

188 Dunlin



Dunlin. Autumn. Adult with extensive moult (27-XI)

DUNLIN (*Calidris alpina*)

IDENTIFICATION

17-18 cm. In **breeding** plumage with chestnut upperparts and black underparts; in **non-breeding** plumage with grey upperparts and white underparts; head with pale supercilium; wing with a white band; bill long and slightly curved; dark legs.



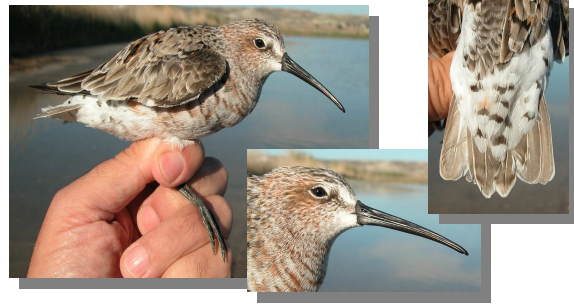
Dunlin. Autumn.

SIMILAR SPECIES

In **breeding** plumage unmistakable due to the black patch on belly. In **non breeding** plumage, dark legs separate the species from the other common small waders recorded in Aragon, except **Little Stint**, which has shorter and less curved bill and smaller size (13-14 cm) and **Curlew Sandpiper**, which has longer bill and white rump.



Little Stint

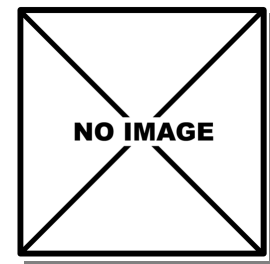
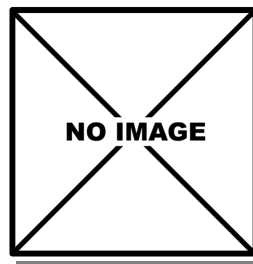


Curlew Sandpiper. Spring.

SEXING

In **breeding** plumage, **male** with pale grey nape contrasting with cap and mantle; black on underparts with little white feathers mixed. **Female** with streaked brownish nape with little contrast with cap and mantle; black on underparts with more white feathers mixed than **male**. In **non breeding** plumage pattern of both sexes alike.

Female has a larger size than **male** but it is necessary to know the geographical origin to sex without mistakes.



Dunlin. Spring. Sexing. Nape pattern: left male; right female.

MOULT

Complete **postbreeding** moult, starting in breeding places (amount of changed feathers variable depending of geographical origin), then suspended for migration and finished in wintering quarters. Partial **postjuvenile** moult including some body feathers, some inner tertials and some wing coverts. Both types of age have a **prebreeding** moult, between February and April, including body feathers and sometimes median wing coverts.

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AGEING

4 types of age can be recognized:

Juvenile with blackish brown upperparts with whitish-buff and chestnut fringes; brownish wing coverts with broad buff or chestnut fringes; white underparts; breast streaked brownish; flanks with fairly large blackish brown spots.

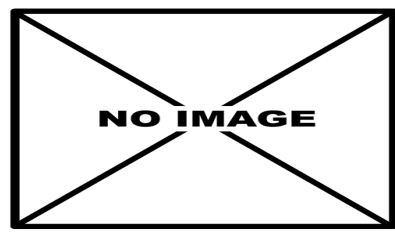
1st year autumn similar to **adult**, but with retained **juvenile** feathers on wing coverts (with chestnut/buff fringes), uppertail coverts, upperparts, tail and tertials; tertials very worn; primaries slightly worn.

2nd year spring with retained **juvenile** feathers heavily worn; retained inner median coverts with traces of buff fringes; primaries moderately worn.

Adult in **breeding** plumage (**spring**) with brownish black upperparts with chestnut and pale grey fringes; grey coverts, outers paler at tip and inners fringed whitish; black belly; fresh primaries. In **autumn**, after **postbreeding** moult, with brownish grey upperparts; grey wing coverts with whitish fringes; white underparts; pale breast streaked grey brown. (**CAUTION:** some breeding feathers can be retained on upperparts).



