**Eurasian Woodcock**

**IDENTIFICATION**
34-36 cm. Grey upperparts; with black and buff streaked; grey underparts, with transversal lines; grey and brown crown, with pale transversal lines; brown wings con pale buff bands; dark tail, with reddish tinge; long bill, darker on tip.

**SIMILAR SPECIES**
Recalls a **Common Snipe** (25-28 cm), which is smaller and has longitudinal lines on crown.

**SEXING**
Plumage of both sexes alike.

**AGEING**
3 types of age can be recognized:
- **Juvenile** similar to **adults** but with tips of primary coverts broad buff edged; fresh plumage.
- **1st year autumn/2nd year spring** maintain tips of primary coverts broad buff edged; pale flight feathers; primaries with worn tips.
- **Adult** with narrow pale tips on primary coverts; dark flight feathers; primaries with fresh tips.

**CAUTION:** wear on primary tips in not evident in early winter.
STATUS IN ARAGON
Breeds scarcely in forests with wet soil of Montcayo and Pyrenees. Wintering or in passage widely distributed throughout the Region

MOULT
Complete postbreeding moult, usually finished in September. Partial postjuvenile moult involving body feathers, all or most of tail, lesser and median coverts and inner secondaries with their coverts; usually finished in October. Adults have a prebreeding moult including some body feathers, wing coverts and tail feathers.

PHENOLOGY

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Woodcock. Ageing. Pattern of tail feathers (from below): left adult; right 1st year.


Woodcock. Adult ()

Woodcock. Juvenile ()

Woodcock. Head pattern: top adult (); middle 1st year (23-XII); bottom juvenile ().
Woodcock. Breast pattern: top left adult (); top right 1st year (23-XII); left juvenile ().

Woodcock. Upper-part pattern: top left adult (); top right 1st year (23-XII); left juvenile ().

Woodcock. Tail pattern: top left adult (); top right 1st year (23-XII); left juvenile ().

Woodcock. 1st year: pattern of primary coverts (16-XII).

Woodcock. Adult: pattern of primary coverts (16-XII).


Woodcock. 1st year: pattern of primaries (16-XII).


Woodcock. 1st year: pattern of secondaries (16-XII).
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Woodcock. Juvenile: pattern of secondaries ()

Woodcock. Adult: pattern of wing (16-XII).

Woodcock. 1st year: pattern of wing (16-XII).

Woodcock. Juvenile: pattern of wing ().