

16040 Rock Sparrow (*Petronia petronia*)



Rock Sparrow. Winter (21-XII).

ROCK SPARROW (*Petronia petronia*)

IDENTIFICATION

14-16 cm. Dun and streaked upperparts; pale underparts streaked brown-grey; head with a pale supercilium; tail with pale patches on outer feathers; yellow spot on upper breast; bill strong and yellow.



Rock Sparrow. Pattern of breast and tail.

SIMILAR SPECIES

This species is unmistakable.

SEXING

Plumage of both sexes alike.

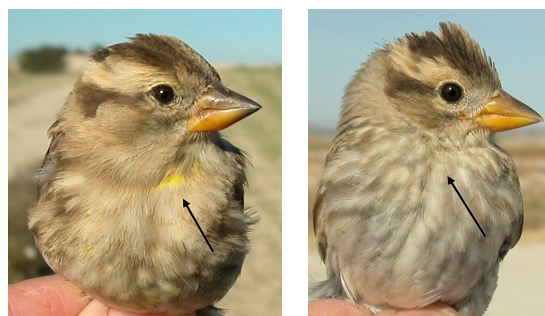
AGEING

2 types of age can be recognized:

Juvenile resembles **adult** but with fresh feathers; without a yellow spot on upper breast .

Adult with worn feathers in **summer**; with a yellow spot on upper breast .

After the **postbreeding/postjuvenile** moults, ageing is not possible using plumage pattern.



Rock Sparrow. Ageing. Pattern of breast: left adult; right juvenile.

MOULT

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

PHENOLOGY

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

- Summer visitor
- Wintering
- Resident
- On passage



Rock Sparrow. Summer. Juvenile (27-VI).

16040 Rock Sparrow (*Petronia petronia*)



Rock Sparrow. Summer. Adult (03-VII)



Rock Sparrow. Breast pattern: top left in winter (21-XII); top right adult in summer (03-VII); left juvenile (27-VI).



Rock Sparrow. Head pattern: top in winter (21-XII); middle adult in summer (03-VII); bottom juvenile (27-VI).



Rock Sparrow. Wing and upperpart pattern: top left in winter (21-XII); top right adult in summer (03-VII); left juvenile (27-VI).

16040 Rock Sparrow (*Petronia petronia*)



Rock Sparrow. Wear and tail pattern: top left in winter (21-XII); top right adult in summer (03-VII); left juvenile (27-VI).



Rock Sparrow. Summer. Juvenile: pattern of wing (27-VI).



Rock Sparrow. Winter: pattern of wing (21-XII)



Rock Sparrow. Summer. Adult: pattern of wing (03-VII).