Dunlin. Autumn. 1st year (02-IX)



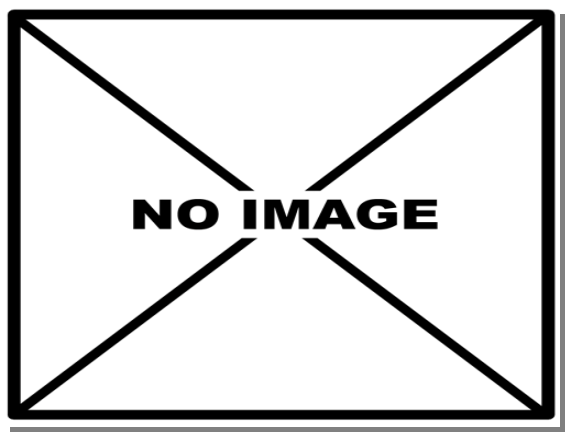
Dunlin. Autumn. Head pattern: top adult poorly moulted (); middle adult with extensive moult (27-XI); bottom 1st year (02-IX).

PHENOLOGY

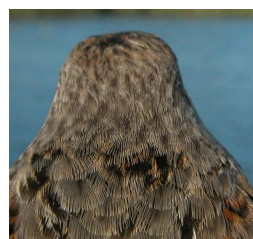
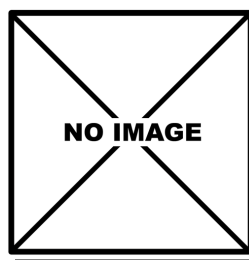
I	II	III	IV	V	VI	VII	VIII	IX	X	XI	XII

STATUS IN ARAGON

Common on passage with some wintering birds in wetlands of the Ebro Valley and Gallocanta.

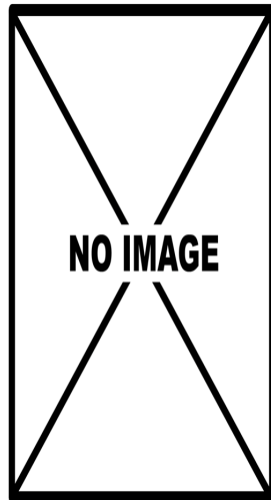
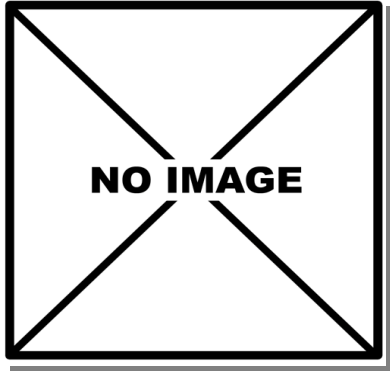


Dunlin. Autumn. Adult poorly moulted ()

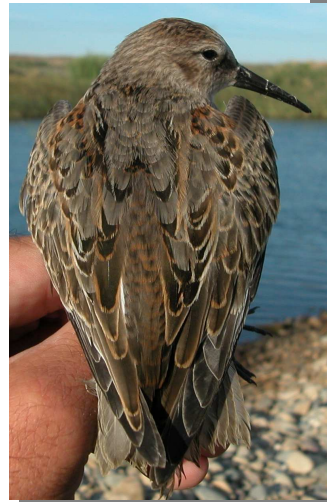


Dunlin. Autumn. Crown pattern: top left adult poorly moulted (); top right adult with extensive moult (27-XI); left 1st year (02-IX).

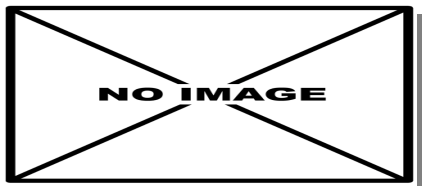
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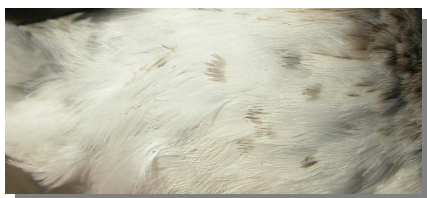
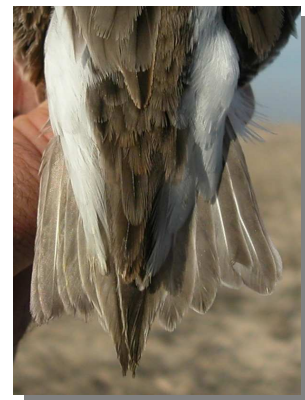
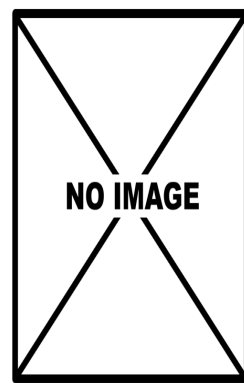
Dunlin. Autumn. Breast pattern: top adult poorly moulted (); middle adult with extensive moult (27-XI); bottom 1st year (02-IX).



