**COMMON HOUSE MARTIN** (*Delichon urbicum*)

**IDENTIFICATION**
13-15 cm. Dark blue upperparts; white underparts; white rump; only moderately forked tail.

**SEXING**
Sexes with very similar plumage but some differences can be found: **males** tend to exhibit pure white on throat and rump; undertail coverts white with a narrow dark line on shaft. **Females** tend to exhibit grey tinge on throat and rump; undertail coverts with grey tinge (**CAUTION**: some **males** with female-like pattern and **females** with male-like pattern can be found which are inseparable by plumage). **Juveniles** cannot be sexed.

**SIMILAR SPECIES**
Breeds in the same places than **Barn Swallow**, which has long tail, chestnut patches on head and lacks white rump. **Red-rumped Swallow** has rusty red rump and chestnut neck,
House Martin. Sexing. Pattern of rump: left male; right female.

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

AGEING
2 age groups can be recognized:
**Juvenile** with dull feathers on head and mantle; tertials with white tips; lower mandible with yellow base.
**Adult** with head and mantle glossy blue; tertials without white tips; lower mandible with dark base.
In **spring**, after postbreeding/postjuvenile mouls, ageing is not possible using plumage pattern.

House Martin. Ageing. Pattern of upperparts: left adult; right juvenile.

House Martin. Ageing. Pattern of tertials: left adult; right juvenile.
MOULT
Complete postbreeding and postjuvenile moults, which can start in breeding places and are completed in the winter quarters.

PHENOLOGY

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

STATUS IN ARAGON
Summer visitor, breeds commonly in buildings and cliff faces in mountainous areas of the Region being absent in the most deforested zones of the Ebro Basin.

House Martin. Head pattern and colour of lower mandible: from top to bottom: adult male (30-V); adult female (04-VI); adult female with male-like morph (04-VI); juvenile (21-VIII).
House Martin. Pattern of tertials: left adult (30-V); right juvenile (21-VIII).

House Martin. Adult. Throat pattern: top left male (30-V); top right female (04-VI); left female with male-like morph (04-VI).

House Martin. Breast pattern: top left adult male (30-V); top right adult female (04-VI); left adult female with male-like morph (04-VI); bottom juvenile (21-VIII).

House Martin. Rump pattern: left adult male (30-V); right adult female (04-VI).
House Martin. Rump pattern: left adult female with male-like morph (04-VI); right juvenile (21-VIII).

House Martin. Pattern of undertail coverts: left adult female with male-like morph (04-VI); right juvenile (21-VIII).

House Martin. Pattern of undertail coverts: left adult male (30-V); right adult female (04-VI).

House Martin. Upperpart pattern: left adult male (30-V); right adult female (04-VI).
House Martin. Upperpart pattern: left adult female with male-like morph (04-VI); right juvenile (21-VIII).


House Martin. Adult. Female: pattern of wing (04-VI).

House Martin. Adult. Female with male-like morph: pattern of wing (04-VI).