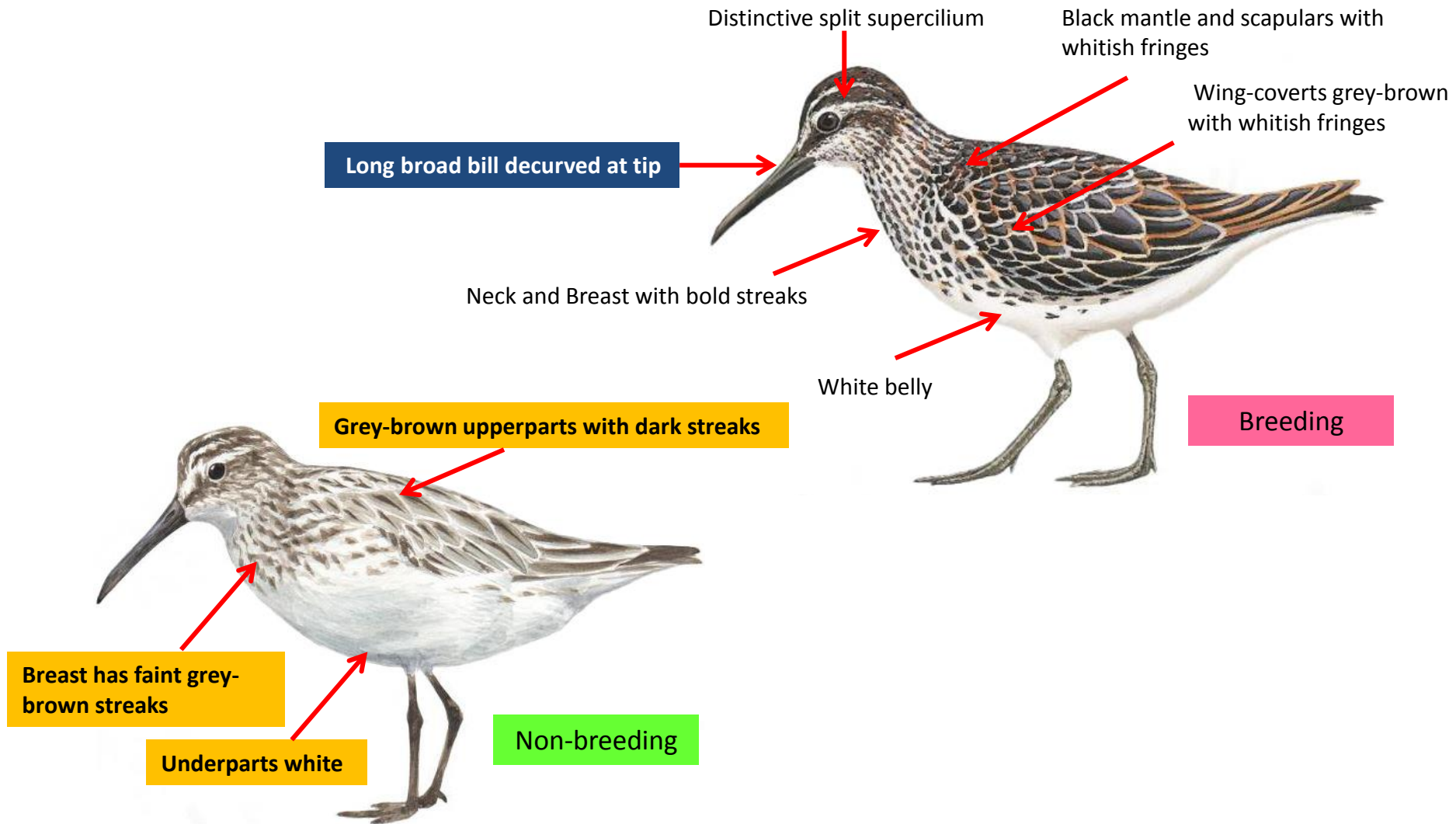




- The following pages have some identification markers for each of the Sandpipers found in India
- To know more on these birds you can visit <http://ogaclicks.com/sandpiper/>
- If you are interested in Coming on any of my tours or workshops please share your email id. I will keep you updated
- Mail me at ogaclicks@gmail.com
- You can also call me on (91)9840119078 ,
(91) 9445219078
(91) 6369815812

Broad-billed Sandpiper Identification Tips

Broad-billed Sandpiper : *Limicola falcinellus* : Winter Visitor to Coasts of India



Difference from Breeding plumage

Important id point

Buff-breasted Sandpiper Identification Tips

Buff-breasted Sandpiper : *Tryngites subruficollis* : Vagrant in India

Blackish spots on crown, hindneck and mantle

Warm buff face

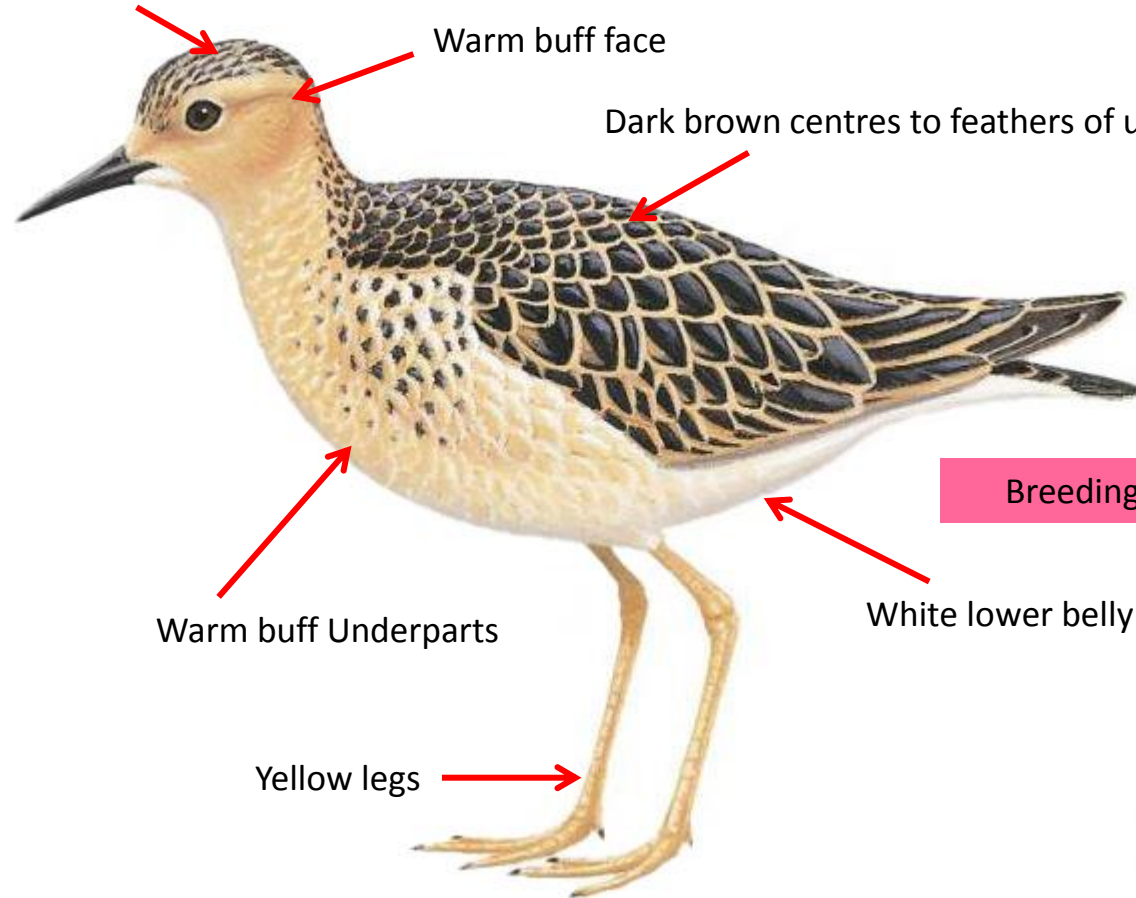
Dark brown centres to feathers of upperparts

Breeding

Warm buff Underparts

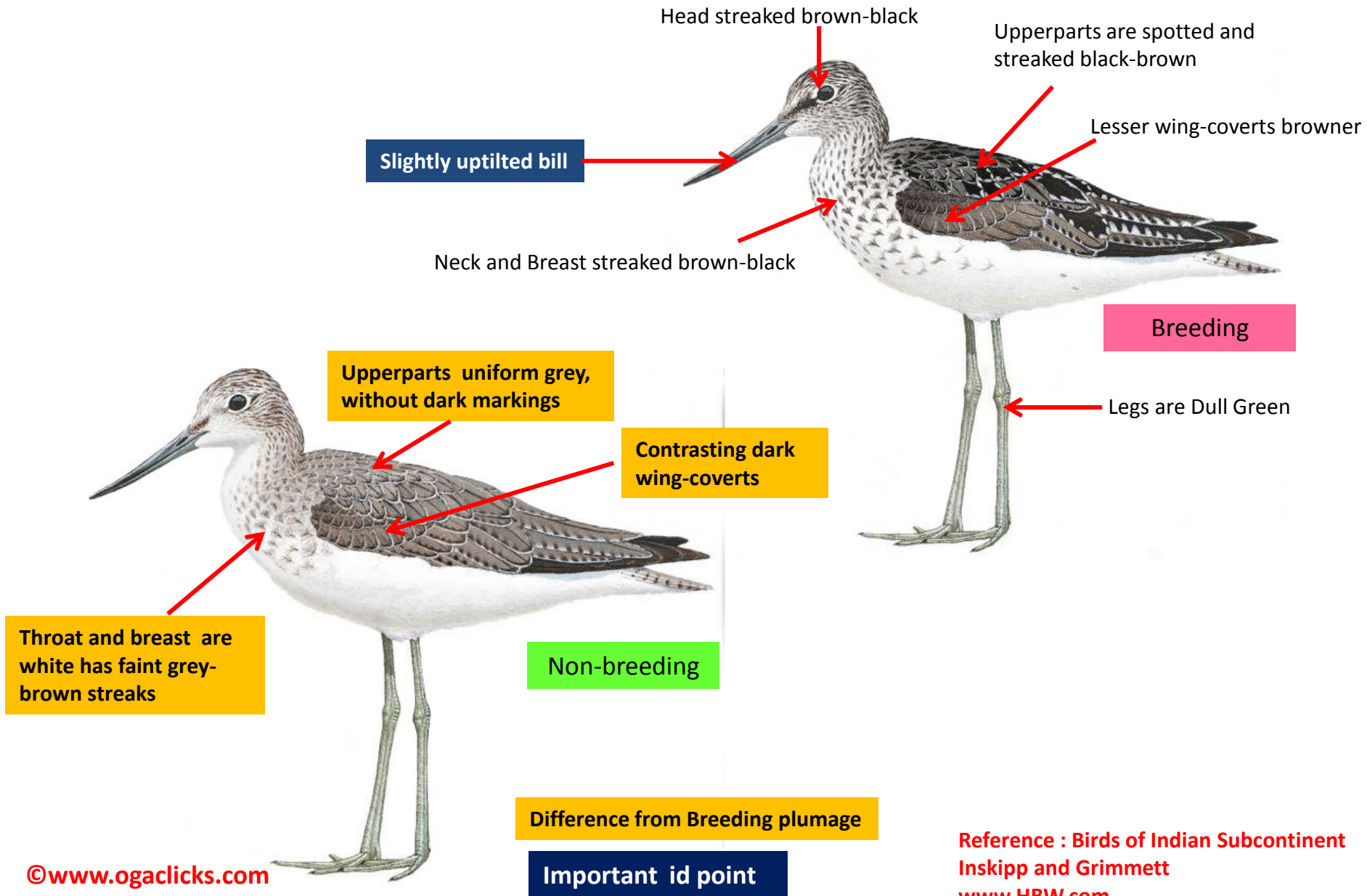
White lower belly

Yellow legs



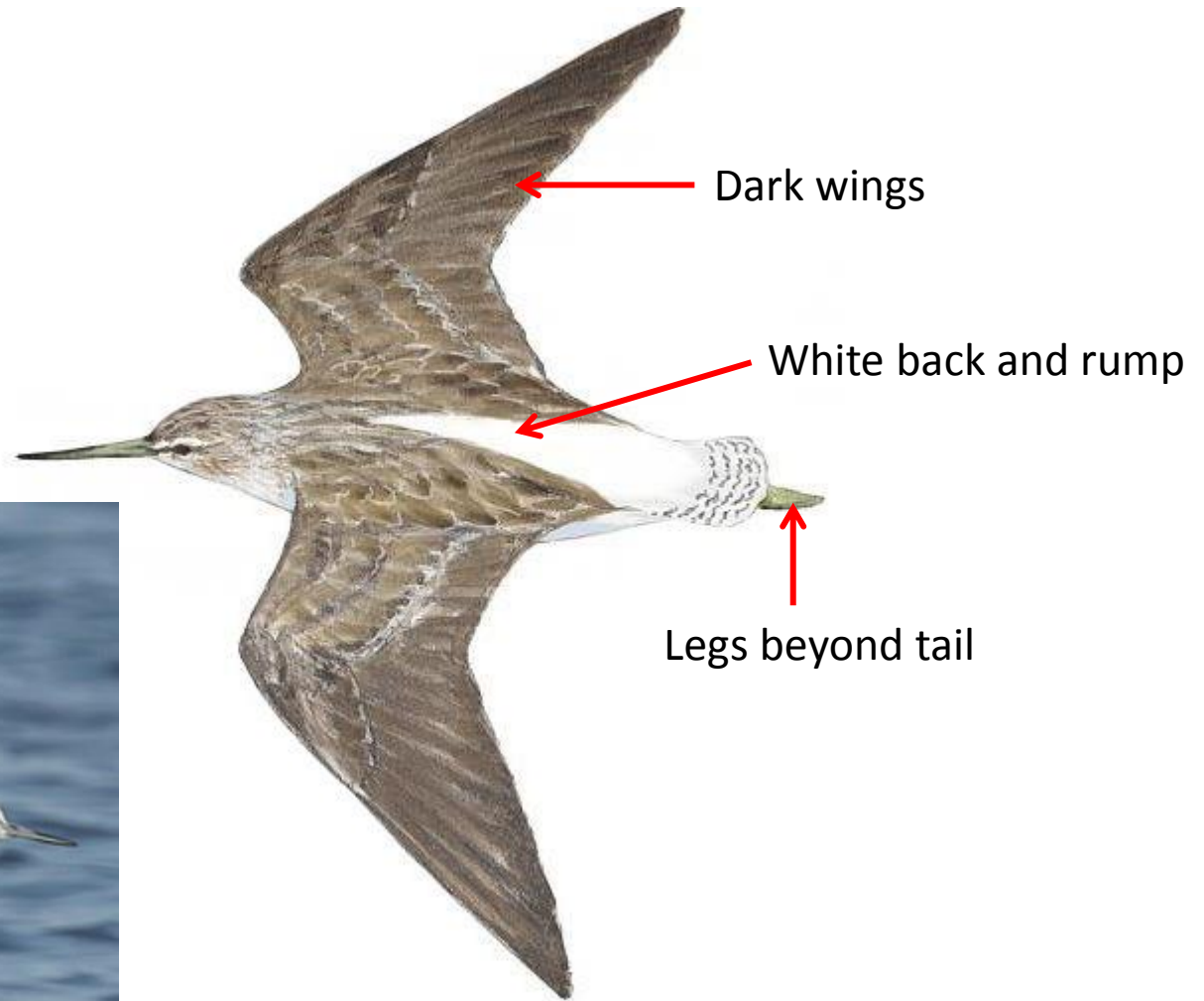
Common Greenshank Identification Tips

Common Greenshank : *Tringa nebularia* : Widespread Winter Visitor in India



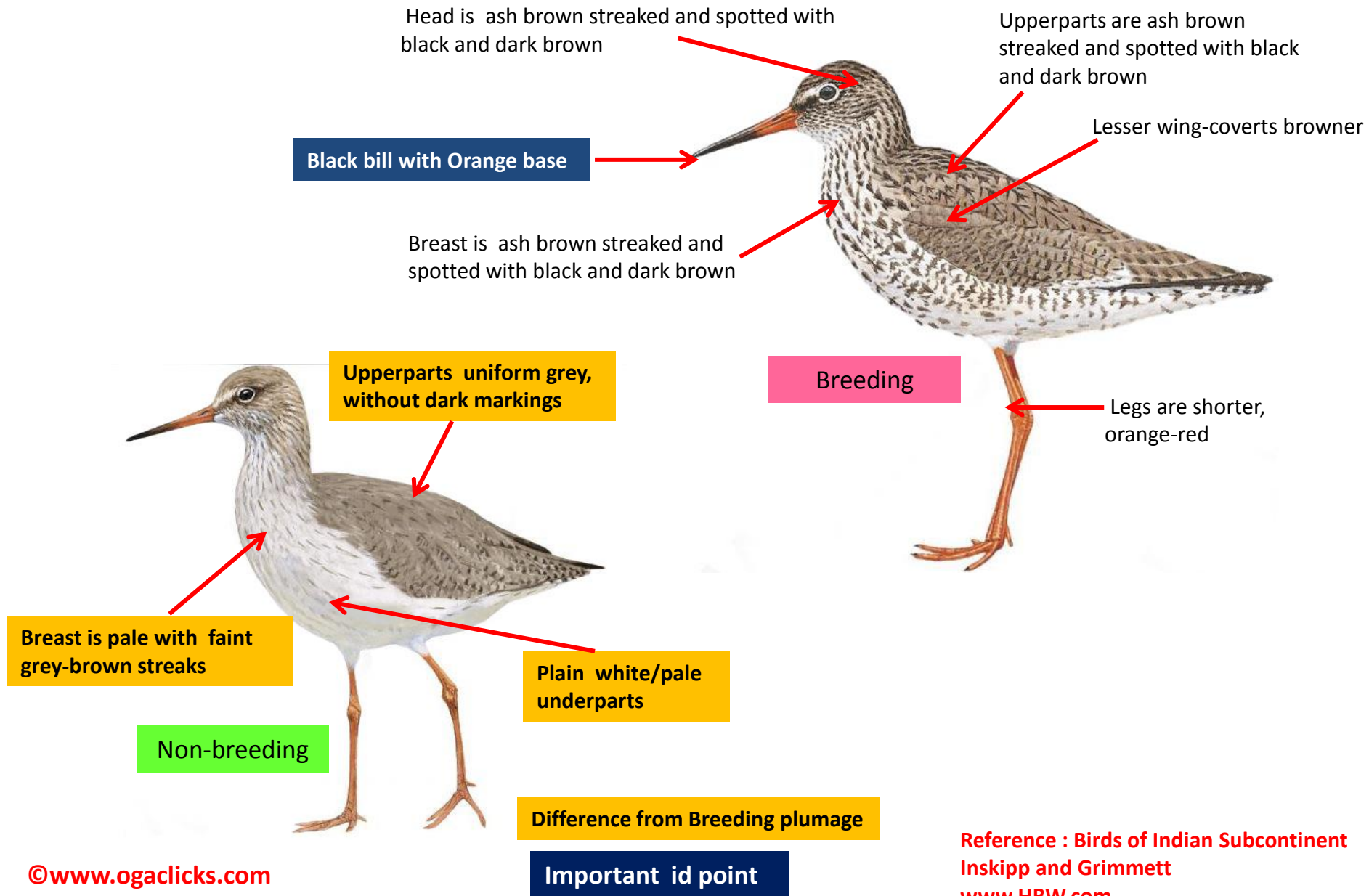
Common Greenshank Identification Tips

Common Greenshank : *Tringa nebularia* : Widespread Winter Visitor in India



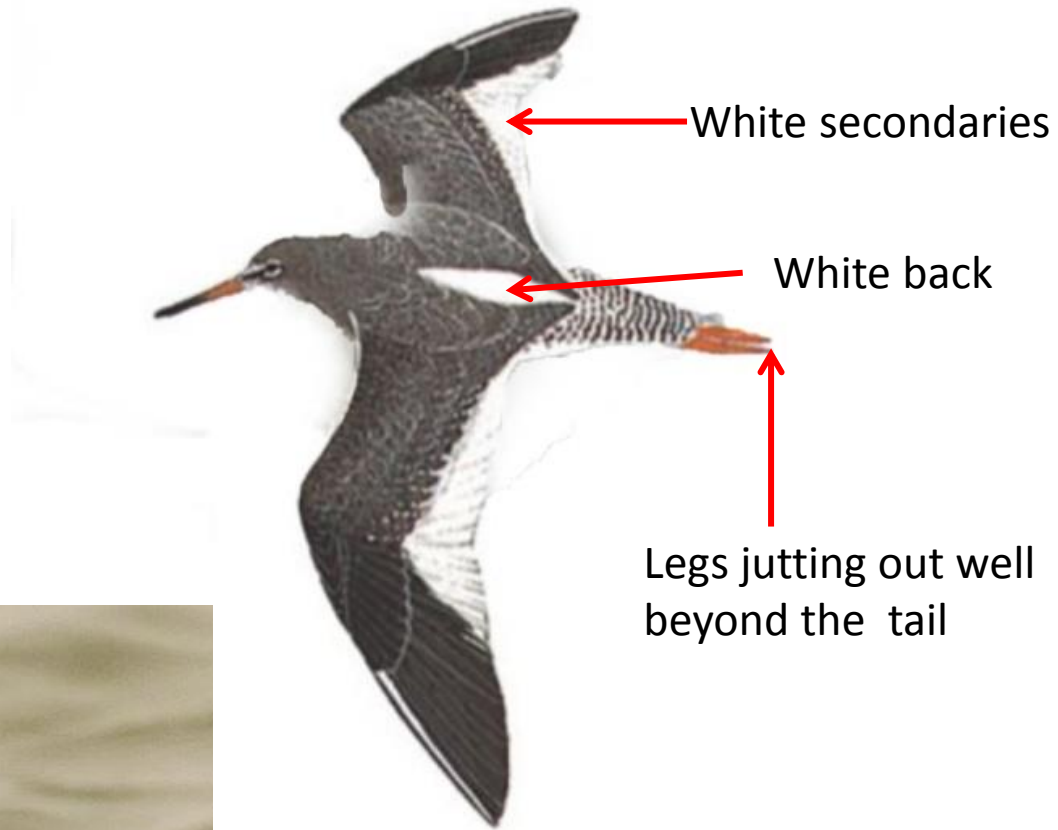
Common Redshank Identification Tips

Common Redshank : *Tringa totanus eurhina*: Breeds in North West Himalayas, widespread Winter visitor in India



