

# 147 Water Rail



Water Rail. Spring. Adult (06-VI).

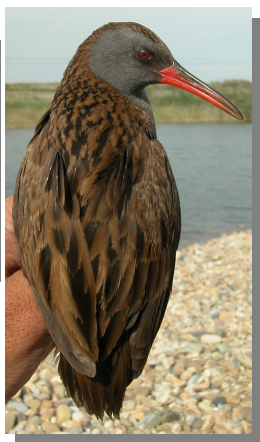
## WATER RAIL (*Rallus aquaticus*)

### IDENTIFICATION

25-28 cm. Brown reddish upperparts, with dark streaks; grey slate chin and breast; grey belly streaked white; white undertail coverts; long and reddish bill. **Juveniles** paler; pale supercilium; whitish underparts; pale brown



Water Rail. Pattern of breast and upperparts.



### SIMILAR SPECIES

Long and red bill makes this species unmistakable.

### SEXING

Plumage of both sexes alike. Size can be an useful character in most of the specimens: **male** with wing longer than 122 mm; tarsus longer than 42 mm. **Female** with wing shorter than 120 mm; tarsus shorter than 40 mm. Most of the **juveniles** can be sexed using size differences.

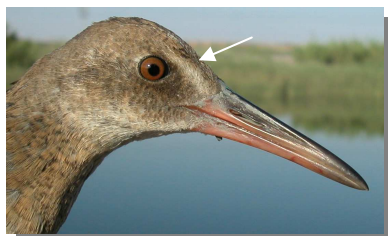
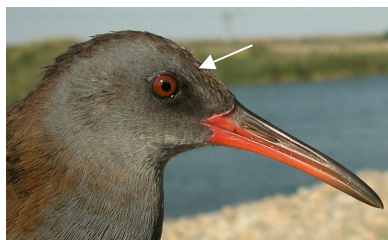
### AGEING

3 types of age can be recognized:

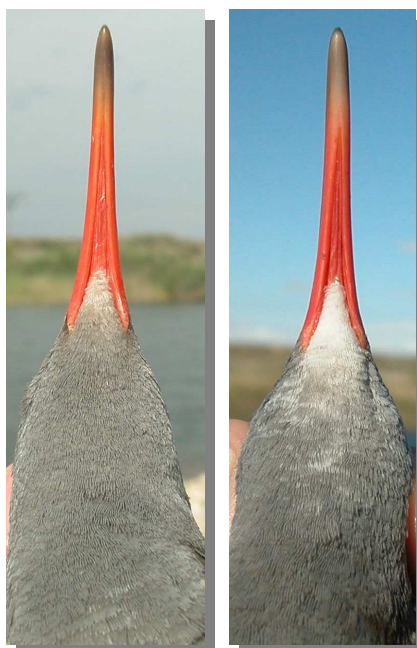
**Juvenile** with white/buff breast; pale brown iris; pale brown bill.

**1st year autumn/2nd year spring** similar to **adults** but with prominent buff or off-white streak running from base or upper mandible to upper part of eye; white chin; iris fawn to bright orange brown; juvenile flight feathers retained.

**Adult** with breast and chin slate grey; reddish iris.



Water Rail. Ageing. Pattern of head and streak on the eye: top adult; middle 1st year; bottom juvenile.



Water Rail. Ageing. Pattern of chin: left adult; right 2nd year.

# 147 Water Rail

## MOULT

Complete **postbreeding** moult, usually finished in November. Partial **postjuvenile** moult confined only to body feathers; often finished between July and October depending of fledging date. Both types of age have a **prebreeding** moult confined to body.

