

343 Ring Ouzel

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Ring Ouzel. Adult. Male (05-X)

RING OUZEL (*Turdus torquatus*)

IDENTIFICATION

24-27 cm. **Adult male** black in breeding plumage; pectoral band pure white; yellow bill with dark tip; in non breeding plumage in **winter** with greyish edges on feathers and dark bill with yellowish tip. **Female** with dark grey plumage; pectoral band dark brown. Some 1st year females without pale pectoral band.

SIMILAR SPECIES

The white pectoral band makes this species unmistakable. **Females** without white band recall a **Spotless Starling** with has shorter tail and thinner bill; **Female Blue Rock Thrush** has similar size, but different pattern on flanks and underparts; **Blackbird** has wing feathers without pale edges.



Spotless Starling



Ring Ouzel. Pattern of wing, tail and upperparts.



Blue Rock Thrush. Female



Blackbird. Female

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SEXING

In **adult** birds, **breeding male** with a white or light brownish pectoral band; head and neck black or brownish-black; in **autumn** feathers on head and neck with brownish edges; body feathers with a narrow pale edge (about 1 mm). **Breeding female** with obscure brownish-white pectoral band; head and neck dark brownish; in **autumn** feathers on head and neck with paler edges; body feathers with a wide brownish edge (about 2 mm) (**CAUTION:** some **adult females** are very similar to **males**). In **1st year autumn/2nd year spring** birds, **male** with an evident pectoral band, paler than underparts; **female** with poor marked pectoral band, with the same colour than underparts. **Juveniles** cannot be sexed.



Ring Ouzel. Adult. Sexing. Pattern of band on breast: left male; right female.



Ring Ouzel. 1st year. Sexing. Pattern of band on breast: left male; right female.

AGEING

3 types of age can be recognized:

Juvenile has body feathers with pale tips; pale chin and throat; pale mottled on tips of lesser and median coverts; greater coverts with large whitish edge.

1st year autumn/2nd year spring with moult limit between the inner changed greater coverts (narrow pale edge) and the outermost unmoulted; tail feathers with pointed tips; some **females** with unmarked pectoral band.

Adult with no moult limits on wing; all the greater coverts with narrow edge; tail feathers with rounded tips.



Ring Ouzel. Ageing. Pattern of breast: left adult female; right juvenile (photo: Alex Fonollosa).



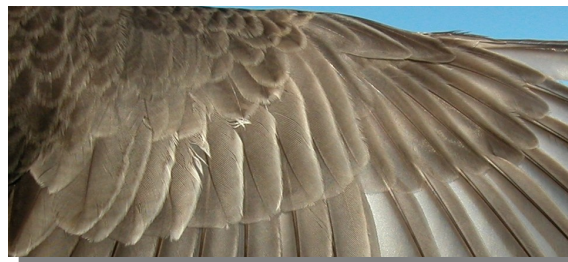
Ring Ouzel. Ageing. Pattern of wing coverts: top adult female; bottom juvenile (photo: Alex Fonollosa).

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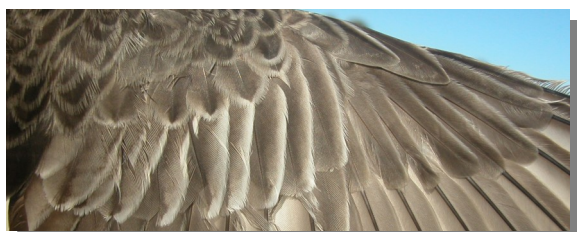
Ring Ouzel. Ageing. Pattern of tips of tail feathers: left adult; right 1st year.



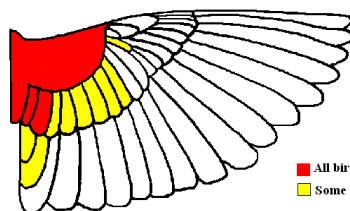
Ring Ouzel. Female. Ageing. Moul limit on wing coverts: top adult; bottom 1st year.

MOULT

Complete **postbreeding** moult, usually finished in September before migration. Partial **postjuvenile** moult including body feathers, lesser and median coverts and a variable number of greater coverts; some birds can moult tertials; usually finished in October.



Ring Ouzel. Male. Ageing. Moul limit on wing coverts: top adult; bottom 1st year.



Ring Ouzel. Extent of postjuvenile moult.

