390 Marsh Tit

MARSH TIT (Poecile palustris)

IDENTIFICATION
11-12 cm. Grey-brown upperparts; whitish underparts; crown and bib black; brownish wing without bands.

ESPECIES SIMILARES
Some Warblers have black crown but anyone have black bib.

SEXING
Both sexes alike in plumage. Size is useful in extreme birds: adult male with wing longer than 66 mm; adult female with wing shorter than 64 mm.

AGEING
3 age groups can be recognized:
Juvenile with fresh plumage; tail feathers with pointed tips; crown and bib dull black.
1st year autumn/2nd year spring with pointed tail feathers which will be more eroded than in adults; if some tail feathers are changed, then with contrast within moulted ones, with rounded tips and fresh, and juvenile retained, with pointed tips and more worn; usually with moult limit within greater coverts, with moulted inner only slightly differing from outer juvenile retained.
Adult with rounded tail feathers; crown and bib bright black; without moult limits on wing or tail.
Marsh Tit

Resident. Breeds on mountainous forests in Pyrenees.

**PHENOLOGY**

**MOULT**
Complete postbreeding moult, usually finished in September. Partial postjuvenile moult involving body feathers, lesser and median coverts, several inner or rarely all greater coverts and one or more tertials; many birds change a variable number of tail feathers; usually finished in September.

**STATUS IN ARAGON**
Resident. Breeds on mountainous forests in Pyrenees.
Marsh Tit.

Head pattern: top adult (13-XI); bottom juvenile (18-VII).

Marsh Tit. Juvenile (18-VII).

Marsh Tit. Bib pattern: left adult (13-XI); right juvenile (18-VII).

Marsh Tit. Crown pattern: left adult (13-XI); right juvenile (18-VII).

Marsh Tit. Breast pattern: left adult (13-XI); right juvenile (18-VII).

Marsh Tit. Upperparts pattern: left adult (13-XI); right juvenile (18-VII).

Marsh Tit. 1st year: pattern of wing (13-XI).

Marsh Tit. Adult: pattern of wing (13-XI).

Marsh Tit. Tail pattern: top left male (13-XI); top right female (13-XI); left juvenile (18-VII).