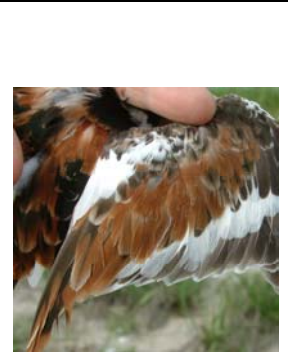


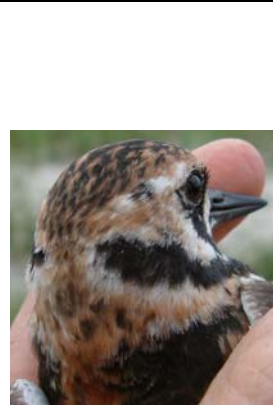
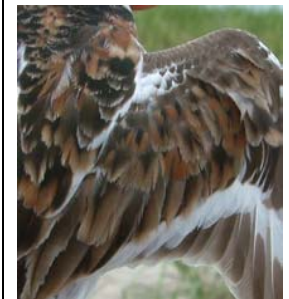
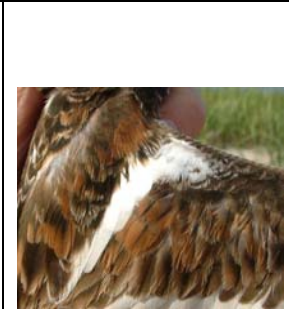
## Ruddy Turnstone – ageing and sexing (spring)

**Sexing:** With care, it is possible to sex most Ruddy Turnstone once they begin to acquire their breeding plumage. Males black, white & chestnut compared to females which blackish-brown, buffish-white and dull red. However, there is much individual variation and beware of bright females and dull males.

**Male:**  
**Cap** white streaked black  
**Nape** mostly white  
**Breast** black  
**Mantle** blackish with extensive deep chestnut fringes  
**Coverts** blackish with extensive deep chestnut fringes

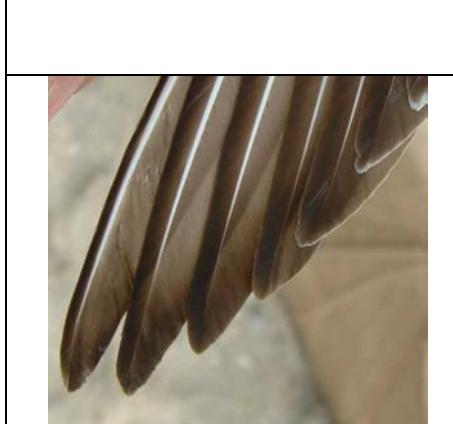


**Female:**  
**Cap** whitish fairly extensively streaked brownish-black  
**Nape** buffish-white streaked brown  
**Breast** blackish-brown  
**Mantle** blackish-brown with limited dull red  
**Coverts** dark brown with some palish chestnut edges



**Ageing:** Nearly all Ruddy Turnstone passing through Delaware Bay in the spring are probably ASY, SY birds remaining on the non-breeding grounds. A few SY birds may be encountered and, with practise, the following features may help identify them.

**ASY:**  
**Outer primaries** broader than in SY and with tips fresh  
**Coverts** mixture of non-breeding (dark grey & worn) and breeding (fresh & see left)



**SY:**  
**Outer primaries** narrower than in ASY and with tips worn  
**Coverts** mixture of non-breeding (as ASY), breeding (as ASY) and retained juv. inner medians (buff fringed and very worn).  
**Extent** of breeding plumage ultimately attained often much less than in ASY

