Magpie. Adult (01-V).

**MAGPIE (Pica pica)**

**IDENTIFICATION**
40-51 cm (of which tail 16-20). Black and white plumage, with green glossed tail and wing; very long tail.

**SIMILAR SPECIES**
This species is unmistakable.

**SEXING**
Plumage of both sexes alike. Size in **adult** birds can be helpful with extreme specimens: **male** with wing longer than 198 mm; **female** with wing shorter than 178 mm. **CAUTION:** many birds cannot be sexed due to size overlap.

**AGEING**
3 age groups can be recognized: **Juvenile** with fresh plumage; large dark patch on 9th-10th primaries (longer than 10 and 16 mm each); iris blue grey; with bluish-grey bare skin around the eyes.

**1st year autumn/2nd year spring** with moult limit between moulted glossy wing feathers and duller **juvenile** retained alula, primary coverts and flight feathers; worn and dull unmoulted tail; 9th-10th primaries like **juveniles**.

**Adult** with glossy black and green plumage on wing and tail, without moult limits; small dark patch on 9th-10th primaries (shorter than 13 and 15 mm each), iris dark; no bare skin around the eye.

**MOULT**
Complete **postbreeding** moult, usually finished in October. Partial **postjuvenile** moult involving body feathers, lesser, median and some inner greater coverts (sometimes all); some specimens extend their moult to some tertials and central tail feather; usually finished in October.

Magpie. Ageing. Pattern of the dark patch on primaries 9th and 10th: top adult; bottom juvenile.
PHENOLOGY

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STATUS IN ARAGÓN
Resident. Widely distributed throughout the Region, absent from the highest zones of the mountainous areas and the most deforested areas of the Ebro Basin.

Magpie. Iris colour: from top to bottom: adult (01-I); 2nd year (07-I); juvenile (08-VII); young (11-VI).

Magpie. Breast pattern: left adult (01-I); right juvenile (29-VII)

Magpie. 2nd year (07-I)

Magpie. Juvenile (13-VII)

Magpie. Young (11-VI)
Magpie. Upperparts pattern: top left adult (01-I); top right 2nd year (07-I); left juvenile (08-VII)

Magpie. Tail pattern: top left adult (01-I); top right 2nd year (07-I); left juvenile (08-VII)
Magpie. Adult: extent of dark patch on tip of 9th and 10th primaries (08-III).

Magpie. 2nd year: extent of dark patch on tip of 9th and 10th primaries (07-I).

Magpie. Juvenile: extent of dark patch on tip of 9th and 10th primaries (08-VII).

Magpie. Adult: pattern of alula (08-III).

Magpie. 2nd year: pattern of alula (07-I).


Magpie. Adult: pattern of wing (08-III).
Magpie. 2nd year: pattern of wing (07-I).