

# 11620 Common Rock Thrush



Rock Thrush. Summer. Adult. Male (11-VI).

## COMMON ROCK THRUSH (*Monticola saxatilis*)

### IDENTIFICATION

18-19 cm. In **breeding** plumage: **male** with bluish head and neck; whitish lower back; chestnut-reddish underparts. **Female** with brown-grey upperparts; lower back without white; brown-orange underparts with vermiculated feathers. In **non-breeding** plumage with duller pattern similar to **female**. Both sexes with reddish tail.



Rock Thrush. Male. Pattern of breast.



Rock Thrush. Female. Pattern of breast and tail.

### SIMILAR SPECIES

The red tail makes this species unmistakable.



Blue Rock Thrush. Female.

### SEXING

In **breeding** plumage, **male** with blue head and neck; orange-red underparts; white on lower back. **Female** with grey-brown head and upperparts; underparts pale orange-buff; without white on lower back (sometimes with a little in **older females**). In **autumn**, **male** with base of feathers of lower back pure white; head and throat with hidden blue tinge. **Female** with base of feathers of lower back buff or cream-white; head and throat without blue tinge (**CAUTION: some adult females and 2nd year males** are very similar so it is necessary to first determine the age). **Juveniles** cannot be sexed using plumage pattern.



Rock Thrush. Summer. Sexing. Pattern of head and breast: left male; right female.

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Rock Thrush. Summer. Sexing. Pattern of upperparts: left male; right female.

## AGEING

3 age groups can be recognized:

**Juvenile** resembles **female**, but greyer, uniformly pale spotted; wing coverts pale tipped; fresh plumage.

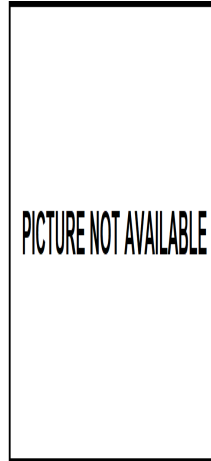
**1st year autumn/2nd year spring** similar to **adults**, but with **juvenile** retained flight and tail feathers, which will be slightly worn in **autumn** and strongly worn in **spring**; easily recognizable if there are **juvenile** greater coverts retained with large pale spots; with narrow tail feathers.

**Adult** with flight and tail feathers fresh in **autumn** and slightly worn in **spring**; with broad tail feathers.

**CAUTION:** no always is possible a safe ageing and many are inseparable.



Rock Thrush. Ageing. Pattern of breast: left female; right juvenile (Photo: Miguel de Gabriel Hernando).



Rock Thrush. Ageing. Pattern of upperparts: left female; right juvenile.



Rock Thrush. Ageing. Pattern of tail: left adult; right 2nd year.

## MOULT

Complete **postbreeding** moult, usually finished in September. Partial **postjuvenile** moult involving body feathers, lesser and median coverts and sometimes tertials and inner greater coverts; generally finished in September. Both age classes have a **pre-breeding** moult involving body feathers and rarely lesser and median wing coverts or tertials.

## PHENOLOGY

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

■ Summer visitor

■ Resident

■ Wintering

■ On passage

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PICTURE NOT AVAILABLE



Rock Thrush. Summer. Juvenile (26-VII) (Photo: Miguel de Gabriel Hernando).

Rock Thrush. Summer. Adult. Female ().



Rock Thrush. Summer. Adult. Head pattern: top male (11-VI); bottom female ().

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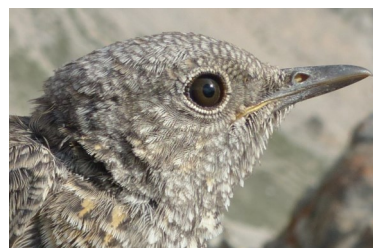
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Rock Thrush. Summer. 2nd year. Male ().

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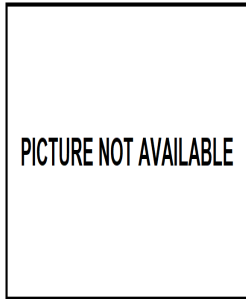


Rock Thrush. Summer. Head pattern: top 2nd year male (11-VI); middle 2nd year female (11-VI); bottom juvenile (26-VII) (Photo: Miguel de Gabriel Hernando).

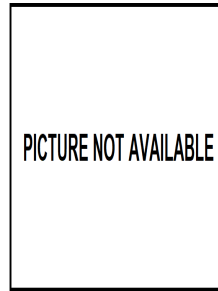


Rock Thrush. Summer. 2nd year. Female (11-VI).

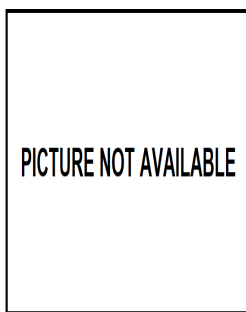
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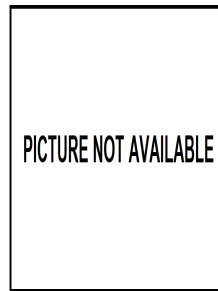
Rock Thrush. Summer. Adult. Breast pattern: left male (11-VI); right female ().



