

264 Great Spotted Cuckoo

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Great Spotted Cuckoo. Adult (28-II)

GREAT SPOTTED CUCKOO (*Clamator glandarius*)

IDENTIFICATION

39-45 cm. **Adult** with grey upperparts strongly white spotted; yellowish underparts; long tail; head with a crest; brownish primaries. **Juveniles** with reddish primaries; without crest on head; deep yellow underparts.



Great Spotted Cuckoo. Adult. Pattern of head.

SIMILAR SPECIES

This species is unmistakable.

SEXING

Plumage of both sexes alike. Size can be helpful in extreme birds: **male** with wing longer than 212 mm; tail longer than 212 mm. **Female** with wing shorter than 200 mm; tail shorter than 198 mm.

AGEING

3 age groups can be recognized:

Juvenile with dark crown; black upperparts spotted whitish; throat and breast deep yellow; chestnut primaries; secondaries with a small white spot at tip.

2nd year with primaries with an ochre tinge if a complete moult has been done (**CAUTION:** some birds have only a very soft ochre tinge); if moult has been partial, then with moult limit between retained **juvenile** secondaries, shorter and with thinner white tip than **adult-type** changed.

Adult with grey crown; upperparts grey spotted white; throat and breast pale yellow; grey primaries; secondaries with a big white spot at tip. **CAUTION:** if some secondary remains unmoulted, then there are two ages of feathers although all them have tips with a similar big white spot.



Great Spotted Cuckoo. Ageing. Pattern of head: top adult; bottom juvenile.



Great Spotted Cuckoo. Ageing. Pattern of throat and breast: top adult; bottom juvenile.



Great Spotted Cuckoo. Ageing. Pattern of primaries: top adult; bottom juvenile.

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Great Spotted Cuckoo. Ageing. Pattern of secondaries: left adult; right juvenile.



Great Spotted Cuckoo. 2nd year with soft ochre tinge on primaries (22-III)



Great Spotted Cuckoo. Juvenile (02-VI)

MOULT

Complete **postbreeding** and **postjuvenile** moults, starting in wintering sites; **both age classes** can arrest their moult having in spring two generations of flight feathers.

PHENOLOGY

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

STATUS IN ARAGON

Summer visitor. Very common in the Ebro Basin and scarce in other parts of the Region.



Great Spotted Cuckoo. 2nd year with ochre tinge on primaries (08-IV)

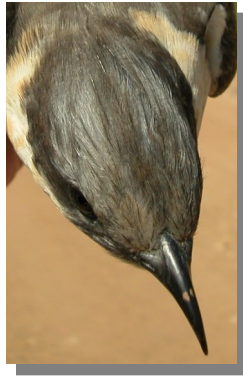


Great Spotted Cuckoo. Head pattern: top adult (28-II); middle 2nd year (08-IV); bottom juvenile (02-VI).



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Great Spotted Cuckoo.
Crown pattern: top left adult (28-II); top right 2nd year (08-IV); left juvenile (02-VI).



Great Spotted Cuckoo.
Breast pattern: top left adult (28-II); top right 2nd year (08-IV); left juvenile (02-VI).



Great Spotted Cuckoo.
Upperparts pattern: top left adult (28-II); top right 2nd year (08-IV); left juvenile (02-VI).

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Great Spotted Cuckoo. Juvenile: pattern of primary coverts (02-VI)



Great Spotted Cuckoo. Rump pattern: top left adult (28-II); top right 2nd year (08-IV); left juvenile (02-VI).



Great Spotted Cuckoo. Adult: pattern of primary coverts (28-II)



Great Spotted Cuckoo. Tail pattern: top left adult (28-II); top right 2nd year (08-IV); left juvenile (02-VI).



Great Spotted Cuckoo. 2nd year: pattern of primary coverts (08-IV)

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Great Spotted Cuckoo. Adult: pattern of primaries (28-II)



Great Spotted Cuckoo. Juvenile: pattern of primaries (02-VI).



Great Spotted Cuckoo. 2nd year: pattern of primaries with soft reddish tinge (22-III).



Great Spotted Cuckoo. Adult with complete moult: pattern of secondaries and wing coverts (28-II)



Great Spotted Cuckoo. 2nd year: pattern of primaries with reddish tinge (08-IV)



Great Spotted Cuckoo. Adult with retained feathers: pattern of secondaries and wing coverts (28-II)

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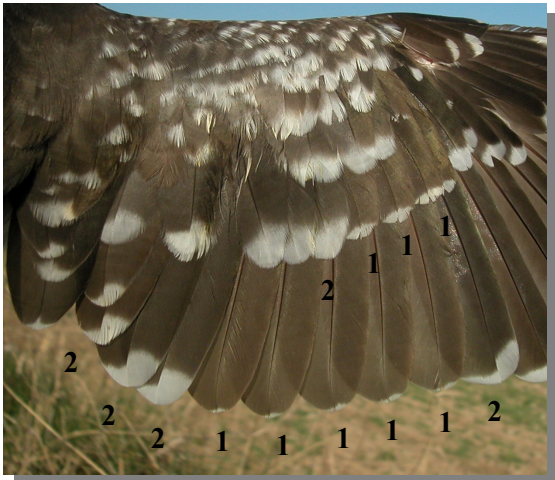
Great Spotted Cuckoo. 2nd year with complete moult: pattern of secondaries and wing coverts (08-IV)



Great Spotted Cuckoo. Adult with complete moult: pattern of wing (28-II)



Great Spotted Cuckoo. Adult with retained feathers: pattern of wing (28-II)



Great Spotted Cuckoo. 2nd year with retained feathers: pattern of secondaries and wing coverts (1 juvenile feathers, 2 adult feathers) (08-IV)



Great Spotted Cuckoo. 2nd year with reddish tinge on primaries and complete moult: pattern of wing (08-IV)



Great Spotted Cuckoo. 2nd year with soft reddish tinge on primaries and partial moult: pattern of wing (08-IV)



Great Spotted Cuckoo. Juvenile: pattern of secondaries and wing coverts (02-VI)



Great Spotted Cuckoo. Juvenile: pattern of wing (02-VI)