

177 Golden Plover**GOLDEN PLOVER** (*Pluvialis apricaria*)**IDENTIFICATION**

26-28 cm. In winter with dark upperparts with dense golden notches; pale underparts with brown streaks; white underwing; white axillaries; grey-greenish legs.

SIMILAR SPECIES

Recalls a **Grey Plover**, with black axillaries, wide wingbar and white rump.

SEXING

In **winter**, plumage of both sexes alike.

AGEING

It is not possible to find **juveniles** in Aragon, so only 2 types of age can be recognized:

1st year autumn/2nd year spring similar to **adult** but with worn **juvenile** feathers on back, rump, tail, outer tertials and wing; wing always with only one generation of flight feathers; tail feathers with broken short off-white bars or spots; unmoulted inner median coverts and tertials with a broad dark shaft-streak to tips.

Adult with fresh feathers; if some secondaries remain unmoulted, then with a mixed of new and old feathers; tail feathers with narrow and shallow greyish-yellow chevrons; inner median coverts with a fine dark shaft-streak to tips; tertials without a dark shaft-streak on tips.

MOULT

Complete **postbreeding** moult, but many birds can retain secondaries and wing coverts: usually starts in July and suspended before migration. Partial **postjuvenile** moult including body feathers but remaining unchanged uppertail coverts, outer tertials, wings and tail. Both types of age have a **prebreeding** moult including body feathers, usually starting in wintering quarters in February.

PHENOLOGY

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

STATUS IN ARAGON

Winter visitor, it is a common species in irrigated fields; its number is larger during cold winters in Central Europe.