

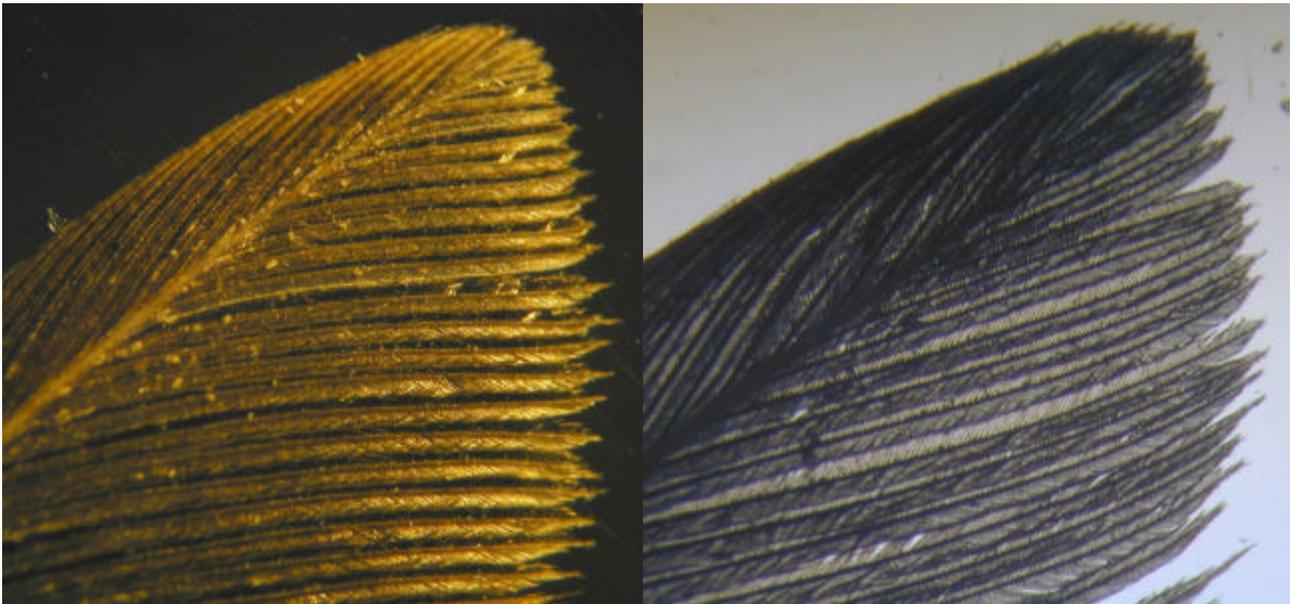
AGE of Fall Shot American Woodcock

Photos of the magnified tips of Primary Wing Feathers #1, 2 or 3.

