

416 Common Starling

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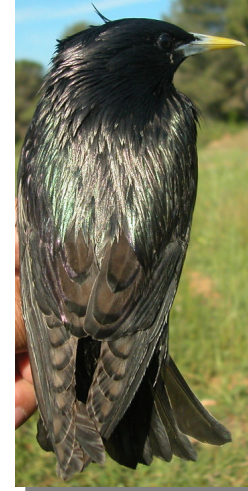


Common Starling. Spring. Adult. Male (23-V).

COMMON STARLING (*Sturnus vulgaris*)

IDENTIFICATION

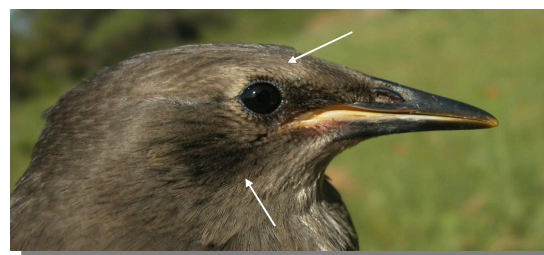
20-22 cm. Black plumage, with purple, green and blue gloss in breeding plumage; strongly spotted pale in winter; yellow bill in breeders, dark in winter; short tail. **Wing formula:** the 9th primary is the longest (sometimes 8th and 9th similar). **Juveniles** are grey brown; pale supercilium poorly pronounced; cheek mottled dark.



Common Starling. Spring. Adult. Pattern of wing, breast and upperparts.



Common Starling. Winter. Wing formula and pattern of breast and upperparts.



Common Starling. Juvenile. Wing formula and head pattern.

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SIMILAR SPECIES

Recalls that of a male **Blackbird** which has longer tail and lacks glossy plumage or white spots. **Spotless Starling** is very similar but lacks green and purple gloss in **breeding** plumage and wing feathers lacks buff edges. **Juvenile** of **Spotless Starling** is almost indistinguishable by plumage but with pale supercilium quite pronounced and cheek poorly mottled dark; wing formula is different being the 8th primary the



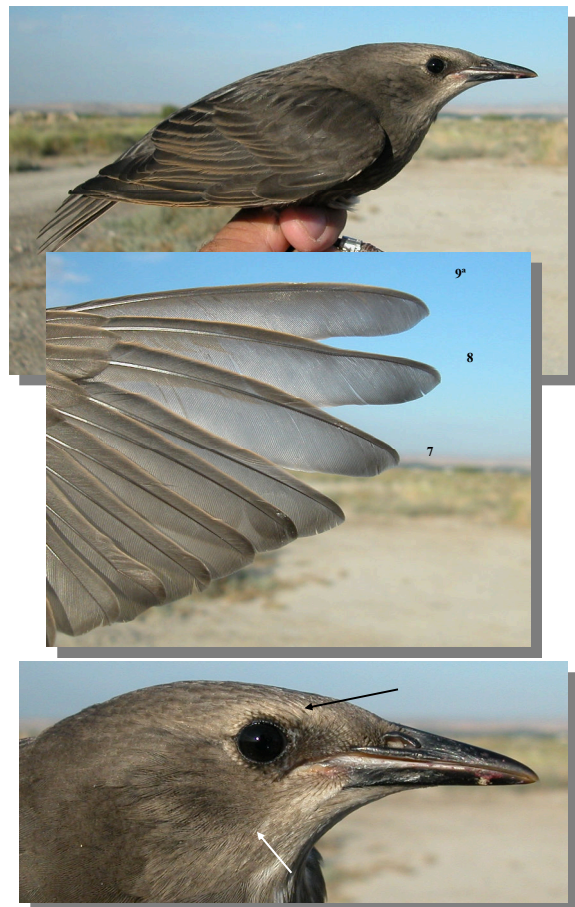
Blackbird. Male



Spotless Starling. Winter.



Spotless Starling.



