

# 187 Curlew Sandpiper

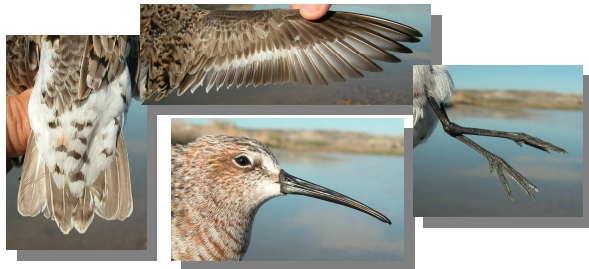


Curlew Sandpiper. Spring. Adult (07-V)

## 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.



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



Dunlin.  
Autumn

### SEXING

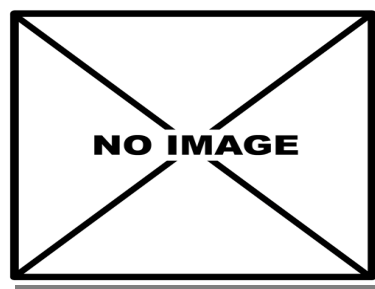
In **non breeding** plumage pattern of both sexes alike. In **breeding** plumage, **male** with chestnut colours deeper than **female** but it is not always an useful character due to overlap. Length of bill can be useful in extreme birds: **female** with bill longer than 40 mm; **male** with bill shorter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

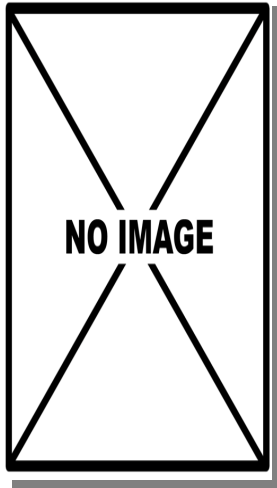
**Adult in breeding plumage (spring)** with dark brown upperparts with whitish or pale grey fringes; brown-grey wing coverts, outers with grey tip and inners fringed whitish; chestnut underparts, with dark bars and whitish tips. In **autumn**, after **postbreeding** moult, with grey upperparts; grey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



Curlew Sandpiper. Autumn. Ageing. Pattern of breast: top adult; bottom 1st year.



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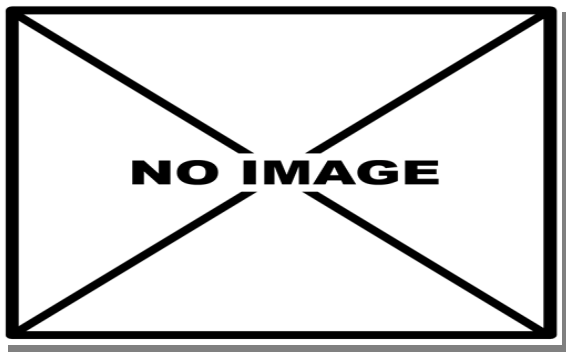
## MOULT

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

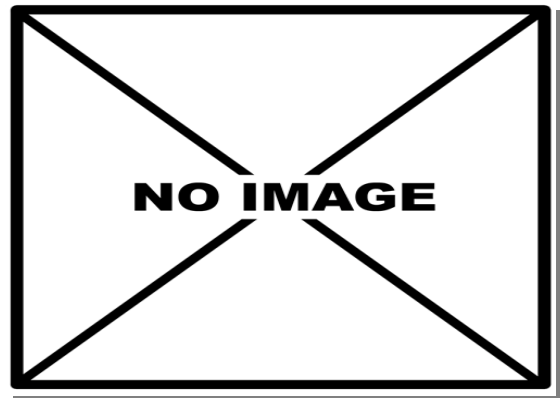
I	II	III	IV	V	VI	VII	VIII	IX	X	XI	XII

Curlew Sandpiper. Autumn. Ageing. Pattern of upperparts: left adult; right 1st year.



## STATUS IN ARAGON

Recorded on passage in any wetland of the region



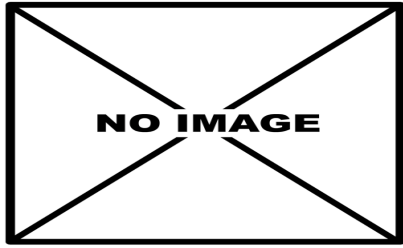
Curlew Sandpiper. Autumn Adult ( )

Curlew Sandpiper. Autumn. Ageing. Pattern of wing coverts: top adult; bottom 1st year.