Common Redshank Identification Tips

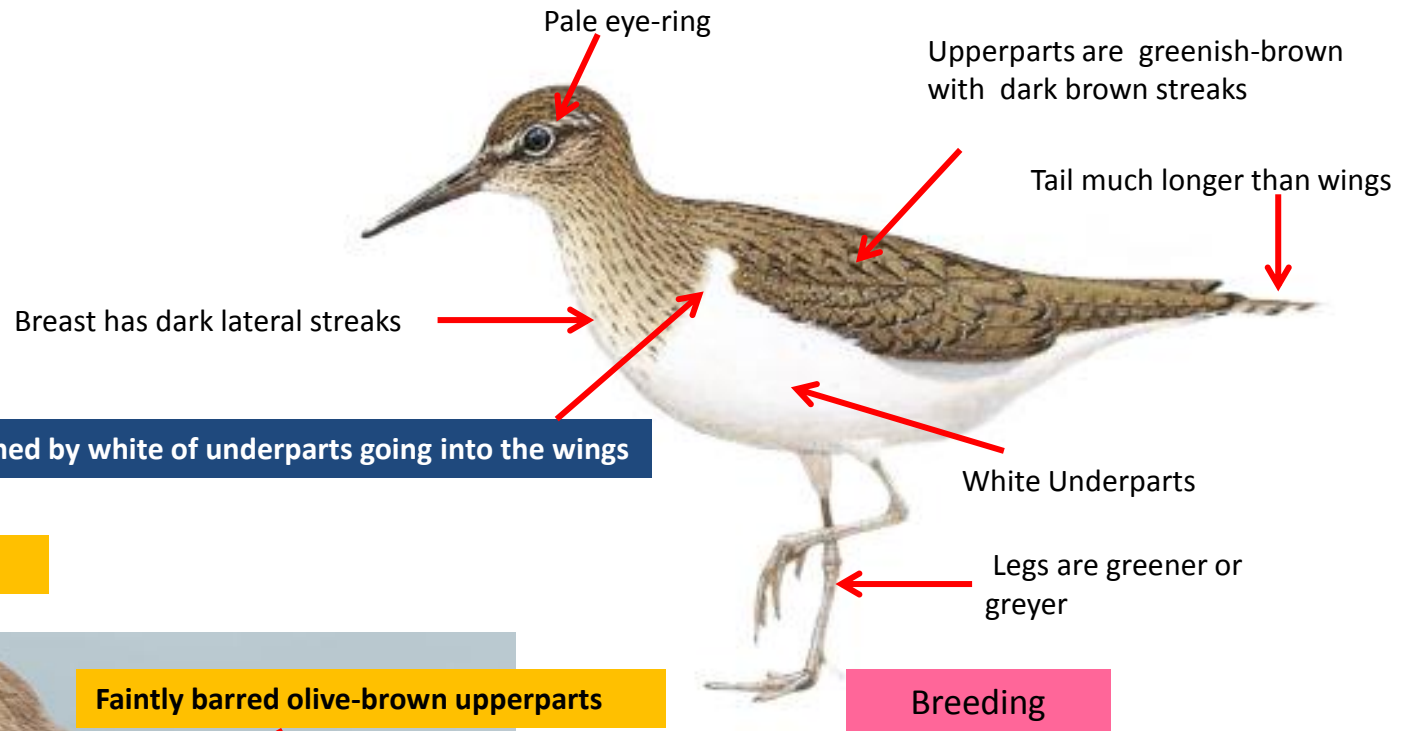
Common Redshank : *Tringa totanus eurhina*: Breeds in North West Himalayas, widespread Winter visitor in India



Ref : Lior Kislev, HBW.com

Common Sandpiper Identification Tips

Common Sandpiper : *Actitis hypoleucos* : Breeds in North West Himalayas, widespread Winter visitor in India



Less streaks on head

Faintly barred olive-brown upperparts

Non-breeding

Difference from Breeding plumage

Important id point

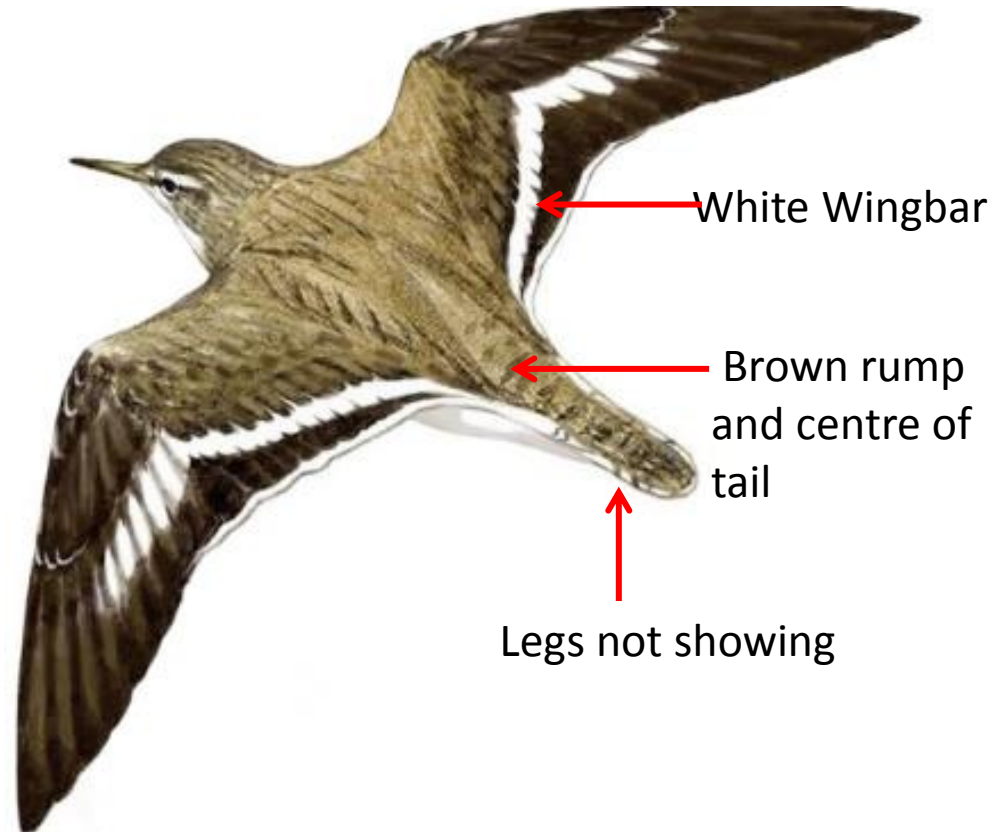
Common Sandpiper Identification Tips

Common Sandpiper : *Actitis hypoleucos* : Breeds in North West Himalayas, widespread Winter visitor in India



Ref : Jon helle, www.bird.no

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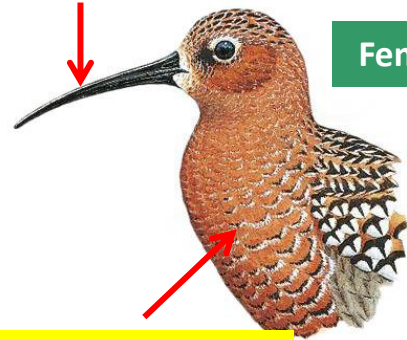
Reference : **Birds of Indian Subcontinent**
Inskipp and Grimmett
www.HBW.com

Curlew Sandpiper Identification Tips

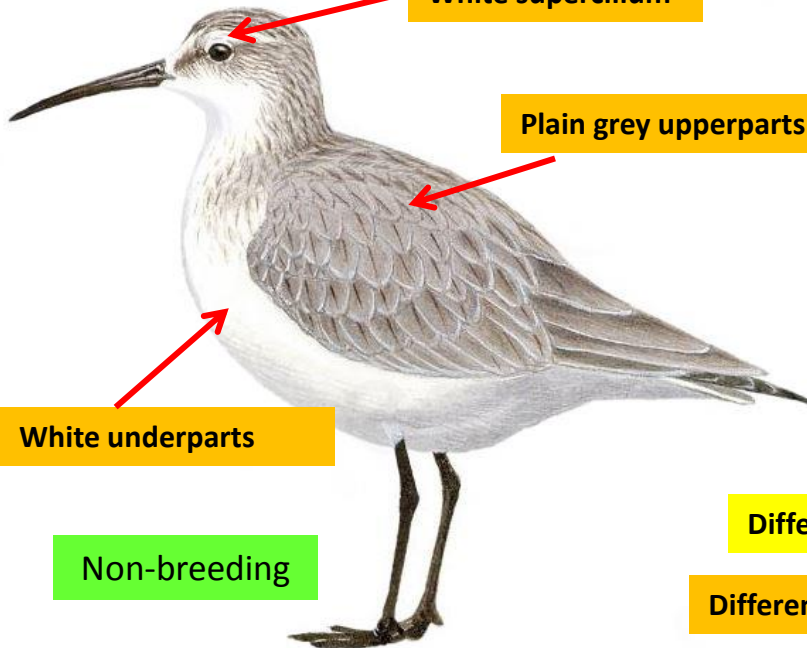
Curlew Sandpiper : *Calidris ferruginea*: Widespread Winter visitor in India

Longer Bill

Female



white barring on underparts



White supercilium

Plain grey upperparts

White underparts

Non-breeding

Crown is rusty rufous to deep chestnut-red with dark streak

Long, decurved bill

Head and Neck are rusty rufous to deep chestnut-red

Mantle and scapulars dark brown with chestnut and whitish fringes

Rusty rufous to deep chestnut-red Underparts

wing-coverts greyer

Breeding

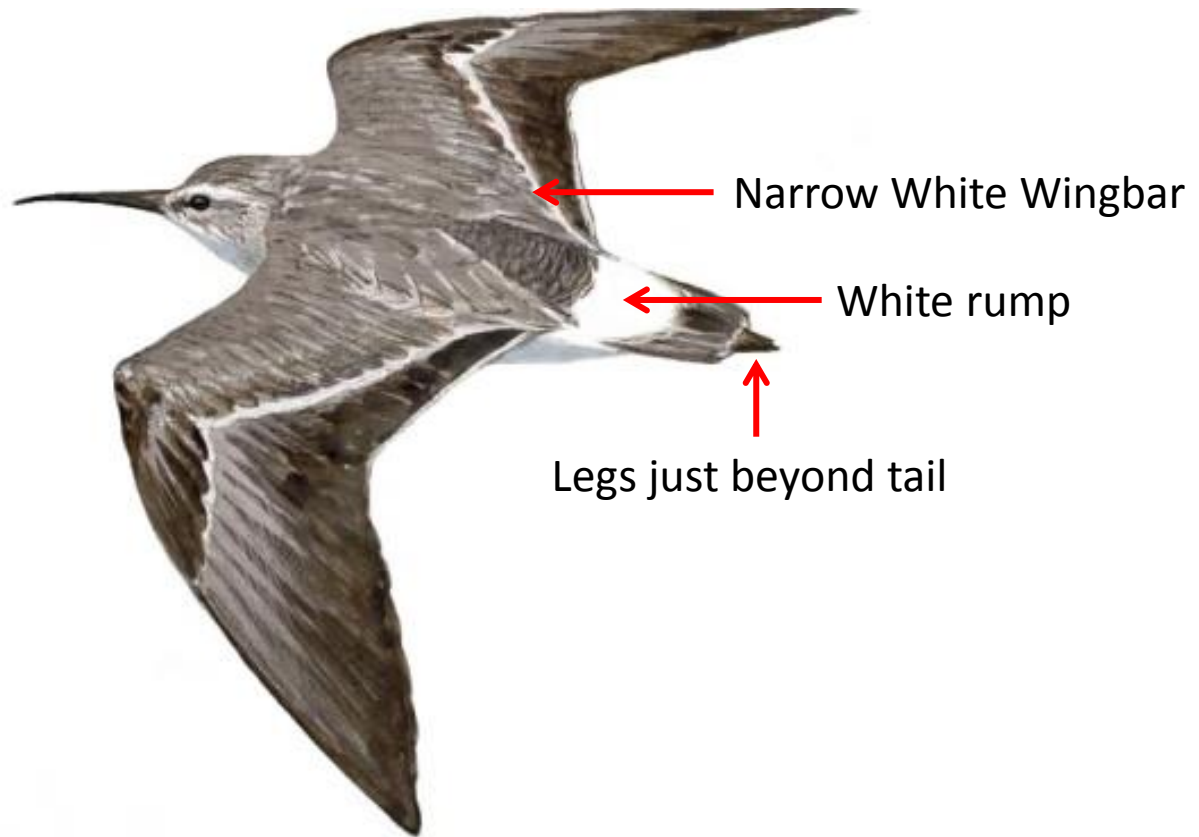
Difference from Male

Difference from Breeding plumage

Important id point

Curlew Sandpiper Identification Tips

Curlew Sandpiper : *Calidris ferruginea*: Widespread Winter visitor in India



Dunlin Identification Tips

Dunlin : *Calidris alpina*: Widespread Winter visitor to coasts in India

Crown is rusty rufous to deep chestnut-red with dark streak

Head and Neck are rusty rufous to deep chestnut-red

Long, decurved bill

Mantle and scapulars Rufous

wing-coverts greyer

Black Belly

Breeding

Grey Head

Plain grey upperparts

White underparts

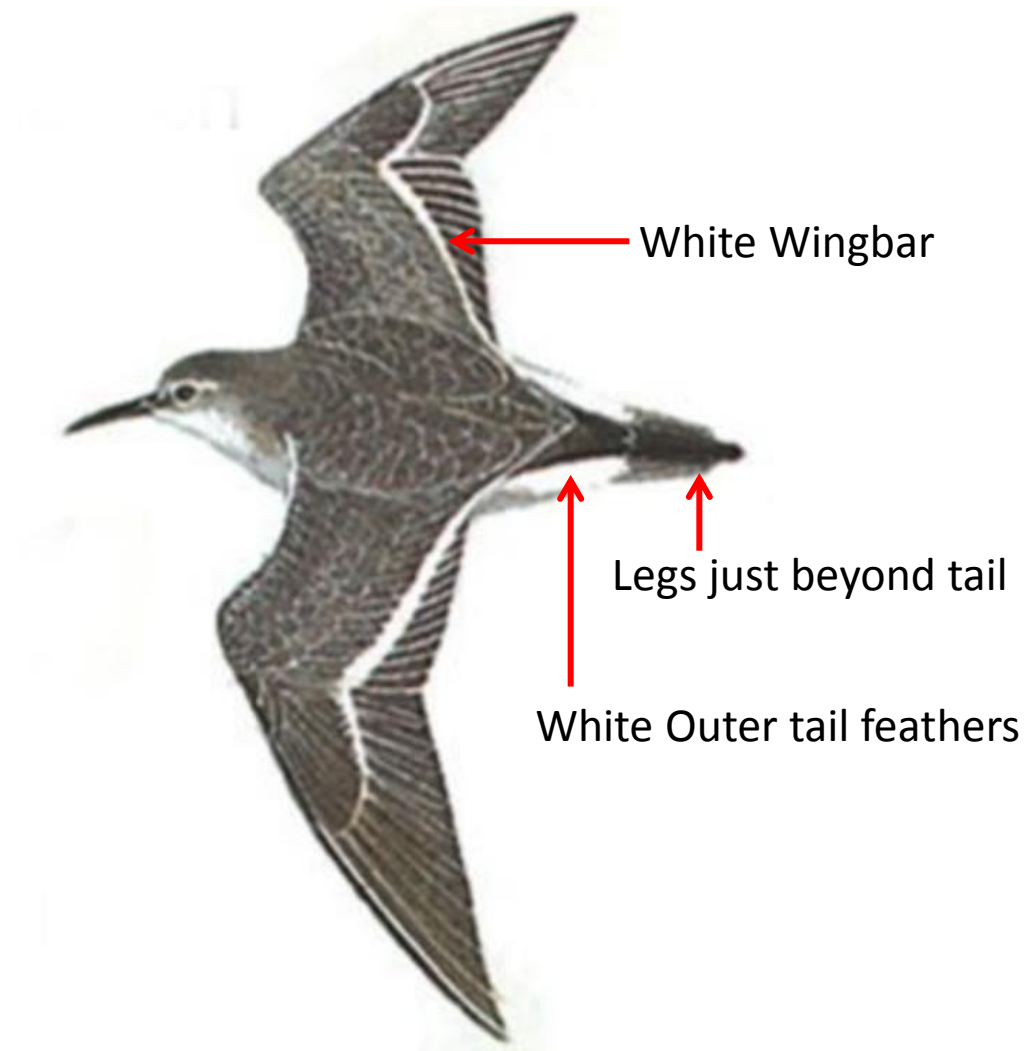
Non-breeding

Difference from Breeding plumage

Important id point

Dunlin Identification Tips

Dunlin : *Calidris alpina*: Widespread Winter visitor to coasts in India



Great Knot Identification Tips

Great Knot : *Calidris tenuirostris* : Winter visitor to coasts in India

Face is heavily spotted black

Black Bill

Mottled greyish upperparts

Scapulars with large chestnut spots and blackish tips

Throat is heavily spotted black

Folded wings project beyond tail

Breast and flanks heavily spotted black

Head and neck finely streaked dark grey

Breeding

Plain grey upperparts

Breast is pale grey & streaked

Streaked flanks

Non-breeding

Difference from Breeding plumage

Important id point

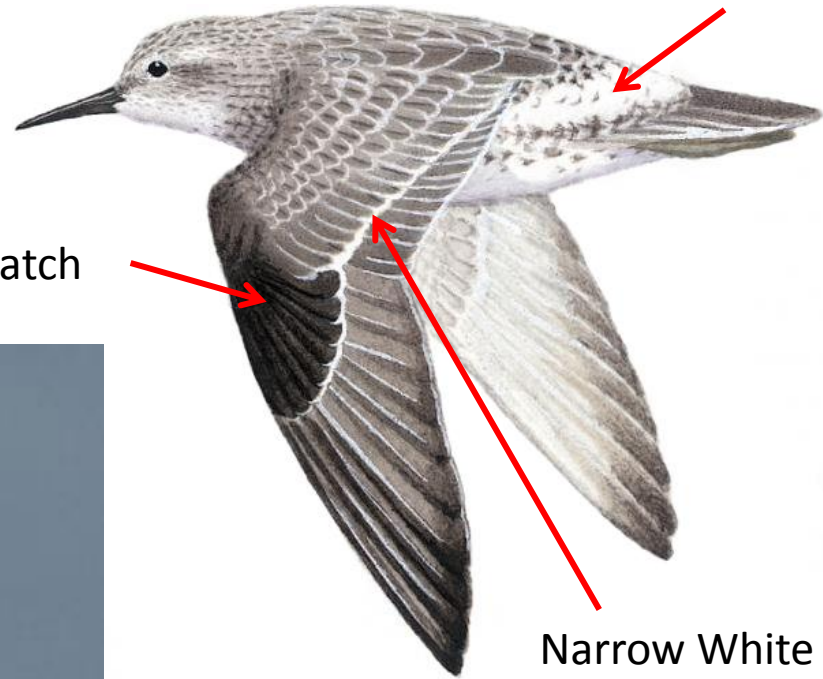
Reference : Birds of Indian Subcontinent
Inskipp and Grimmett
www.HBW.com