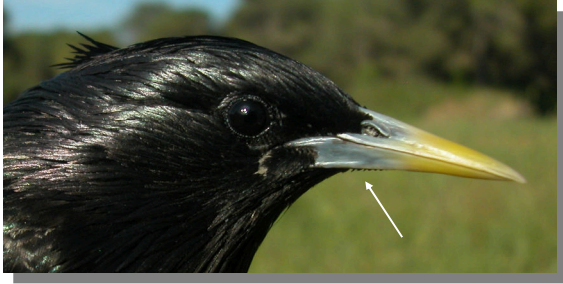
Spotless Starling. Juvenile. Wing formula and head pattern.

SEXING

Iris uniformly dark brown in **males** and dark with a narrow pale outer circle in **females**. In **breeding** season, base of lower mandible is grey-blue in **males** and white-pinkish in **females**. Most of the **juveniles** can be sexed by iris colour (**CAUTION: males and females** can have iris dark brown, but only **females** have the iris with a pale circle).

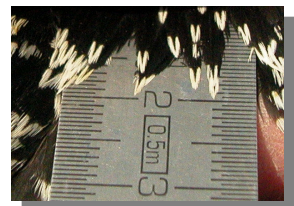
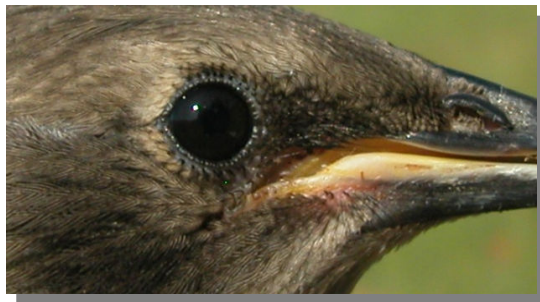
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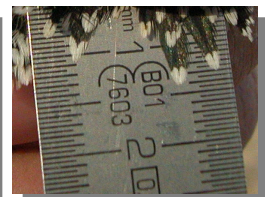
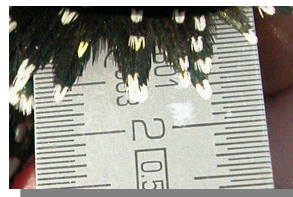
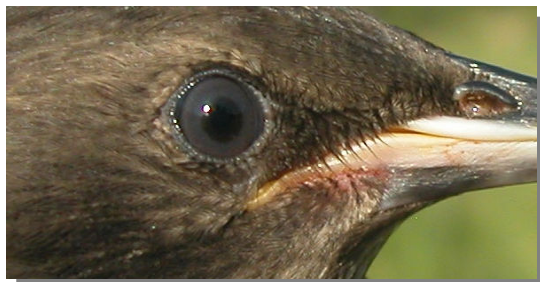


Common Starling. Spring. Sexing. Pattern of bill: top male; bottom female

Common Starling. Winter. Sexing. Pattern of iris: top male; bottom female



Common Starling. Winter. Adult. Length of the longest feather on the neck base: left male; right female

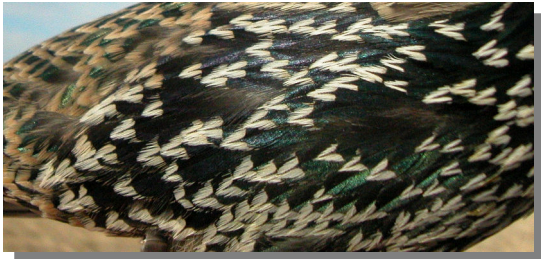


Common Starling. Juvenile. Sexing. Pattern of iris: top male/female; bottom female

Common Starling. Winter. 1st year. Length of the longest feather on the neck base: left male; right female

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Common Starling. Winter. Sexing. Pattern of flank: top male; bottom female

AGEING/SEXING

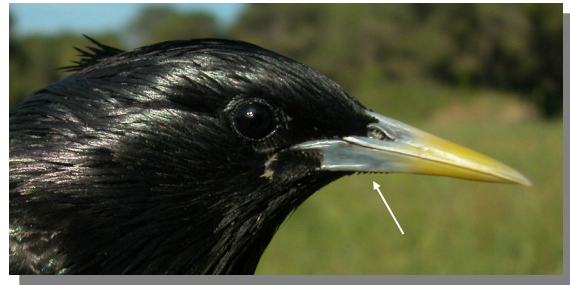
4 types of age can be recognized:

Juvenile with grey brown plumage; whitish throat; underparts with pale streaked; greyish bill.