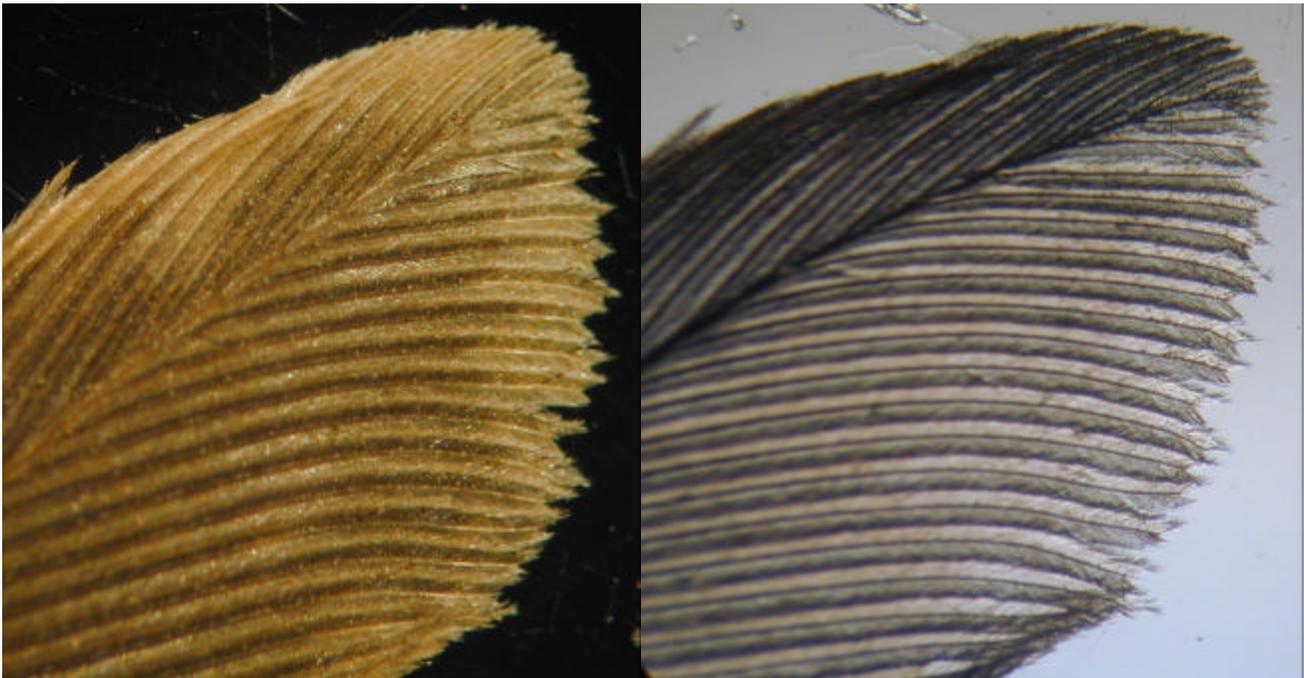


(From: Sheldon, W.G., F. Greeley and J. Kupa. 1958. JWM 22(3):310-312.)

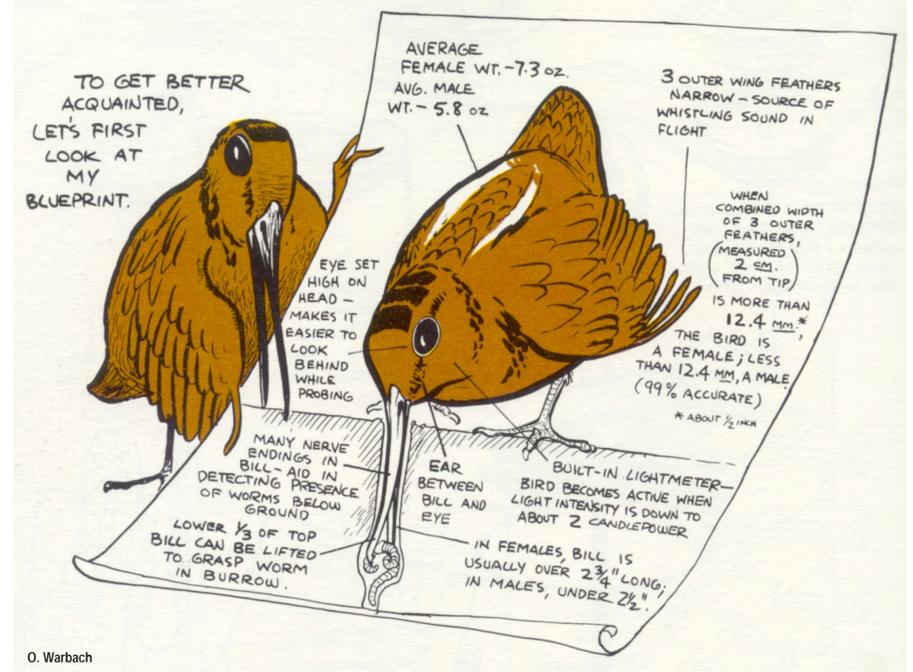
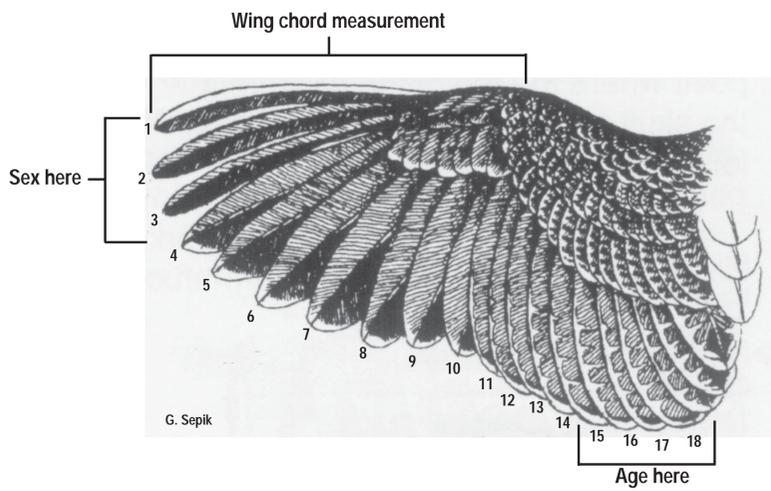
ADULT (tips of barbs show wear with a persistent rachis)



IMMATURE (tip of each barb's rachis wears/breaks off leaving a "V" at the end)