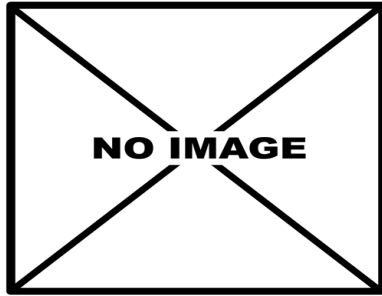


Curlew Sandpiper. Autumn 1st year (14-IX)

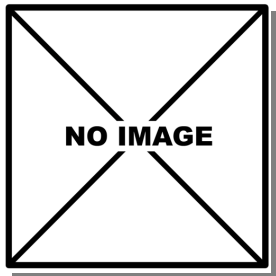
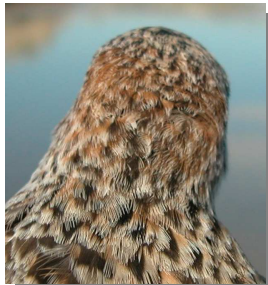
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Curlew Sandpiper. Pattern of head and bill: top adult in spring (07-V); middle adult in autumn (); bottom 1st year (14-IX)



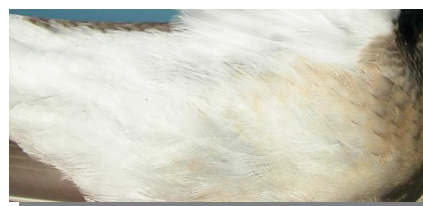
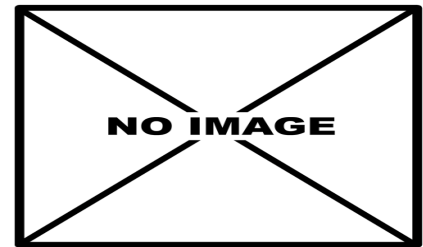
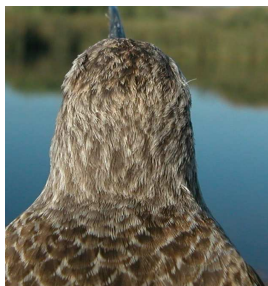
Curlew Sandpiper. Breast pattern: top adult in spring (07-V); middle adult in autumn (); bottom 1st year (14-IX)



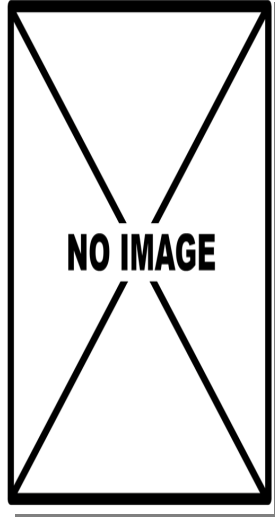
Curlew Sandpiper. Nape pattern: top left adult in spring (07-V); top right adult in autumn (); left 1st year (14-IX)



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



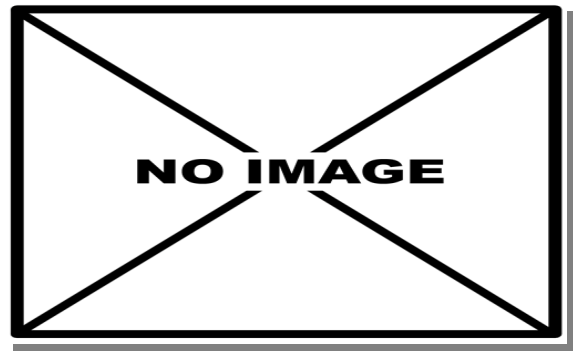
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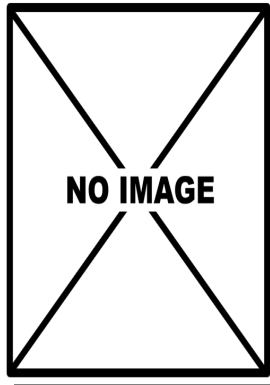
Curlew Sandpiper. Spring. Adult: pattern of wing coverts (07-V)



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



Curlew Sandpiper. Autumn. Adult: pattern of wing coverts ()

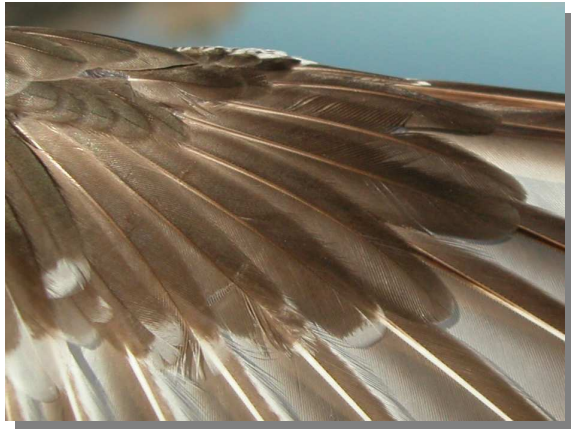


Curlew Sandpiper. Autumn. 1st year: pattern of wing coverts (14-IX)