Great Knot Identification Tips

Great Knot : *Calidris tenuirostris* : Winter visitor to coasts in India



Black Patch



White Rump

Narrow White Wingbar

Green Sandpiper Identification Tips

Green Sandpiper : *Tringa ochropus* : Widespread Winter visitor in India

White Supercilium that ends on top of eyes

Long, dark green bill

Head and Neck streaked grey-brown

Upperparts are dark greenish-brown with white spots

Black Streaked White breast

White Underparts

Tail white with thick black bars

Breeding

Legs are dark green

Less spotted upperparts and face

Less streaking on breast

Non-breeding

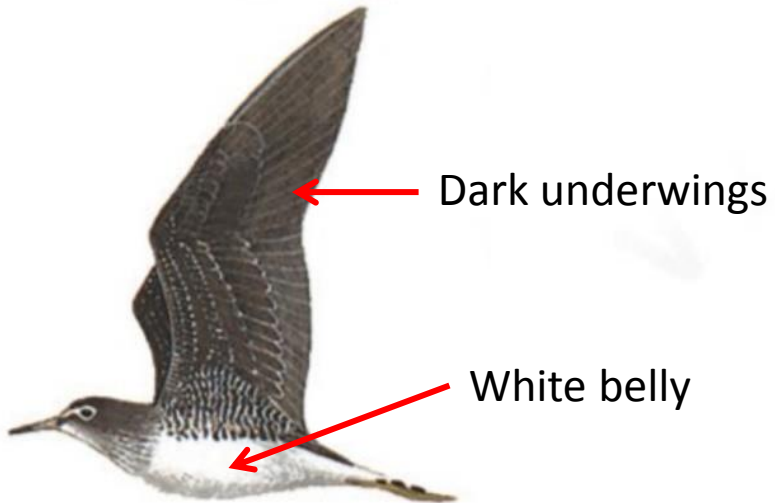
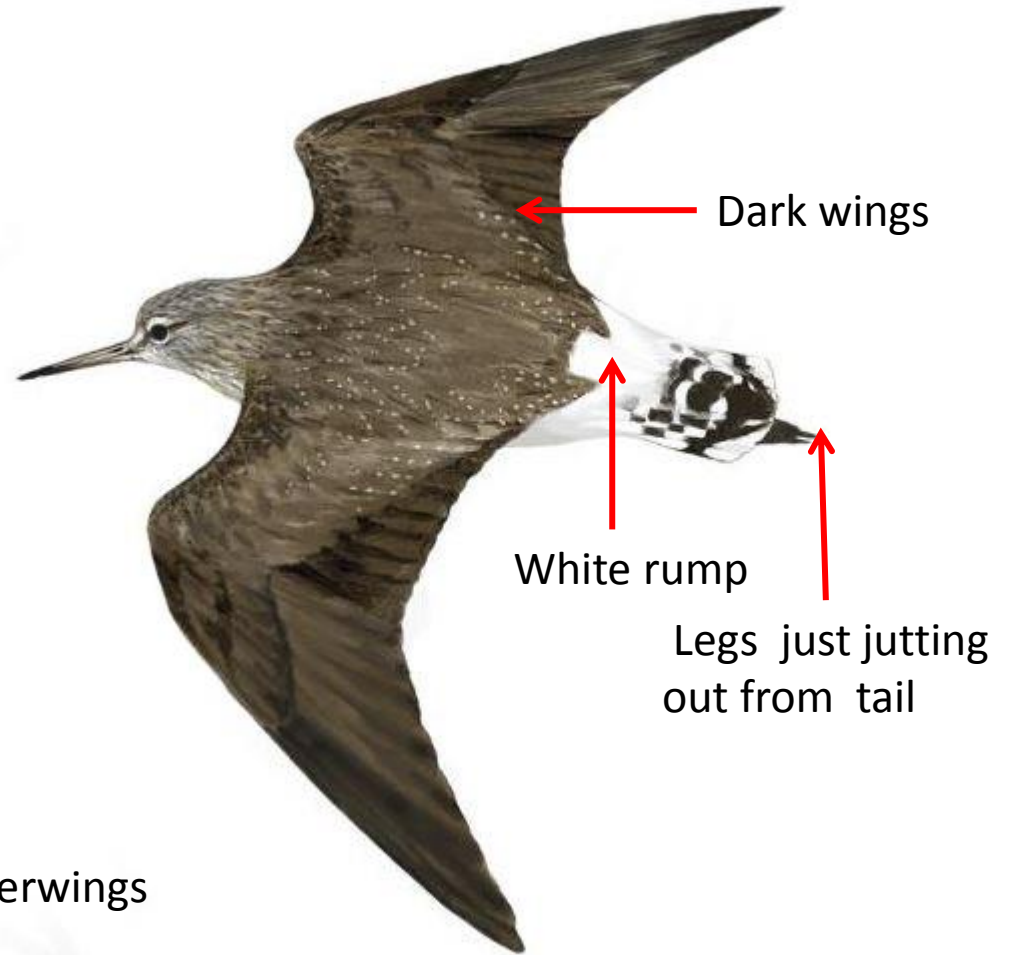
Difference from Breeding plumage

Important id point

Reference : Birds of Indian Subcontinent
Inskipp and Grimmett
www.HBW.com

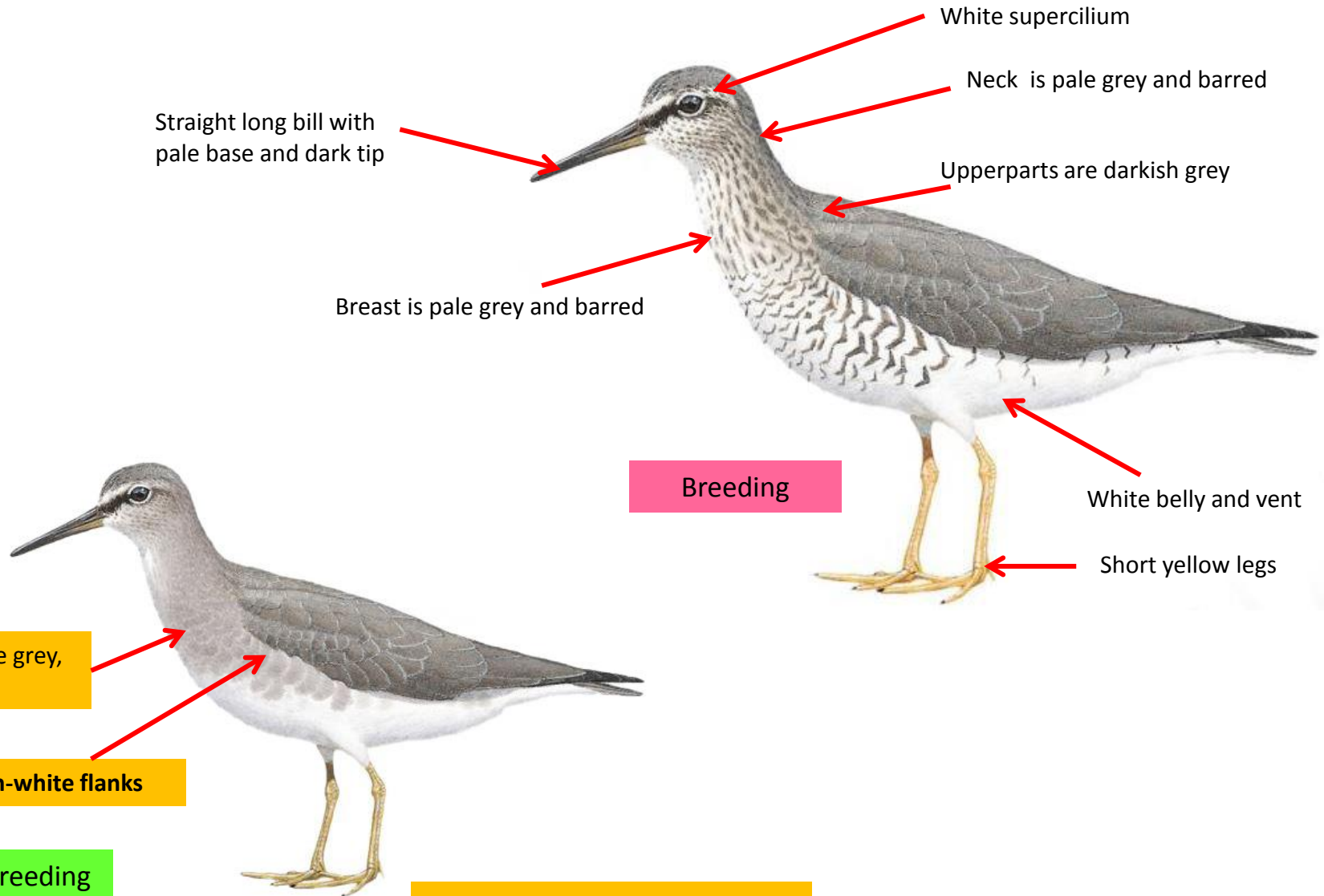
Green Sandpiper Identification Tips

Green Sandpiper : *Tringa ochropus* : Widespread Winter visitor in India



Grey-tailed Tattler Identification Tips

Grey-tailed Tattler : *Tringa brevipes*: Vagrant in India

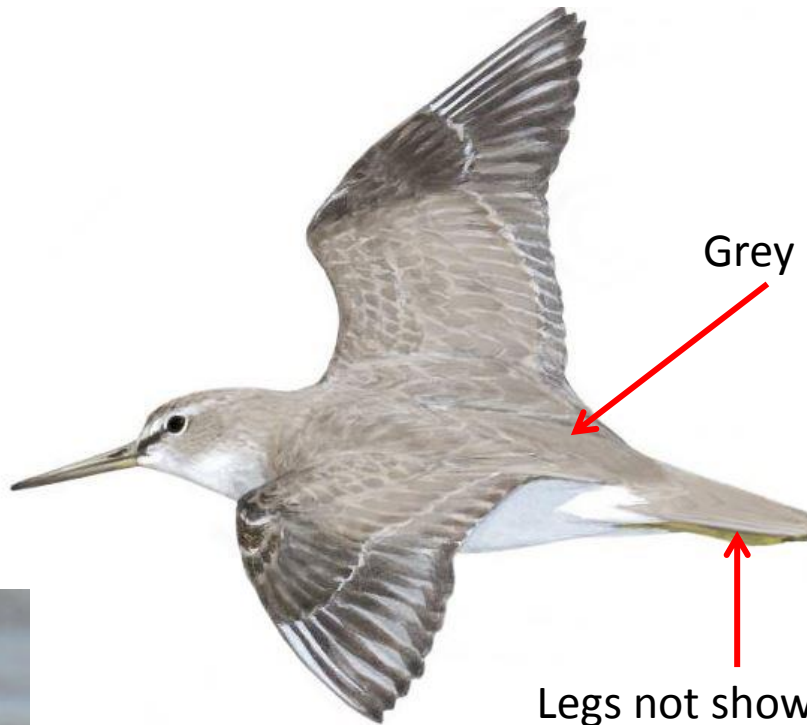


Difference from Breeding plumage

Important id point

Grey-tailed Tattler Identification Tips

Grey-tailed Tattler : *Tringa brevipes*: Vagrant in India



Little Stint Identification Tips

Little Stint : *Calidris minuta*: Widespread Winter visitor in India

Small black bill

Head Rufous buff with brown streaks

Mantle with yellowish edges forming distinct "V"

Upperparts have dark brown centres and pale rufous fringes

Breast is rufous buff with brown streaks

crown grey, streaked dark

Eyestripe is dull grey

Brownish grey upperparts mottled dark and fringed pale

White Underparts

Breeding

Legs are Black

Sides of breast dull grey

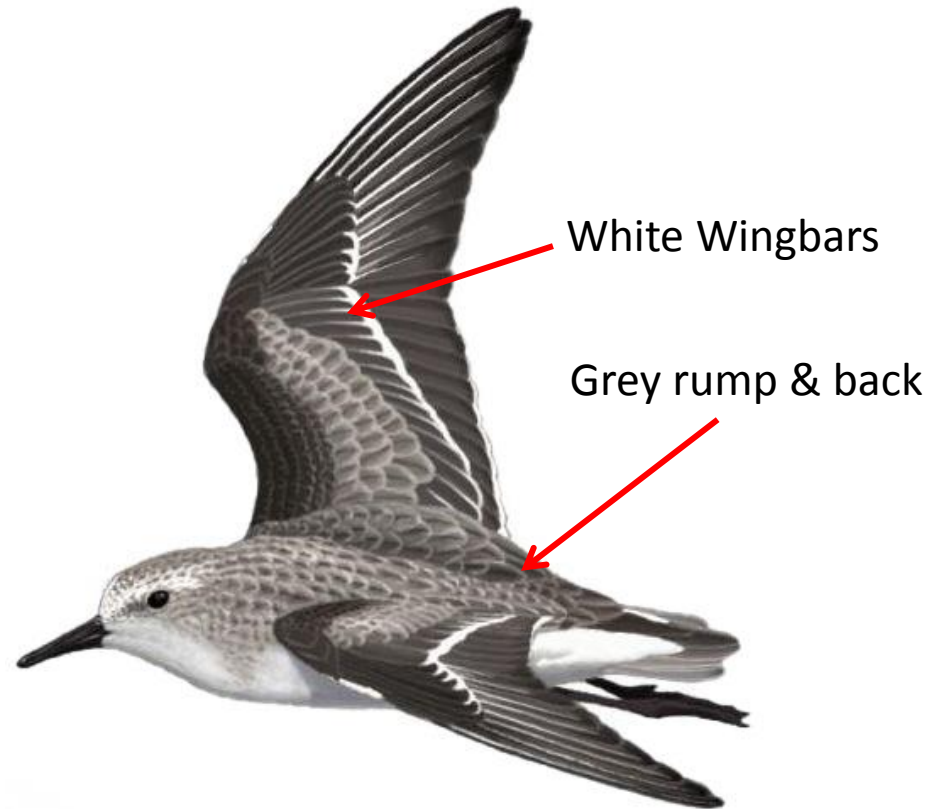
Non-breeding

Difference from Breeding plumage

Important id point

Little Stint Identification Tips

Little Stint : *Calidris minuta*: Widespread Winter visitor in India



Long-toed Stint Identification Tips

Long-toed Stint : *Calidris subminuta*: Winter visitor in East coasts of India

White supercilium

Rufous crown with dark streaks

Small black bill

Rufous ear-coverts with dark streaks

Upperparts have dark brown centres and rufous and pale buff fringes

Breast is rufous-tinged finely streaked dark brown

crown grey, finely streaked

Upperpart feathers with black-brown centres and grey edges

Flanks are rufous-tinged finely streaked dark brown

White Underparts

Legs are Yellow

Breast is suffused grey-brown with faint streaks on sides and flanks

Breeding

Long toes

Mantle with yellowish edges forming distinct "V"

Non-breeding

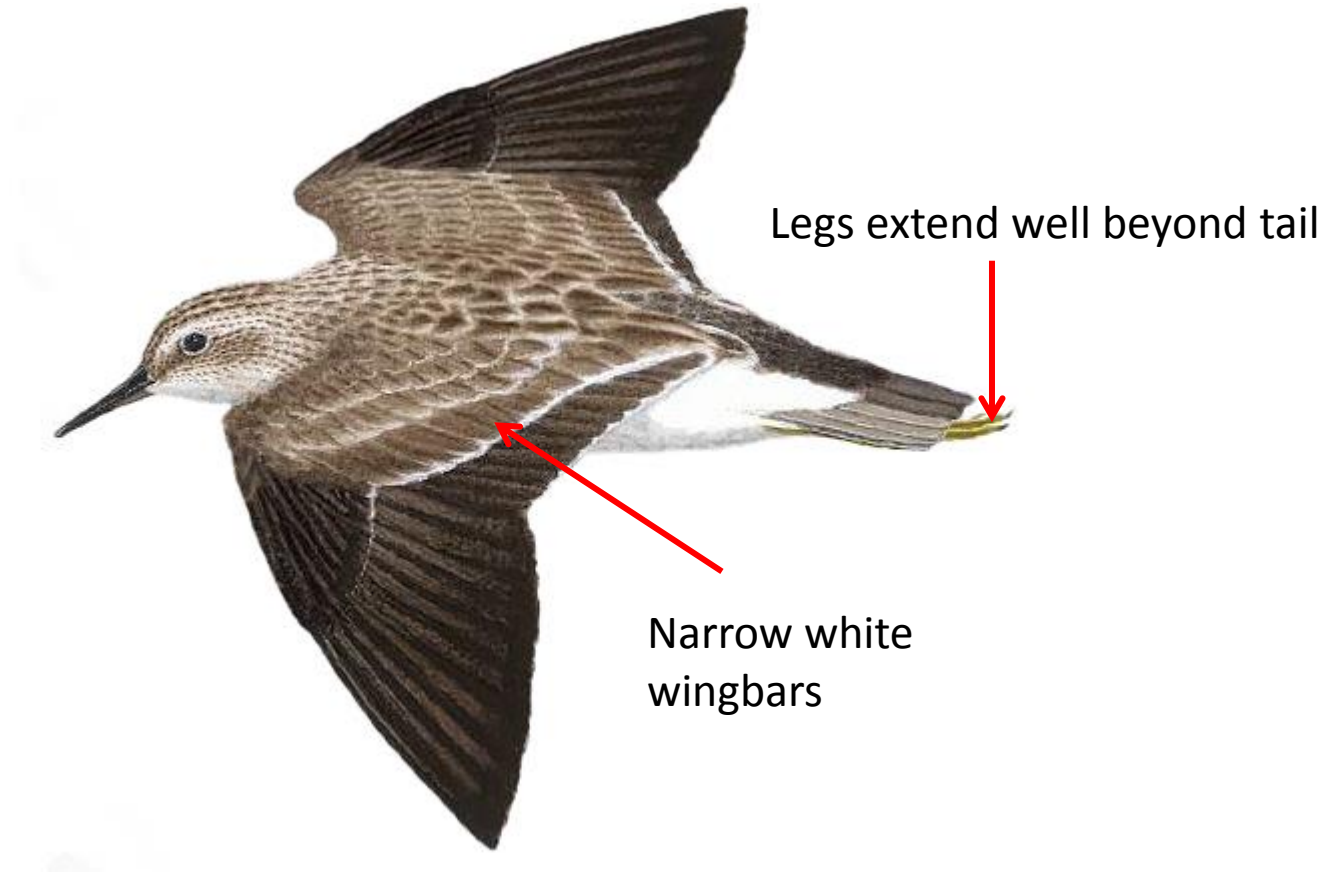
Difference from Breeding plumage

Important id point

Reference : Birds of Indian Subcontinent
Inskipp and Grimmett
www.HBW.com

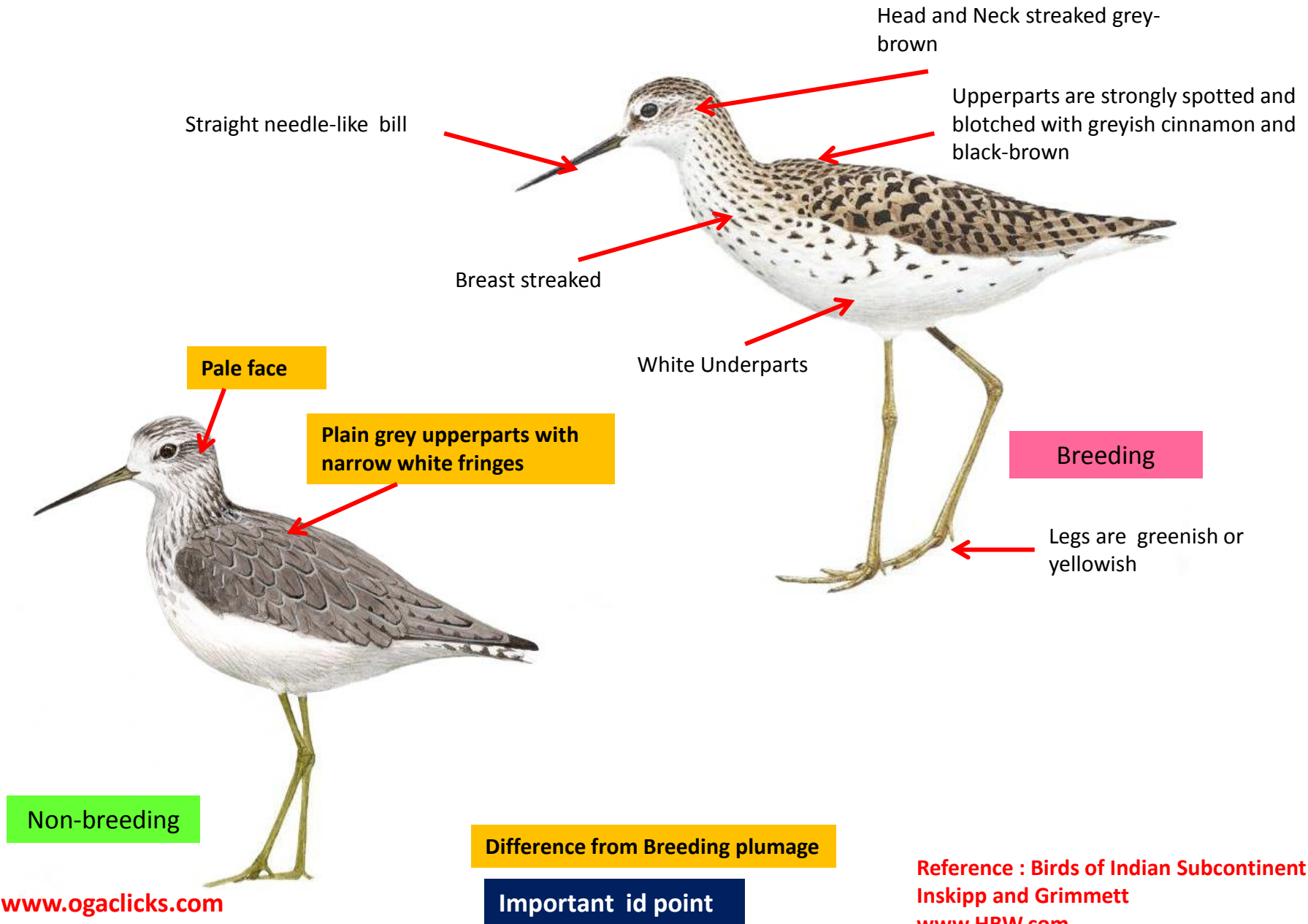
Long-toed Stint Identification Tips

Long-toed Stint : *Calidris subminuta*: Winter visitor in East coasts of India



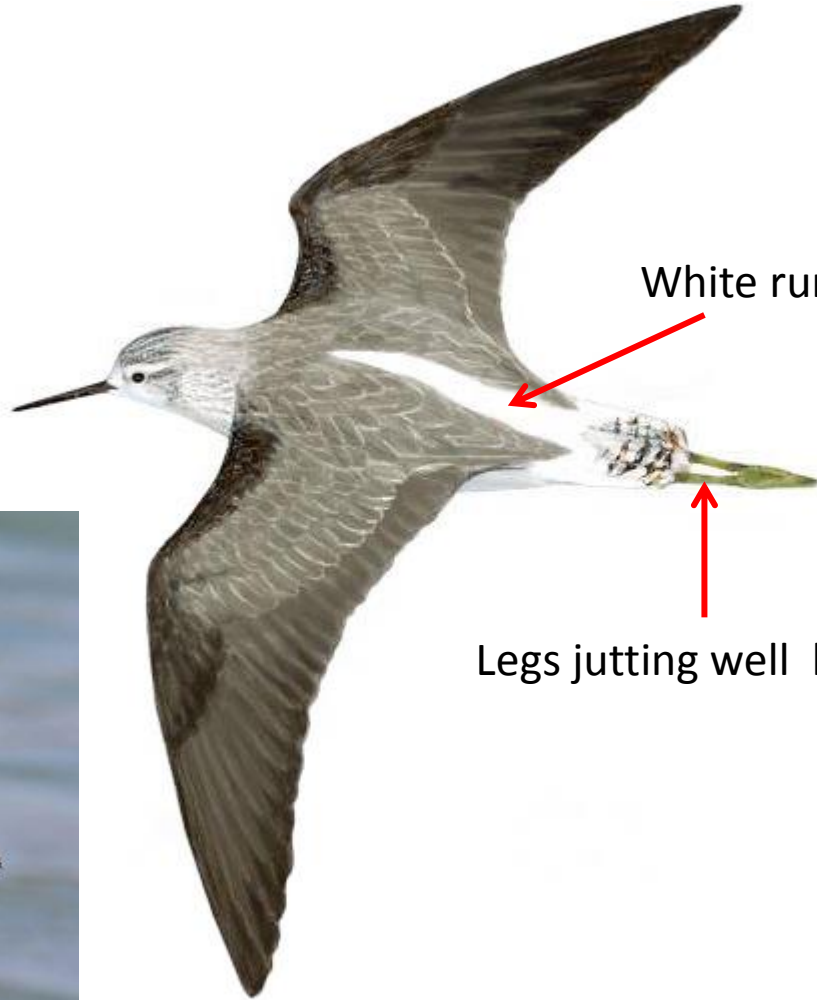
Marsh Sandpiper Identification Tips

Marsh Sandpiper : *Tringa stagnatilis* : Widespread Winter visitor in India (except Central and East India)