1st year autumn/2nd year winter with rounded tail feathers, the outermost with buff narrow edge not interrupted at the tip; central tail feathers with matt subterminal bar. **Male** with feathers of underparts with pale spots with a black line in the middle (sometimes missing); length of the longest feathers in centre of lower throat 15-20 mm. **Female** with feathers of underparts with broad pale spots without a black line in the middle; length of the longest feathers in centre of lower throat 13-17 mm.

2nd year spring very difficult to age safely because of overlap in length of the longest feathers of throat and wear of tail feathers; usually **males** and **females** with duller plumages than **adults**; **2nd year males** usually with some white spots.

Adult with pointed tail feathers, the outermost with distinct buff edge which is interrupted at the tip by dark colour of the feather; central tail feathers pointed, with a glossy subterminal band. **Male** with the longest feathers in centre of lower throat between 20-26 mm; in **winter**, with feathers of underparts with narrow pale spots always with a black line in the middle. **Female** with the longest feathers in centre of lower throat between 15-20 mm; in **winter**, feathers of underparts with broad pale spots always with a black line in the middle. In **spring** ageing is very difficult; usually **adult** birds have a brighter plumage than those of the **2nd year**; **adult males** usually unspotted white.



Common Starling. Spring. Ageing. Male. Pattern of bill and brightness of plumage: top adult; bottom probably 2nd year.



Common Starling. Spring. Ageing. Female. Brightness of plumage: top adult; bottom probably 2nd year.



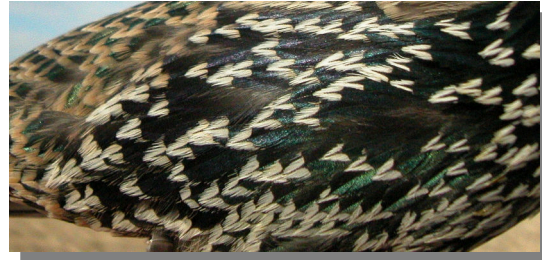
Common Starling. Spring. Ageing. Juvenile: pattern of plumage and colour of bill.

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Common Starling. Spring. Ageing. Adult: pattern of tail feathers.



Common Starling. Winter. Ageing. Female. Pattern of flank: top adult; bottom 1st year.



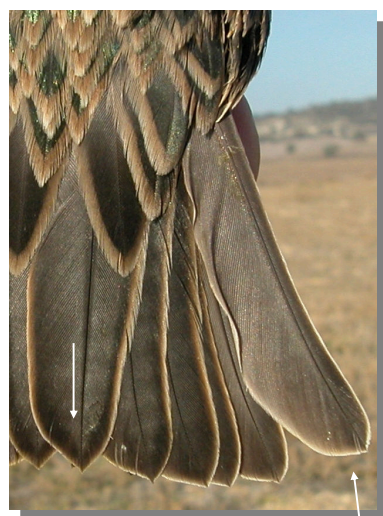
Common Starling. Spring. Ageing. Probably 2nd year: pattern of tail feathers.



Common Starling. Winter. Ageing. Adult. Male: tail pattern.



Common Starling. Winter. Ageing. Male. Pattern of flank: top adult; bottom 1st year.



Common Starling. Winter. Ageing. Adult. Female: tail pattern.

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Common Starling. Winter. Ageing. 1st year. Male: tail pattern.



Common Starling. Spring. Adult. Female (23-V).



Common Starling. Winter. Ageing. 1st year. Female: tail pattern.



Common Starling. Spring. Probably 2nd year. Male (11-VI).

MOULT

Complete **postbreeding** and **postjuvenile** moults, finished in November.