Dunlin. Autumn. Upperpart pattern: top left adult poorly moulted (); top right adult with extensive moult (27-XI); left 1st year (02-IX).

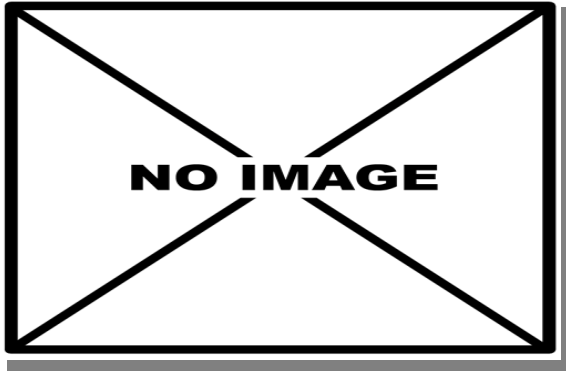


Dunlin. Autumn. Pattern of flank: top adult poorly moulted (); middle adult with extensive moult (27-XI); bottom 1st year (02-IX).

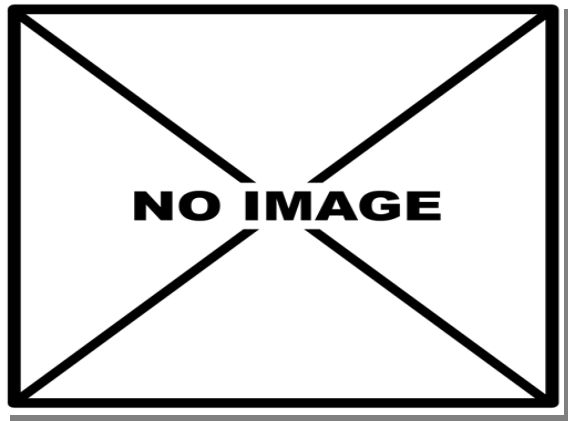


Dunlin. Autumn. Tail pattern: top left adult poorly moulted (); top right adult with extensive moult (27-XI); left 1st year (02-IX).

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Dunlin. Autumn. Adult poorly moulted: pattern of wing coverts ().



Dunlin. Autumn. Adult poorly moulted: pattern of primary coverts ().



Dunlin. Autumn. Adult with extensive moult: pattern of wing coverts (27-XI).



Dunlin. Autumn. Adult with extensive moult: pattern of primary coverts (27-XI).

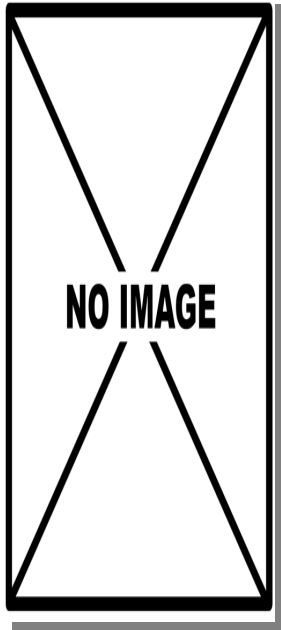


Dunlin. Autumn. 1st year: pattern of wing coverts (02-IX).



Dunlin. Autumn. 1st year: pattern of primary coverts (02-IX).

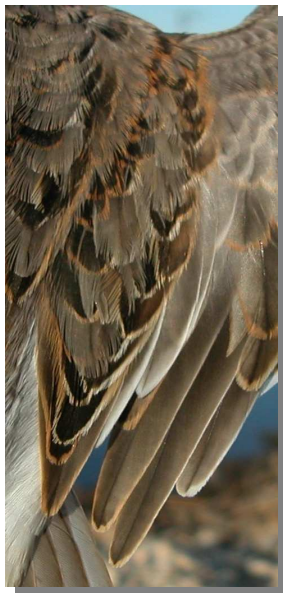
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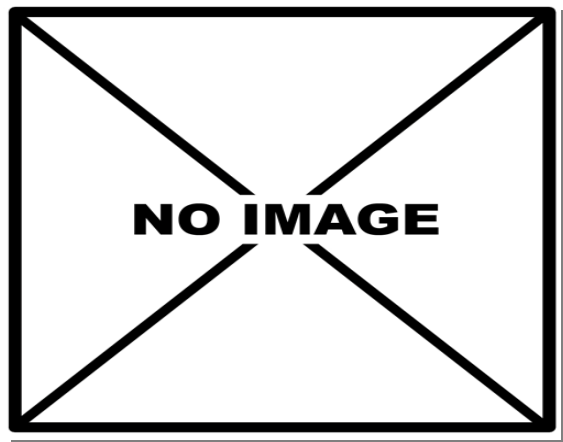
Dunlin. Autumn. Adult with extensive moult: pattern of primaries (27-XI).



