EUROPEAN PIED FLYCATCHER
(Ficedula hypoleuca)

IDENTIFICATION
12-13 cm. Male in breeding plumage with black upperparts and white underparts; white forehead; grey rump; black wings with a large white patch; black tail with white patches on the outermost feathers. Female, brown morph breeding male, non breeding male and juveniles with brownish upperparts; brown wings and tail, with small white patches; underparts pale with greyish tinge.

SIMILAR SPECIES
Male is unmistakable in breeding plumage. Female, brown morph breeding male, non breeding male and juveniles unmistakables by pattern of their white patches on wing and tail.

SEXING
Male in spring with two morphs: black morph, which is unmistakable with pure black crown and back, and brown morph, very similar to females, but recognizable by white patch on forehead and black uppertail coverts; inner greater coverts blackish different than greyer outers; outermost tail feather with white patch with well defined edges. Female with upperparts and tail brownish; forehead without a white patch (CAUTION: some iberiae females may have a large white patch); brown-grey uppertail coverts; outermost tail feather with white patch with diffuse edges; inner tertials with smaller white patch than male. In autumn, after postbreeding moult, adult male with central tail feathers and uppertail coverts black. Adult female with central tail feathers and uppertail coverts brownish; without moult limit between inner and outer greater coverts. Juveniles cannot be sexed, but after postjuvenile moult, sexing of 1st year birds is possible only in some extreme birds: male with black central tail feathers and uppertail coverts; female with brownish central tail feathers and uppertail coverts. CAUTION: most of the birds are intermediate and cannot be sexed.
European Pied Flycatcher


Pied Flycatcher. Spring. Pattern of rump and tail: left male; right female.


Pied Flycatcher. 1st year. Autumn. Pattern of rump and tail: left male; right female.

Pied Flycatcher. Spring. Pattern of forehead: left male; right female.
AGEING
4 age groups can be recognized:
**Juvenile** with body feathers spotted pale buff; inside of upper mandible pale grey-pink; greater coverts with a white triangular patch on tips; central tertial with a broad white edge on outer web and narrow on inner.
**1st year autumn** with unmoulted wing feathers with similar pattern as **juveniles**.
**2nd year spring** difficult to determine, mainly in **females**; tail feathers with pointed and worn tips; primary coverts browner, pointed and worn than **adults**; sometimes some retained **juvenile** greater coverts with triangular patch on tip.
**Adult** in **spring** with greater coverts with narrow arc-shaped whitish-buff patch on tips; primary coverts with rounded tips; tail feathers rounded. In **autumn** with dark-grey colour inside of upper mandible; central tertial with similar white edges on both sides of the feather.

Pied Flycatcher. Pattern of head: top adult female; bottom juvenile.

Pied Flycatcher. Autumn. Pattern of tertials: left adult; right 1st year.

Pied Flycatcher. Autumn. Pattern of tips of primary coverts: top adult; bottom 1st year.

Pied Flycatcher. Pattern of upperparts: left adult female; right juvenile.
MOULT
Complete postbreeding moult, usually finished before the autumnal migration; some birds retain secondaries to finish their moult in wintering quarters. Partial postjuvenile moult involving (no all birds) body feathers, lesser, median and some inner greater coverts; inner tertials are rarely moulted; usually finished in September. Both age classes have an extensive prebreeding moult, between December-March, including most of the greater coverts and tertials, with some birds moulting all greater coverts and some secondaries and tail feathers; males acquire breeding plumage.

PHENOLOGY

STATUS IN ARAGON
Summer visitor. Breeds only in mountainous areas from the Region. Widely distributed on passage.
Pied Flycatcher. Spring. Adult. Female (01-V).

Pied Flycatcher. Spring. 2nd year. Female (01-V).

Pied Flycatcher. Spring. Adult. Female ssp iberiae ssp iberiae (02-VII).


Pied Flycatcher. Spring. 2nd year. Male (03-V).

Pied Flycatcher. Spring. Adult. Forehead pattern: left male (02-V); right female (01-V).

Pied Flycatcher. Spring. Adult ssp. *iberiae*. Forehead pattern: left male (02-VII); right female (02-VII).

Pied Flycatcher. Spring. Forehead pattern: top left 2nd year male (02-V); right 2nd year female (01-V); left juvenile spp. *iberiae* (02-VII).
Pied Flycatcher. Spring. Adult. Breast pattern: left male (02-V); right female (01-V).

Pied Flycatcher. Spring. Adult ssp. iberiae. Breast pattern: left male (02-VII); right female (02-VII).

Pied Flycatcher. Spring. Adult ssp. iberiae. Tail pattern: left male (02-VII); right female (02-VII).

Pied Flycatcher. Spring. 2nd year. Tail pattern: left male (02-V); right female (01-V);

Pied Flycatcher. Spring. Breast pattern: top left 2nd year male (02-V); top right 2nd year female (01-V); left juvenile ssp. iberiae (02-VII).
Pied Flycatcher. Spring. Adult. Upperparts pattern: left male (02-V); right female (01-V).

Pied Flycatcher. Spring. Upperparts pattern: top left 2nd year male (02-V); top right 2nd year female (01-V); left juvenile spp. iberiae (02-VII).

Pied Flycatcher. Spring. Adult ssp. iberiae. Upperparts pattern: left male (02-VII); right female (02-VII).

Pied Flycatcher. Spring. Adult. Pattern of tertials: left male (02-V); right female (01-V).
Pied Flycatcher. Spring. Pattern of tertials: top left 2nd year male (02-V); top right 2nd year female (01-V); left juvenile spp. iberiae (02-VII).

Pied Flycatcher. Spring. Pattern of upperwing coverts: top 2nd year male (02-V); middle 2nd year female (01-V); bottom juvenile spp. iberiae (02-VII).


Pied Flycatcher. Spring. 2nd year. Male: pattern of wing (02-V).


Pied Flycatcher. Spring. 2nd year. Female: pattern of wing (01-V).


Pied Flycatcher. Autumn. 1st year (15-VIII).

Pied Flycatcher. Autumn. Colour inside of upper mandible: left adult (23-IV); right 1st year (15-VIII).

Pied Flycatcher. Autumn. Head pattern: top adult male (22-VIII); middle adult female (29-IX); bottom 1st year (15-VIII)

Pied Flycatcher. Autumn. Breast pattern: top left adult male (09-IX); top right adult female (29-IX); left 1st year (23-VIII)

Pied Flycatcher. Autumn. Upperparts pattern: top left adult male (09-IX); top right adult female (29-IX); left 1st year (23-VIII)
Pied Flycatcher. Autumn. Adult. Male: pattern of greater coverts (09-IX)

Pied Flycatcher. Autumn. Adult. Female: pattern of greater coverts (29-IX)

Pied Flycatcher. Autumn. Adult. Tail pattern: left male (20-VIII); right female (29-IX)

Pied Flycatcher. Autumn. 1st year: pattern of greater coverts (09-IX).

Pied Flycatcher. Autumn. 1st year. Tail pattern: top left male (15-VIII); top right female (22-VIII); left indeterminate (11-IX).

Pied Flycatcher. Autumn. Pattern of central tertial: top left adult male (09-IX); top right adult female (29-IX); left 1st year (23-VIII)

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Pied Flycatcher. Autumn. Adult. Female: pattern of wing (24-VIII)

Pied Flycatcher. Autumn. Juvenile: pattern of wing (15-VIII)