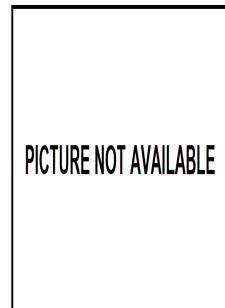
Rock Thrush. Summer. Crown pattern: top left 2nd year male (); top right 2nd year female (11-VI); left juvenile ().



Rock Thrush. Summer. Breast pattern: top left 2nd year male (); top right 2nd year female (11-VI); left juvenile (26-VII) (Photo: Miguel de Gabriel Hernando).

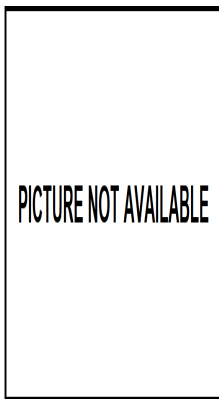
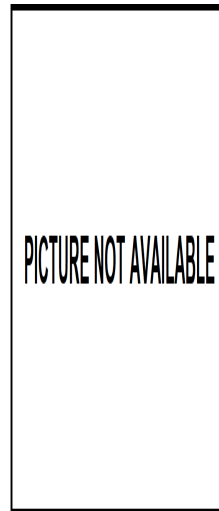
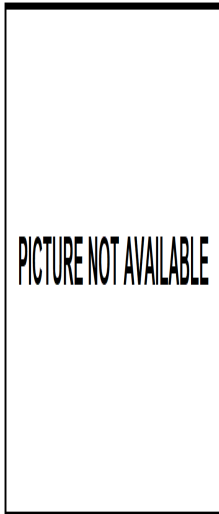


Rock Thrush. Summer. Adult. Upperpart pattern: left male (11-VI); right female ().

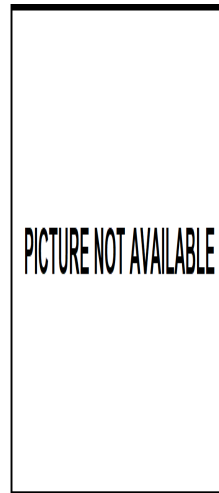


Rock Thrush. Summer. Adult. Crown pattern: left male (); right female ().

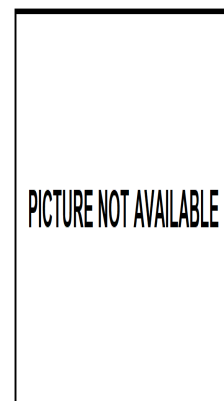
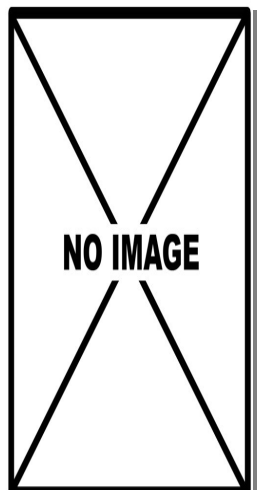
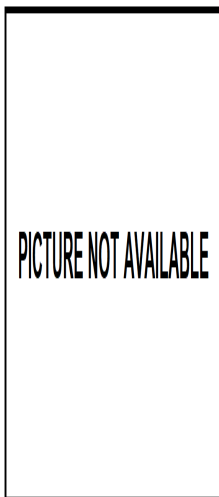
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Rock Thrush. Summer. Upperpart pattern: top left 2nd year male (); top right 2nd year female (11-VI); left juvenile ().



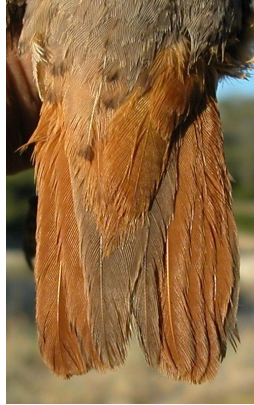
Rock Thrush. Summer. Pattern of upperparts with rup: top left 2nd year male (); top right 2nd year female (11-VI); left juvenile ().



Rock Thrush. Summer. Adult. Pattern of upperparts with rump: left male (11-VI); right female ().

Rock Thrush. Summer. Adult. Tail pattern: left male (11-VI); right female ().

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Rock Thrush. Summer. Tail pattern: top left 2nd year male (15-V) (Photo: Marc Illa); top right 2nd year female (11-VI); left juvenile (26-VII) (Photo: Miguel de Gabriel Hernandez).



Rock Thrush. Summer. Adult. Male: pattern of wing (11-VI).



Rock Thrush. Summer. Adult. Female: pattern of wing ()



Rock Thrush. Summer. 2nd year. Male: pattern of wing (15-V) (Photo: Marc Illa).



Rock Thrush. Summer. 2nd year. Female: pattern of wing (11-VI).



Rock Thrush. Summer. Juvenile: pattern of wing (26-VII)