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.

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).

SIMILAR SPECIES
This species is unmistakable

**White Stork. Spring. Adult (08-V)**

**White Stork. Sexing. Pattern of bill: top male; bottom female.**

**White Stork. Pattern of head, bill and legs.**

**White Stork. Sexing. Pattern of bill: left male; right female.**
AGEING
4 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 autumn/3rd year spring** with two ages of flight feathers; the shorter and brown juvenile retained contrasting with the adult moulted, longer and black.
**3rd year autumn** easily recognizable while maintaining some juvenile flight feathers; then with three ages of flight feathers, the brown juvenile still retained and two ages of black feathers with adult pattern.
**Adult** with green or purple gloss on black flight feathers; bill and legs bright red; with one or several ages of flight feathers, but all glossy black with adult pattern.

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.

PHENOLOGY

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STATUS IN ARAGON
Summer visitor in origin, but now resident. A common species in the Ebro Valley near...
White Stork. Head pattern and bill colour: top left adult (09-VIII); top right 3rd year (17-VIII); left juvenile (20-VI).

White Stork. Upperparts pattern: top left adult (09-VIII); top right 3rd year (17-VIII); left juvenile (20-VI).

White Stork. Breast pattern and bill colour: top left adult (09-VIII); top right 3rd year (17-VIII); left juvenile (20-VI).

White Stork. Tail pattern: top left adult (09-VIII); top right 3rd year (17-VIII); left juvenile (20-VI).
White Stork. Legs pattern: top left adult (09-VIII); top right 3rd year (17-VIII); left juvenile (20-VI).

White Stork. Juvenile: pattern of primary coverts (20 VI)

White Stork. 3rd year autumn: pattern of primary coverts (17-VIII)

White Stork. 3rd year spring: pattern of primary coverts (04-I)

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

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

White Stork. 3rd year autumn: pattern of primary coverts (17-VIII)
White Stork. Adult spring: pattern of primaries (08-V)

White Stork. 3rd year autumn: pattern of primaries (17-VIII)

White Stork. Adult autumn: pattern of primaries (09-VIII)

White Stork. 3rd year spring: pattern of primaries (04-I)
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<td>White Stork. Adult spring: pattern of secondaries (08-V)</td>
<td>White Stork. 3rd year autumn: pattern of secundaries (1 juvenile feathers; 2 and 3 generations of adult feathers) (17-VIII)</td>
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White Stork

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

White Stork. 3rd year spring: pattern of secondaries (04-I)

White Stork. Adult spring: pattern of wing (08-V)

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

White Stork. 3rd year autumn: pattern of wing (17-VIII)
White Stork. 3rd year spring: pattern of wing (04-I).

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