Coal Tit. Adult. Male (08-XII).

**COAL TIT** (*Periparus ater*)

**IDENTIFICATION**
11-12 cm. Black head with a white patch on face and nape; grey upperparts; white breast, with yellowish tinge on flanks; wings with two pale bars.

**SEXING**
Both sexes quite alike in plumage and usually difficult to separate due to overlapping and faint differences. In adult birds, male tends to have head and throat deep black with bluish gloss; lesser wing coverts with black base and bluish edges. Female usually with head and throat dull black; lesser wing coverts with dark grey base and dull grey edges.

**SIMILAR SPECIES**
Recalls a **Great Tit** which is bigger, has a black band on breast, greenish upperparts and a white bar on wing.
AGEING
3 age groups can be recognized:
Juvenile with fresh plumage; cheeks pale yellowish; bib reduced and ill-defined; dull black on head; tail feathers with pointed tips.
1st year autumn/2nd year spring with contrast between moulted greater coverts, dark and with bluish edges, and grey juvenile retained; if none or very few greater coverts moulted limit is between juvenile greater coverts and bluish tinged moulted median coverts; if all greater coverts have been moulted limit is with primary coverts, within alula feathers, within tertials or between tertials and juvenile retained secondaries; with moult limit on tail if central feathers have been moulted; unmoulted tail feathers with pointed tips.
Adult without moult limits on wing and tail; tail feathers with rounded tips.

PHENOLOGY

STATUS IN ARAGON
Resident. Very common in pinus forests from Pyrenees and Sistema Iberico.

MOULT
Complete postbreeding moult, usually finished in September. Partial postjuvenile moult involving body feathers, lesser and median coverts and none to some inner greater coverts; some birds extend their moult to all greater coverts, the smallest alula, tertials and central tail feathers; usually finished in September.
Coal Tit. Adult. Head pattern: top male (08-XII); bottom female (26-XII).

Coal Tit. Adult. Nape pattern: top left 1st year male (26-XII); top right 1st year female (26-XII); left juvenile (20-VII); right female (08-XII).

Coal Tit. 1st year. Female (26-XII).

Coal Tit. Juvenile (20-VII).
Coal Tit. Adult. Breast pattern: left male (08-XII); right female (08-XII).

Coal Tit. Breast pattern: top left 1st year male (26-XII); top right 1st year female (26-XII); left juvenile (20-VII).

Coal Tit. Adult. Upperpart pattern: left male (08-XII); right female (08-XII).

Coal Tit. Upperpart pattern: top left 1st year male (26-XII); top right 1st year female (26-XII); left juvenile (20-VII).

Coal Tit. Adult. Upperpart pattern: left male (08-XII); right female (08-XII).

Coal Tit. Adult. Tail pattern: left male (08-XII); right female (08-XII).
Coal Tit. Pattern of lesser coverts: top 1st year male (26-XII); middle 1st year female (26-XII); bottom juvenile (20-VII).

Coal Tit. Tail pattern: top left 1st year male (26-XII); top right 1st year female (26-XII); left juvenile (20-VII).

Coal Tit. Adult. Pattern of lesser coverts: top male (08-XII); bottom female (08-XII).

Coal Tit. Adult. Male: pattern of wing (08-XII).

Coal Tit. Adult. Female: pattern of wing (08-XII).
Coal Tit. 1st year. Male: pattern of wing (26-XII).

Coal Tit. 1st year. Female: pattern of wing (05-XI).

Coal Tit. Juvenile: pattern of wing (20-VII).