (17-VIII)

White Stork. Summer. Juvenile: pattern of primary coverts (20-VI)
White Stork. Summer. Adult: pattern of primaries (09-VIII)

White Stork. Summer. Juvenile: pattern of primaries (20-VI)

White Stork. Summer. 2nd year: pattern of primaries (17-VIII)

White Stork. Summer. Adult: pattern of secundaries (09-VIII)
White Stork. Summer. Juvenile: pattern of secundaries (20-VI)

White Stork. Summer. 2nd year: pattern of secundaries (1 juvenile feathers; 2 2nd year feathers from spring; 3 2nd year feathers from autumn (17-VIII)

White Stork. Summer. Adult: pattern of wing (09-VIII)

White Stork. Summer. 2nd year: pattern of wing (17-VIII)

White Stork. Summer. Juvenile: pattern of secundaries (20-VI)

White Stork. Summer. Juvenile: pattern of wing (20-VI)