PHENOLOGY

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

STATUS IN ARAGON

Resident, with contribution of wintering European birds. Breeds only in Alta and Baja Ribagorça.



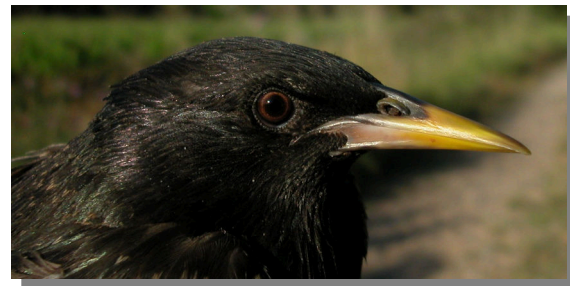
Common Starling. Spring. Probably 2nd year. Female (11-VI).

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Common Starling. Spring. Juvenile. Male/female (23-V)



Common Starling. Spring. Probably 2nd year. Head pattern and colour of iris and bill: top male (11-VI); bottom female (11-VI)



Common Starling. Spring. Juvenile. Female (23-V)



Common Starling. Spring. Juvenile. Head pattern and colour of iris and bill: top male/female (23-V); bottom female (23-V)



Common Starling. Spring. Adult. Head pattern and colour of iris and bill: top male (23-V); bottom female (23-V)

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Common Starling. Spring. Adult. Breast pattern: left male (23-V); right female (23-V)



Common Starling. Spring. Probably 2nd year. Pattern of flank: top male (11-VI); bottom female (11-VI)



Common Starling. Spring. Probably 2nd year. Breast pattern: left male (11-VI); right female (11-VI)



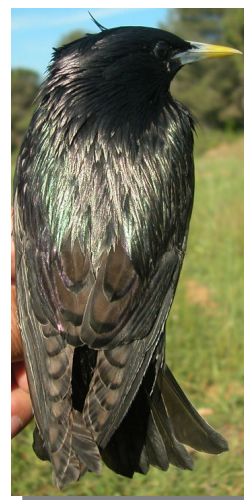
Common Starling. Spring. Juvenile. Pattern of flank: top male/female (23-V); bottom female (23-V)



Common Starling. Spring. Juvenile. Breast pattern: top male/female (23-V); bottom female (23-V)



Common Starling. Spring. Adult. Pattern of flank: top male (23-V); bottom female (23-V)



Common Starling. Spring. Adult. Upperparts pattern: left male (23-V); right female (23-V)

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Common Starling. Spring. Probably 2nd year. Upperparts pattern: left male (11-VI); right female (11-VI)



Common Starling. Spring. Juvenile. Upperparts pattern: top male/female (23-V); bottom female (23-V)



Common Starling. Spring. Adult. Female: tail pattern (23-V).



Common Starling. Spring. Probably 2nd year. Male: tail pattern (11-VI).



Common Starling. Spring. Probably 2nd year. Female: tail pattern (11-VI).



Common Starling. Spring. Adult. Male: tail pattern (23-V).



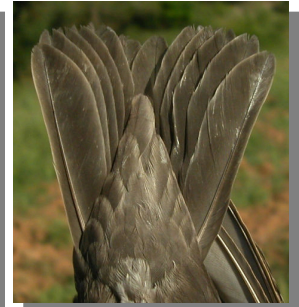
Common Starling. Spring. Juvenile. Male/female: tail pattern (23-V).

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Common Starling. Spring. Juvenile. Female: tail pattern (23-V).



Common Starling. Spring. Juvenile. Pattern of undertail coverts: top male/female (23-V); bottom female (23-V)



Common Starling. Spring. Adult. Pattern of undertail coverts: left male (23-V); right female (23-V)



Common Starling. Spring. Adult. Male: pattern of wing (23-V).



Common Starling. Spring. Probably 2nd year. Pattern of undertail coverts: left male (11-VI); right female (11-VI)



Common Starling. Spring. Adult. Female: pattern of wing (23-V).



Common Starling. Spring. Probably 2nd year. Male: pattern of wing (11-VI).

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Common Starling. Spring. Probably 2nd year. Female: pattern of wing (11-VI).



