

# 330 Bluethroat

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Bluethroat. Spring. Adult. Male (16-III)

## SEXING

In **breeding** plumage, **male** with deep blue chin and throat with a reddish or white patch; reddish breast. **Female** with whitish chin and throat, lacking blue colour or with a little on upperbreast; with two blackish bands on each side of breast that fuse in the center and may have some reddish tinge on upperbreast. In **autumn**, **adult male** with whitish throat and blue tinge on both sides of throat and breast; **1st year male** with some blue on both sides of throat and breast. **Female** without blue and sometimes with ill-defined reddish tinge.

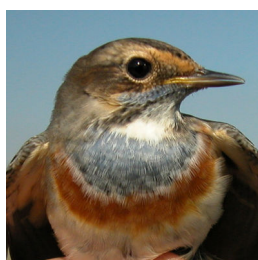
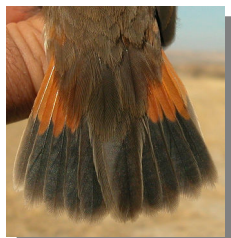
## BLUETHROAT (*Luscinia svecica*)

### IDENTIFICATION

13-14 cm. Brown upperparts and central tail 13-14 cm. Dark brown upperparts and central tail feathers; reddish tail with a terminal dark band on the tip; pale supercilium; pale belly; blue throat in **breeding male** and lacking blue (or with little) on **non breeding males and females**.



Bluethroat. Spring. Sexing. Pattern of breast: left male; right female.



Bluethroat. Pattern of head, tail and breast: left male; right female.



Bluethroat. Autumn. Sexing. Pattern of breast: left male; right female.

### SIMILAR SPECIES

This species is unmistakable.

### AGEING

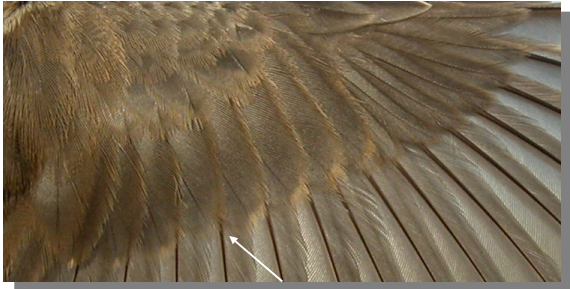
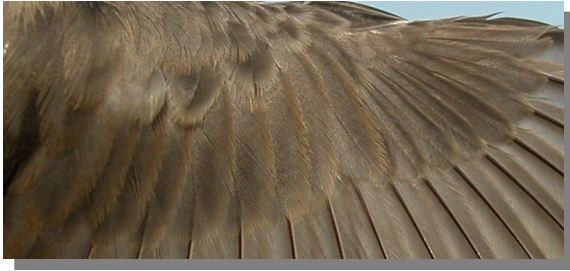
Not likely to find **juveniles** in Aragon, so only 2 age groups can be recognized:

**1st year autumn/2nd year spring** usually with moult limit between moulted greater coverts, more greyish and without clear pale tips, and **juvenile** retained, with a buff spot at tips; if unmoulted **juvenile** tertials tipped pale; flight feathers worn in **spring**.

**Adult** without moult limits on wing; lacking pale spots on tips of wing coverts and tertials; flight feathers slightly worn in **spring**.

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Bluethroat. Spring. Adult. Female (27-III)

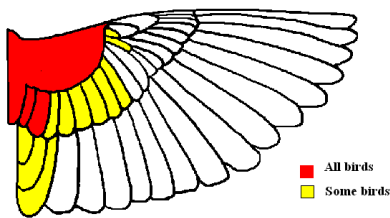
Bluethroat. Ageing. Moulting limit on greater coverts: top adult; bottom 1st year.

**MOULT**

Complete **postbreeding** moult, usually finished in August; some birds start their moult in wintering sites. Partial **postjuvenile** moult involving body feathers, lesser, median and some inner greater coverts; some birds may moult most of greater coverts and some tertials and tail feathers; usually finished in September. Both age classes have a **prebreeding** moult, usually only in **males**, including head and breast feathers to acquire the **breeding** plumage.



