

11580 Black Wheatear (*Oenanthe leucura*)



Black Wheatear. Adult. Male (16-X).

BLACK WHEATEAR (*Oenanthe leucura*)

IDENTIFICATION

17-19 cm. Body black (**male**) or dark brown (**female**); rump and undertail coverts white; tail white with a dark central and terminal band.



Black Wheatear: pattern of breast and tail.

SIMILAR SPECIES

This species is unmistakable.

SEXING

Male with black body feathers; wing longer than 99 mm. **Female** with dark brown body feathers; wing shorter than 95 mm. **Juveniles** resemble **adults**, so they can be sexed by plumage pattern (**CAUTION**: colours in **juveniles** are duller, so sexing is not always possible in all birds).



Black Wheatear. Adult. Sexing. Pattern of head: top male; bottom female.



Black Wheatear. Juvenile. Sexing. Pattern of head: top male; bottom female.



Black Wheatear. Adult. Sexing. Pattern of breast: left male; right female.



Black Wheatear. Juvenile. Sexing. Pattern of breast: left male; right female.

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AGEING

3 age groups can be recognized:

Juvenile with loose and very fresh plumage in summer.

1st year autumn/2nd year spring with moult limit between darker moulted feathers (greater coverts and sometimes tertials) and retained **juvenile** feathers, browner and worn.

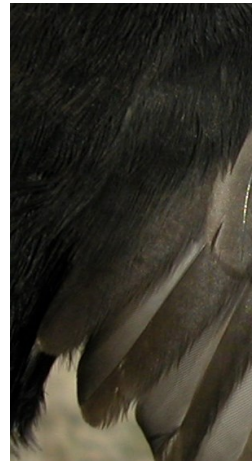
Adult with uniform plumage, without moult limits on wing.



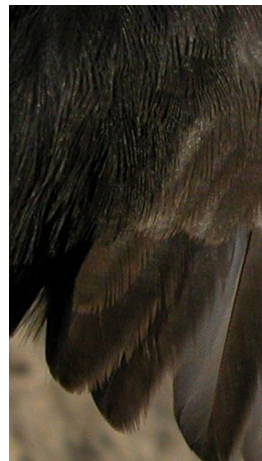
Black Wheatear. Ageing. Pattern of head and bill: top adult female; bottom juvenile female.



Black Wheatear. Ageing. Wear of tail feathers: left adult; right 1st year.



Black Wheatear. Male. Ageing. Mould limit on tertials: left adult; right 1st year.



Black Wheatear. Female. Ageing. Mould limit on tertials: left adult; right 1st year.



Black Wheatear. Male. Ageing. Mould limit on wing coverts: top adult; bottom 1st year.

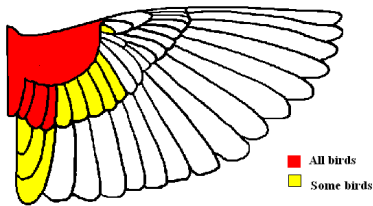
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Black Wheatear. Female. Ageing. Moulting limit on wing coverts: top adult; bottom 1st year.

MOULT

Complete **postbreeding** moult, usually finished in October. Partial **postjuvenile** moult involving body feathers, lesser and median coverts and inner greater coverts; some birds can moult all greater coverts, some or all tertials and some tail feathers; usually finished in October.



Black Wheatear. Extent of postjuvenile moult.

PHENOLOGY

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

- Summer visitor
- Wintering
- Resident
- On passage



Black Wheatear. Adult. Female (16-X).



Black Wheatear. 1st year. Male (20-X).



Black Wheatear. 1st year. Female (20-X).

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Black Wheatear. Juvenile. Male (12-VII).



Black Wheatear. Juvenile. Female (12-VII).



Black Wheatear. Adult. Head pattern: top male (16-X); bottom female (16-X).



Black Wheatear. 1st year. Head pattern: top male (09-XII); bottom female (16-X).



Black Wheatear. Juvenile. Head pattern: top male (12-VII); bottom female (12-VII).



Black Wheatear. Adult. Breast pattern: left male (16-X); right female (16-X).



Black Wheatear. 1st year. Breast pattern: left male (20-X); right female (20-X).

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Black Wheatear. Juvenile. Breast pattern: left male (12-VII); right female (12-VII).



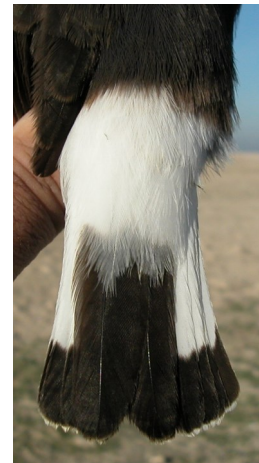
Black Wheatear. Adult. Upperparts pattern: left male (16-X); right female (16-X).



Black Wheatear. 1st year. Upperparts pattern: left male (09-XII); right female (20-X).



Black Wheatear. Juvenile. Tail pattern: left male (12-VII); right female (12-VII).



Black Wheatear. Adult. Tail pattern: left male (16-X); right female (16-X).



Black Wheatear. 1st year. Tail pattern: left male (09-XII); right female (20-X).



Black Wheatear. Juvenile. Tail pattern: left male (12-VII); right female (12-VII).



Black Wheatear. Adult. Male: pattern of wing (16-X).



Black Wheatear. Adult. Female: pattern of wing (16-X).



Black Wheatear. 1st year. Male: pattern of wing (09-XII).



Black Wheatear. 1st year. Female: pattern of wing (20-X).



Black Wheatear. Juvenile. Male: pattern of wing (12-VII).



Black Wheatear. Juvenile. Female: pattern of wing (12-VII).