

# 336 Northern Wheatear

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Wheatear. Spring. Adult. Male (01-V).

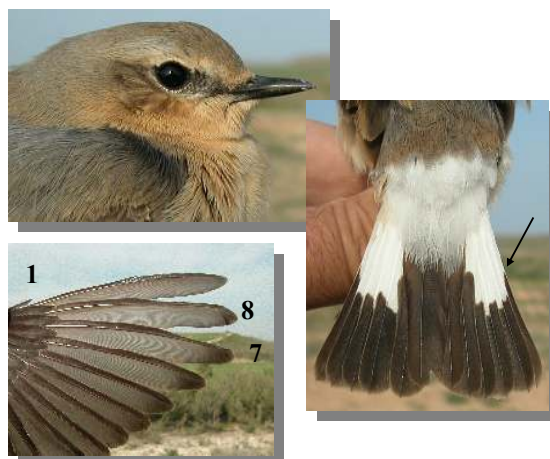
## NORTHERN WHEATEAR (*Oenanthe oenanthe*)

### IDENTIFICATION

14-15 cm. **Male** with grey upperparts; black wings; white forehead and black bands on both sides of the head; white underparts. **Female** with brown grey upperparts; brown wings; rufous underparts. Both sexes with central tail feathers black and dark terminal band; 10th primary similar or shorter than primary coverts; 7th to 8th primaries emarginated.



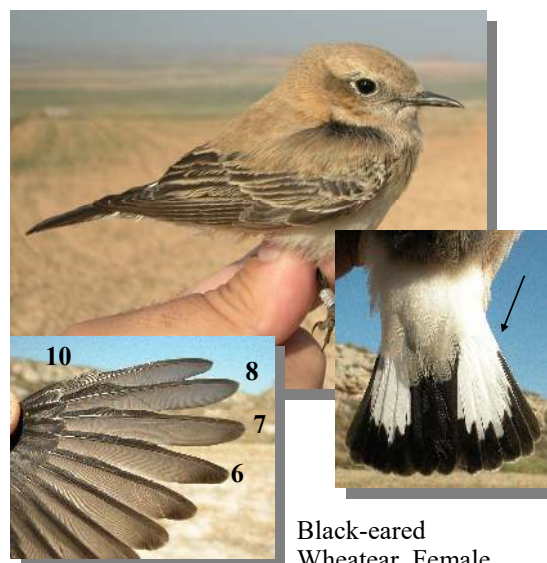
Wheatear. Spring. Male: pattern of upperparts.



Wheatear. Female: pattern of head, tail and wing formula.

### SIMILAR SPECIES

**Male** is unmistakable. **Female** recalls a **Black-eared Wheatear**, with band on tail feathers broader on sides; 10th primary longer than primary coverts; 6th to 8th primaries emarginated.



Black-eared Wheatear. Female

### SEXING

**Male** with black ear coverts; white supercilium; flight feathers and wing coverts black. **Female** with brown ear coverts; pale supercilium; flight feathers and wing coverts brown. **Juveniles** and **1st year** cannot be sexed using plumage characters. **CAUTION: 1st year birds** and **females** are similar, so it is necessary to check moult limits and inside of upper mandible to differentiate them.

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Wheatear. Spring. Sexing. Pattern of head: top male; bottom female.



Wheatear. Autumn. Sexing. Pattern of wing coverts: top male; bottom female.



Wheatear. Spring. Sexing. Pattern of wing coverts: top male; bottom female.

## AGEING

3 types of age can be recognized:

**Juvenile** with fresh plumage; inside of upper mandible yellow.

**1st year autumn/2nd year spring** with moult limit on wing feathers; sometimes difficult to see in **1st year autumn** birds due to few feathers involved; **2nd year spring** birds with flight feathers brown and eroded; some birds still with yellow colour inside of upper mandible till their **2nd year**.

**Adult** without moult limit on wing feathers; dark colour inside of upper mandible.



Wheatear. Autumn. Sexing. Pattern of head: top male; bottom female.



Wheatear. Ageing. Wear of plumage: left adult female; right juvenile.

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Wheatear. Spring. Ageing. Wear of tail coverts: left adult; right 2nd year.



