



Blue Tit. Adult. Male (06-l).

### EURASIAN BLUE TIT (*Cyanistes caeruleus*)

#### IDENTIFICATION

11-12 cm. Crown, wings and tail blue; upperparts greenish; underparts yellow; white cheek; wings with one white band.



Blue Tit. Pattern of head.

#### SIMILAR SPECIES

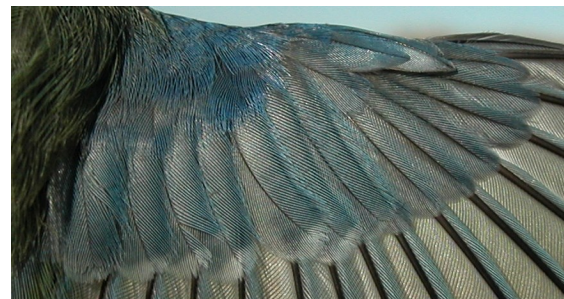
This species is unmistakable.

#### SEXING

**Male** with wing coverts with deep blue edges. **Female** with wing coverts with grey bluish edges (**CAUTION:** intermediate specimens exist, mainly birds of 1st/2nd year, in which this characteristic is not always easy to see). In extreme birds, width and colour of the blue band on neck is an useful sexing characteristic: **male** with broad blue-black band on neck; **female** with narrow blue-grey band on neck. **Juveniles** cannot be sexed using plumage pattern.



Blue Tit. Sexing. Pattern of blue band on neck: top male; bottom female.



Blue Tit. Sexing. Pattern of wing coverts: top male; bottom female.



**14620 Eurasian Blue Tit (*Cyanistes caeruleus*)**

**AGEING**

3 age groups can be recognized:

**Juvenile** with fresh plumage; cheeks pale yellowish; crown dull bluish-grey; tail feathers with pointed tips.

**1st year autumn/2nd year spring** with moult limit between deep blue moulted greater coverts and dull blue-grey **juvenile** primary coverts retained; sometimes with contrast within tertials or between tertials and secondaries; usually with moult limit between moulted central pair of tail feathers, fresh, bluer and with rounded tips, which contrast with the rest of **juvenile** retained tail feathers, more worn, greyer and with pointed tips.

**Adult** with all wing and tail feathers with similar bluish edges, without moult limits; cheeks white; crown bluish; tail feathers with rounded tips.



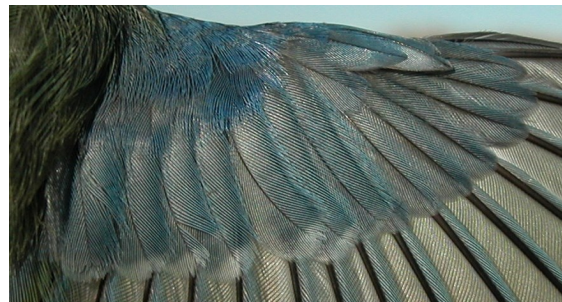
Blue Tit. Ageing. Pattern of head: top adult; bottom juvenile.



Blue Tit. Ageing. Pattern of upperparts: left adult; right



Blue Tit. Ageing. Moult limit on tail feathers: left adult; right 1st year.



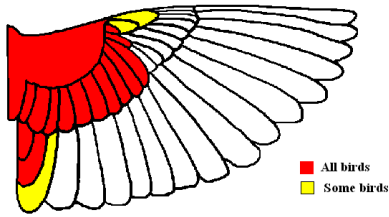
Blue Tit. Ageing. Moult limit on wing coverts: top adult; bottom 1st year.

**MOULT**

Complete **postbreeding** moult, usually finished in September. Partial **postjuvenile** moult involving body feathers, lesser and median coverts, usually all greater coverts, some tertials and central pair of tail feathers; some birds extend their moult to some alula feathers, all tertials and from several pairs to all tail feathers; usually finished in October.



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Blue Tit. Extent of postjuvenile moult.

■ All birds  
■ Some birds

**PHENOLOGY**

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

■ Summer visitor    ■ Resident  
■ Wintering        ■ On passage



Blue Tit. 1st year. Female (06-XI).



Blue Tit. Adult. Female (06-I).



Blue Tit. Juvenile (18-VI).



Blue Tit. 1st year. Male (06-XI).



Blue Tit. Adult. Head pattern and width of neck band: topmale (06-I); bottom female (06-I).



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Blue Tit. Head pattern and width of neck band: top 1st year male (06-XI); middle 1st year female (06-XI); bottom juvenile (18-VI).



Blue Tit. Adult. Crown pattern: left male (06-I); right female (06-I).



Blue Tit. Crown pattern: top left 1st year male (06-XI); top right 1st year female (06-XI); left juvenile (18-VI).



Blue Tit. Adult. Breast pattern: left male (06-I); right female (06-I).



Blue Tit. Breast pattern: top left 1st year male (06-XI); top right 1st year female (06-XI); left juvenile (18-VI).



**14620 Eurasian Blue Tit (*Cyanistes caeruleus*)**



Blue Tit. Adult. Upperpart pattern: left male (06-I); right female (06-I).



Blue Tit. Upperpart pattern: top left 1st year male (06-XI); top right 1st year female (06-XI); left juvenile (18-VI).



Blue Tit. Adult. Tail pattern: left male (06-I); right female (06-I).



Blue Tit. Tail pattern: top left 1st year male (06-XI); top right 1st year female (06-XI); left juvenile (18-VI).



Blue Tit. Adult. Pattern of wing coverts: top male (06-I); bottom female (06-I).



**14620** Eurasian Blue Tit (*Cyanistes caeruleus*)



Blue Tit. Adult. Male: pattern of wing (06-I).



Blue Tit. Adult. Female: pattern of wing (06-I).

Blue Tit. Pattern of wing covers: top 1st year male (06-XI); middle 1st year female (06-XI); bottom juvenile (18-VI).



Blue Tit. 1st year. Male: pattern of wing (06-XI).



Blue Tit. 1st year. Female: pattern of wing (06-XI).



Blue Tit. Juvenile: pattern of wing (14-VI).