Common Sandpiper

COMMON SANDPIPER (*Actitis hypoleucos*)

IDENTIFICATION
19-22 cm. Upperparts brown olive, including rump and tail; white underparts, with streaked breast; wings with a white band; dark bill and greenish legs.

SIMILAR SPECIES
Recalls a Green Sandpiper, which is bigger, with white rump and lacks a white line on wing.

SEXING
Plumage of both sexes alike.

AGEING
3 age groups can be recognized:
- **Juvenile** with feathers of upperparts brown with extensive buffish tips and dark subterminal bands; scapulars and tertials with a narrow and rounded subterminal bar bordered by buff tip, without bars; wing coverts with double dark brown bar and rufous–buff tip; central tail feathers without bars or spots at sides; flight feathers fresh and always with one age; some birds with legs tinged pink.
- **2nd year** recognizable only if some juvenile median wing coverts, flight or tail feathers have been retained which will be very eroded contrasting with moulted feathers.
- **Adult** with feathers of upperparts with dark streaking and irregular barring; scapulars and tertials barred; wing coverts with a single dark subterminal bar and light buff tip; central tail feathers with dark subterminal band and short bars or spots at sides; with grey-greenish legs.

In **autumn** with flight feathers with two ages or, if only one, with worn feathers.
MOULT
Complete postbreeding moult, starting in breeding areas with some body feathers and finished in wintering sites. Postjuvenile moult complete or nearly complete since some birds can retain median wing coverts and flight and tail feathers; usually started in wintering sites. Both age classes have a prebreeding moult involving most of the body feathers, wing coverts, scapulars and most of tertials and tail feathers.

PHENOLOGY

STATUS IN ARAGON
Summer visitor, breeding in rivers in mountainous areas. Widely distributed on passage in wet places throughout the Region.
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Common Sandpiper. Spring. Breast pattern: top adult (01-V); bottom 2nd year (02-V).

Common Sandpiper. Spring. Pattern of tertials: left adult (01-V); right 2nd year (02-V).

Common Sandpiper. Spring. Upperpart pattern: left adult (01-V); right 2nd year (02-V).

Common Sandpiper. Spring. Tail pattern: left adult (01-V); right 2nd year (02-V).

Common Sandpiper. Spring. Adult: pattern of wing coverts (01-V).

Common Sandpiper. Spring. 2nd year: pattern of wing coverts (1 juvenile feathers; 2 postjuvenile feathers) (02-V).

Common Sandpiper. Spring. 2nd year: pattern of secondaries (02-V).


Common Sandpiper. Spring. 2nd year: pattern of primaries (02-V).
Common Sandpiper. Summer. Adult with eroded plumage (31-VII).

Common Sandpiper. Summer. Adult with slightly eroded plumage (27-VII).

Common Sandpiper. Summer. Juvenile (05-VIII)

Common Sandpiper. Summer. 2nd year (12-VIII)

Common Sandpiper. Summer. Head pattern: top adult (27-VII); middle 2nd year (12-VIII); bottom juvenile (05-VIII).
Common Sandpiper. Summer. Breast pattern: top adult (27-VII); middle 2nd year (12-VIII); bottom juvenile (05-VIII).

Common Sandpiper. Summer. Upperparts pattern: left 2nd year (12-VIII); right juvenile (05-VIII).


Common Sandpiper. Summer. Juvenile. Colour of legs: top with greenish legs (05-VIII); bottom with pinkish legs (01-VIII).

Common Sandpiper. Summer. Adult. Upperparts pattern: left with slightly eroded plumage (27-VII); right with eroded plumage (31-VII).


Common Sandpiper. Summer. Tail pattern: top left adult (27-VII); top right 2nd year (12-VIII); left juvenile (05-VIII).

Common Sandpiper. Summer. Pattern of scapulars and tertials: top left adult (27-VII); top right 2nd year (12-VIII); left juvenile (05-VIII).


Common Sandpiper. Summer. 2nd year: pattern of wing coverts (12-VIII).

Common Sandpiper. Summer. 2nd year: pattern of primaries (12-VIII).
Common Sandpiper. Summer. 2nd year: pattern of secondaries (12-VIII).


Common Sandpiper. Summer. 2nd year: pattern of wing (12-VIII).