Marsh Sandpiper Identification Tips

Marsh Sandpiper : *Tringa stagnatilis* : Widespread Winter visitor in India (except Central and East India)



White rump & back

Legs jutting well beyond tail

Nordmann's (Spotted) Greenshank Identification Tips

Nordmann's (Spotted) Greenshank : *Tringa guttifer* : Vagrant in India

Bill slightly upturned, dark with yellow-green base

Head and neck densely spotted and streaked dark brown

Upperparts are dark brown with whitish spots and fringes

Breast and flanks spotted blackish

Paler head and neck

Dull grey upperparts with whitish fringes

Breeding

White belly and vent

Short and yellowish legs

Breast and flanks are not spotted

Dark brown lesser wing-coverts

Non-breeding

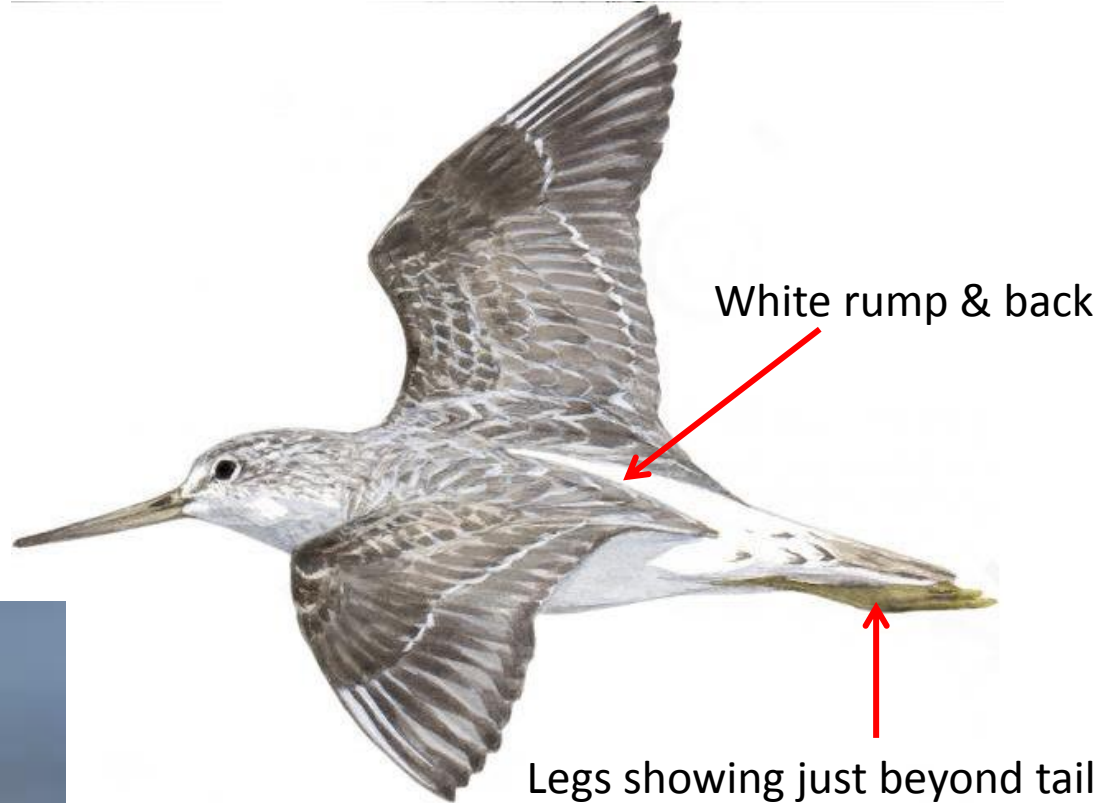
Difference from Breeding plumage

Important id point

Reference : Birds of Indian Subcontinent
Inskipp and Grimmett
www.HBW.com

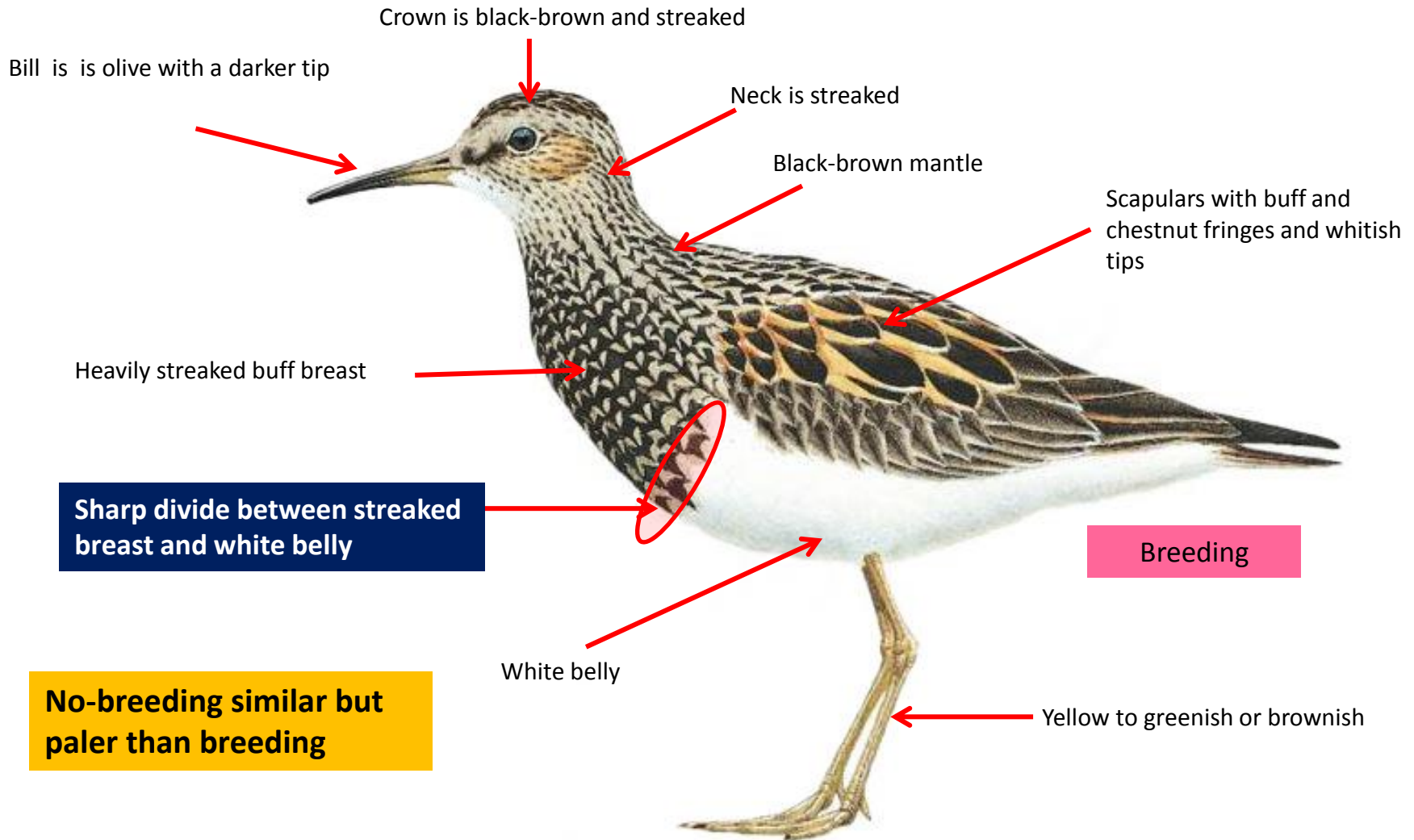
Nordmann's (Spotted) Greenshank Identification Tips

