BAILLON’S CRAKE (*Porzana pusilla*)

**IDENTIFICATION**
16-19 cm. Reddish brown underparts, with black streaks and white spots; grey bluish forehead; dark brown wings, with white spots on coverts and scapulars; pale grey throat; slate grey underparts; flanks and tail undercoverts barred black and white; green bill.

**SIMILAR SPECIES**
Water Rail has a long and red bill. Juvenile and adult Spotted Crake have white speckling on head, breast and nape. Adult Little Crake with a red spot on base of bill, without a large barred area on flanks and thighs and without white marking on wing coverts; juvenile lacks black dots on crown and less barred chest.

**SEXING**
Very similar plumage in both sexes; many, but not all birds, can be sexed using colour of chin which is grey as the rest of underparts in male and paler than the rest of underparts in female. Juveniles cannot be sexed using plumage characters.

**AGEING**
3 types of age can be recognized: Juvenile with short and rounded streaked on upperparts; whitish-buff underparts with brown speckling; undertail coverts and flanks with dark brown and white barring; off-white throat; cheeks and side of neck off-white with brown mottled; olive-green iris; dark horn bill. 2nd year similar to adults, but with retained juvenile flight feathers, primary coverts and alula which will be more worn than in adults; some birds may still have a small amount of brown in the ear-coverts. Adult with elongated streaks on upperparts; grey underparts without brown speckling; undertail coverts and flanks with black and white barring; grey throat; grey slate cheeks and side of neck; red-brown iris; deep green bill.

**MOULT**
Complete postbreeding moult, with birds completing moult before migration and others starting moult in winter quarters. Partial postjuvenile moult confined to body and tail feathers; some birds start moult in breeding places and other wait till winter. Bad known prebreeding moult with probably some body feathers renewed.

**PHENOLOGY**

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**STATUS IN ARAGON**
Poorly known status. There is some breeding records in Cinco Villas, being a more common species on passage.