



House Martin. Adult. Male (30-V).

COMMON HOUSE MARTIN (*Delichon urbicum*)

IDENTIFICATION

13-15 cm. Dark blue upperparts; white underparts; white rump; only moderately forked tail.



House Martin. Pattern of head, rump and legs.

SIMILAR SPECIES

Breeds in the same places than **Barn Swallow**, which has long tail, chestnut patches on head and lacks white rump. **Red-rumped Swallow** has rusty red rump and chestnut neck,



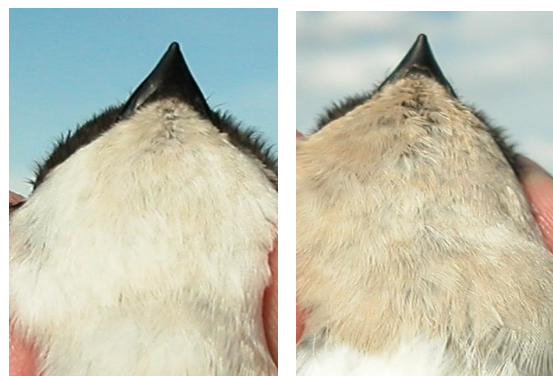
Barn Swallow



Red-rumped Swallow

SEXING

Sexes with very similar plumage but some differences can be found: **males** tend to exhibit pure white on throat and rump; undertail coverts white with a narrow dark line on shaft. **Females** tend to exhibit grey tinge on throat and rump; undertail coverts with grey tinge (**CAUTION:** some **males** with **female-like** pattern and **females** with **male-like** pattern can be found which are inseparable by plumage). **Juveniles** cannot be sexed.



House Martin. Sexing. Pattern of throat: left male; right female.



House Martin. Sexing. Pattern of rump: left male; right female.



House Martin. Sexing. Pattern of undertail coverts: left male; right female.

AGEING

2 age groups can be recognized:

Juvenile with dull feathers on head and mantle; tertials with white tips; lower mandible with yellow base.

Adult with head and mantle glossy blue; tertials without white tips; lower mandible with dark base .

In **spring**, after **postbreeding/postjuvenile** moults, ageing is not possible using plumage pattern.



House Martin. Ageing. Pattern of head and bill: top adult; bottom juvenile.



House Martin. Ageing. Pattern of upperparts: left adult; right juvenile.



House Martin. Ageing. Pattern of tertials: left adult; right juvenile.

10010 Common House Martin (*Delichon urbicum*)



MOULT

Complete **postbreeding** and **postjuvenile** moults, which can start in breeding places and are completed in the winter quarters.

PHENOLOGY

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

- Summer visitor ■ Resident
- Wintering ■ On passage



House Martin. Adult. Female (04-VI).



House Martin. Adult. Female with male-like morph (04-VI).



House Martin. Juvenile (21-VIII).



House Martin. Head pattern and colour of lower mandible: from top to bottom: adult male (30-V); adult female (04-VI); adult female with male-like morph (04-VI); juvenile (21-VIII).

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House Martin. Adult. Throat pattern: top left male (30-V); top right female (04-VI); left female with male-like morph (04-VI).



House Martin. Breast pattern: top left adult male (30-V); top right adult female (04-VI); left adult female with male-like morph (04-VI); bottom juvenile (21-VIII).



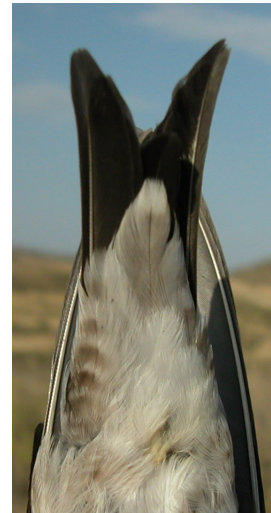
House Martin. Pattern of tertials: left adult (30-V); right juvenile (21-VIII).



House Martin. Rump pattern: left adult male (30-V); right adult female (04-VI).



House Martin. Rump pattern: left adult female with male-like morph (04-VI); right juvenile (21-VIII).



House Martin. Pattern of undertail coverts: left adult female with male-like morph (04-VI); right juvenile (21-VIII).



House Martin. Pattern of undertail coverts: left adult male (30-V); right adult female (04-VI).



House Martin. Upperpart pattern: left adult male (30-V); right adult female (04-VI).



House Martin. Upperpart pattern: left adult female with male-like morph (04-VI); right juvenile (21-VIII).



House Martin. Juvenile: pattern of wing (21-VIII).



House Martin. Adult. Male: pattern of wing (30-V).



House Martin. Adult. Female: pattern of wing (04-VI).



House Martin. Adult. Female with male-like morph: pattern of wing (04-VI).