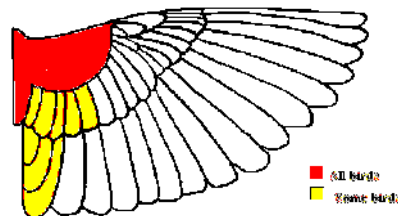
Wheatear. Autumn. Ageing. Colour inside of upper mandible: left adult; right juvenile/1st year.



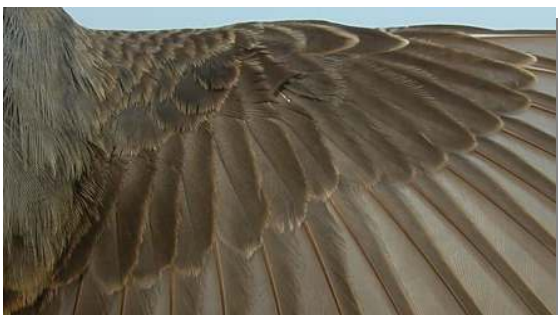
Wheatear. Spring. Male. Ageing. Pattern of wing coverts: top adult; bottom 2nd year.

## MOULT

Complete **postbreeding** moult, usually finished early September. Partial **postjuvenile** moult including body feathers and lesser and median wing coverts, some birds moult tertials and inner greater coverts; finished in early October. Both types of age have a **prebreeding** moult including body feathers and sometimes wing coverts.



Wheatear. Extent of postjuvenile moult.



Wheatear. Spring. Female. Ageing. Pattern of wing coverts: top adult; bottom 2nd year.

## PHENOLOGY

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

## STATUS IN ARAGON

Summer visitor. Widely distributed throughout the Region, absent in the arid Ebro Basin.

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Wheatear. Spring. Adult. Female (03-IV).



Wheatear. Spring. Juvenile (22-VI)



Wheatear. Spring. 2nd year. Male (20-VI).



Wheatear. Spring. Adult. Head pattern: top male (01-V); bottom female (03-IV).



Wheatear. Spring. Head pattern: top 2nd year male (20-VI); middle 2nd year female (20-VI); bottom juvenile (16-VII).



Wheatear. Spring. 2nd year. Female (20-VI).



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Wheatear. Spring. Adult. Breast pattern: left male (01-V); right female (03-IV).



Wheatear. Spring. Breast pattern: top left 2nd year male (20-VI); top right 2nd year female (20-VI); left juvenile (16-VII).



Wheatear. Spring. Upperparts pattern: top left 2nd year male (20-VI); top right 2nd year female (20-VI); left juvenile (16-VII).



Wheatear. Spring. Adult. Upperparts pattern: left male (01-V); right female (03-IV).



Wheatear. Spring. Adult. Tail pattern: left male (01-V); right female (03-IV).

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Wheatear. Spring. Adult. Male: pattern of wing (28-IV).



Wheatear. Spring. Tail pattern: top left 2nd year male (20-VI); top right 2nd year female (20-VI); left juvenile (16-VII).



Wheatear. Spring. Adult. Female: pattern of wing (03-IV).



Wheatear. Spring. 2nd year. Male: pattern of wing (20-VI).



Wheatear. Spring. Colour inside of upper mandible: top left adult/2nd year (14-IV); top right 2nd year (14-IV); left juvenile (16-VII)..



Wheatear. Spring. 2nd year. Female: pattern of wing (20-VI).

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Wheatear. Wheatear. Spring. Juvenile: pattern of wing (22-VI).



Wheatear. Autumn. 1st year (02-IX)



Wheatear. Autumn. Adult. Male (02-IX)



Wheatear. Autumn. Head pattern: top adult male (02-IX); middle adult female (02-IX); bottom 1st year (02-IX).



Wheatear. Autumn. Adult. Female (02-IX)

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Wheatear. Autumn. Breast pattern: top left adult male (02-IX); top right adult female (02-IX); left 1st year (02-IX).



Wheatear. Autumn. Colour inside of upper mandible: left adult (02-IX); right 1st year (02-IX).



Wheatear. Autumn. Tail wear: left adult (02-IX); right 1st year (02-IX).



Wheatear. Autumn. Upperparts pattern: top left adult male (02-IX); top right adult female (02-IX); left 1st year (02-IX).



Wheatear. Autumn. Adult. Male: pattern of wing (02-IX).



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Wheatear. Autumn. Adult. Female: pattern of wing (02-IX).



Wheatear. Autumn. 1st year: pattern of wing (02-IX).