187 Curlew Sandpiper

Curlew Sandpiper. Spring. Adult (07-V)

 CURLEW SANDPIPER (Calidris ferruginea)

IDENTIFICATION
18-19 cm. In breeding plumage with dark brown upperparts and reddish underparts; in non-breeding plumage with grey upperparts and white underparts; head with pale supercilium; wing with a white band; bill long and curved; dark legs.

SEXING
In non breeding plumage pattern of both sexes alike. In breeding plumage brightness and intensity of chestnut areas is highly variable in both sexes, so it is not a significant characteristic for sex identification. Also biometric measurements show overlap.

AGEING
Since 2nd year birds usually remain in their wintering sites, in Aragon only 2 age classes can be recognized:
1st year autumn with very fresh plumage; lesser and median coverts light grey with dark shaft streak and a broad rounded buff to whitish edge; feathers of upperparts dull grey with a darker subterminal edge and white tip; flight feathers of single generation.
Adult in both spring and autumn migratory passage with chestnut feathers on head and breast; wing coverts with a mix of grey non-breeding and black and chestnut breeding feathers; in autumn with all flight feathers worn if unmoulted or with a mix of old unmoulted and fresh changed feathers; moulted feathers of upperparts grey brown with darker shaft streak.

SIMILAR SPECIES
In breeding plumage unmistakable due to chestnut pattern on head and underparts. In non-breeding plumage recalls a Dunlin, which has shorter bill and a dark line on rump.

Curlew Sandpiper. Pattern of bill, rump, wing and legs.

Curlew Sandpiper. Autumn.

No image.

Curlew Sandpiper. Autumn.

Pattern of breast: top adult; bottom 1st year.

Dunlin. Autumn
MOULT

Complete postbreeding moult, starting in breeding places and finished in wintering sites. Partial postjuvenile moult similar to adult but usually not started, or it is very little, till arriving to wintering areas; some juvenile flight feathers can be retained. Both age classes have a partial prebreeding moult involving body feathers, most of scapulars, some tertials, some tail feathers and sometimes some wing coverts.

PHENOLOGY

STATUS IN ARAGON

Recorded on passage in any wetland of the region.


Curlew Sandpiper. Autumn Adult ()

Curlew Sandpiper. Autumn 1st year (14-IX)

http://blascozumeta.com
Curlew Sandpiper.
Pattern of head and bill: top adult in spring (07-V); middle adult in autumn (); bottom 1st year (14-IX)

Curlew Sandpiper.
Breast pattern: top adult in spring (07-V); middle adult in autumn (); bottom 1st year (14-IX)

Curlew Sandpiper.
Nape pattern: top left adult in spring (07-V); top right adult in autumn (); left 1st year (14-IX)

Curlew Sandpiper.
Flank pattern: top adult in spring (07-V); middle adult in autumn (); bottom 1st year (14-IX)
Curlew Sandpiper. Spring. Adult: pattern of wing coverts (07-V)

Curlew Sandpiper. Autumn. Adult: pattern of wing coverts (16-VII) (Photo: Ottenby Bird Observatory)

Curlew Sandpiper. Autumn. 1st year: pattern of wing coverts (14-IX)
Curlew Sandpiper. Spring. Adult: pattern of primary coverts (07-V)

Curlew Sandpiper. Autumn. Adult: pattern of primary coverts (16-VII) (Photo: Ottenby Bird Observatory)

Curlew Sandpiper. Autumn. 1st year: pattern of primary coverts (14-IX)

Curlew Sandpiper. Spring. Adult: pattern of secondaries (07-V)
Curlew Sandpiper. Autumn. Adult: pattern of secondaries (16-VII) (Photo: Ottenby Bird Observatory)

Curlew Sandpiper. Autumn. 1st year: pattern of secondaries (14-IX)

Curlew Sandpiper. Spring. Adult: pattern of wing (07-V)

Curlew Sandpiper. Spring. Adult: pattern of primaries (07-V)

Curlew Sandpiper. Autumn. Adult: pattern of primaries (16-VII) (Photo: Ottenby Bird Observatory)
Curlew Sandpiper. Autumn. 1st year: pattern of wing (14-IX)