









Red Knot – plumage scores

When on their Arctic breeding grounds Red Knot have upperparts with dark brown centres and yellowish / rufous edges. Coverts are gray, fringed white. Underparts chestnut. This is variously referred to as breeding, nuptial, alternate (US) or summer (Europe) plumage. The term Breeding Plumage is used here.





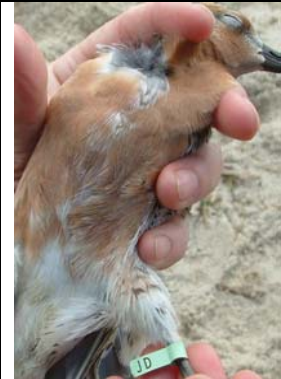







When on the non-breeding grounds (South and Central America) Red Knot have upperparts and coverts gray, latter with some narrow fringes, and underparts whitish with gray suffusion and streaking on the breast. This is variously referred to as non-breeding, basic (US) or winter (Europe) plumage. The term Non-Breeding plumage is used below.

The terms basic and alternate plumage are unfamiliar outside of North America, and the terms summer and winter plumage are unfamiliar outside of Europe. The latter are also technically incorrect for birds spending the non-breeding season in the Southern Hemisphere. However, given the international involvement in the project you may hear any of these terms being used.

The breeding plumage is acquired during a partial pre-nuptial molt (i.e. one not involving flight and tail feathers) starting in late April / early May and completed by the time they arrive on their Arctic breeding grounds in early June. Adult Red Knot revert into the non-breeding plumage during a full post-nuptial molt (i.e. complete replacement of feathers) the timing and pattern of feather replacement differing between subspecies and populations.

			
Wing-coverts: Non-breeding	Back/Mantle: Non-breeding	Rump: Non-breeding	Upper tail-coverts: Non-breeding
			
Wing-coverts: Breeding	Back/Mantle: Breeding	Rump: Breeding	Upper tail-coverts: Breeding

Plumage is scored on a scale of 1 thru 7. The score codes the proportion of breeding plumage averaged over the entire bird

						No Picture Available
1: Whole plumage non-breeding	2: Trace of breeding plumage	3: ca 25% breeding plumage	4: ca 50% breeding plumage	5: ca 75% breeding plumage	6: Trace of non-breeding plumage	7: Whole plumage breeding
						No Picture Available