Nordmann's (Spotted) Greenshank : *Tringa guttifer* : Vagrant in India



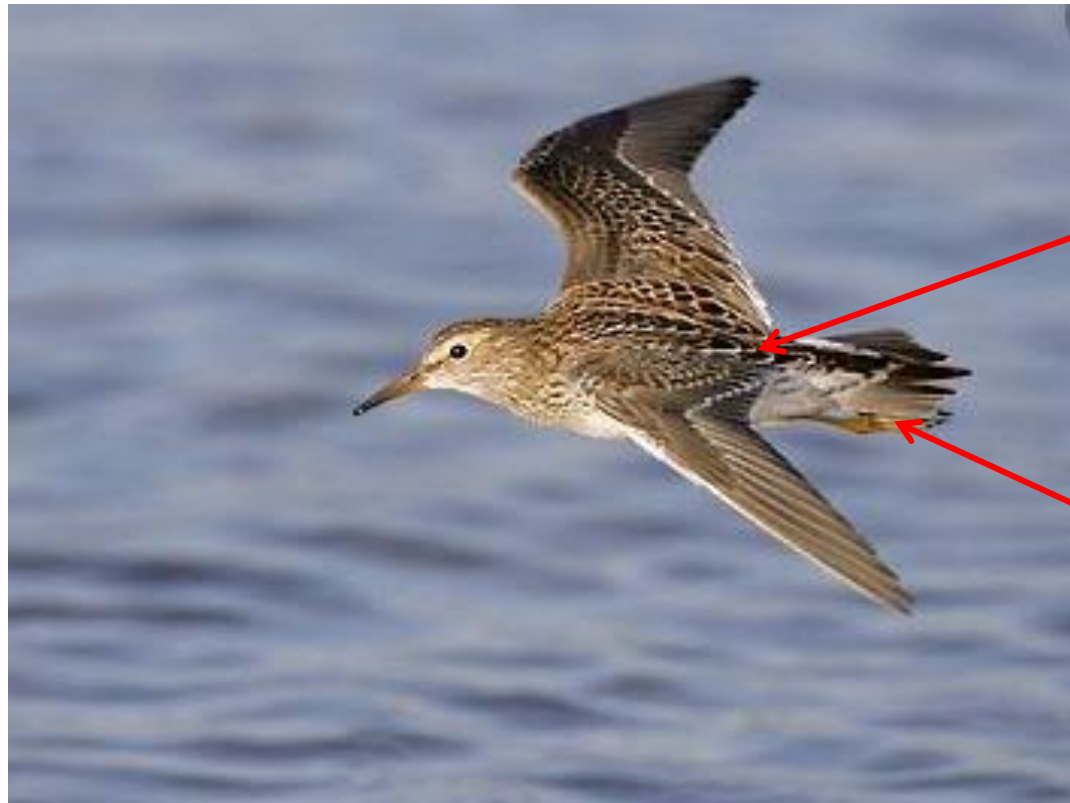
Pectoral Sandpiper Identification Tips

Pectoral Sandpiper : *Calidris melanotos* : Vagrant in India



Pectoral Sandpiper Identification Tips

Pectoral Sandpiper : *Calidris melanotos* : Vagrant in India

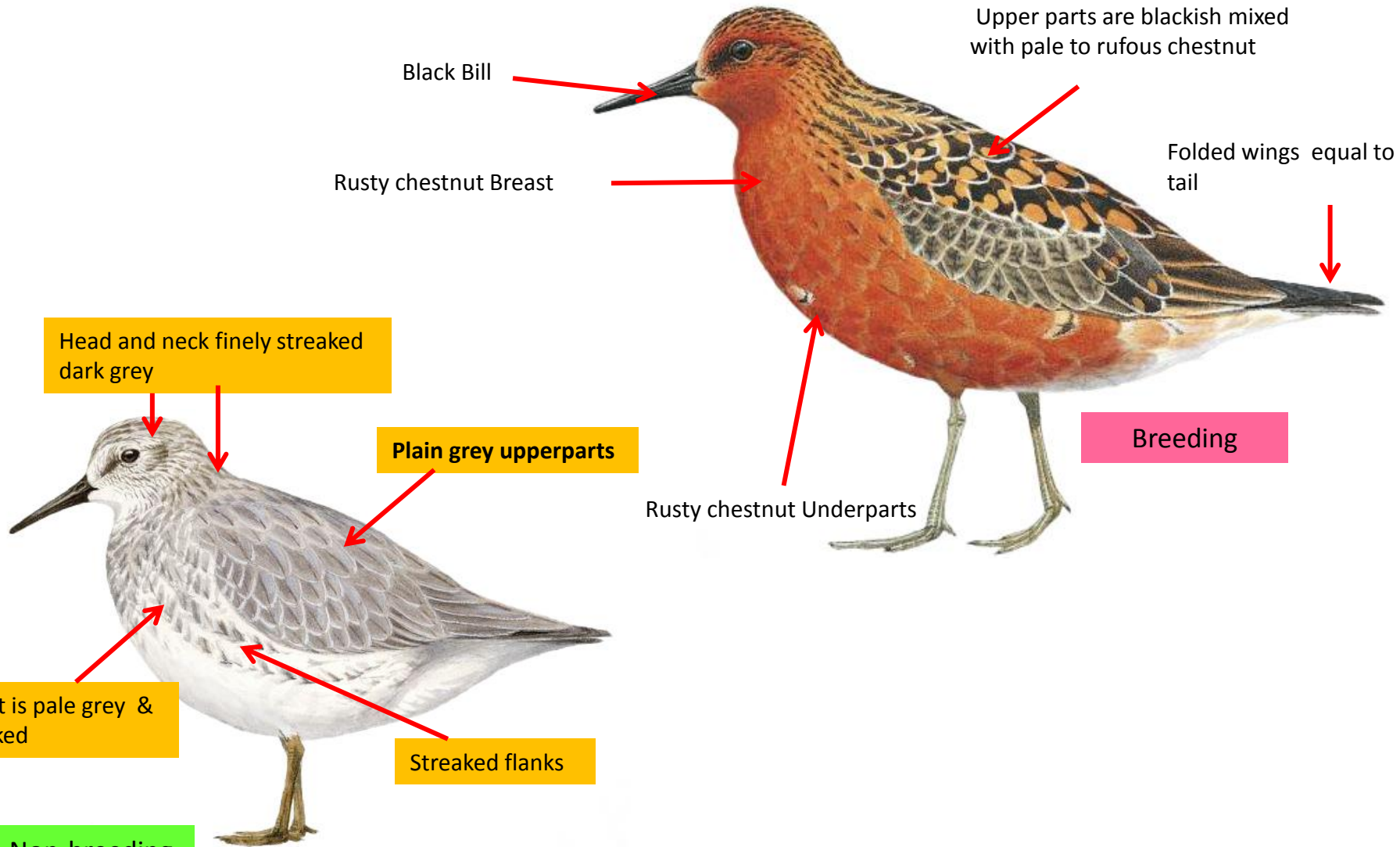


Streaked rump & back

Legs not showing beyond tail

Red Knot Identification Tips

Red Knot : *Calidris canutus* : Winter visitor to coasts in India



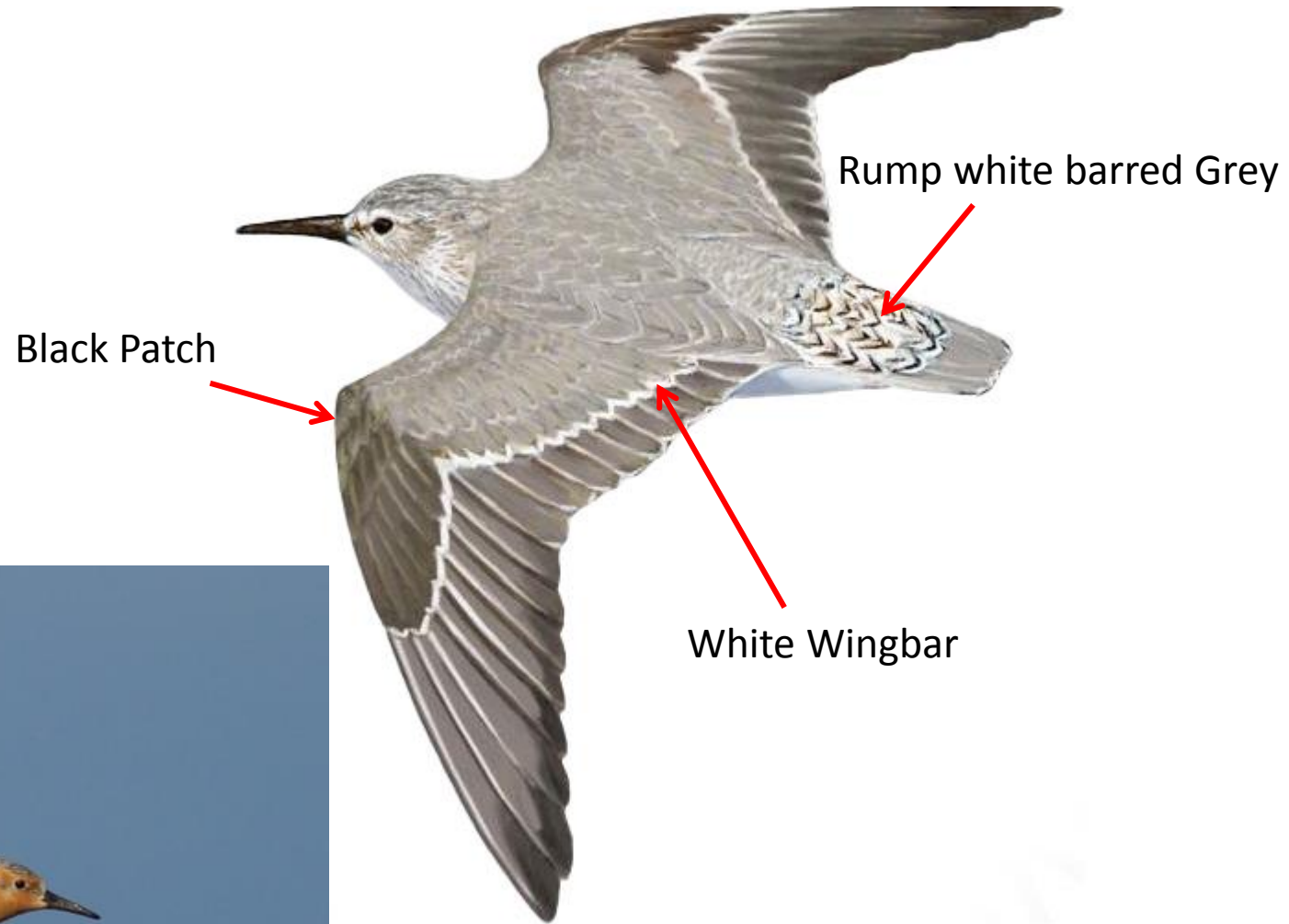
Difference from Breeding plumage

Important id point

Reference : Birds of Indian Subcontinent
Inskipp and Grimmett
www.HBW.com

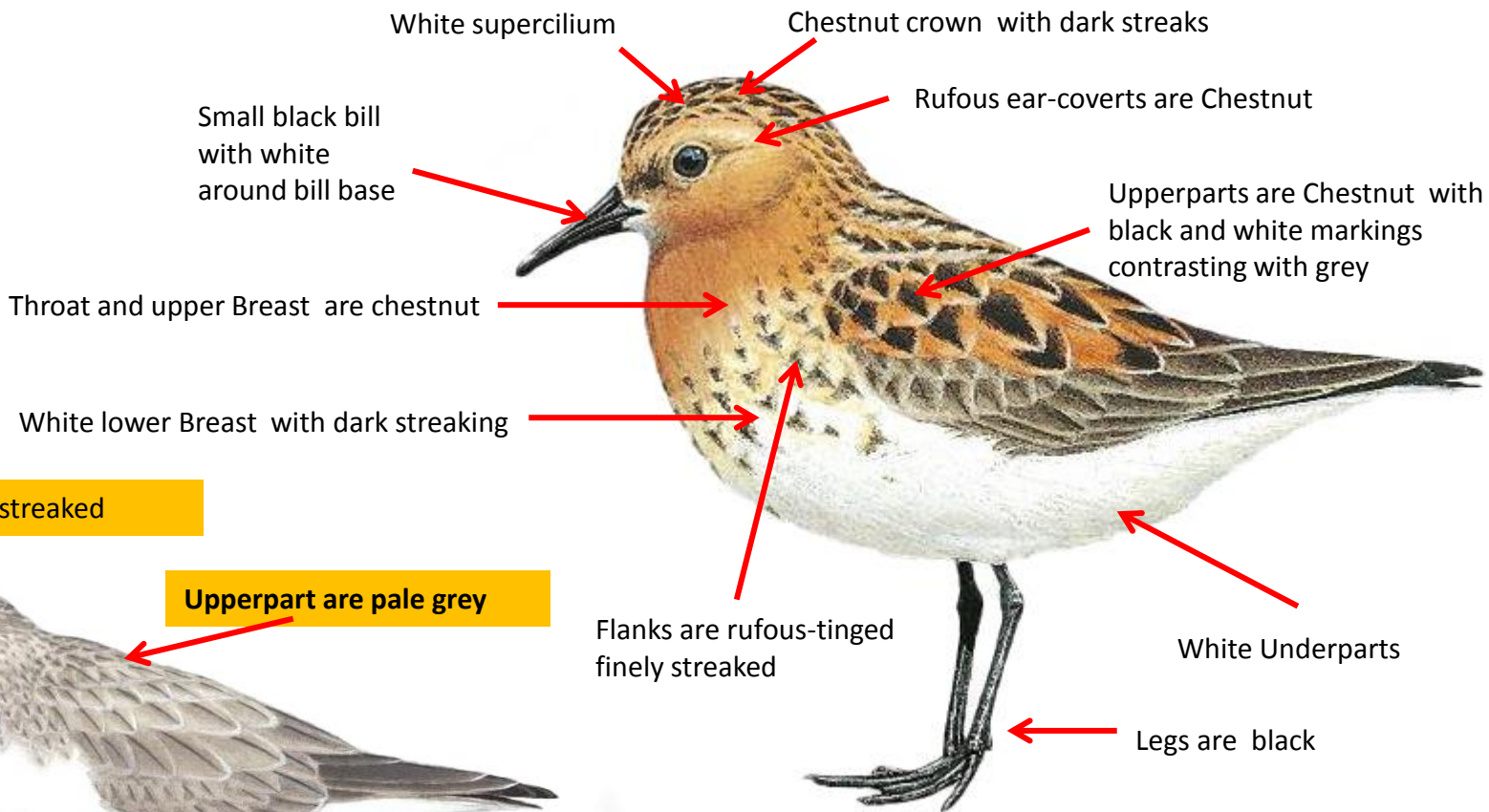
Red Knot Identification Tips

Red Knot : *Calidris canutus* : Winter visitor to coasts in India

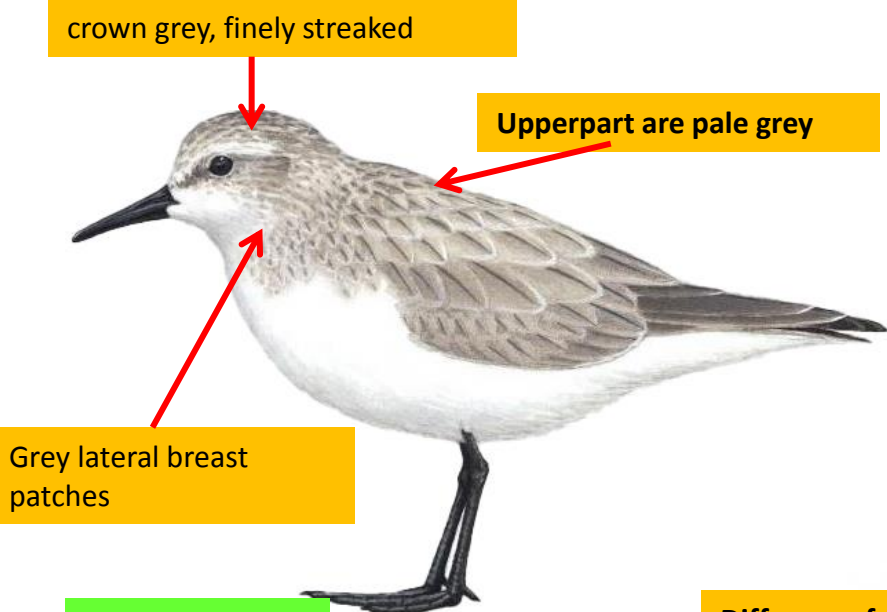


Red-necked Stint Identification Tips

Red-necked Stint : *Calidris ruficollis*: Winter visitor to coasts of Tamilnadu and Andaman & Nicobar Islands in India



Breeding



Non-breeding

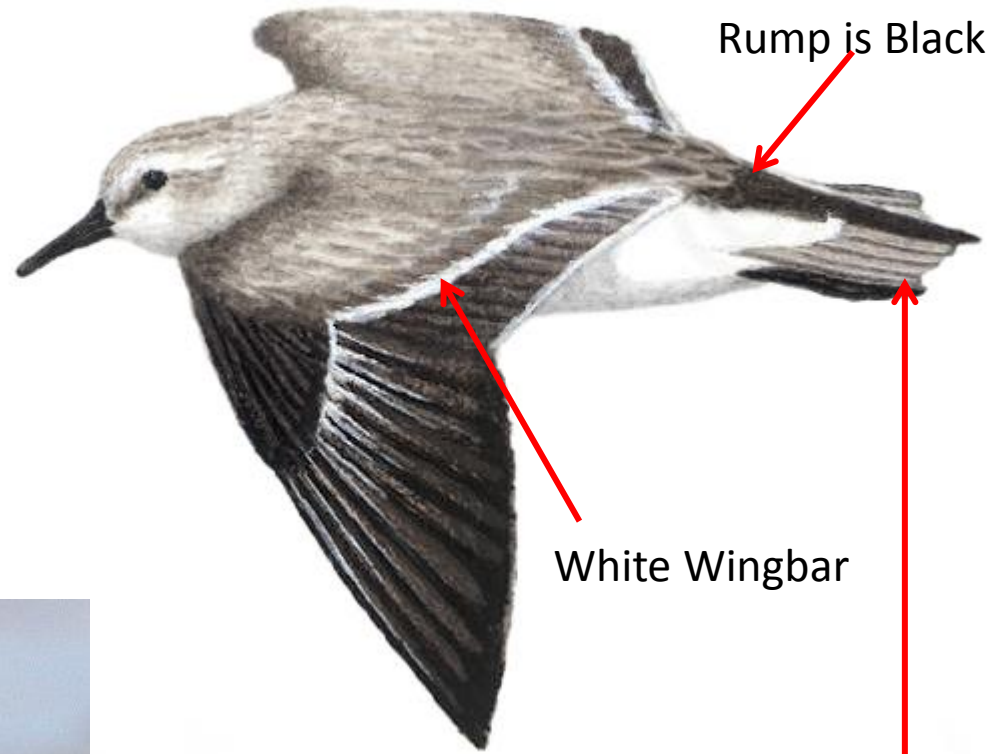
Difference from Breeding plumage

Important id point

Reference : Birds of Indian Subcontinent
Inskipp and Grimmett
www.HBW.com

Red-necked Stint Identification Tips

Red-necked Stint : *Calidris ruficollis*: Winter visitor to coasts of Tamilnadu and Andaman & Nicobar Islands in India



Rump is Black

White Wingbar

Legs not showing beyond tail

Ruddy Turnstone Identification Tips

Ruddy Turnstone: *Arenaria interpres*: Widespread winter visitor to coasts in India

More extensive streaking on crown

Black-and-white head

Female

Black-and-white neck

Upperparts are rufous-chestnut with black-brown patches

Breeding

Black and White throat and breast

White underparts

Short and yellowish legs

Head is dark grey-brown

Upperparts are dark greyish brown and blackish

Non-breeding

Throat and breast are Dark-grey-brown

Difference from Male

Difference from Breeding plumage

Important id point

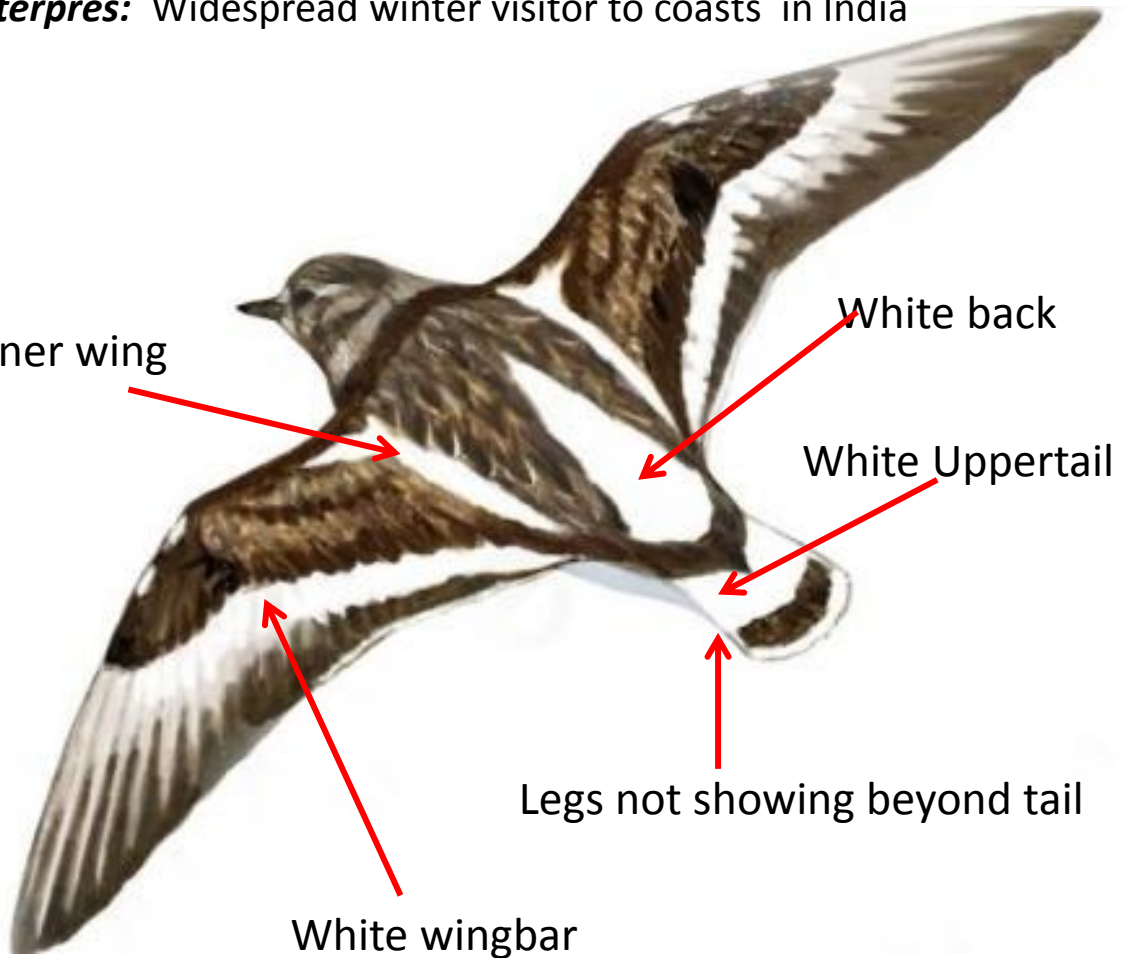
Reference : Birds of Indian Subcontinent
Inskipp and Grimmett
www.HBW.com

Ruddy Turnstone Identification Tips

Ruddy Turnstone: *Arenaria interpres*: Widespread winter visitor to coasts in India



