187 Curlew Sandpiper

Curlew Sandpiper. Spring. Adult (07-V)

CURLEW SANDPIPER (Calidris ferrugi-nea)

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.

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.

SEXING

In non breeding plumage pattern of both sexes alike. In breeding plumage, male with chestnut colours deeper than female but it is not always an useful character due to overlap. Length of bill can be useful in extreme birds: female with bill longer than 40 mm; male with bill shorter than 36 mm.

AGEING

Usually 2nd year birds remain in their wintering quarters, so in Aragon only 2 types of age can be recognized: 1st year with dark brown upperparts with whitish-buff and chestnut fringes; brown wing coverts with broad buff fringes; white underparts usually suffused buff; breast faintly streaked brownish.

Adult in breeding plumage (spring) with dark brown upperparts with whitish or pale grey fringes; brown-grey wing coverts, outers with grey tip and inners fringed whitish; chestnut underparts, with dark bars and whitish tips. In autumn, after postbreeding moult, with grey upperparts; grey wing coverts with whitish fringes; white underparts; pale breast streaked grey brown.

MOULT
Complete postbreeding moult, starting with body feathers in breeding places, then suspended for migration and finished in wintering quarters. 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 types of age have a prebreeding moult, between February and April, including body feathers, central tail feathers, some tertial and sometimes median wing coverts.

PHENOLOGY

STATUS IN ARAGON
Recorded on passage in any wetland of the region.
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 ()

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 ()

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 ()

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 ()

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