## PHENOLOGY

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

## STATUS EN ARAGON

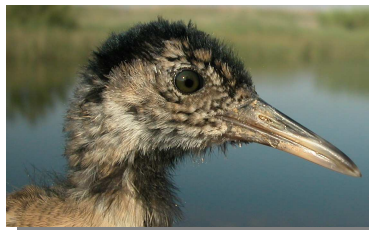
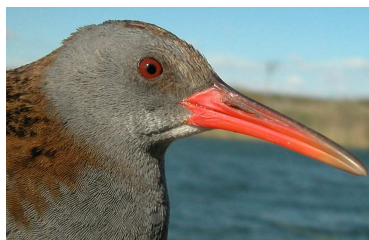
Resident, distributed in Gallocanta, Canal de Berdun and rivers Ebro, Jalon and Piedra.



Water Rail. Spring. Young (14-VII)



Water Rail. Spring. 2nd year (14-V)



Water Rail.  
Spring. Head  
pattern and  
iris colour.  
From top to  
b o t t o m :  
adult (06-  
VI); 2nd year  
( 1 4 - V ) ;  
juvenile (14-  
VII); young



Water Rail. Spring. Juvenile (14-VII)



# 147 Water Rail



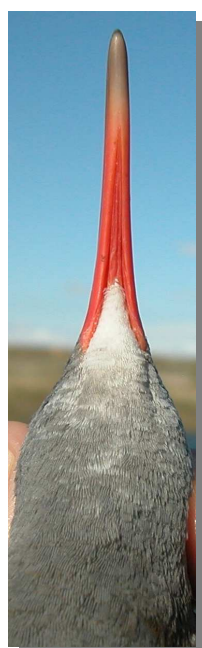
Water Rail.  
Spring.  
Breast  
pattern: top  
adult (06-  
VI); middle  
2nd year (14-  
V); bottom  
juvenile (14-  
VII).



Water Rail. Spring. Chin pattern: left juvenile (14-VII); right young (14-VII).

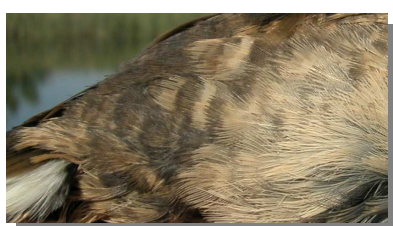
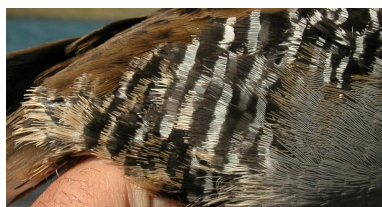


Water Rail.  
Spring.  
Pattern of  
legs. From  
top to  
bottom:  
adult (06-  
VI); 2nd year  
(14-V);  
juvenile (14-  
VII); young  
(14-VII).

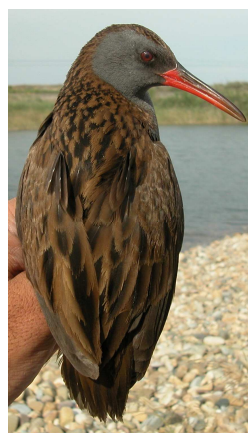


Water Rail. Spring. Chin pattern: left adult (06-VI); right 2nd year (14-V).