Patch on inner wing



White back

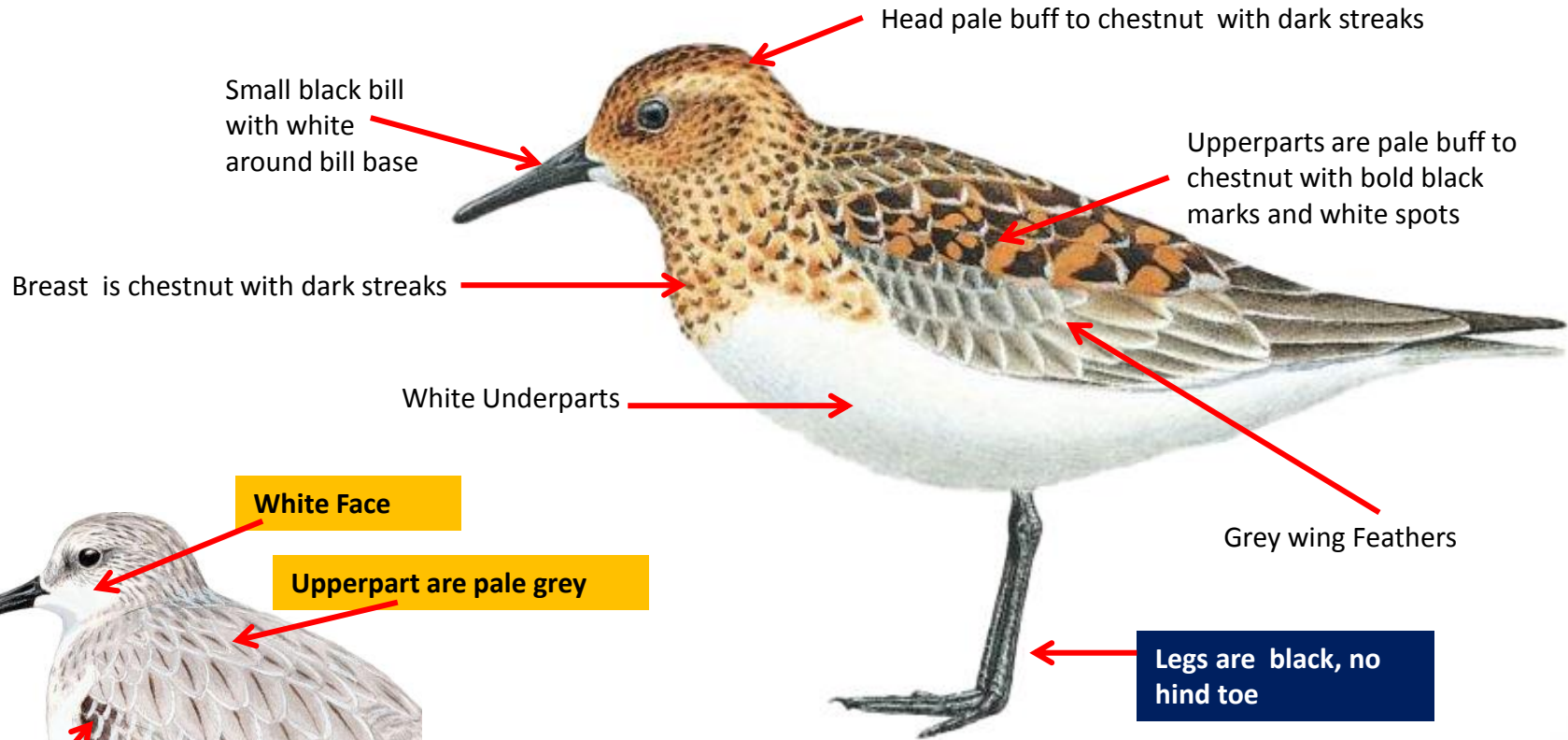
White Uppertail

Legs not showing beyond tail

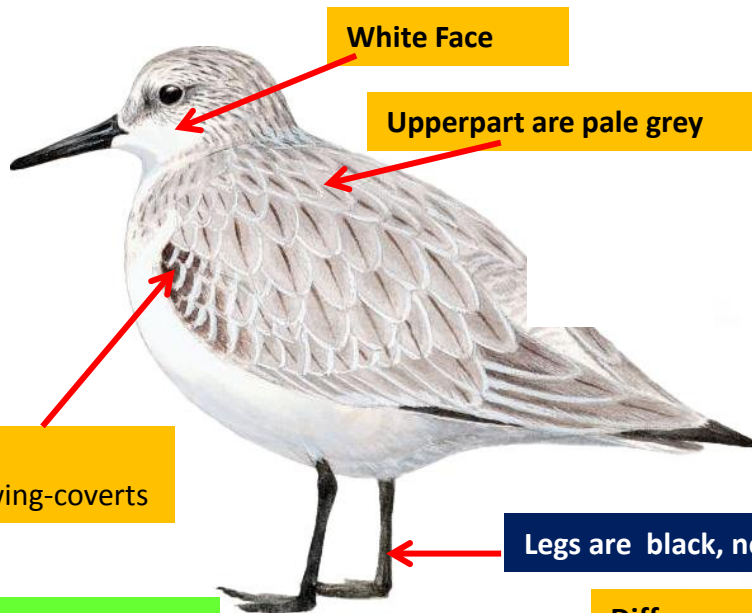
White wingbar

Sanderling Identification Tips

Sanderling : *Calidris alba* : Winter visitor to coasts in India



Breeding



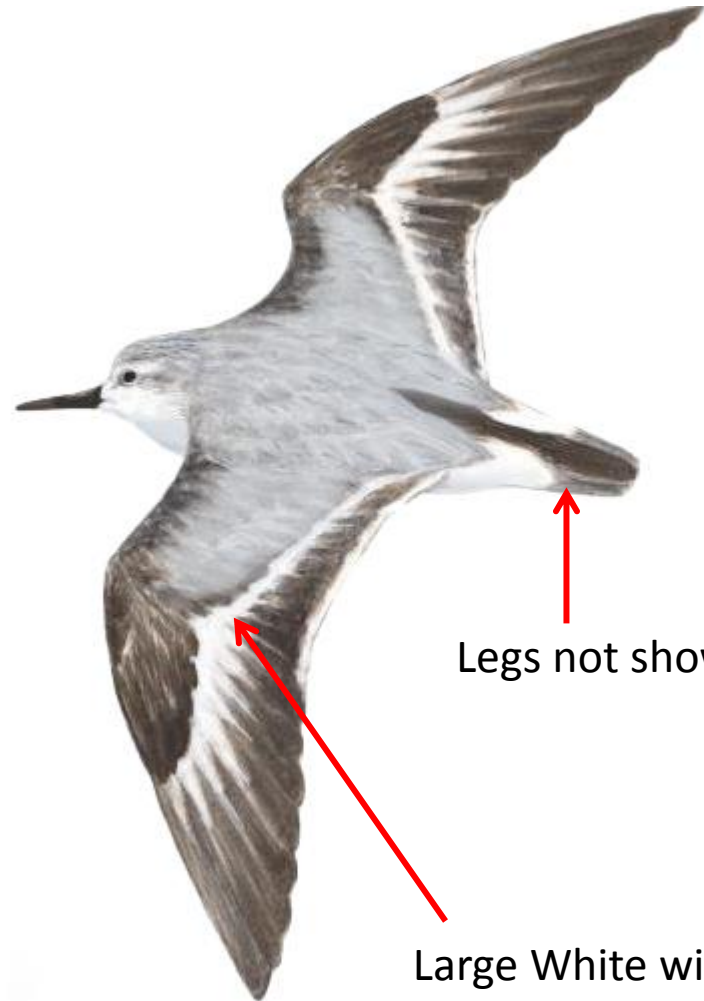
Non-breeding

Difference from Breeding plumage

Important id point

Sanderling Identification Tips

Sanderling : *Calidris alba* : Winter visitor to coasts in India

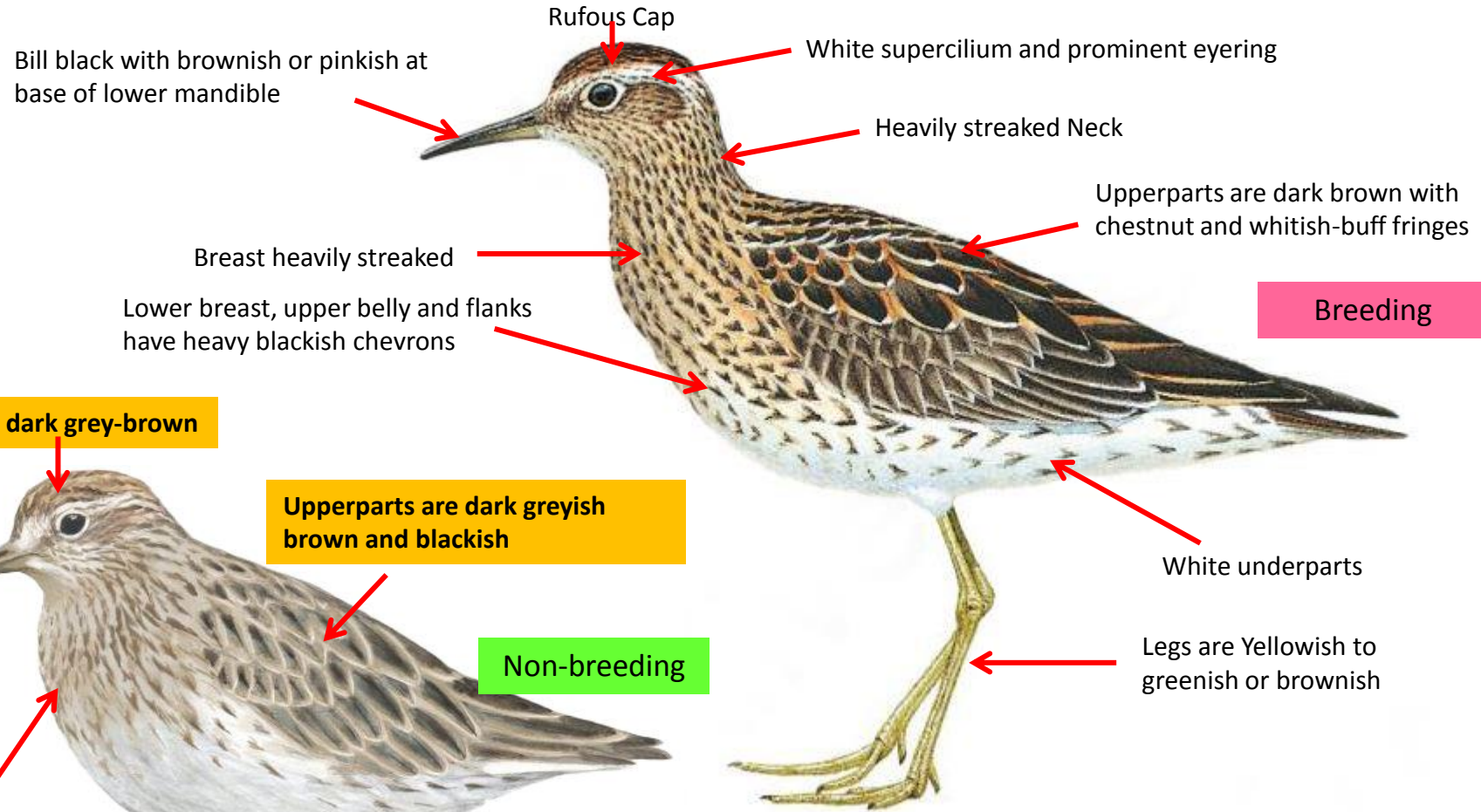


Legs not showing beyond tail

Large White wingbar

Sharp-tailed Sandpiper Identification Tips

Sharp-tailed Sandpiper : *Arenaria acuminata* : Vagrant in India



Head is dark grey-brown

Upperparts are dark greyish brown and blackish

Non-breeding

Throat and breast are greyish with faint streaks

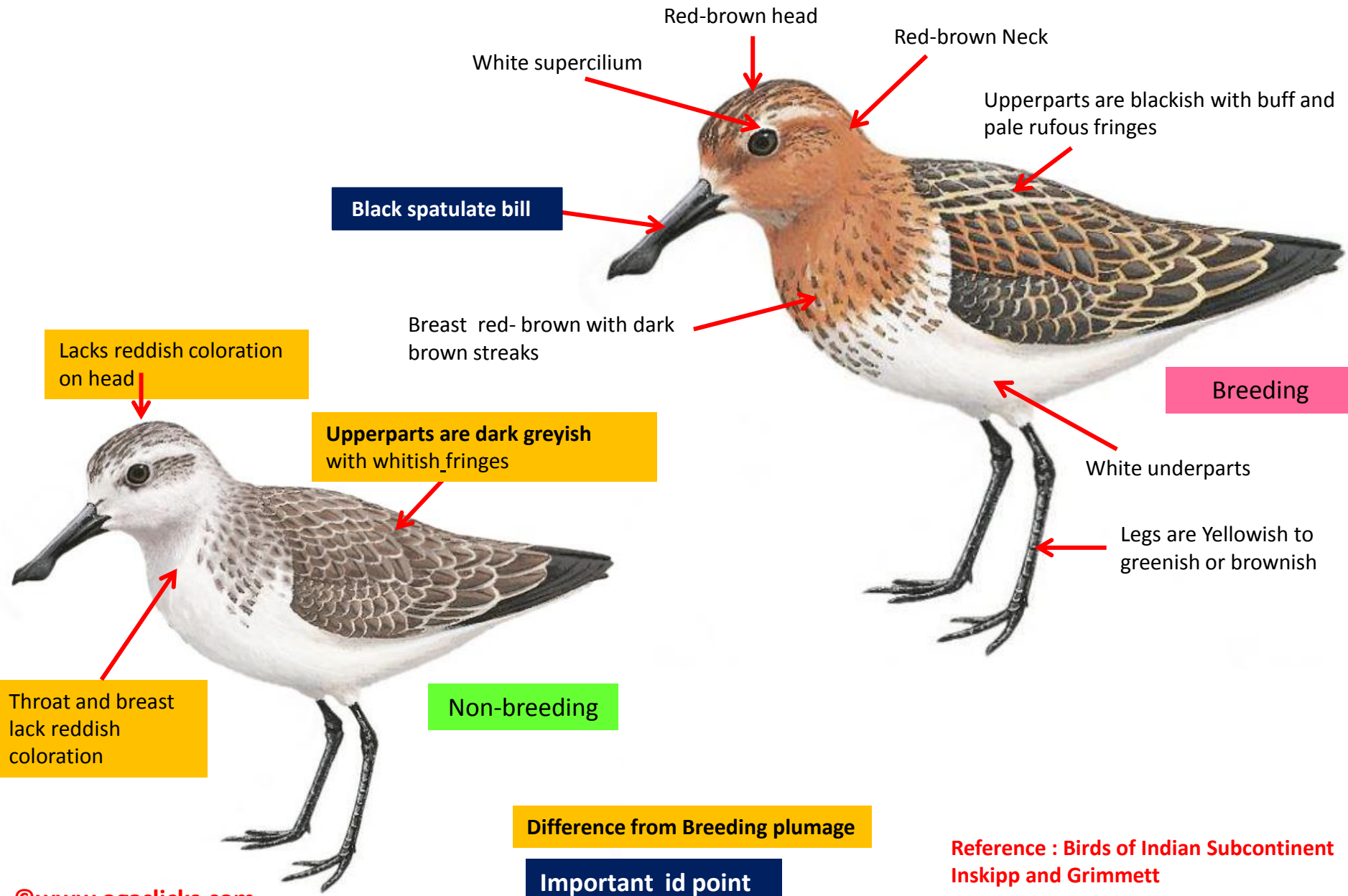
Difference from Breeding plumage

Important id point

Reference : Birds of Indian Subcontinent
Inskipp and Grimmett
www.HBW.com

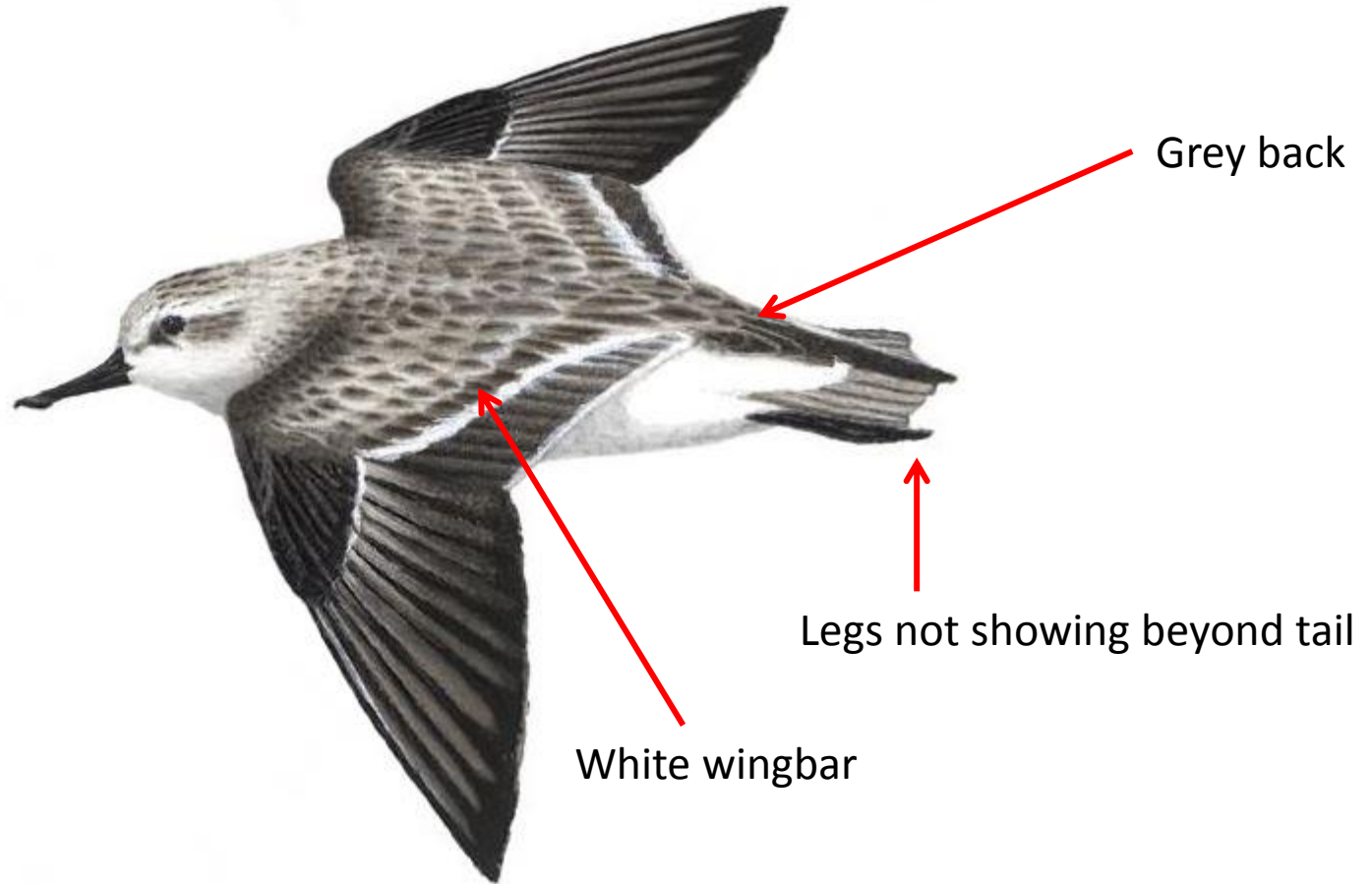
Spoon-billed Sandpiper Identification Tips

Spoon-billed Sandpiper : *Calidris pygmeus*: Winter visitor in West Bengal in India



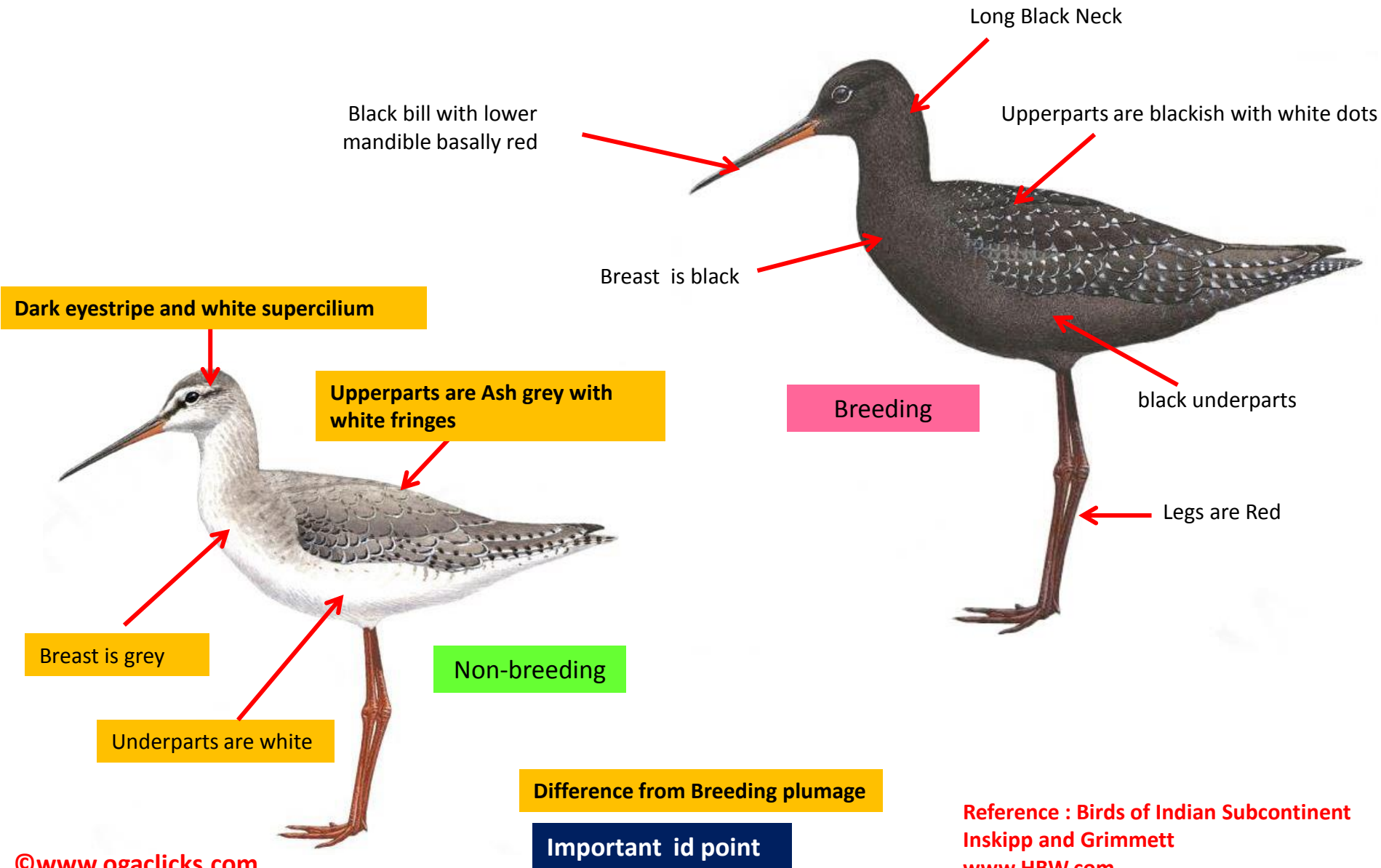
Spoon-billed Sandpiper Identification Tips

Spoon-billed Sandpiper : *Calidris pygmeus*: Winter visitor in West Bengal in India



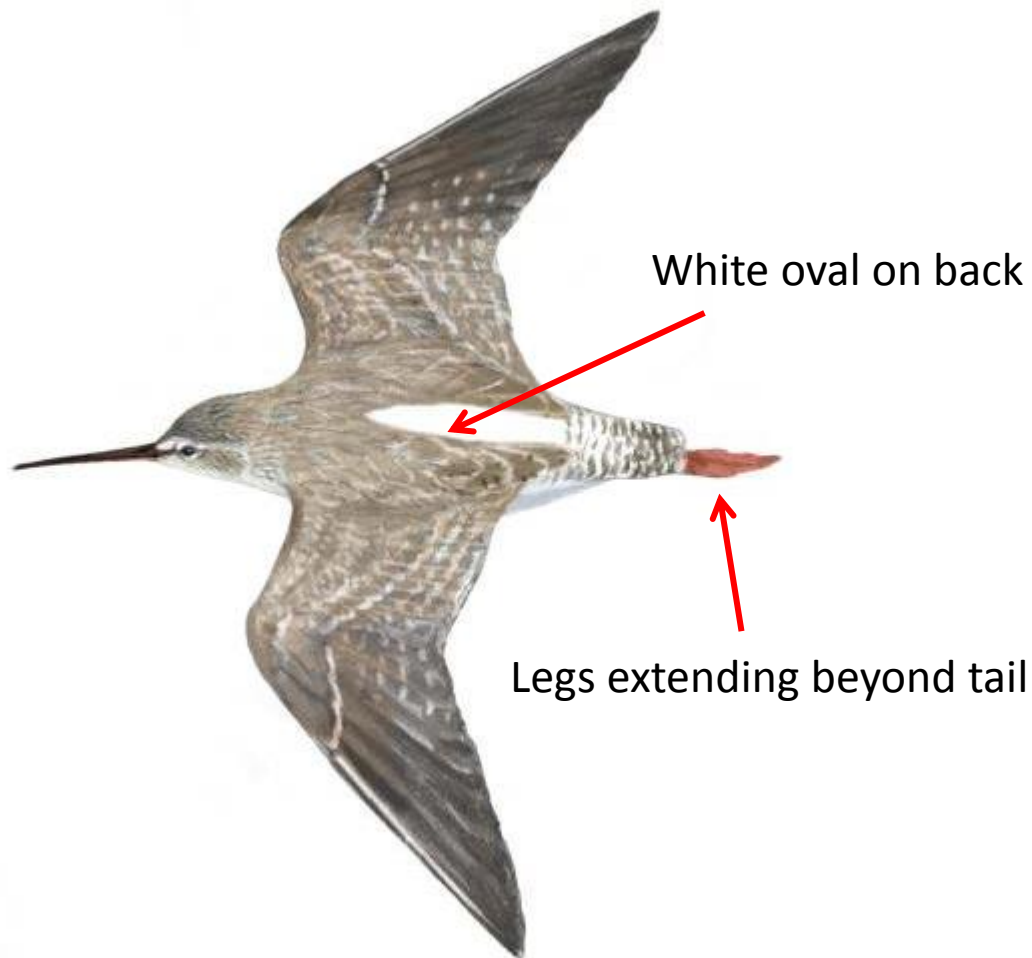
Spotted Redshank Identification Tips

Spotted Redshank : *Tringa erythropus* : Widespread Winter visitor in India (except Central, East and North East India)



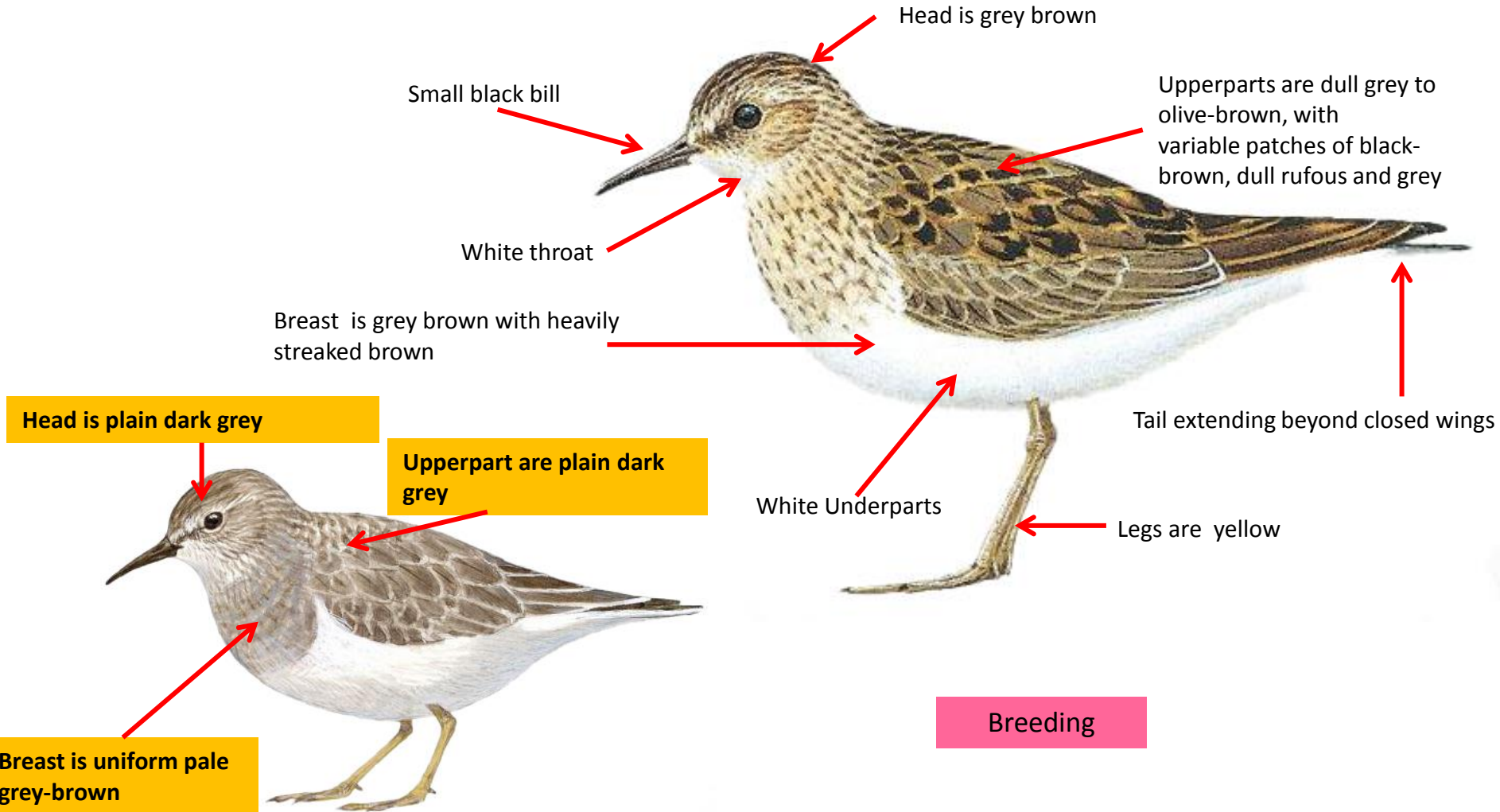
Spotted Redshank Identification Tips

Spotted Redshank : *Tringa erythropus* : **Widespread** Winter visitor in India (except Central, East and North East India)



