

14610 Coal Tit (*Periparus ater*)



Coal Tit. Adult. Male (08-XII).

COAL TIT (*Periparus ater*)

IDENTIFICATION

11-12 cm. Black head with a white patch on face and nape; grey upperparts; white breast, with yellowish tinge on flanks; wings with two pale bars.



Coal Tit. Pattern of upperparts, breast, nape and wing.

SIMILAR SPECIES

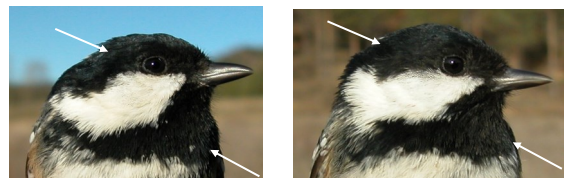
Recalls a **Great Tit** which is bigger, has a black band on breast, greenish upperparts and a white bar on wing.



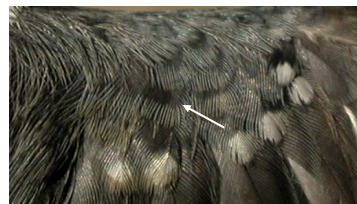
Great Tit

SEXING

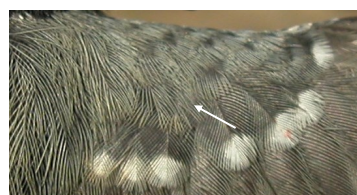
Both sexes quite alike in plumage and usually difficult to separate due to overlapping and faint differences. In **adult** birds, **male** tends to have head and throat deep black with bluish gloss; lesser wing coverts with black base and bluish edges. **Female** usually with head and throat dull black; lesser wing coverts with dark grey base and dull grey edges.



Coal Tit. Sexing. Pattern of dark colour on head: left male; right female



Coal Tit. Sexing. Pattern of lesser coverts: top male; bottom female



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AGEING

3 age groups can be recognized:

Juvenile with fresh plumage; cheeks pale yellowish; bib reduced and ill-defined; dull black on head; tail feathers with pointed tips.

1st year autumn/2nd year spring with contrast between moulted greater coverts, dark and with bluish edges, and grey **juvenile** retained; if none or very few greater coverts moulted limit is between **juvenile** greater coverts and bluish tinged moulted median coverts; if all greater coverts have been moulted limit is with primary coverts, within alula feathers, within tertials or between tertials and **juvenile** retained secondaries; with moult limit on tail if central feathers have been moulted; unmoulted tail feathers with pointed tips.

Adult without moult limits on wing and tail; tail feathers with rounded tips.



Coal Tit. Ageing. Pattern of head: left adult; right juvenile.

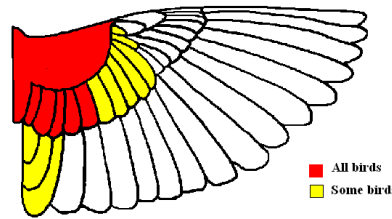


Coal Tit. Ageing. Molt limit: top adult; bottom 1st year.



MOULT

Complete **postbreeding** moult, usually finished in September. Partial **postjuvenile** moult involving body feathers, lesser and median coverts and none to some inner greater coverts; some birds extend their moult to all greater coverts, the smallest alula, tertials and central tail feathers; usually finished in September.



Coal Tit. Extent of postjuvenile moult.

PHENOLOGY

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

- Summer visitor
- Wintering
- Resident
- On passage



Coal Tit. Adult. Female (08-XII).



Coal Tit. 1st year. Male (26-XII).

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Coal Tit. 1st year. Female (26-XII).



Coal Tit. Juvenile (20-VII).



Coal Tit. Adult. Head pattern: top male (08-XII); bottom female (08-XII).



Coal Tit. Head pattern: top 1st year male (26-XII); middle 1st year female (26-XII); bottom juvenile (20-VII).



Coal Tit. Adult. Nape pattern: left male (08-XII); right female (08-XII).



Coal Tit. Nape pattern: top left 1st year male (26-XII); top right 1st year female (26-XII); left juvenile (20-VII).

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Coal Tit. Adult. Breast pattern: left male (08-XII); right female (08-XII).



Coal Tit. Breast pattern: top left 1st year male (26-XII); top right 1st year female (26-XII); left juvenile (20-VII).



Coal Tit. Adult. Upperpart pattern: left male (08-XII); right female (08-XII).



Coal Tit. Upperpart pattern: top left 1st year male (26-XII); top right 1st year female (26-XII); left juvenile (20-VII).

Coal Tit. Adult. Tail pattern: left male (08-XII); right female (08-XII).

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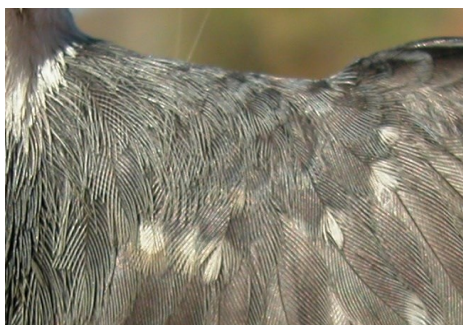
Coal Tit. Tail pattern: top left 1st year male (26-XII); top right 1st year female (26-XII); left juvenile (20-VII).



Coal Tit. Pattern of lesser coverts: top 1st year male (26-XII); middle 1st year female (26-XII); bottom juvenile (20-VII).



Coal Tit. Adult. Male: pattern of wing (08-XII).



Coal Tit. Adult. Female: pattern of wing (08-XII).

Coal Tit. Adult. Pattern of lesser coverts: top male (08-XII); bottom female (08-XII).



Coal Tit. 1st year. Male: pattern of wing (26-XII).



Coal Tit. 1st year. Female: pattern of wing (05-XI).



Coal Tit. Juvenile: pattern of wing (20-VII).