



Wood Pigeon. Adult (16-VI).

**COMMON WOOD PIGEON** (*Columba palumbus*)

**IDENTIFICATION**

41-45 cm. **Adult** with grey bluish plumage; wings with a white patch; grey blue tail with a broad dark terminal band; neck with a white patch. **Juvenile** duller and without white patch on neck.



Wood Pigeon. Pattern of head and wing.



**SIMILAR SPECIES**

Recalls a **Feral Pigeon/Rock Dove** which has white rump and underwing coverts. **Stock Dove**, with a smaller size, without the white patch on wings.



Feral Pigeon



Stock Dove



**SEXING**

**Male** with breast more vinaceous and less grey than **female**. **CAUTION:** this characteristic is only useful when both sexes have the same age and in the same season, so sexing this species is very difficult.

**AGEING**

3 types of age can be recognized:

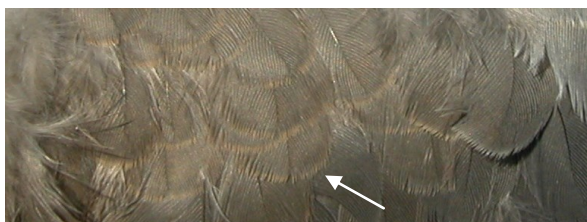
**Juvenile** without white patch on neck; grey brown wing coverts with buff tips; grey iris; grey legs.

**1st year autumn/2nd year spring** only if there are unmoulted **juvenile** feathers on wings; retained **juvenile** secondaries browner and shorter than **adult** type.

**Adult** with white patch on neck; dark slate grey wing coverts lacking buff tips; if there are unmoulted secondaries have the same length than the neighbouring moulted feathers; yellow iris; reddish legs.



Wood Pigeon. Ageing. Pattern of head and neck: top adult; bottom juvenile.



Wood Pigeon. Ageing. Pattern of wing coverts: top adult; bottom juvenile.



Wood Pigeon. Ageing. Pattern of secondaries: top adult, middle 2nd year; bottom juvenile.

**MOULT**

Complete **postbreeding** and **postjuvenile** moults, usually finished in December. **CAUTION:** both age classes can arrest their moult retaining unmoulted flight feathers throughout the winter.

**PHENOLOGY**

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

- Summer visitor
- Wintering
- Resident
- On passage

**06700 Common Wood Pigeon** (*Columba palumbus*)



Wood Pigeon. 2nd year (22-VI).



Wood Pigeon. Juvenile (04-VII)



Wood Pigeon. Head pattern and iris colour: top adult (16-VI); middle 2nd year (22-VI); bottom juvenile (04-VII).



Wood Pigeon. Breast pattern and iris colour: top left adult (16-VI); top right 2nd year (22-VI); left juvenile (04-VII).



Wood Pigeon. Upperpart pattern: top left adult (16-VI); top right 2nd year (22-VI); left juvenile (04-VII).



Wood Pigeon. Legs pattern: top adult (22-VI); bottom juvenile (04-VII).



Wood Pigeon. 2nd year: pattern of primary coverts (22-VI).



Wood Pigeon. Pattern and wear of tail: top left adult (16-VI); top right 2nd year (22-VI); left juvenile (04-VII).



Wood Pigeon. Juvenile: pattern of primary coverts (04-VII).



Wood Pigeon. Adult: pattern of primary coverts (16-VI).



Wood Pigeon. Adult: pattern of primaries (16-VI).



Wood Pigeon. 2nd year spring: pattern of primaries (22-VI).



Wood Pigeon. Juvenile: pattern of primaries (04-VII).



Wood Pigeon. Adult: pattern of secondaries and wing coverts (16-VI).



Wood Pigeon. 2nd year spring: pattern of secondaries and wing coverts (1 juvenile feathers; 2 postjuvenile feathers) (22-VI).



Wood Pigeon. Juvenile: pattern of secondaries and wing coverts (04-VII).



Wood Pigeon. Adult: pattern of wing (16-VI).



Wood Pigeon. 2nd year spring: pattern of wing (22-VI).



Wood Pigeon. Juvenile: pattern of wing (04-VII).