172 Kentish Plover


KENTISH PLOVER (Charadrius alexandrinus)

IDENTIFICATION
15-16 cm. Grey-brown upperparts; white underparts; breastband restricted to lateral patches, black on male and brown on female; rufous crown, edged black in male; brown wings with white band; bill and legs dark. Juveniles and adults in autumn browner, without black on head and with feathers on upperparts edged buff.

ESPECIES SIMILARES
Ringed Plover and Little Ringed Plover have a complete breastband and pale legs.
SEXING

In breeding plumage, male with black patches on head and breast; rufous crown. Female without black patches on head and breast (some birds only with dark feathers); pale brown crown. In autumn, after postbreeding moult, males tend to have white collar and supercilium broader than females, but variation and overlap are so great that these are not always useful characters for sexing; in the early winter, males can be recognized since they have their first black feathers on head and collar. Juveniles cannot be sexed.
AGEING

3 types of age can be recognized:

**Juvenile** with upperparts and wing coverts grey-brown with distinct buff fringes; breast patches pale brown, often indistinct. In **autumn** similar to **adult**, but with tertials slightly worn; tail feathers pointed with a pale edge.

**1st year autumn/2nd year spring** similar to **adult**, but can retain some **juvenile** feathers on upperparts; rump and wing coverts. In spring, **2nd year** birds recognized by worn flight feathers than **adults**.

**Adult** in **spring** with black or brown band on head and patch on breast: wing coverts grey-brown with pale edge. In **autumn**, after **postbreeding** moult, both sexes are similar to **juveniles**, but with fresh tertials; tail feathers rounded without a pale edge.

Kentish Plover. Spring. Adult. Female ().

**MOULT**
Complete *postbreeding* moult, usually finished in October. Partial *postjuvenile* moult including body feathers (some juvenile feathers retained on upperparts), tail, wing coverts (most of the greater coverts retained) with flight feathers remaining unmoulted; starts in August and finished in winter quarters. Both types of age have a *prebreeding* moult, between January and April, including most of the body feathers, some wing coverts, scapulars and tertials only in some birds.

Kentish Plover. Spring. 2nd year. Male ()..

**PHENOLOGY**

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**STATUS EN ARAGON**
Summer visitor with some wintering birds. Breeds in salty wetlands in Gallocanta, Chiprana, Estaña and Monegros.

Kentish Plover. Spring. 2nd year. Female ().
Kentish Plover.
Spring.
Adult.
Head pattern: top male (11-V); bottom female ().

Kentish Plover. Spring. 2nd year. Crown pattern: left male (); right female ().

Kentish Plover. Spring. 2nd year. Nape pattern: left male (11-V); right female ().

Kentish Plover. Spring. Adult. Breast pattern: left male (11-V); right female ().
Kentish Plover. Spring. 2nd year. Breast pattern: left male (); right female ().

Kentish Plover. Spring. Adult. Upperpart pattern: left male (11-V); right female ().

Kentish Plover. Spring. 2nd year. Upperpart pattern: left male (); right female ().

Kentish Plover. Spring. Adult. Pattern of legs: top male (11-V); bottom female ().

Kentish Plover. Spring. 2nd year. Pattern of legs: top male (); bottom female ().

Kentish Plover. Spring. Adult. Tail pattern: left male (11-V); right female ().

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Kentish Plover. Spring. 2nd year. Tail pattern: left male (); right female ()

Kentish Plover. Spring. Adult. Pattern of tertials: left male (11-V); right female ()

Kentish Plover. Spring. 2nd year. Pattern of tertials: left male (); right female ()

Kentish Plover. Spring. Adult. Male: pattern of wing coverts (11-V)

Kentish Plover. Spring. Adult. Female: pattern of wing coverts ()

Kentish Plover. Spring. 2nd year. Male: pattern of wing coverts ()

Kentish Plover. Spring. 2nd year. Pattern of tertials: left male (); right female ()
Kentish Plover. Spring. 2nd year. Female: pattern of wing coverts.


Kentish Plover. Spring. Adult. Female: pattern of primaries ().

Kentish Plover. Spring. 2nd year. Male: pattern of primaries ().

Kentish Plover. Spring. 2nd year. Female: pattern of primaries ().


Kentish Plover. Spring. 2nd year. Female: pattern of secondaries (12-V).


Kentish Plover. Spring. 2nd year. Male: pattern of wing ()

Kentish Plover. Autumn. Adult (06-IX).


Kentish Plover. Autumn. Head pattern: top adult (06-IX); bottom juvenile (31-VIII).
Kentish Plover. Autumn. Crown pattern: left adult (06-IX); right juvenile (31-VIII).

Kentish Plover. Autumn. Upperpart pattern: left adult (06-IX); right juvenile (31-VIII).

Kentish Plover. Autumn. Nape pattern: left adult (06-IX); right juvenile (31-VIII).

Kentish Plover. Autumn. Pattern of legs: top adult (06-IX); bottom juvenile (31-VIII).

Kentish Plover. Autumn. Breast pattern: left adult (06-IX); right juvenile (31-VIII).

Kentish Plover. Autumn. Tail pattern: left adult (06-IX); right juvenile (31-VIII).


Kentish Plover. Autumn. Wear of tertials: left adult (06-IX); right juvenile (31-VIII).