

14640 Great Tit (*Parus major*)



Great Tit. Adult. Male (06-I).

GREAT TIT (*Parus major*)

IDENTIFICATION

12-14 cm. Black head and throat, with a white patch on cheek and nape; yellow underparts, with a black band; greenish upperparts; wings with one pale bar.



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

SIMILAR SPECIES

Recalls a **Coal Tit** which is smaller, lacks a black band on breast, has greyish upperparts and two white bars on wing.



Coal Tit

SEXING

Male with head and throat bright bluish-black; breast and belly with a wide black band. **Female** with head and throat dull black; breast and belly with a narrow black band. **Juveniles** cannot be sexed using plumage pattern.



Great Tit. Sexing. Pattern of head: top male; bottom female.

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Great Tit. Sexing. Pattern of breast: left male; right female.

AGEING

3 age groups can be recognized:

Juvenile with very dull yellow and black colours; yellowish cheek patch without complete black border along lower edge; underparts with poorly developed dark band.

1st year autumn/2nd year spring with moult limit between moulted greater coverts, with bluish edges, and **juvenile** primary coverts, with greyish edges; some birds with moult limit within tertials or between tertials and secondaries.

Adult with all wing feathers with bluish edges, without moult limits.



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

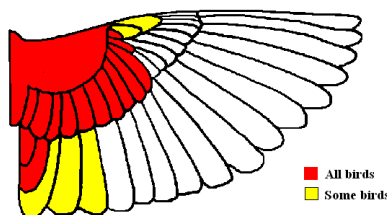


Great Tit. Ageing. Pattern of head: top adult female; bottom juvenile.



MOULT

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



Great Tit. Extent of postjuvenile moult.



Great Tit. Ageing. Pattern of breast: left adult female; right juvenile.

PHENOLOGY

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

- Summer visitor
- Wintering
- Resident
- On passage

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Great Tit. Adult. Female (08-IV).



Great Tit. Juvenile (18-VII).



Great Tit. 1st year. Male (07-X).



Great Tit. Adult. Head pattern: top male (06-I); bottom female (08-IV).



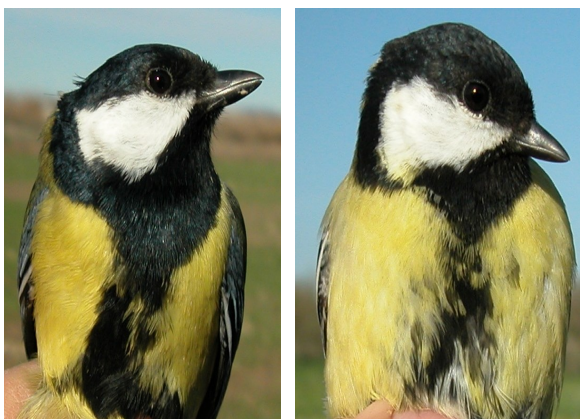
Great Tit. Head pattern: top 1st year male (07-X); middle 1st year female (07-X); bottom juvenile (18-VII).



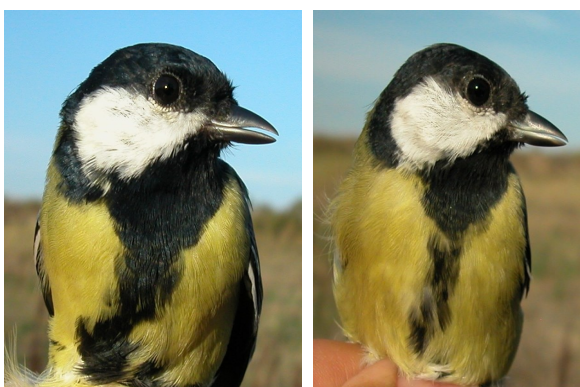
Great Tit. 1st year. Female (07-X).



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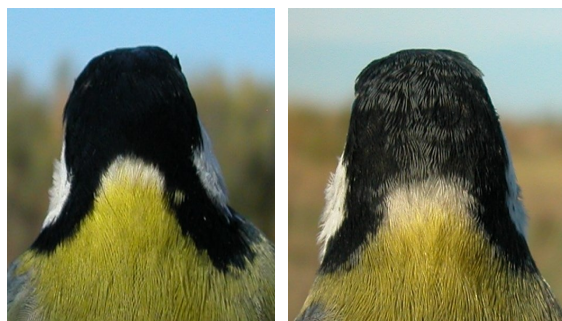
Great Tit. Adult. Breast pattern: left male (06-I); right female (08-IV).



Great Tit. Breast pattern: top left 1st year male (07-X); top right 1st year female (07-X); left juvenile (18-VII).



Great Tit. Adult. Nape pattern: left male (06-I); right female (08-IV).



Great Tit. Nape pattern: top left 1st year male (07-X); top right 1st year female (07-X); left juvenile (18-VII).



Great Tit. Adult. Underparts pattern: left male (06-I); right female (08-IV).

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Great Tit. Underparts pattern: top left 1st year male (07-X); top right 1st year female (07-X); left juvenile (18-VII).



Great Tit. Adult. Tail pattern: left male (06-I); right female (08-IV).



Great Tit. Tail pattern: top left 1st year male (07-X); top right 1st year female (07-X); left juvenile (18-VII).



Great Tit. Adult. Upperparts pattern: left male (06-I); right female (08-IV).

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Great Tit. Adult. Female: pattern of wing (08-IV).



Great Tit. Upperparts pattern: top left 1st year male (07-X); top right 1st year female (07-X); left juvenile (18-VII).



Great Tit. 1st year. Male: pattern of wing (07-X).



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



Great Tit. 1st year. Female: pattern of wing (07-X).



Great Tit. Juvenile: pattern of wing (24-VI).