

341 Rufous-tailed Rock Thrush

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

RUFOUS-TAILED 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 red-dish 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.



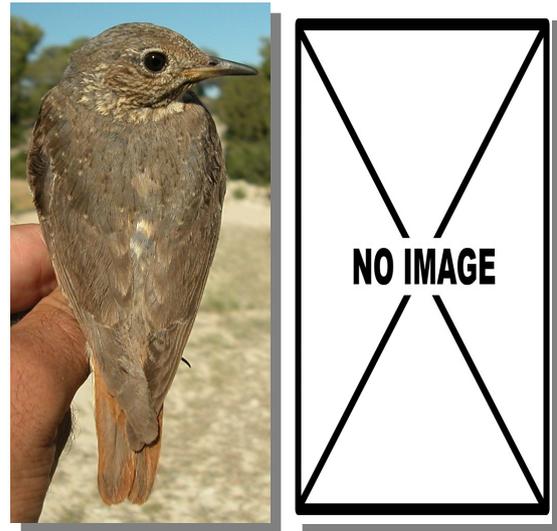
Rock Thrush. Summer. Sexing. Pattern of head and breast: left male; right female.

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



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

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 tail: left adult; right 2nd year.



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

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 **prebreeding** moult involving body feathers and rarely lesser and median wing coverts or tertials.

PHENOLOGY

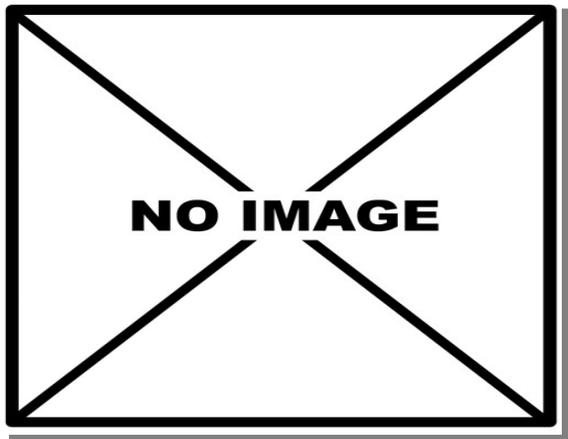
I	II	III	IV	V	VI	VII	VIII	IX	X	XI	XII

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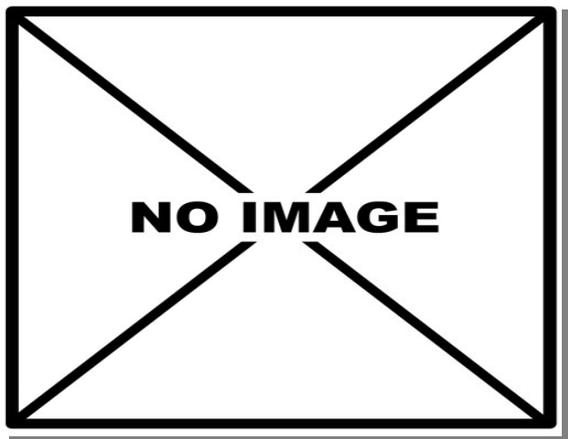
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STATUS IN ARAGON

Summer visitor. Widely distributed throughout the mountainous areas from the Region, being absent in plain areas.



Rock Thrush. Summer. Adult. Female ().



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



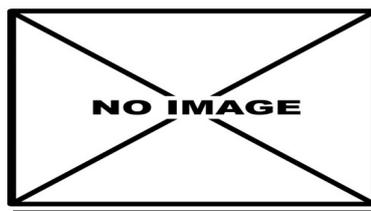
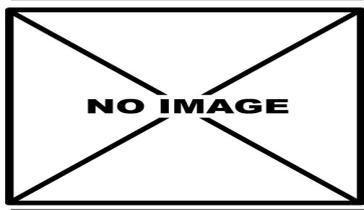
Rock Thrush. Summer. 2nd year. Female (11-VI).



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



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

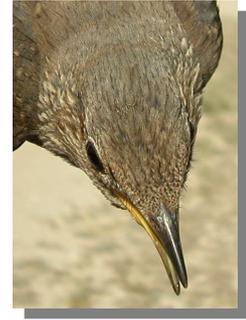
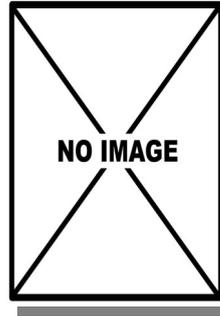
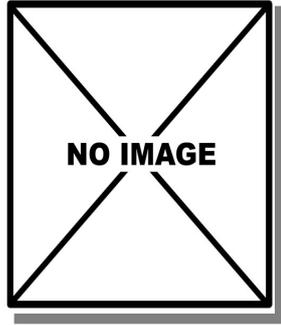


Rock Thrush. Summer. Head pattern: top 2nd year male (11-VI); middle 2nd year female (11-VI); bottom juvenile (26-VII) (Photo: Miguel de Gabriel Hernando).