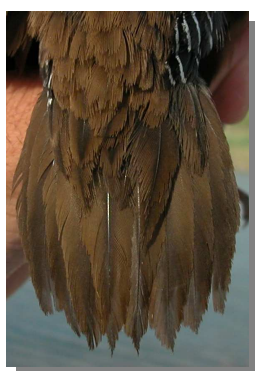
# 147 Water Rail



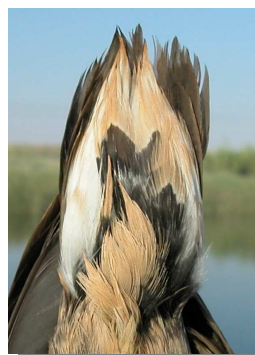
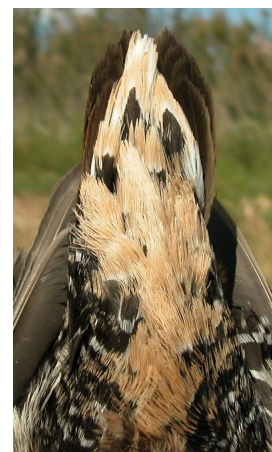
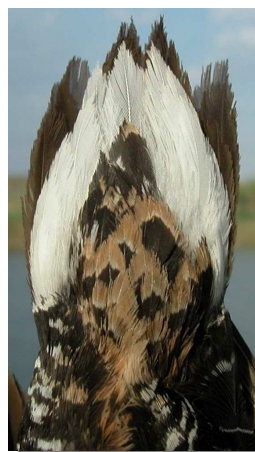
Water Rail. Spring. Flank pattern: top adult (06-VI); middle 2nd year (14-V); bottom juvenile (14-VII).



Water Rail. Spring. Upperpart pattern: top left adult (06-VI); top right 2nd year (14-V); left juvenile (14-VII).



Water Rail. Spring. Tail pattern: top left adult (06-VI); top right 2nd year (14-V); left juvenile (14-VII).



Water Rail. Spring. Pattern of undertail coverts: top left adult (06-VI); top right 2nd year (14-V); left juvenile (14-VII).



## 147 Water Rail



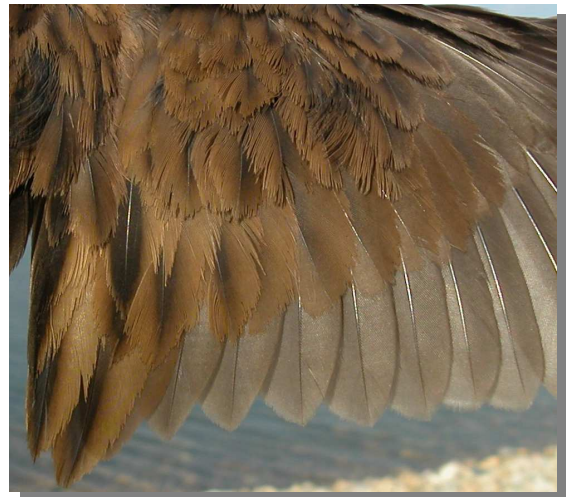
Water Rail. Spring. Adult: pattern of primaries (06-06).



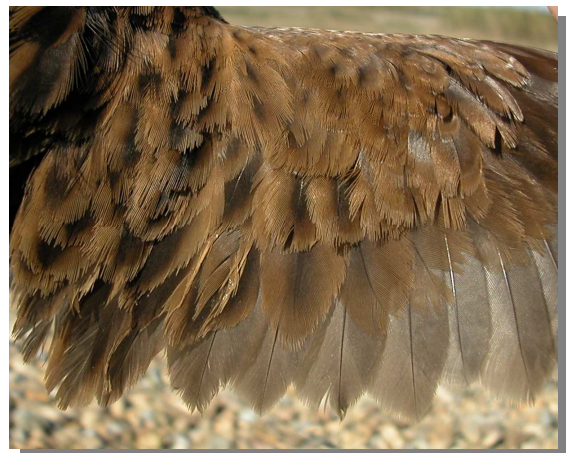
Water Rail. Spring. Juvenile: pattern of primaries (14-07).



Water Rail. Spring. 2nd year: pattern of primaries (14-05).



Water Rail. Spring. Adult: pattern of secondaries (06-06).



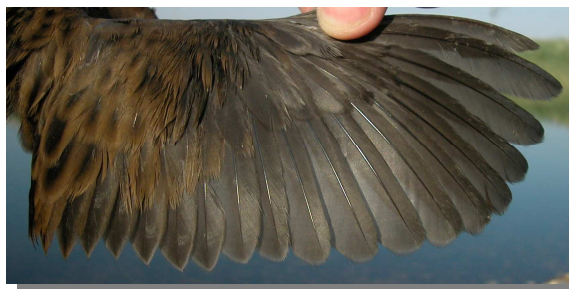
Water Rail. Spring. 2nd year: pattern of secondaries (14-05).