PHENOLOGY

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

STATUS IN ARAGON

Breeding only in the Pyrenees but wintering in lower areas of the Region, mainly in *Juniperus thurifera* forests of the Ebro Valley and Teruel.

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Ring Ouzel. Adult. Female (10-I)



Ring Ouzel.
Adult. Head
pattern: top
male (05-X);
bottom fe-
male (10-I)



Ring Ouzel. 1st year. Male (01-XI)



Ring Ouzel.
Head pattern:
top male (01-
XI); middle
female (07-
X); bottom
juvenile (14-
VII) (photo:
Alex Fono-
llosa)



Ring Ouzel. 1st year. Female (07-X)



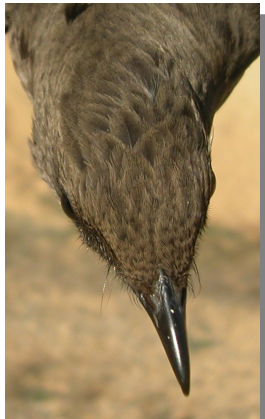
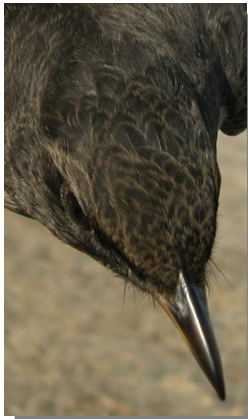
Ring Ouzel. Juvenile (14-VII) (photo: Alex Fonollosa)

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Ring Ouzel. Adult. Crown pattern: left male (05-X); right female (10-I)



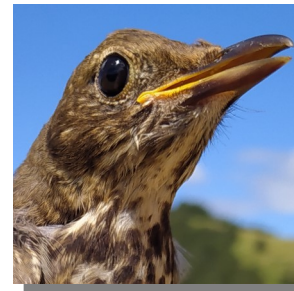
Ring Ouzel. Crown pattern: top left male (01-XI); top right female (07-X); left juvenile (14-VII) (photo: Alex Fono-llosa)



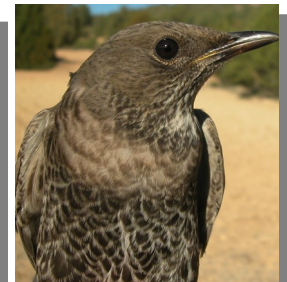
Ring Ouzel. Adult. Neck pattern: left male (05-X); right female (10-I)



Ring Ouzel. Neck pattern: top left male (01-XI); top right female (07-X); left juvenile (14-VII) (photo: Alex Fono-llosa)



Ring Ouzel. Adult. Breast pattern: left male (05-X); right female (10-I)



Ring Ouzel. Breast pattern: top left male (01-XI); top right female (07-X); left juvenile (14-VII) (photo: Alex Fono-llosa)

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Ring Ouzel. Adult. Upperparts pattern: left male (05-X); right female (10-I)



Ring Ouzel. Upperparts pattern: top left male (01-XI); top right female (07-X); left juvenile (14-VII) (photo: Alex Fonollosa)



Ring Ouzel. Adult. Tail pattern: left male (05-X); right female (10-I)



Ring Ouzel. Tail pattern: top left male (01-XI); top right female (07-X); left juvenile (14-VII) (photo: Alex Fonollosa)



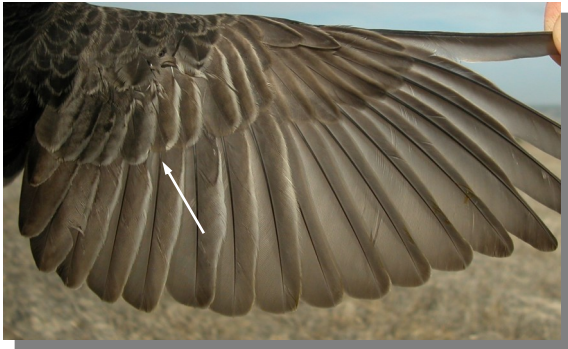
Ring Ouzel. Adult. Male: pattern of wing (05-X).

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Ring Ouzel. Adult. Female: pattern of wing (10-I).



Ring Ouzel. 1st year. Male: pattern of wing (01-XI)



Ring Ouzel. 1st year. Female: pattern of wing (07-X)



Ring Ouzel. Juvenile: wing ptttern (14-VII) (photo: Alex Fonollosa).