

# 07160 Great Spotted Cuckoo (*Clamator glandarius*)



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.

**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

- Summer visitor
- Resident
- Wintering
- On passage



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



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



Great Spotted Cuckoo. Juvenile (02-VI)



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







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).





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



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





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



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



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



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



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



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





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



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



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



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 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 wing (02-VI)