# 147 Water Rail



Water Rail. Spring. Juvenile: pattern of secondaries (14-VII).



Water Rail. Spring. Juvenile: pattern of wing (14-VII).



Water Rail. Spring. Adult: pattern of wing (06-VI).



Water Rail. Autumn. Adult (02-IX).



Water Rail. Spring. 2nd year: pattern of wing (14-V).



Water Rail. Autumn. 1st year (27-VIII).



# 147 Water Rail



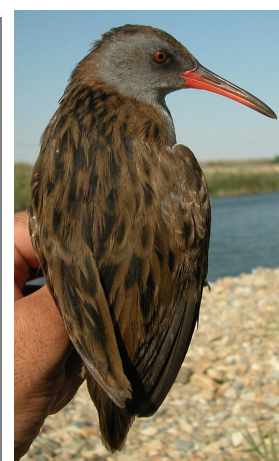
Water Rail.  
Autumn.  
Head  
pattern: top  
adult (02-  
IX); bottom  
1st year  
(27-VIII).



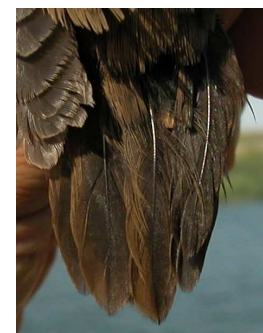
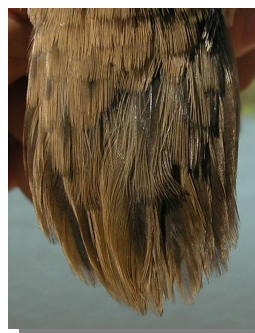
Water Rail. Autumn. Chin pattern: left adult (02-IX); right 1st year (27-VIII).



Water Rail.  
Autumn.  
Breast  
pattern: top  
adult (02-  
IX); bottom  
1st year  
(27-VIII).



Water Rail. Autumn. Upperpart pattern: left adult (02-IX); right 1st year (27-VIII).



Water Rail. Autumn. Tail pattern: left adult (02-IX); right 1st year (27-VIII).

# 147 Water Rail



Water Rail.  
Autumn.  
Flank  
pattern: top  
adult (02-  
IX); bottom  
1st year  
(27-VIII).



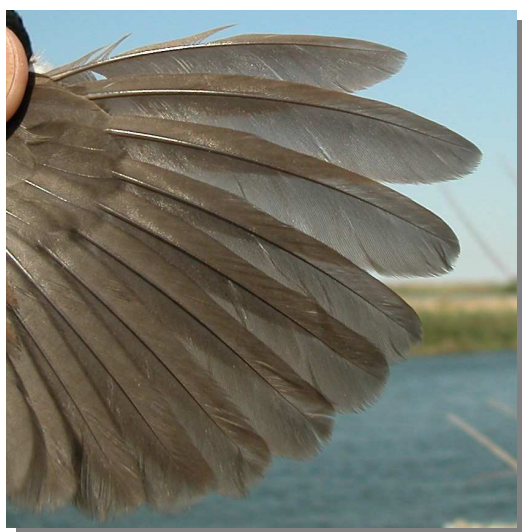
Water Rail. Autumn. Adult: pattern of secondaries (02-IX)



Water Rail. Autumn. Adult: pattern of primaries (02-IX)



Water Rail. Autumn. 1st year: pattern of secondaries (27-VIII)



Water Rail. Autumn. 1st year: pattern of primaries (27-VIII)



## 147 Water Rail



Water Rail. Autumn. Adult: pattern of wing (02-IX)



Water Rail. Autumn. 1st year: pattern of wing (27-VIII)

