



Magpie. Adult (01-V).

MAGPIE (*Pica pica*)

IDENTIFICATION

40-51 cm (of which tail 16-20). Black and white plumage, with green glossed tail and wing; very long tail.

SIMILAR SPECIES

This species is unmistakable.

SEXING

Plumage of both sexes alike. Size in **adult** birds can be helpful with extreme specimens: **male** with wing longer than 198 mm; **female** with wing shorter than 178 mm. **CAUTION:** many birds cannot be sexed due to size overlap.

AGEING

3 age groups can be recognized:

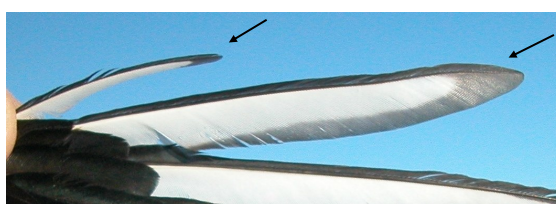
Juvenile with fresh plumage; large dark patch on 9th-10th primaries (longer than 10 and 16 mm each); iris blue grey; with bluish-grey bare skin around the eyes.

1st year autumn/2nd year spring with moult limit between moulted glossy wing feathers and duller **juvenile** retained alula, primary coverts and flight feathers; worn and dull unmoulted tail; 9th-10th primaries like **juveniles**.

Adult with glossy black and green plumage on wing and tail, without moult limits; small dark patch on 9th-10th primaries (shorter than 13 and 15 mm each), iris dark; no bare skin around the eye.



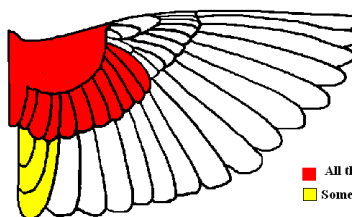
Magpie. Ageing. Pattern of iris and bare skin around the eye: top adult; bottom juvenile.



Magpie. Ageing. Pattern of the dark patch on primaries 9th and 10th: top adult; bottom juvenile.

MOULT

Complete **postbreeding** moult, usually finished in October. Partial **postjuvenile** moult involving body feathers, lesser, median and some inner greater coverts (sometimes all); some specimens extend their moult to some tertials and central tail feather; usually finished in October.



Magpie. Extent of postjuvenile moult.

■ All the specimens
■ Some specimens

PHENOLOGY

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

- Summer visitor
- Wintering
- Resident
- On passage



Magpie. 2nd year (07-I)



Magpie. Juvenile (13-VII)



Magpie. Young (11-VI)



Magpie. Breast pattern: left adult (01-I); right juvenile (29-VII)

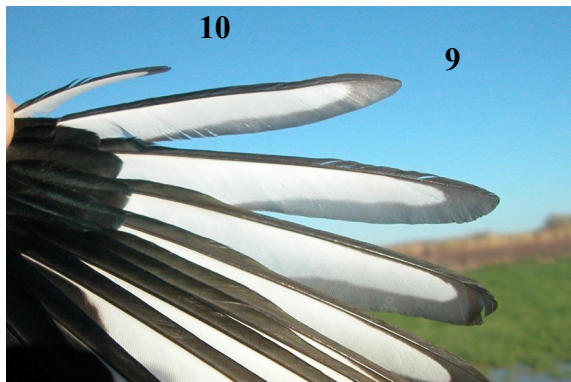
Magpie. Iris colour: from top to bottom: adult (01-I); 2nd year (07-I); juvenile (08-VII); young (11-VI).



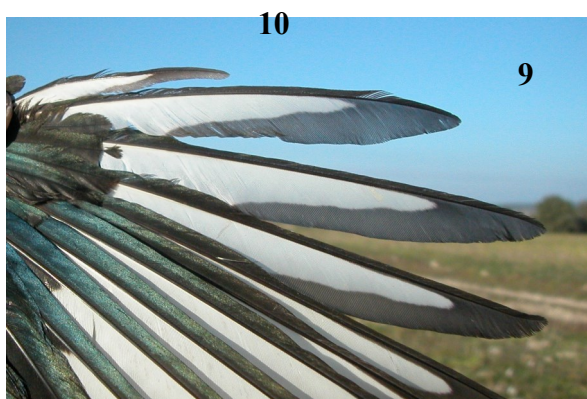
Magpie. Upperparts pattern: top left adult (01-I); top right 2nd year (07-I); left juvenile (08-VII)



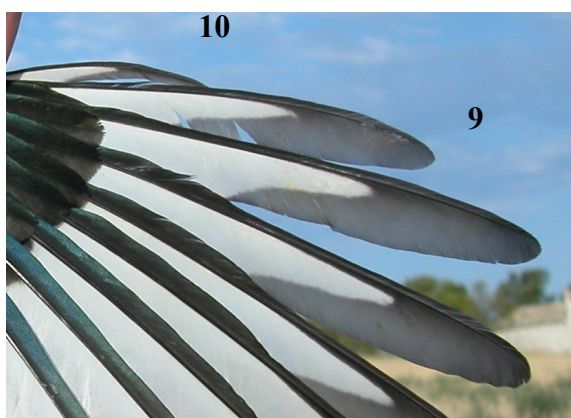
Magpie. Tail pattern: top left adult (01-I); top right 2nd year (07-I); left juvenile (08-VII)



Magpie. Adult: extent of dark patch on tip of 9th and 10th primaries (08-III).



Magpie. 2nd year: extent of dark patch on tip of 9th and 10th primaries (07-I).



Magpie. Juvenile: extent of dark patch on tip of 9th and 10th primaries (08-VII).



Magpie. Adult: pattern of alula (08-III).



Magpie. 2nd year: pattern of alula (07-I).



Magpie. Juvenile: pattern of alula (08-VII).



Magpie. Adult: pattern of wing (08-III).



Magpie. 2nd year: pattern of wing (07-I).



Magpie. Juvenile: pattern of wing (08-VII).