Bluethroat. Spring. 2nd year. Male (20-III).



Bluethroat. Extent of postjuvenile moult.

**PHENOLOGY**

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

**STATUS IN ARAGON**

On passage, sometimes wintering in the Ebro Valley. Some records breeding in Montes Universales.



Bluethroat. Spring. 2nd year. Female (27-III)



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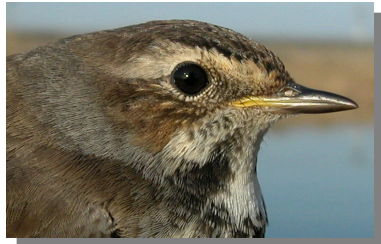
Bluethroat. Spring. Adult. Head pattern: top male (16-III); bottom female (27-III).



Bluethroat. Spring. Adult. Upperpart pattern: left male (16-III); right female (27-III).



Bluethroat. Spring. 2nd year. Head pattern: top male (20-III); bottom female (27-III).



Bluethroat. Spring. 2nd year. Upperpart pattern: left male (20-III); right female (27-III).



Bluethroat. Spring. Adult. Breast pattern: left male (16-III); right female (27-III).



Bluethroat. Spring. 2nd year. Breast pattern: left male (20-III); right female (27-III).



Bluethroat. Spring. Adult. Tail pattern: left male (16-III); right female (27-III).



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Bluethroat. Spring. 2nd year. Tail pattern: left male (20-III); right female (27-III).



Bluethroat. Spring. 2nd year. Female: pattern of wing (27-III.)



Bluethroat. Spring. Adult. Male: pattern of wing (16-III)



Bluethroat. Autumn. Adult. Male (17-IX)



Bluethroat. Spring. Adult. Female: pattern of wing (27-III.)



Bluethroat. Autumn. Adult. Female (17-IX)



Bluethroat. Spring. 2nd year. Male: pattern of wing (20-III.)



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Bluethroat. Autumn. 1st year. Male (17-IX)



Bluethroat. Autumn. 1st year. Head pattern: top male (17-IX); bottom female (17-IX).



Bluethroat. Autumn. 1st year. Female (17-IX)



Bluethroat. Autumn. Adult. Breast pattern: left male (17-IX); right female (17-IX).



Bluethroat. Autumn. Adult. Head pattern: top male (17-IX); bottom female (17-IX).



Bluethroat. Autumn. 1st year. Breast pattern: left male (17-IX); right female (17-IX).



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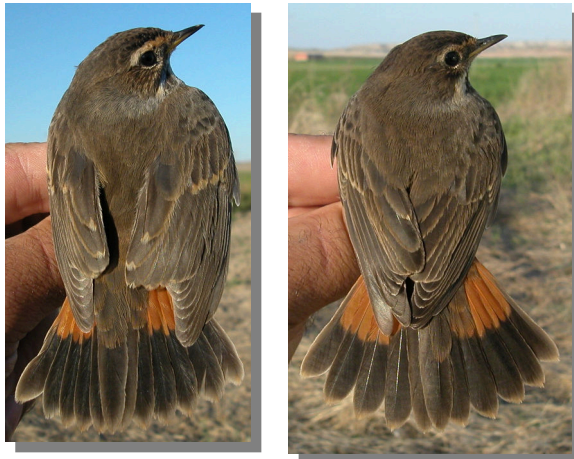
Bluethroat. Autumn. Adult. Upperpart pattern: left male (17-IX); right female (17-IX).



Bluethroat. Autumn. 1st year. Tail pattern: left male (17-IX); right female (17-IX).



Bluethroat. Autumn. Adult. Male: pattern of wing (17-IX)



Bluethroat. Autumn. 1st year. Upperpart pattern: left male (17-IX); right female (17-IX).



Bluethroat. Autumn. Adult. Female: pattern of wing (17-IX)



Bluethroat. Autumn. Adult. Tail pattern: left male (17-IX); right female (17-IX).



Bluethroat. Autumn. 1st year. Male: pattern of wing (17-IX)

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Bluethroat. Autumn. 1st year. Female: pattern of wing (17-IX)