SPOTTED REDSHANK (Tringa erythropus)

IDENTIFICATION
30-31 cm. In spring with very dark plumage spotted white on upperparts; belly with some white barred; lower part of upperparts and rump white; greyish tail, with narrow dark barred; wing win white marks on feathers; bill dark with red base and dark red legs. In autumn greyish on upperparts, with neck and sides of breast greyish; head with white supercilium; white underparts; legs pale reddish.

SEXING
In fresh breeding plumage and only adult birds: male with blackish undertail coverts, feathers on crown black on distal half. Female with white undertail coverts, feathers on crown with pale edges to blackish on distal half. In non breeding plumage both sexes similar. In both seasons size can be an useful characteristic in extreme birds: male with wing shorter than 166 mm; female with wing longer than 173 mm.

SIMILAR SPECIES
Inmistakable in spring. In non breeding plumage recalls a Redshank, with shorter bill and a white patch on wing; Ruff has a wing band and two white bands on sides of uppertail.
AGEING
This species doesn’t breed in Aragon so only 3 age groups are recognized:
1st year with upperparts dark brown with buff spotted; median coverts with pale spotted at sides and a large central dark patch; white underparts with a brownish-grey barred; tail feathers narrow with pointed tips. **CAUTION:** throughout the autumn barred on underparts and spotted on median coverts is lost.

2nd year spring usually similar to adults; recognizable by primaries and outer tail feathers heavily worn; generally with some juvenile lesser, median and greater coverts retained, which will be very worn. **CAUTION:** ageing using wear of feathers is very subjective since it depends of individual birds and mainly of larger or shorter distance from the wintering areas.

Adult in autumn with upperparts grey; median coverts grey-brown with broad white edges and subterminal brown bars; tail feathers broad with rounded tips. In spring with primaries and central pair of tail feathers slightly worn; feathers of upperparts black with whitish tips in fresh plumage; underparts black with some whitish on belly (**CAUTION:** some 2nd year birds exhibit breeding plumage too).
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MOULT
Complete postbreeding moult, starting in breeding areas, suspended during migration and finished in wintering sites. Partial postjuvenile moult involving most of body feathers, some inner tertials, wing coverts and central tail feathers; started in breeding areas and finished in wintering sites. Both age classes have a prebreeding moult including body feathers, some or all tertials, occasionally some tail feathers and some lesser and median coverts.

PHENOLOGY

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ESTATUS EN ARAGÓN
Mainly only on passage. Widely distributed throughout the Region in scarce number.
Spotted Redshank. Autumn. Pattern of head: top adult (10-XI); bottom 1st year ()

Spotted Redshank. Autumn. Pattern of tertials: left adult (10-XI); right 1st year (21-IX)

Spotted Redshank. Autumn. Tail pattern: left adult (10-XI); right 1st year (21-IX)

Spotted Redshank. Autumn. Pattern of undertail coverts: left adult (10-XI); right 1st year (21-IX)

Spotted Redshank. Autumn. 1st year: pattern of wing coverts (21-IX)


Spotted Redshank. Autumn. 1st year: pattern of primary coverts (21-IX).


Spotted Redshank. Autumn. 1st year: pattern of secondaries (21-IX).

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