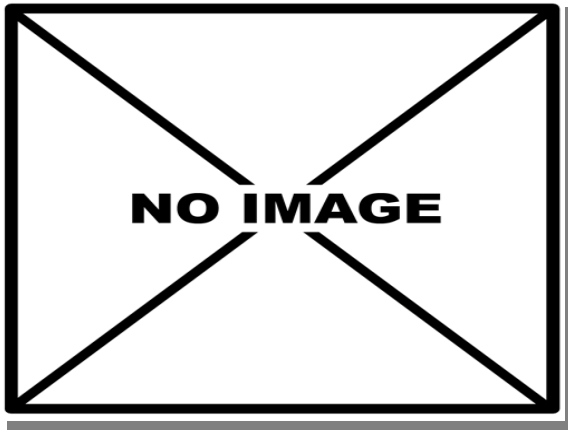
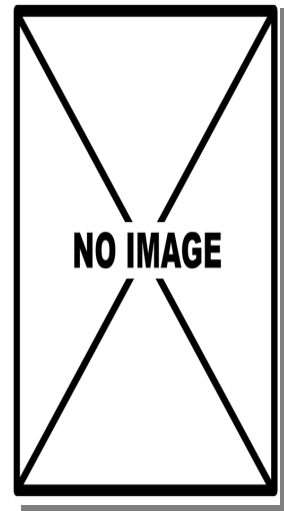


Curlew Sandpiper. Tail pattern: top left adult in spring (07-V); top right adult in autumn (); left 1st year (14-IX)

# 187 Curlew Sandpiper



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



Curlew Sandpiper. Autumn. Adult: pattern of primary covers ()



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

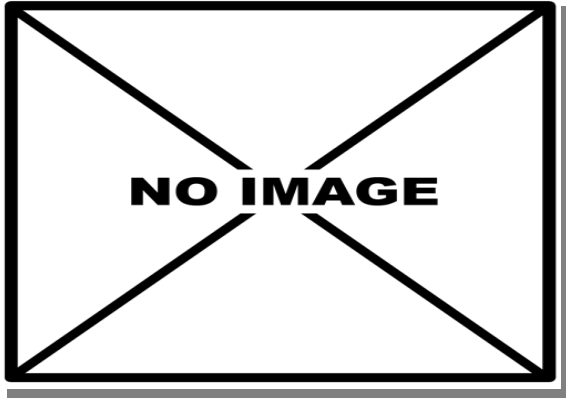


Curlew Sandpiper. Autumn. 1st year: pattern of primary covers (14-IX)

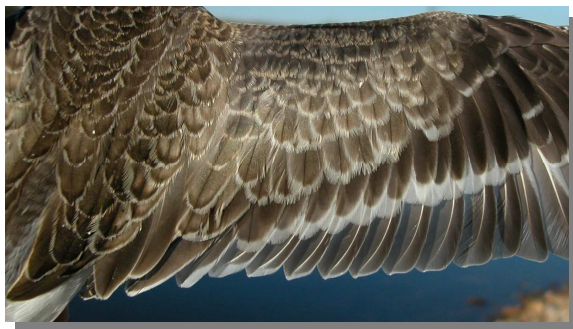


Curlew Sandpiper. Spring. Adult: pattern of secondaries (07-V)

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Curlew Sandpiper. Autumn. Adult: pattern of secondaries ()



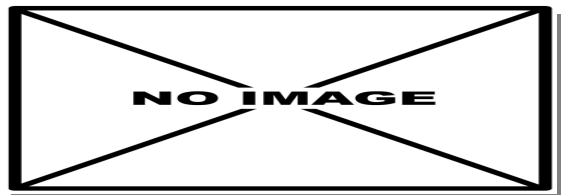
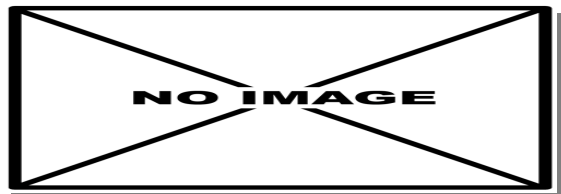
Curlew Sandpiper. Autumn. 1st year: pattern of secondaries (14-IX)



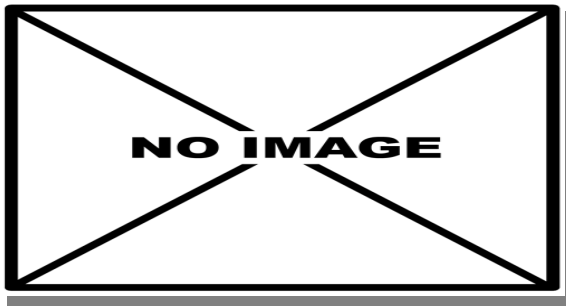
Curlew Sandpiper. Spring. Adult: pattern of wing (07-V)



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



Curlew Sandpiper. Autumn. Adult: pattern of wing ()



Curlew Sandpiper. Autumn. Adult: pattern of primaries ()

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