

# 395 European Nuthatch

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Nuthatch. Adult. Male (13-XI)

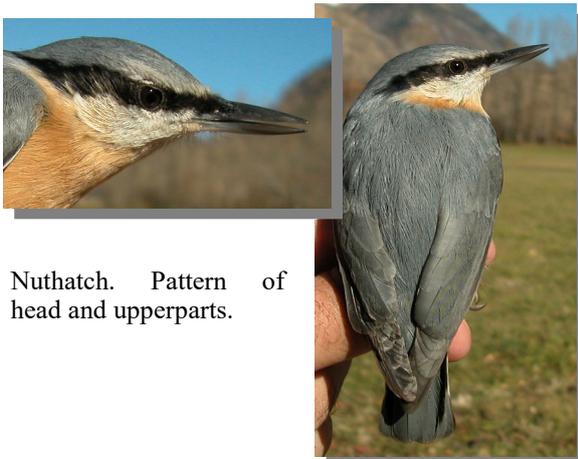


Nuthatch. Sexing. Pattern of flank: top male; bottom female.

## EUROPEAN NUTHATCH (*Sitta europaea*)

### IDENTIFICATION

13-14 cm. Grey bluish upperparts; underparts with white throat and rusty-buff breast and belly; head with a black band from the bill to the neck; grey bill; brownish legs.



Nuthatch. Pattern of head and upperparts.



Nuthatch. Sexing. Pattern of undertail coverts: left male; right female.

### SIMILAR SPECIES

This species is unmistakable

### SEXING

In **adult** and **juvenile** birds, **male** with flanks and part of undertail coverts bright chesnut-brown, clearly delimited from remaining underparts. **Female** with flanks and part of undertail coverts pale rufous-buff, shading into remaining underparts (**CAUTION**: some **males** have only a few chesnut feathers).

### AGEING

3 age groups can be recognized:

**Juvenile** similar to **adult**, but with less blue and chesnut tinge; cheek with dull black band; fresh plumage.

**1st year autumn/2nd year spring** usually with moult limit within median coverts, with contrast between unmoulted **juvenile** feathers, greyish-brown with only a slight blue tinge, and the moulted ones of same blue as lesser coverts and scapulars; if innermost greater coverts moulted, then significant bluer than outer **juvenile** retained; flight feathers slighter browner and more worn than **adult** ones at same date.

**Adult** always without moult limits on wing coverts; cheek with deep black band; flight feathers darker and more fresh than **postjuvenile** ones at same date.

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Nuthatch. Ageing. Pattern of band on the cheek: top adult; bottom juvenile.



Nuthatch. Ageing. Pattern of wing coverts: top adult; bottom juvenile.

## PHENOLOGY

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



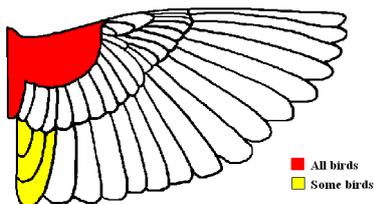
Nuthatch. Adult. Female (13-XI)



Nuthatch. 1st year. Male (13-XI)

## MOULT

Complete **postbreeding** moult, usually finished in September. Partial **postjuvenile** moult involving body feathers, lesser and median coverts and, some birds, a few innermost tertials and greater coverts; usually finished in September.



Nuthatch. Extent of postjuvenile moult.

■ All birds  
■ Some birds

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Nuthatch. 1st year. Female (30-XII)



Nuthatch.  
Adult. Head  
pattern: top  
male (13-  
XI); bottom  
female (13-  
XI).



Nuthatch. Juvenile. Male (12-VII)



Nuthatch.  
1st year.  
Head  
pattern: top  
male (13-  
XI); bottom  
female (30-  
XII).



Nuthatch. Juvenile. Female (12-VII)



Nuthatch.  
Juvenile.  
Head  
pattern: top  
male (12-  
VII); bottom  
female (12-  
VII).

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Nuthatch. Adult. Breast pattern: left male (13-XI); right female (13-XI).



Nuthatch. 1st year. Upperparts pattern: left male (13-XI); right female (30-XII).



Nuthatch. 1st year. Breast pattern: left male (13-XI); right female (30-XII).



Nuthatch. Juvenile. Upperparts pattern: left male (12-VII); right female (12-VII).



Nuthatch. Juvenile. Breast pattern: left male (12-VII); right female (12-VII).



Nuthatch. Adult. Upperparts pattern: left male (13-XI); right female (13-XI).



Nuthatch. Adult. Male: flank pattern (13-XI).

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Nuthatch. Adult. Female: flank pattern (13-XI).



Nuthatch. Juvenile. Female: flank pattern (12-VII).



Nuthatch. 1st year. Male: flank pattern (13-XI).



Nuthatch. Adult. Pattern of undertail coverts: left male (13-XI); right female (13-XI).



Nuthatch. 1st year. Female: flank pattern (30-XII).



Nuthatch. 1st year. Pattern of undertail coverts: left male (13-XI); right female (30-XII).



Nuthatch. Juvenile. Male: flank pattern (12-VII).

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Nuthatch. Juvenile. Pattern of undertail coverts: left male (12-VII); right female (12-VII).



Nuthatch. Juvenile. Tail pattern: left male (12-VII); right female (12-VII).



Nuthatch. Adult. Tail pattern: left male (13-XI); right female (13-XI).



Nuthatch. Adult. Male: pattern of wing coverts (13-XI).



Nuthatch. Adult. Female: pattern of wing coverts (13-XI).



Nuthatch. 1st year. Tail pattern: left male (13-XI); right female (30-XII).



Nuthatch. 1st year. Male: pattern of wing coverts (13-XI).

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Nuthatch. 1st year. Female: pattern of wing covers (30-XII).



Nuthatch. Adult. Female: pattern of wing (13-XI)



Nuthatch. Juvenile. Male: pattern of wing covers (12-VII).



Nuthatch. 1st year. Male: pattern of wing (13-XI)



Nuthatch. Juvenile. Female: pattern of wing covers (12-VII).



Nuthatch. 1st year. Female: pattern of wing (30-XII)



Nuthatch. Adult. Male: pattern of wing (13-XI)



Nuthatch. Juvenile. Male: pattern of wing (12-VII)

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Nuthatch. Juvenile. Female: pattern of wing (12-VII)