

# 149 Little Crane

## LITTLE CRAKE (*Porzana parva*)

### IDENTIFICATION

18-20 cm. **Male** with olive brown upperparts, streaked brown and black and with lateral white spots; face and underparts grey bluish; grey undertail feathers with black barred; green bill with a red spot on base. **Female** with upperparts similar to **male**; white throat; buff yellowish underparts; brown flanks with grey and white barred; green bill with a red spot on base.

### SIMILAR SPECIES

**Water Rail** has a long and red bill. **Juvenile** and **adult Spotted Crane** have white speckling on head, breast and nape. **Adult Baillon's Crane** lacks a red spot on base of bill, has a large barred area on flanks and thighs and distinctive white marking on wing coverts; **juvenile** has black dots on crown and more barred chest.



Water Rail

### SEXING

**Male** with slate grey underparts; grey throat and neck. **Female** with buff-brown to salmon-ping underparts; off-white throat and neck.

**Juveniles** cannot be sexed using plumage characters.

### AGEING

3 types of age can be recognized:

**Juvenile** with off-white underparts mottled brown; brown supercilium with brown flecking; tertials and wing coverts with white dotting; grey brown iris: pale green bill.

**2nd year** similar to **adults**, but **female** with belly paler buff and less salmon; **male** with grey belly washed olive brown; both sexes with retained **juvenile** flight feathers, primary coverts and alula which will be more worn than in **adults**; white **juvenile** spotting reduced through wear and only some, if any, white edges remain.

**Adult** with plumage described in **SEXING**; without off-white underparts mottled brown; tertials and wing coverts near-uniform without white dotting; scarlet iris: bright green bill.

### MOULT

Complete **postbreeding** moult, with birds completing moult before migration and others with suspended moult which is finished in winter quarters. Partial **postjuvenile** moult confined to body feathers, wing coverts and tertials; some birds start moult in breeding places and other wait till winter areas **CAUTION:** have been described **juvenile** birds with a complete moult. Bad known **prebreeding** moult with probably some body feathers renewed.

### PHENOLOGY

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

### STATUS IN ARAGON

Poorly known status. There is a breeding record in Cinco Villas, being a more common species on passage.