

172 Kentish Plover



KENTISH PLOVER (*Charadrius alexandrinus*)

IDENTIFICATION

15-16 cm. Grey-brown upperparts; white underparts; breastband restricted to lateral patches, black on **male** and brown on **female**; rufous crown, edged black in **male**; brown wings with white band; bill and legs dark. **Juveniles** browner, without black on head and with feathers on upperparts edged buff.

ESPECIES SIMILARES

Ringed Plover and **Little Ringed Plover** have a complete breastband.



Little Ringed Plover. Adult

Little Ringed Plover. Juvenile



SEXING

In **breeding** plumage, **male** with black patches on head and breast; rufous crown. **Female** without black patches on head and breast (some birds only with dark feathers); pale brown crown. In **autumn** both sexes alike till **males** have their first black feathers in early **winter**. **Juveniles** cannot be sexed.

AGEING

3 types of age can be recognized:

Juvenile with upperparts and wing coverts grey-brown with distinct buff fringes; breast patches pale brown, often indistinct.

1st year autumn/2nd year spring similar to **adult**, but can retain some **juvenile** feathers on upperparts; rump and wing coverts. In spring, **2nd year** birds recognized by worn primaries than **adults**.

Adult in **spring** with black or brown band on head and patch on breast: wing coverts grey-brown with pale edge; in **winter** primaries slightly worn.

MOULT

Complete **postbreeding** moult, usually finished in October. Partial **postjuvenile** moult including body feathers (some juvenile feathers retained on upperparts), tail, wing coverts (most of the greater coverts retained) with flight feathers remaining unmoulted; starts in August and finished in winter quarters. Both types of age have a **prebreeding** moult, between January and April, including most of the body feathers, some wing coverts, scapulars and tertials only in some birds.

PHENOLOGY

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

STATUS EN ARAGON

Summer visitor with some wintering birds. Breeds in salty wetlands in Gallcanta, Chiprana, Estaña and Monegros.