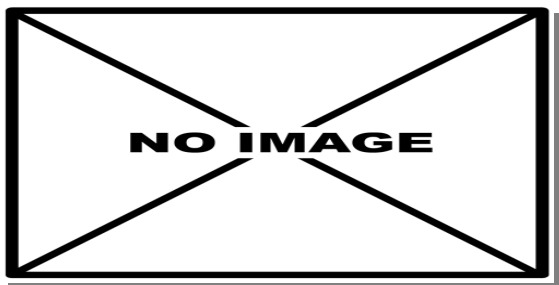
Dunlin. Autumn. 1st year: pattern of primaries (02-IX).



Dunlin. Autumn. Pattern of tertials: top left adult poorly moulted (); top right adult with extensive moult (27-XI); left 1st year (02-IX).

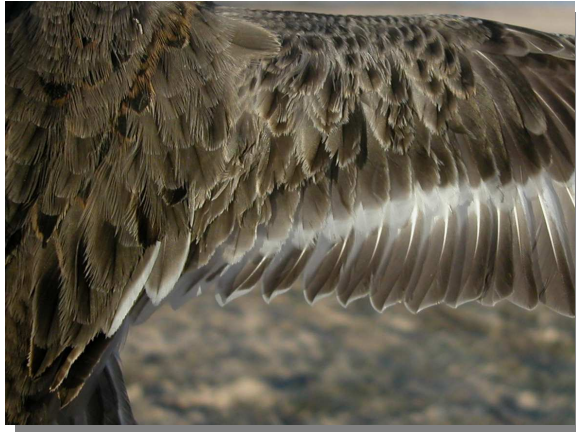


Dunlin. Autumn. Adult poorly moulted: pattern of secondaries ().



Dunlin. Autumn. Adult poorly moulted: pattern of primaries ().

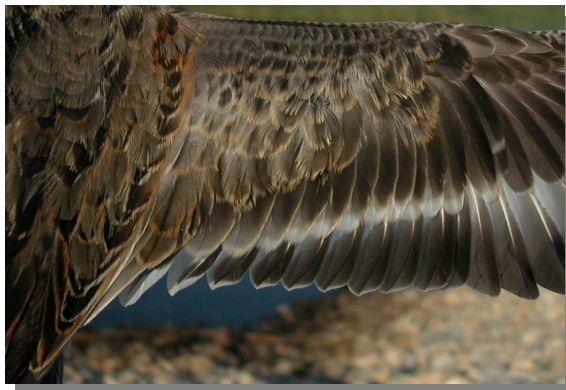
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Dunlin. Autumn. Adult with extensive moult: pattern of secondaries (27-XI).



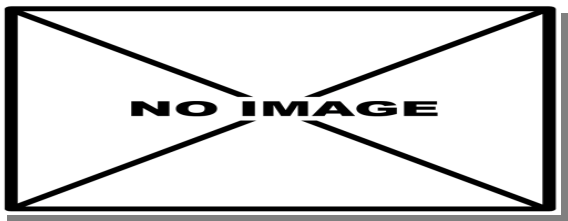
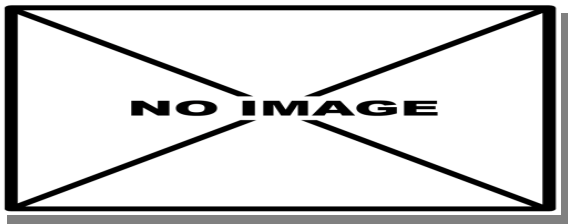
Dunlin. Autumn. Adult with extensive moult: pattern of wing (27-XI).



Dunlin. Autumn. 1st year: pattern of secondaries (02-IX).



Dunlin. Autumn. 1st year: pattern of wing (02-IX).



Dunlin. Autumn. Adult poorly moulted: pattern of wing ().