Common Starling. Spring. Juvenile. Male/female: pattern of wing (23-V).



Common Starling. Spring. Juvenile. Female: pattern of wing (23-V).



Common Starling. Winter. Adult. Male (15-XII).



Common Starling. Winter. Adult. Female (11-XII).



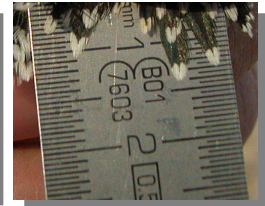
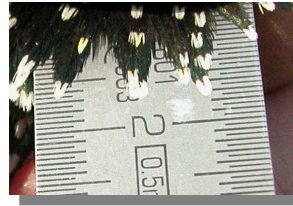
Common Starling. Winter. 1st year. Male (15-XII).

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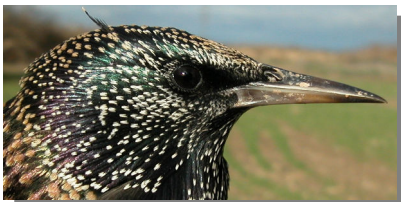
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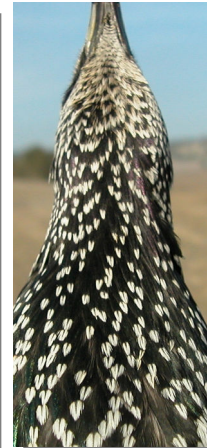
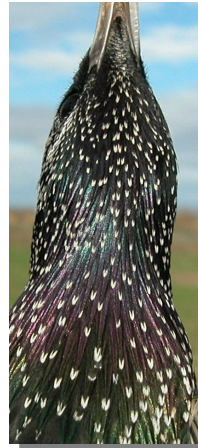
Common Starling. Winter. 1st year. Female (15-XII).



Common Starling. Winter. 1st year. Length of the longest feather on the neck base: left male (15-XII); right female (15-XII).



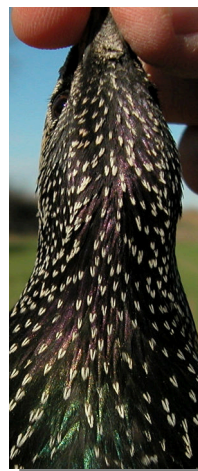
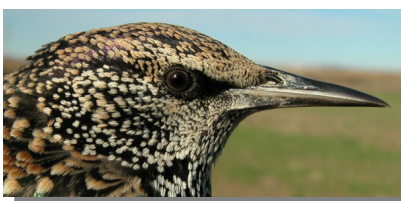
Common Starling. Winter. Adult. Iris colour and head pattern: top male (15-XII); bottom female (11-XII).



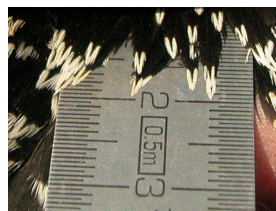
Common Starling. Winter. Adult. Pattern of the neck mottled: top male (15-XII); bottom female (11-XII).



Common Starling. Winter. 1st year. Iris colour and head pattern: top male (15-XII); bottom female (15-XII).



Common Starling. Winter. 1st year. Pattern of the neck mottled: top male (15-XII); bottom female (15-XII).



Common Starling. Winter. Adult. Length of the longest feather on the neck base: left male (15-XII); right female (15-XII).



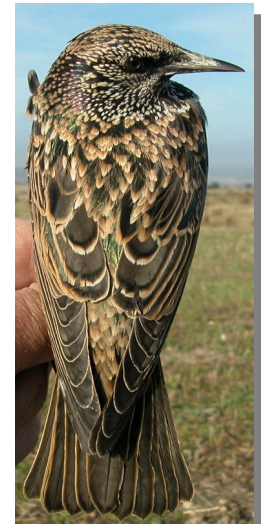
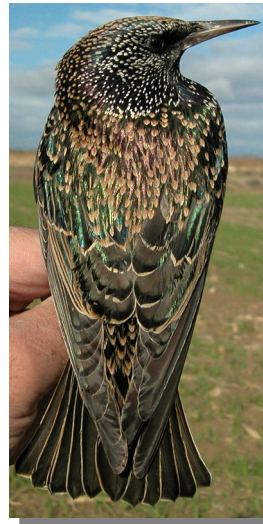
Common Starling. Winter. Adult. Pattern of breast mottled: left male (15-XII); right female (11-XII).