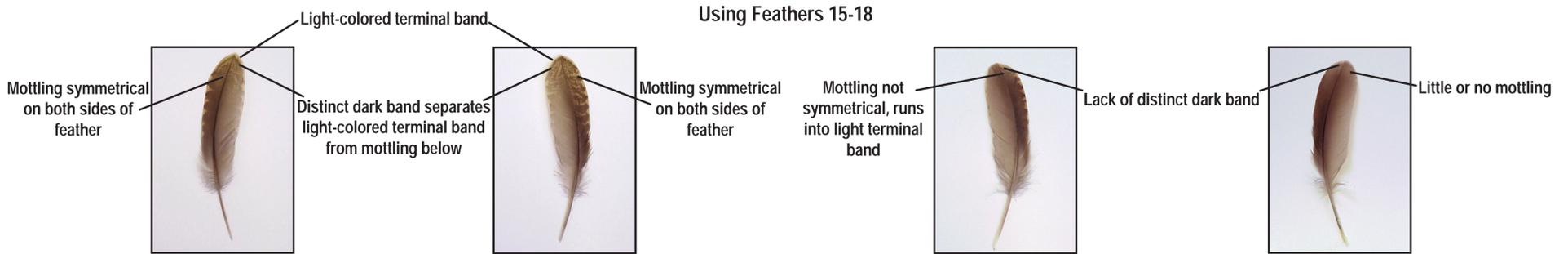
SEXING AND AGING AMERICAN WOODCOCK



JUVENILE

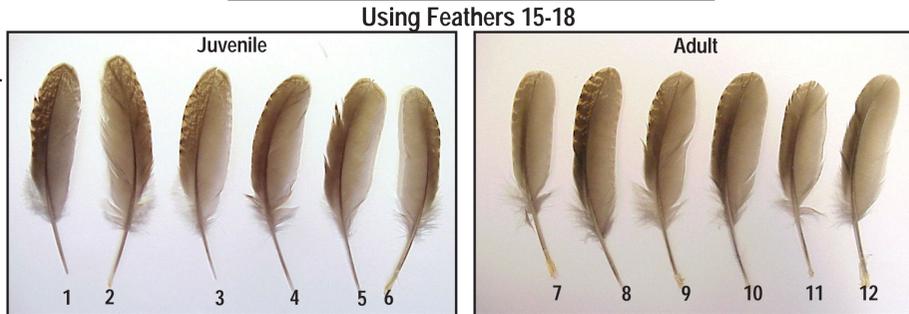
AGE

ADULT



AGE SPECTRUM

- #1 Distinct dark band separates light-colored buffy tip from mottling below. Mottling symmetrical on both sides of feather.
- #2 Same as above, slightly less mottling.
- #3 Distinct dark band present, but narrower than #1 and #2.
- #4 Much less mottling, but mottling is symmetrical. Dark band present.
- #5 Less mottling, but symmetrical, dark band present.
- #6 Feather appears more worn, dark band more faint but still separates buffy tip from symmetrical mottling below.



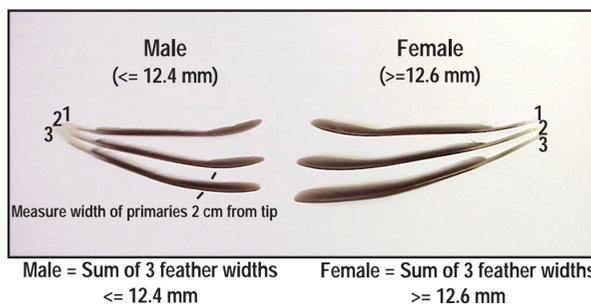
- #7 Dark band less intact, mottling on right side extends into buffy tip. Mottling not symmetrical.
- #8 Lack of distinct dark band. Mottling not symmetrical and it extends into buffy tip.
- #9 Asymmetrical mottling, lack of distinct dark band.
- #10 Asymmetrical mottling, lack of distinct dark band.
- #11 Much less mottling and it is asymmetric. No dark band.
- #12 Very little mottling. No dark band.

AGE - Retained Juvenile Feathers (secondaries)



SEX CRITERIA

If sum of the widths of the outer 3 primaries is between 12.4 and 12.6 mm you must determine sex from wing chord measurement. (See diagram at top for location of wing chord measurement)



Wing Chord Measurements		
Measurement	Sex	Accuracy
< 125mm	M	100%
125-127 mm	M	95%
128-138 mm	Unknown	—
139-145 mm	F	95%
>= 146 mm	F	100%

AGE - Adults with Emerging Primaries



"It is unfortunate, perhaps, that no matter how intently one studies the hundred little dramas of the woods and meadows, one can never learn all of the salient facts about any one of them." Aldo Leopold

Reference: Martin, F.W. 1964. Woodcock age and sex determination from wings. J. Wildl. Manage. 28:287-293.