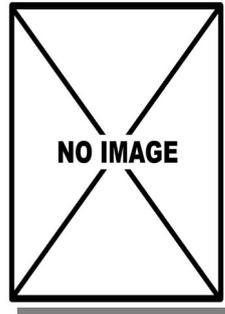
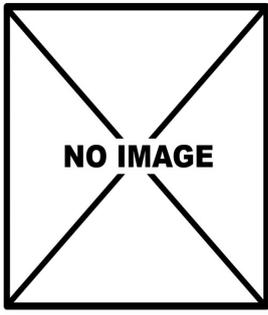
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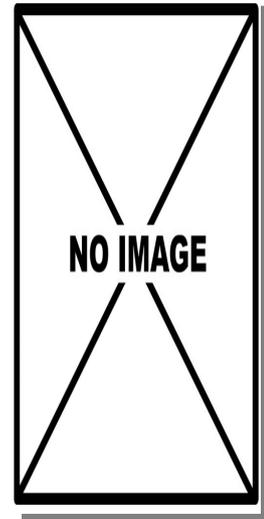


Rock Thrush. Summer. Adult. Breast pattern: left male (11-VI); right female ().

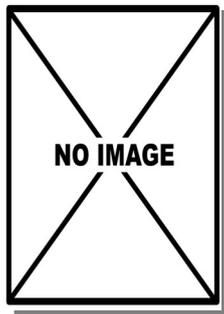
Rock Thrush. Summer. Crown pattern: top left 2nd year male (); top right 2nd year female (11-VI); left juvenile ().



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).



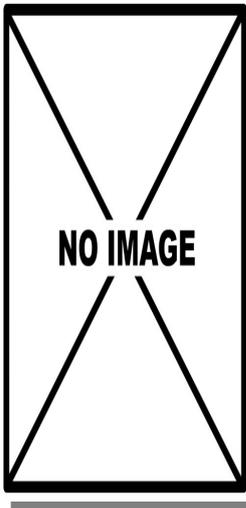
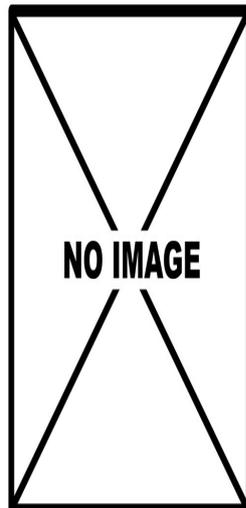
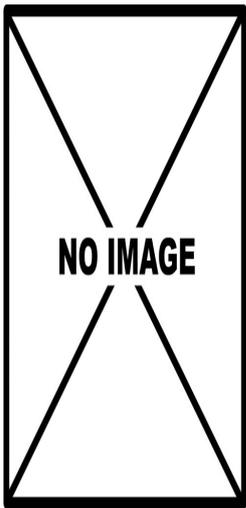
Rock Thrush. Summer. Adult. Upperpart pattern: left male (11-VI); right female ().



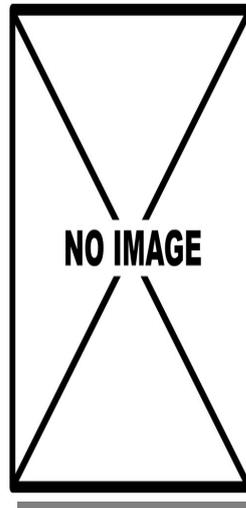
Rock Thrush. Summer. Adult. Crown pattern: left male (); right female ().

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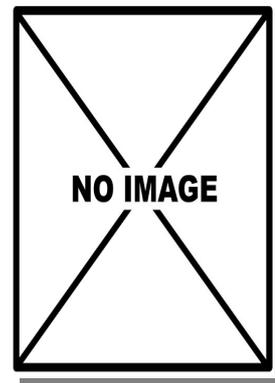
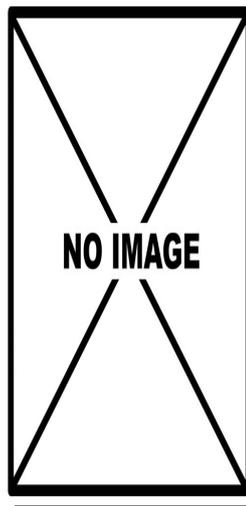
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Rock Thrush. Summer. Upperpart pattern: top left 2nd year male (); top right 2nd year female (11-VI); left juvenile ().



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 ().

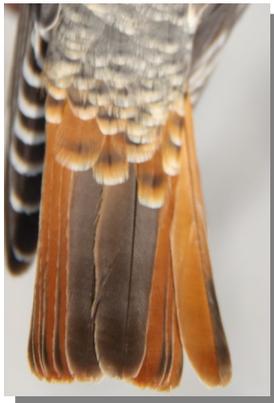
Rock Thrush. Summer. Adult. Tail pattern: left male (11-VI); right female ().

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



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 Hernando).



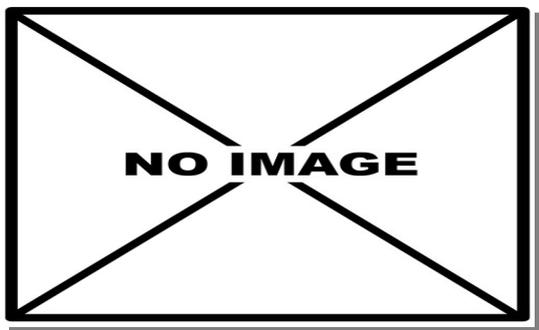
Rock Thrush. Summer. 2nd year. Female: pattern of wing (11-VI).



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



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



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