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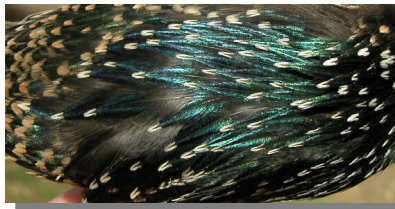
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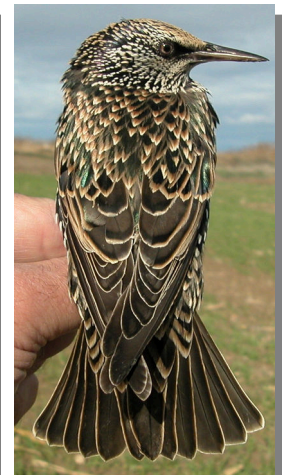
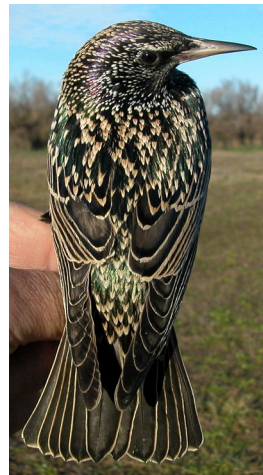
Common Starling. Winter. 1st year. Pattern of breast mottled: left male (15-XII); right female (15-XII).



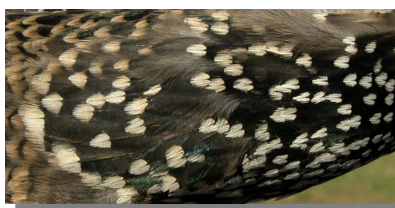
Common Starling. Winter. Adult. Upperpart pattern: left male (15-XII); right female (11-XII).



Common Starling. Winter. Adult. Pattern of the flank mottled: top male (15-XII); bottom female (11-XII).



Common Starling. Winter. 1st year. Upperpart pattern: left male (15-XII); right female (15-XII).



Common Starling. Winter. 1st year. Pattern of the flank mottled: top male (15-XII); bottom female (15-XII).



Common Starling. Winter. Adult. Male: tail pattern (15-XII).

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Common Starling.
Winter. Adult. Female: tail pattern (11-XII).



Common Starling.
Winter. Adult. Male: pattern of undertail coverts (15-XII).



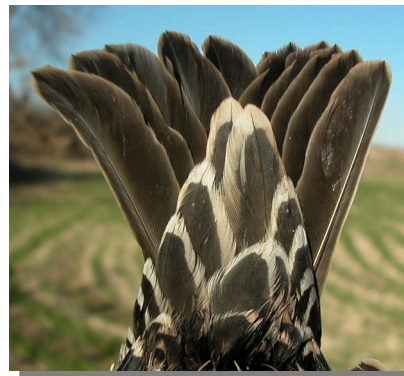
Common Starling.
Winter. 1st year. Male: tail pattern (15-XII).



Common Starling.
Winter. Adult. Female: pattern of undertail coverts (11-XII).



Common Starling.
Winter. 1st year. Female: tail pattern (15-XII).



Common Starling.
Winter. 1st year. Male: pattern of undertail coverts (15-XII).



Common Starling.
Winter. 1st year. Female: pattern of undertail coverts (15-XII).

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Common Starling. Winter. Adult. Male: pattern of wing (15-XII).



Common Starling. Winter. Adult. Female: pattern of wing (11-XII).



Common Starling. Winter. 1st year. Male: pattern of wing (15-XII).



Common Starling. Winter. 1st year. Female: pattern of wing (15-XII).