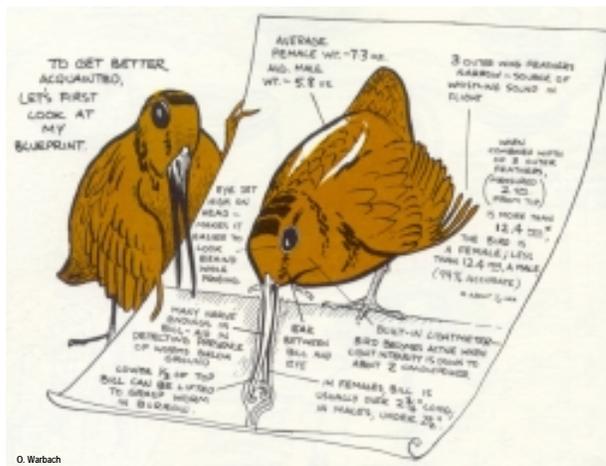
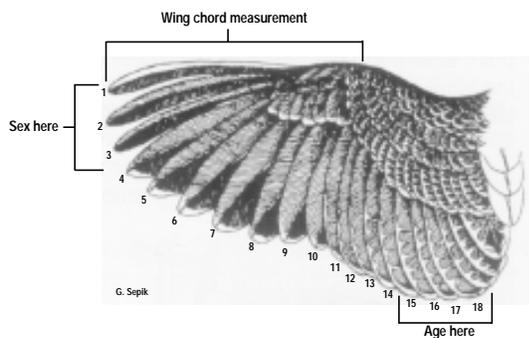
Poster design and content: Al Stewart, Melinda Cosgrove, Val Tuovila, and Oz Warbach Michigan Dept. of Natural Resources

Jim Kelly, Jr and Greg Sepik U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Dan McAuley U.S. Geological Survey



SEXING AND AGING AMERICAN WOODCOCK

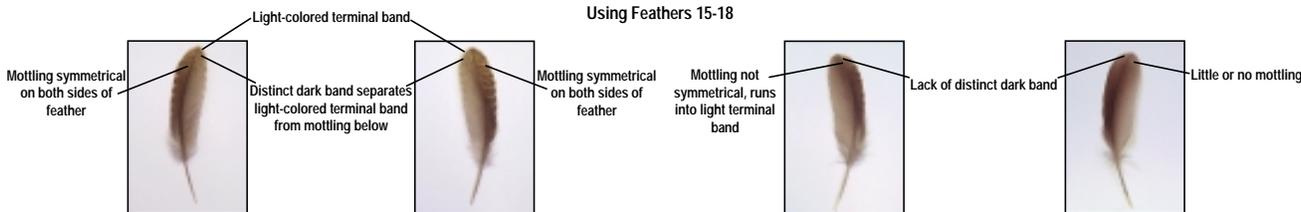


JUVENILE

AGE

ADULT

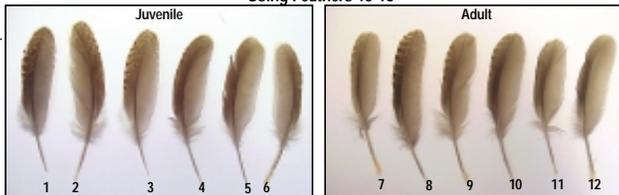
Using Feathers 15-18



AGE SPECTRUM

Using Feathers 15-18

- #1 Distinct dark band separates light-colored buffy tip from mottling below. Mottling symmetrical on both sides of feather.
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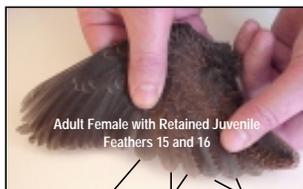


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AGE - Retained Juvenile Feathers (secondaries)



Feathers 15-18 all juvenile feathers



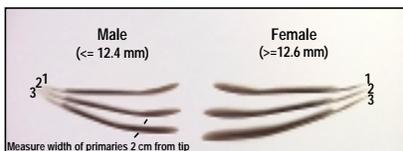
14 adult 15 & 16 juvenile 17 & 18 adult



Feathers 15-18 all adult feathers

SEX CRITERIA

If sum of the widths of the outer 3 primaries is between 12.4 and 12.6 mm you must determine sex from wing chord measurement. (See diagram at top for location of wing chord measurement)



Male = Sum of 3 feather widths <= 12.4 mm

Female = Sum of 3 feather widths >= 12.6 mm

Wing Chord Measurements		
Measurement	Sex	Accuracy
< 125mm	M	100%
125-127 mm	M	95%
128-138 mm	Unknown	—
139-145 mm	F	95%
>= 146 mm	F	100%

AGE - Adults with Emerging Primaries

Male- Outer 3 Primaries Still Emerging



Female- Outer 3 Primaries Still Emerging



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Reference: Martin, F.W. 1964. Woodcock age and sex determination from wings. J. Wildl. Manage. 28:267-293.

Poster design and content: Al Stewart, Melissa Conger, Val Tuovila, and Oz Warbach Michigan Dept. of Natural Resources



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