Temminck's Stint Identification Tips

Temminck's Stint: *Calidris temminckii* : Widespread Winter visitor in India



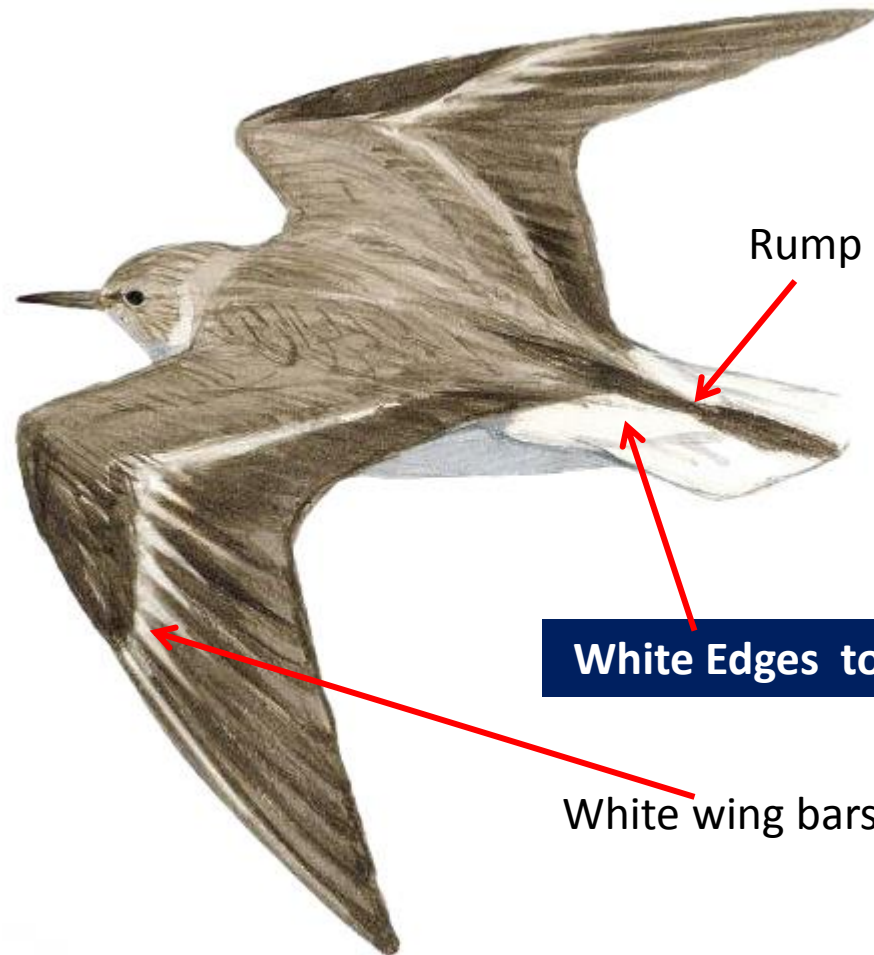
Difference from Breeding plumage

Important id point

Reference : Birds of Indian Subcontinent
Inskipp and Grimmett
www.HBW.com

Temminck's Stint Identification Tips

Temminck's Stint: *Calidris temminckii* : Widespread Winter visitor in India



Rump is Brown

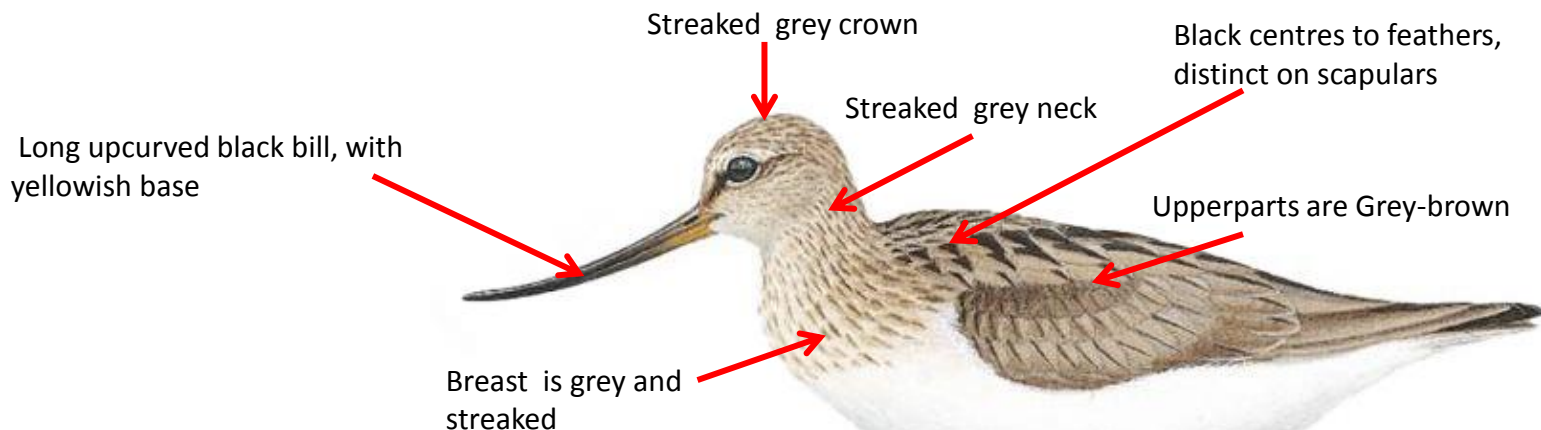
White Edges to tail

White wing bars

Important id point

Terek Sandpiper Identification Tips

Terek Sandpiper : *Xenus cinereus* : Widespread Winter visitor in coasts of India



White underparts

Breeding

Legs are short and orange to greenish-yellow

Paler head

Upperparts are brownish
Greyish pale fringes

Non-breeding

Breast is grey
without streaks

Underparts are white

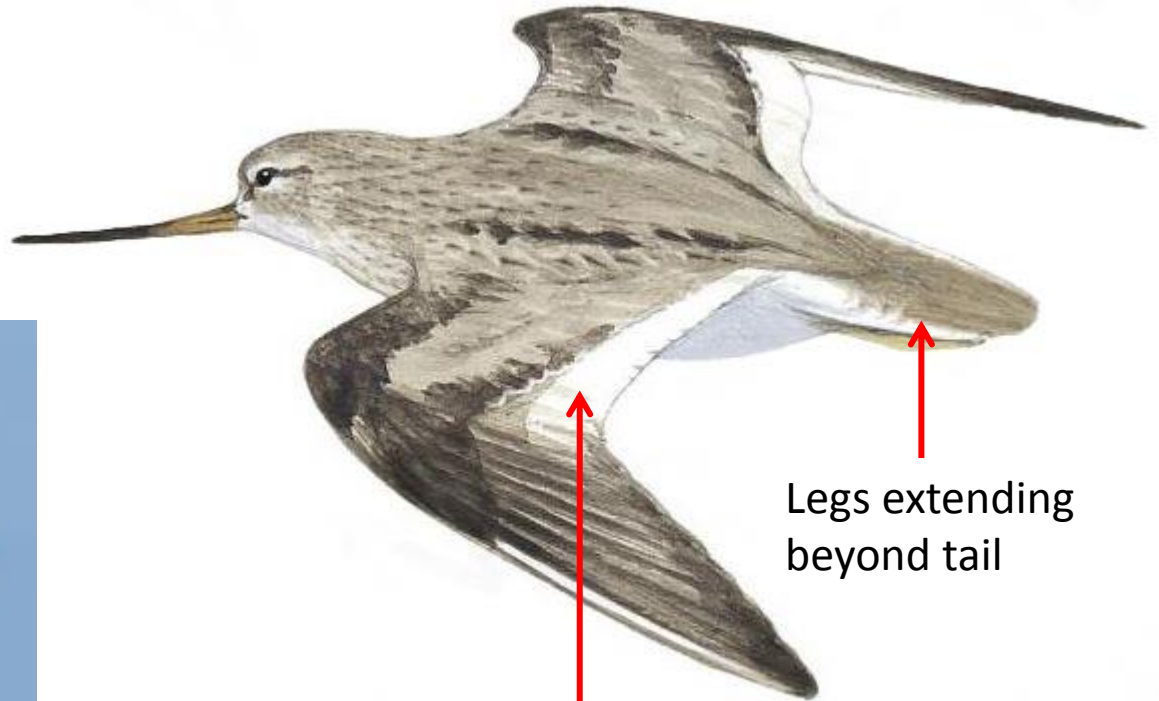
Difference from Breeding plumage

Important id point

Reference : Birds of Indian Subcontinent
Inskipp and Grimmett
www.HBW.com

Terek Sandpiper Identification Tips

Terek Sandpiper : *Xenus cinereus* : Widespread Winter visitor in coasts of India

