IDENTIFICATION
13-14 cm. Black legs and short bill. In breeding plumage dark brownish upperparts with chestnut streaks; wings with pale band; white underparts with brown band on breast; pale supercilium. In winter grey brown upperparts; white underparts with grey band on breast.

SIMILAR SPECIES
Can recall a Dunlin, which has longer bill and bigger size (17-18 cm).

SEXING
Plumage of both sexes alike; size can be helpful in extreme birds: male with wing shorter than 95 mm; female with wing longer than 99 mm.

AGEING
3 types of age can be recognized:
1st year autumn with fresh plumage; dark brown cap, edged chestnut; brown-black upperparts, with bright chestnut and whitish fringes and edges forming “V” lines on back; nape grey brown with brownish streaks; brown coverts, with chestnut fringes on outers and bright chestnut on inners; whitish underparts with fairly buff band on upper breast; rump without chestnut tips.
2nd year spring with plumage similar to adults, but can be recognized by retain some juvenile inner median covert with bright chestnut edge; birds with unmoulted primaries show moult limit between fresh and worn feathers.
Adults in spring have black brown cap, with rufous edges; black brown upperparts with bright chestnut edges; brown wing coverts, with paler edges and whitish tips; white underparts with distinct brown band on upper breast; rump with chestnut streaks. In autumn with eroded plumage; on upperparts with new feathers grey brown with dark streaks; moulted coverts grey brown; white underparts, with grey band on upper breast.
MOULT

Complete postbreeding moult, starting in August and with wintering plumage between late September and December. Complete postjuvenile moult (CAUTION: some birds with unmoulted outer primaries), later than adult, starting in October and with moult of primaries in December-April, with some birds retaining body feathers till their prebreeding moult. Both types of age have a prebreeding moult, between February and May, including body feathers and sometimes central tail feathers.

PHENOLOGY

STATUS IN ARAGON

Usually only found on passage in Aragon; some scarce wintering birds in Gallocanta and rice fields in Cinco Villas.


Little Stint. Autumn. 1st year (22-VIII).
Little Stint. Autumn. Head pattern: top adult (22-VIII); bottom 1st year (22-VIII)

Little Stint. Autumn. Crown pattern: left adult (22-VIII); right 1st year (22-VIII)

Little Stint. Autumn. Flank pattern: top adult (22-VIII); bottom 1st year (22-VIII)

Little Stint. Autumn. Nape pattern: left adult (22-VIII); right 1st year (22-VIII)
Little Stint. Autumn. Upperaprt pattern: left adult (22-VIII); right 1st year (22-VIII)


Little Stint. Autumn. Colour of legs: top adult (22-VIII); bottom 1st year (22-VIII)

Little Stint. Autumn. 1st year: pattern of primary coverts (22-VIII).

Little Stint. Autumn. Wear of tertials: left adult (22-VIII); right 1st year (22-VIII)

Little Stint. Autumn. Tail pattern: left adult (22-VIII); right 1st year (22-VIII)

Little Stint. Autumn. 1st year: pattern of secondaries (22-VIII).

Little Stint. Autumn. 1st year: pattern of primaries (22-VIII).


Little Stint. Autumn. 1st year: pattern of wing (22-VIII).