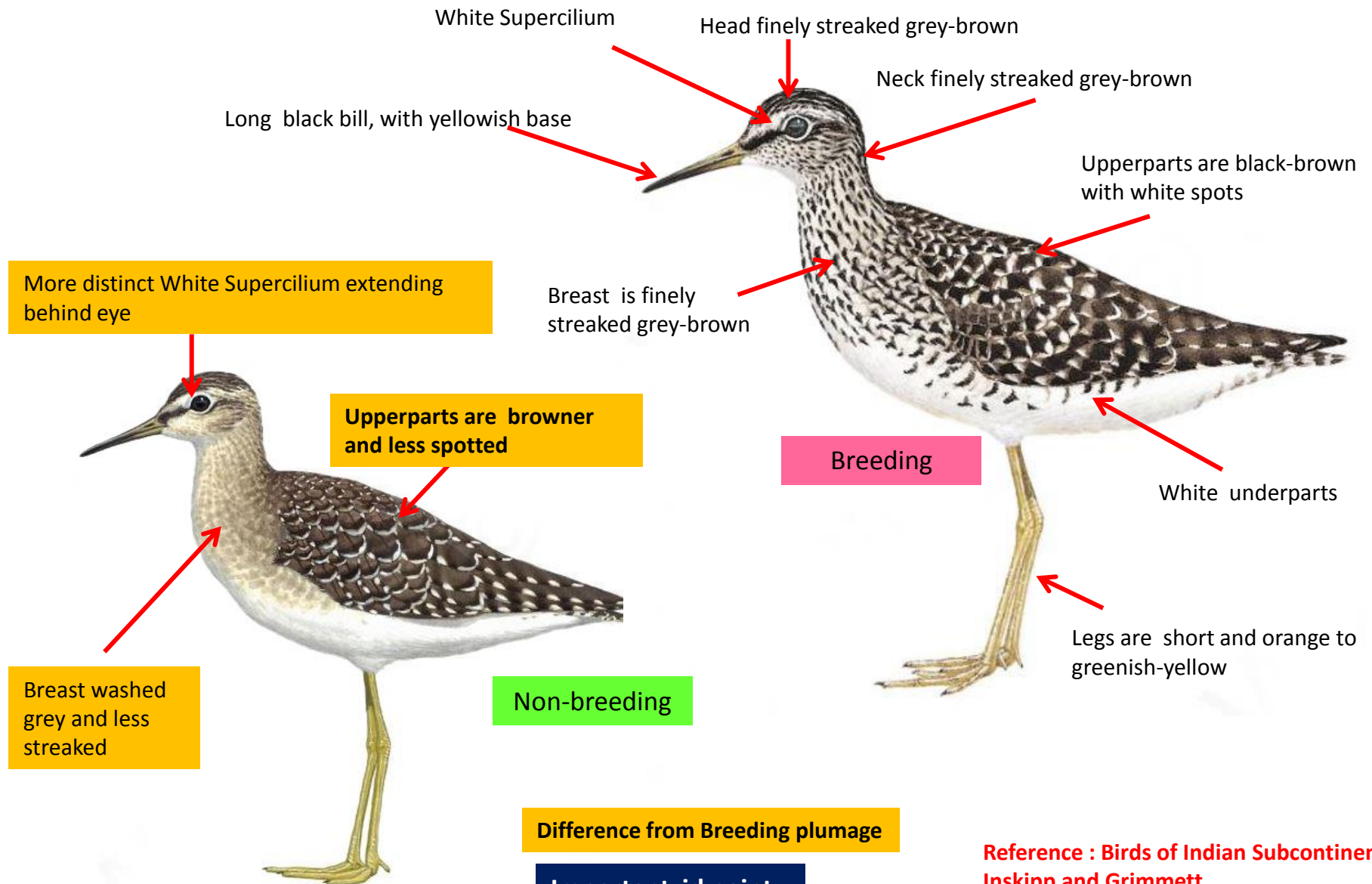


broad white trailing edge to wings

Legs extending
beyond tail

Wood Sandpiper Identification Tips

Wood Sandpiper : *Xenus glareola* : Widespread Winter visitor in India



Reference : Birds of Indian Subcontinent
Inskipp and Grimmett
www.HBW.com

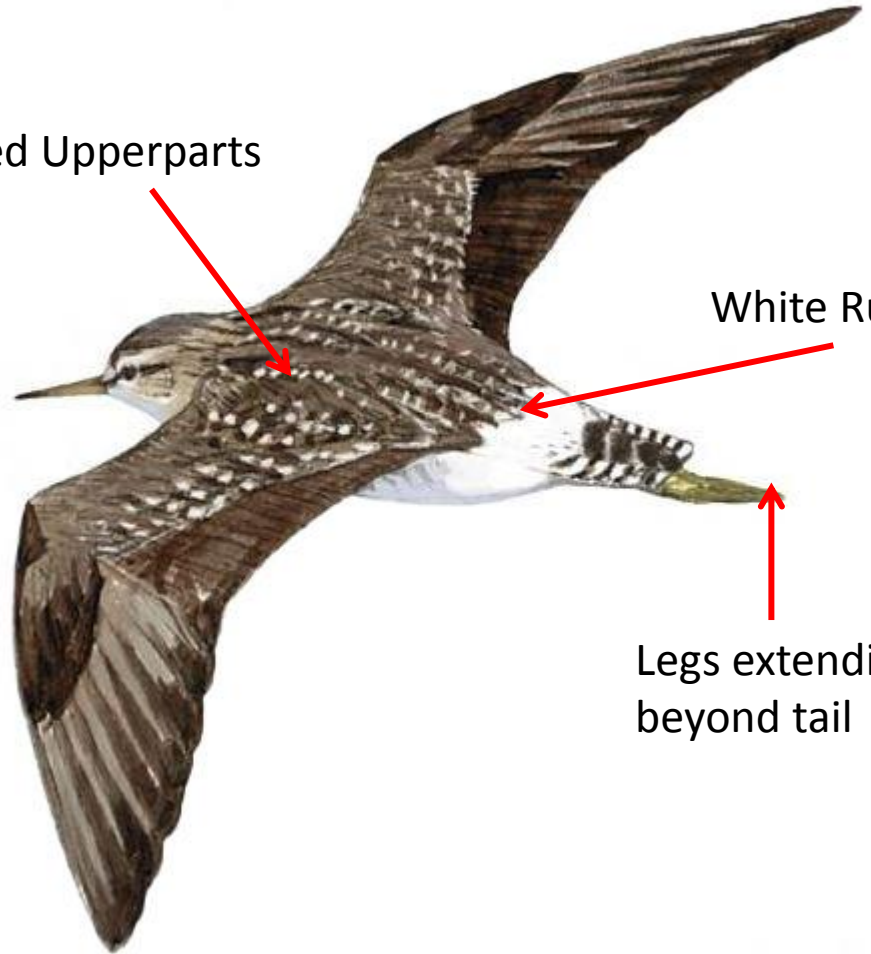
Wood Sandpiper Identification Tips

Wood Sandpiper : *Xenus glareola* : Widespread Winter visitor in India

White Spotted Upperparts

White Rump

Legs extending
beyond tail



Shank Flight Comparison

Common Redshank

Spotted Redshank

White Oval patch on Back

Legs extending beyond tail

White edges to wings

Legs extending beyond tail

Common Greenshank

Spotted Greenshank

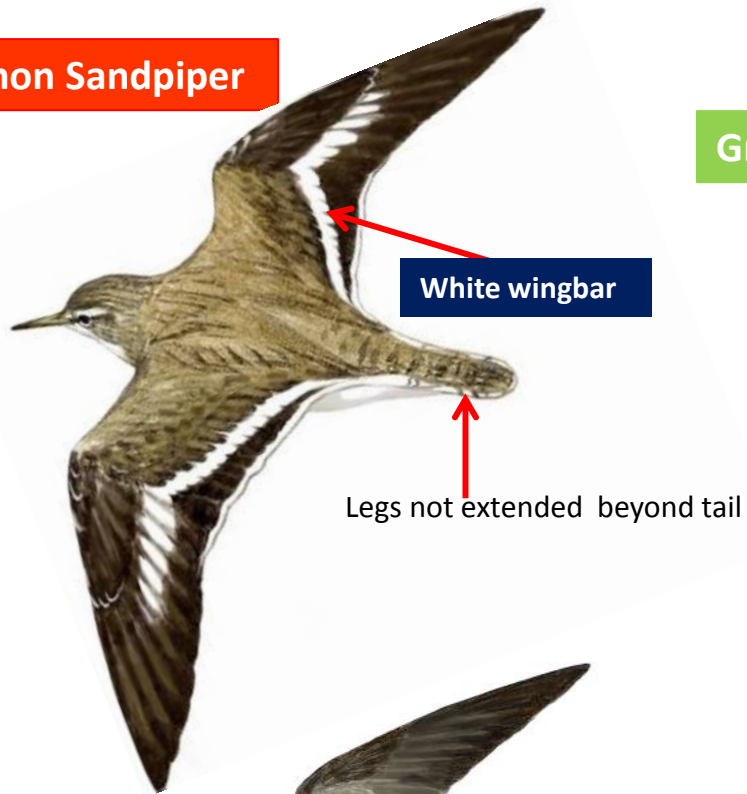
White Back and Rump and Upper tail

Legs just beyond tail

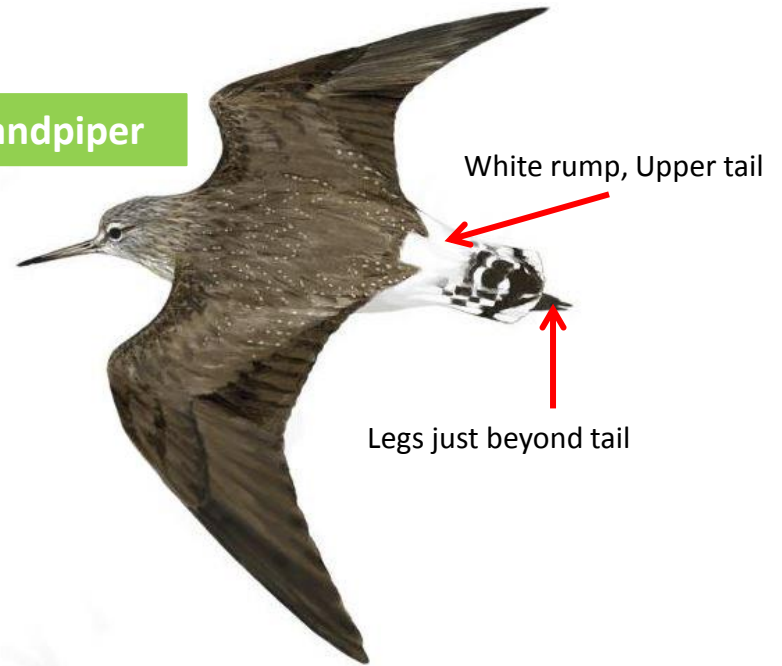
Legs just beyond tail

Sandpiper Flight Comparison

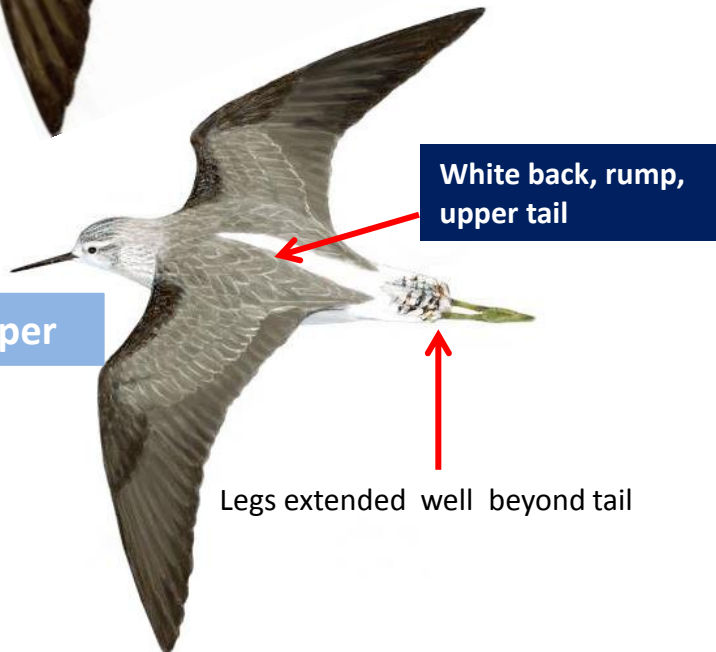
Common Sandpiper



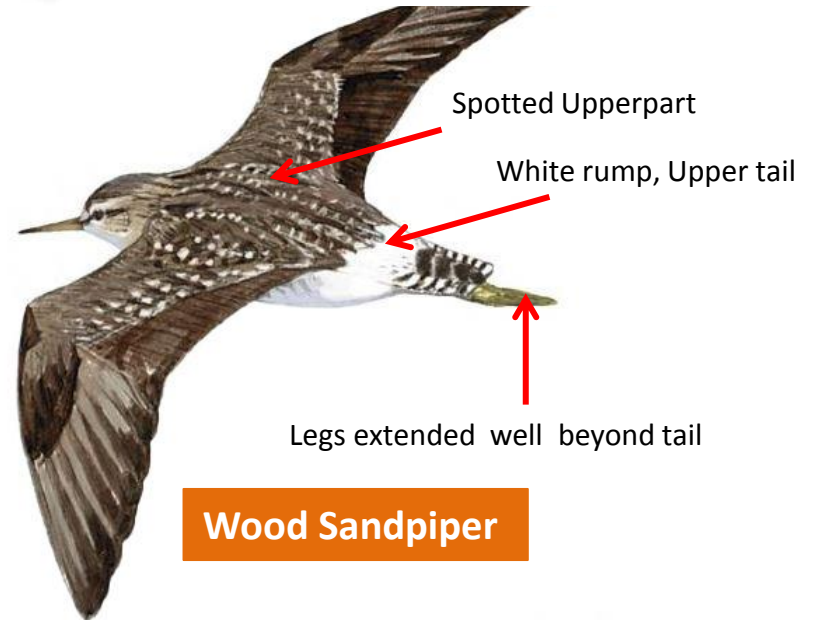
Green sandpiper



Marsh Sandpiper

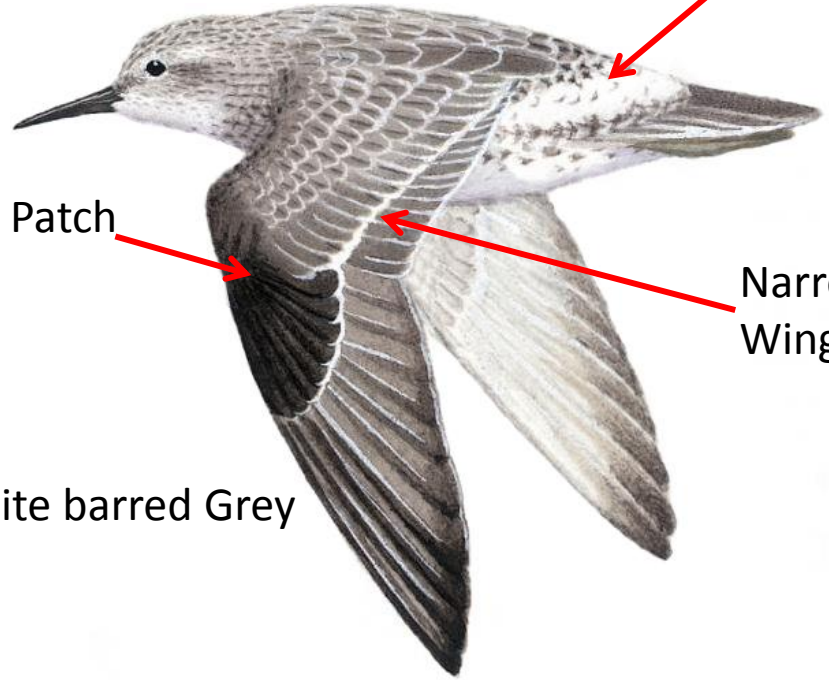


Wood Sandpiper



Knot Flight Comparison

Great Knot



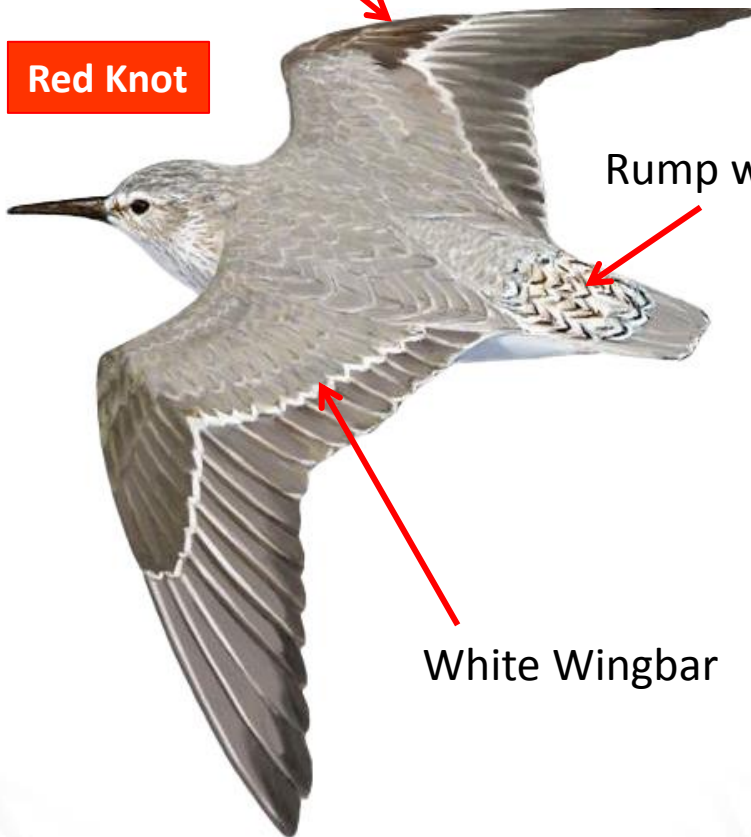
White Rump

Black Patch

Narrow White Wingbar

Black Patch

Red Knot



Rump white barred Grey

White Wingbar

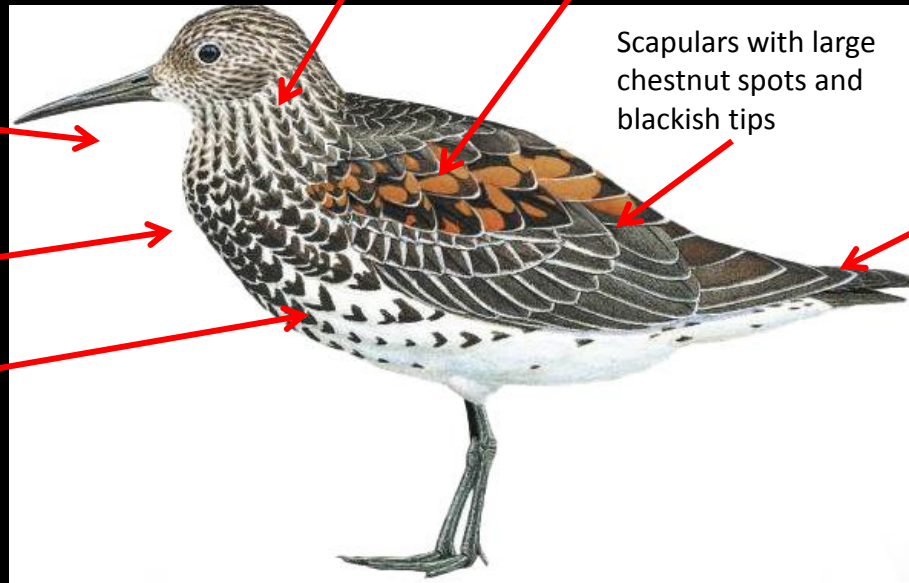
Great Knot Vs Red Knot - Breeding

Great Knot

Black Bill

Throat is heavily spotted black

Breast and flanks heavily spotted black



Face is heavily spotted black

Mottled greyish upperparts

Scapulars with large chestnut spots and blackish tips

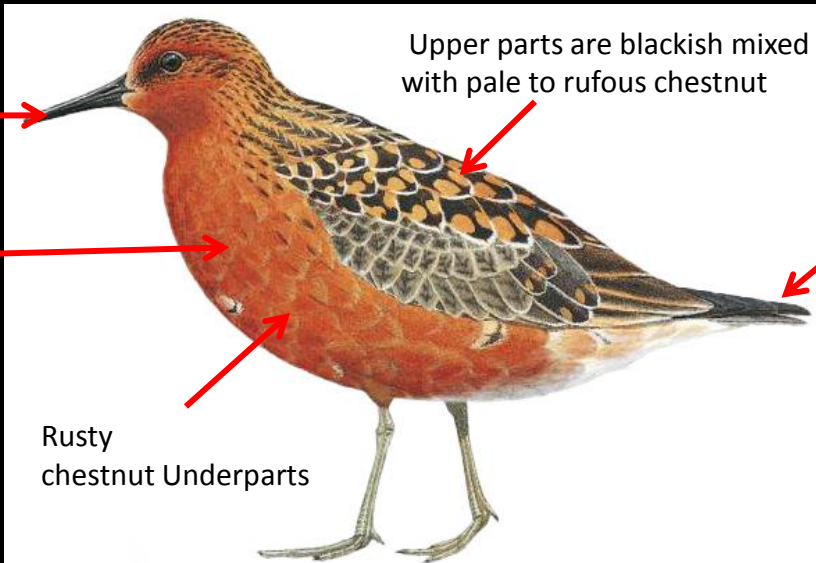
Folded wings project beyond tail

Red Knot

Black Bill

Rusty chestnut Breast

Rusty chestnut Underparts



Upper parts are blackish mixed with pale to rufous chestnut

Folded wings equal to tail

Great Knot Vs Red Knot – Non-Breeding

Great Knot



Head and neck finely streaked dark grey

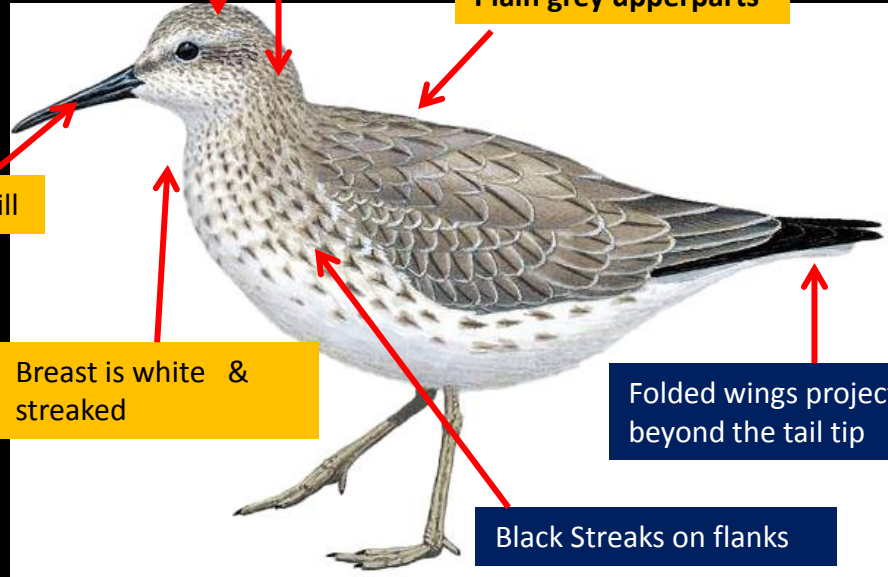
Plain grey upperparts

Longer bill

Breast is white & streaked

Folded wings projecting beyond the tail tip

Black Streaks on flanks



Head and neck finely streaked dark grey

Plain grey upperparts

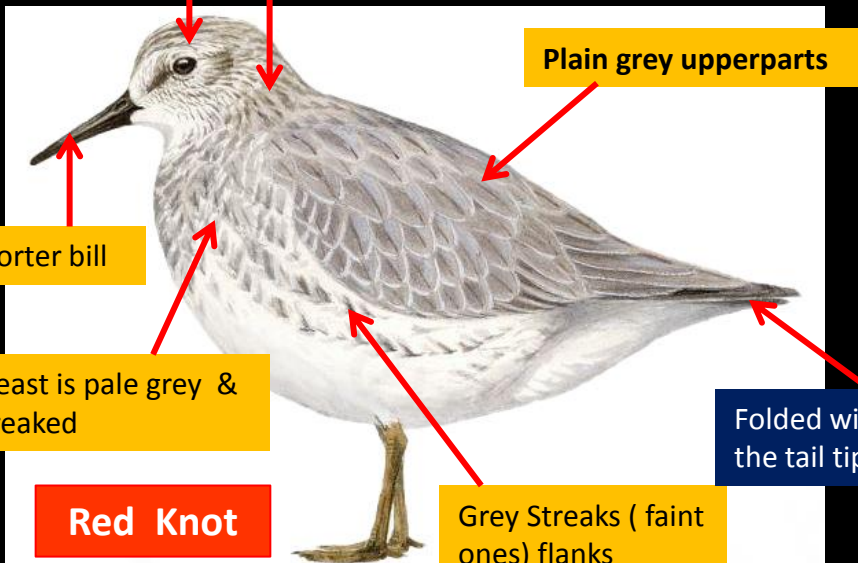
Shorter bill

Breast is pale grey & streaked

Red Knot

Grey Streaks (faint ones) flanks

Folded wings equal to the tail tip



Curlew Sandpiper Vs Dunlin - Breeding

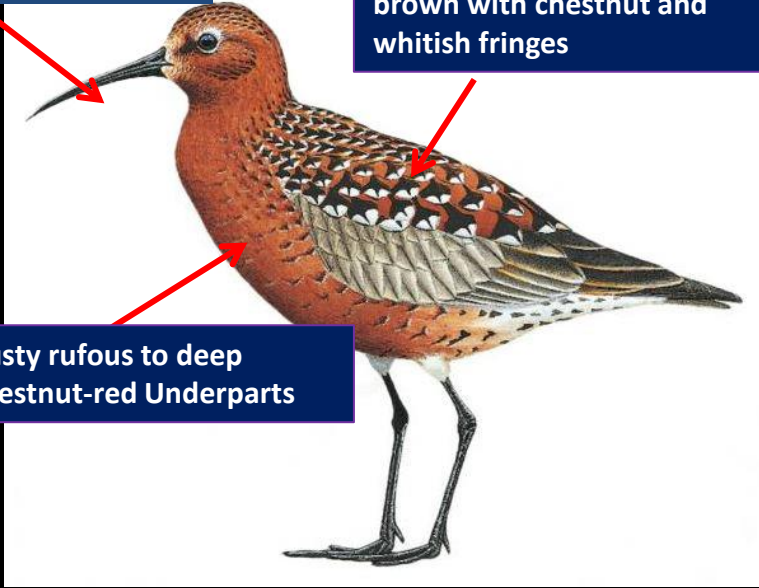
Curlew Sandpiper



Long, decurved bill

Mantle and scapulars dark brown with chestnut and whitish fringes

Rusty rufous to deep chestnut-red Underparts

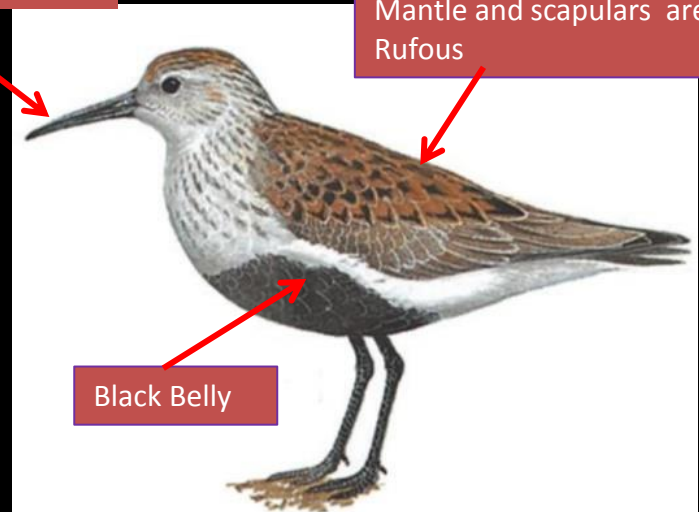


Smaller Bill Compared to Curlew Sandpiper

Dunlin

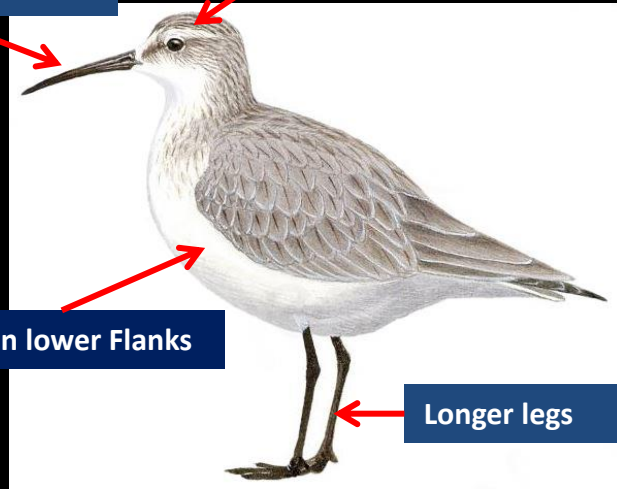
Mantle and scapulars are Rufous

Black Belly



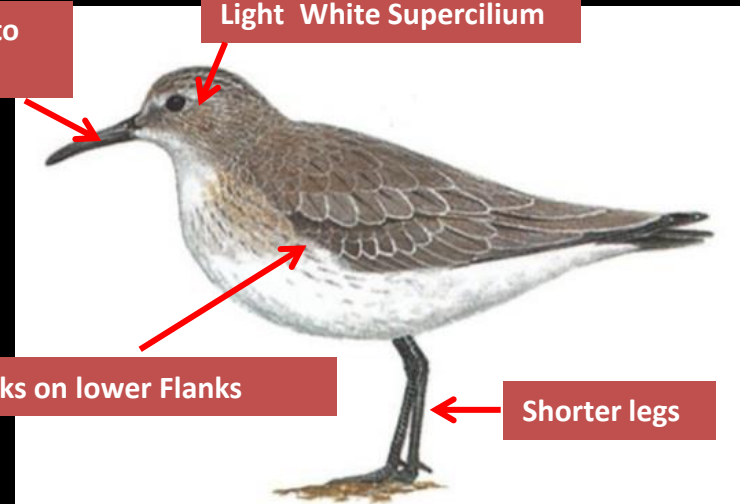
Curlew Sandpiper Vs Dunlin - Non-breeding

Curlew Sandpiper



Smaller Bill Compared to Curlew Sandpiper

Dunlin



One of main difference is in the foraging habit also. The curlew Sandpiper wades into deeper water due to its longer legs, it puts its head completely into water . Dunlin wades in shallow water because of short legs hence it doesn't have to put its head completely in water

Curlew Sandpiper Vs Dunlin - Flight



White Rump

Curlew Sandpiper

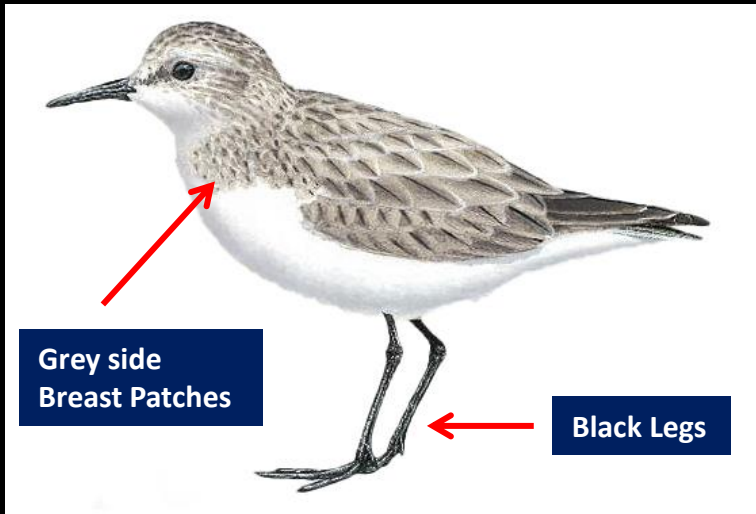


Brown Rump

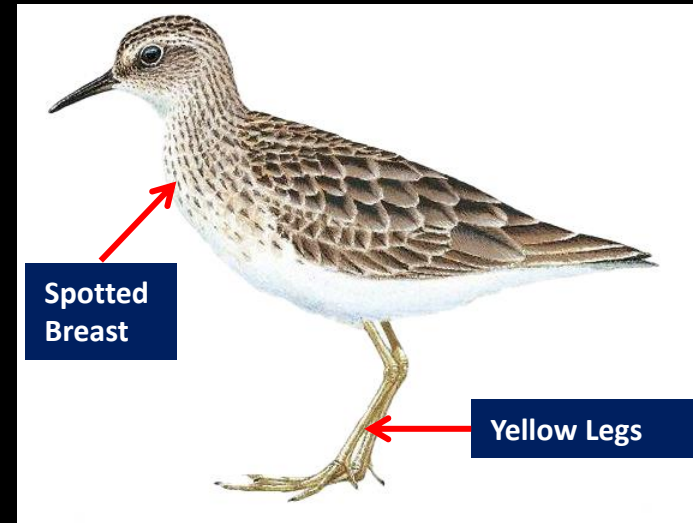
Dunlin

Stints –non-breeding plumage comparison

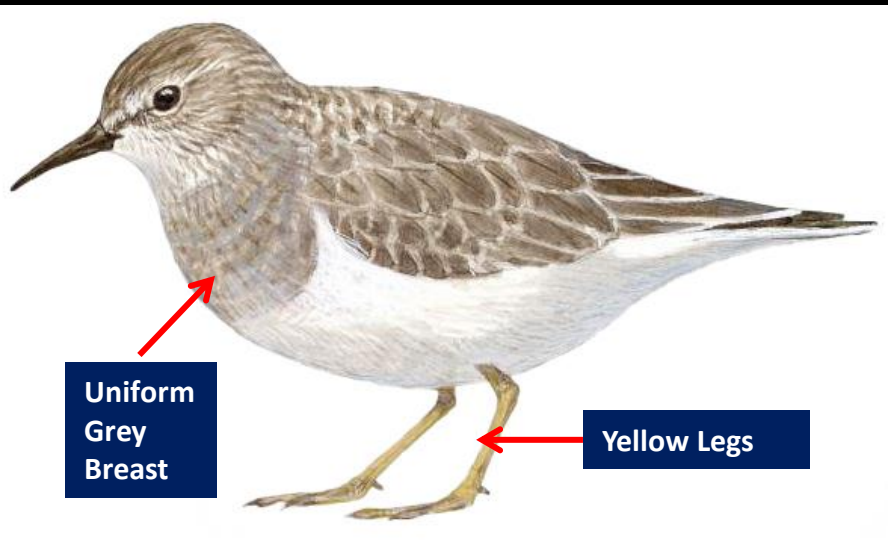
Little Stint



Long-toed Stint



Temminck's Stint



Red-necked Stint

