

# 395 Nuthatch

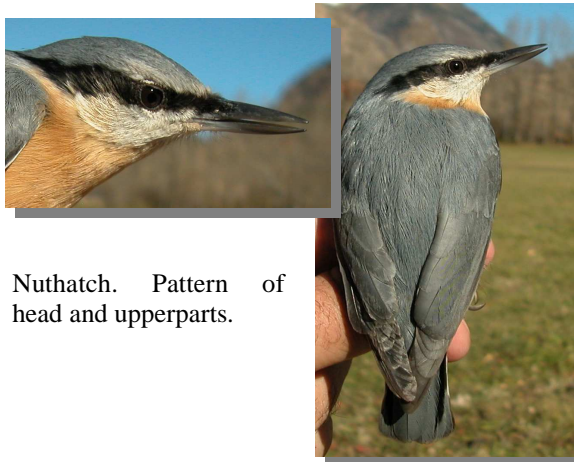


Nuthatch. Adult. Male (13-XI)

## NUTHATCH (*Sitta europaea*)

### IDENTIFICATION

13-14 cm. Grey bluish upperparts; underparts with white throat and rusty-buff breast and belly; head with a black band since the bill to the neck; grey bill; brownish legs.



Nuthatch. Pattern of head and upperparts.

### SIMILAR SPECIES

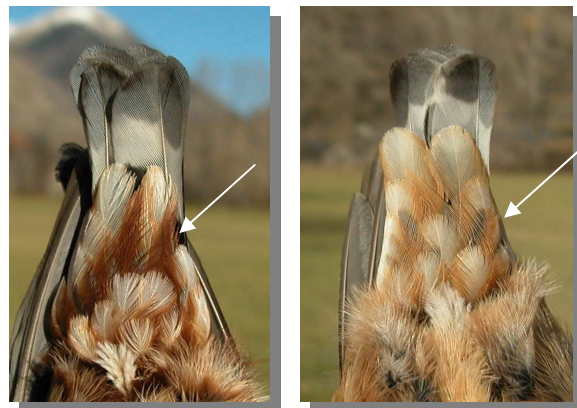
This species is unmistakable

### SEXING

In **adult** and **juvenile** birds, **male** with flanks and parts of undertail coverts bright chesnut-brown, well demarcated from whitish breast and belly. **Female** with flanks and parts of undertail coverts warm rufous-buff, with bad demarcated from whitish breast and belly (**CAUTION:** some **males** have only a little number of chestnut feathers).



Nuthatch. Sexing. Pattern of flank: top male; bottom female.



Nuthatch. Sexing. Pattern of undertail coverts: left male; right female.

### AGEING

3 types of age can be recognized:

**Juvenile** similar to **adults**, but with less blue tinge and with dull black band on the cheek; fresh plumage.

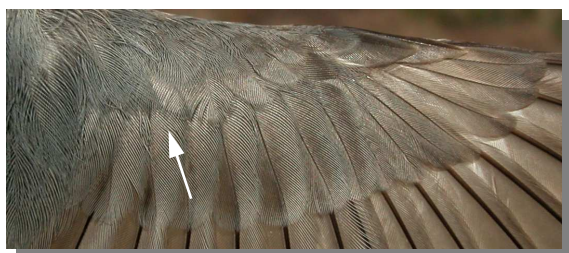
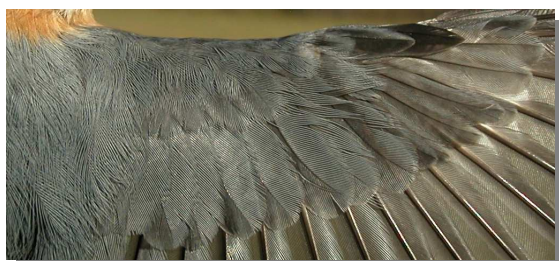
**1st year autumn/2nd year spring** very difficult to age; some birds can be recognized by more intensive wear of **juvenile** unmoulted flight feathers and greater and primary coverts which are greyer and only faintly bluish showing moult limit with the more blue changed lesser and median coverts.

**Adult** with worn feathers in summer, always without moult limits on wing coverts.

# 395 Nuthatch



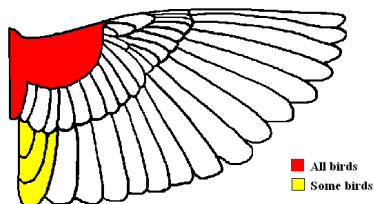
Nuthatch.  
Ageing.  
Pattern of  
band on the  
cheek: top  
adult; bottom  
juvenile.



Nuthatch. Ageing. Pattern of wing coverts: top adult; bottom juvenile.

## MOULT

Complete **postbreeding** moult; usually finished in September. Partial **postjuvenile** moult, including body feathers, lesser and median coverts and, some birds, tertials; usually finished between August and September.



Nuthatch.  
Extent of  
postjuvenile  
moult.

## PHENOLOGY

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



Nuthatch. Adult. Female (13-XI)



Nuthatch. 1st year. Male (13-XI)



# 395 Nuthatch



Nuthatch. 1st year. Female (30-XII)



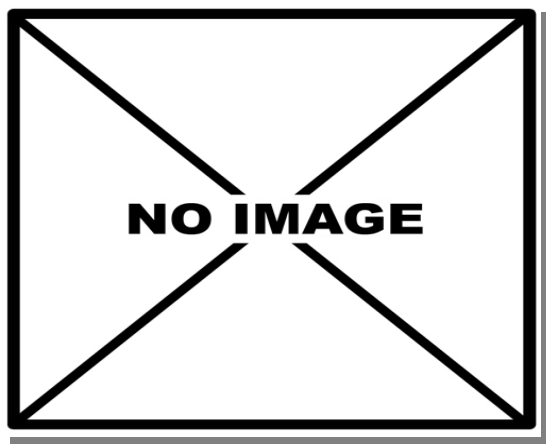
Nuthatch.  
Adult. Head  
pattern: top  
male (13-  
XI); bottom  
female (13-  
XI).



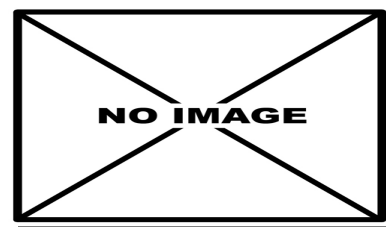
Nuthatch. Juvenile. Male (18-VII)



Nuthatch.  
1st year.  
H e a d  
pattern: top  
male (13-  
XI); bottom  
female (30-  
XII).



Nuthatch. Juvenile. Female ()



Nuthatch.  
Juvenile.  
H e a d  
pattern: top  
male (18-  
VII); bottom  
female ().

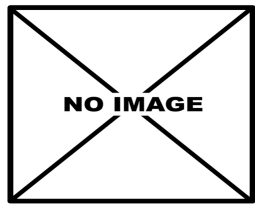
# 395 Nuthatch



Nuthatch. Adult. Breast pattern: left male (13-XI); right female (13-XI).



Nuthatch. 1st year. Breast pattern: left male (13-XI); right female (30-XII).



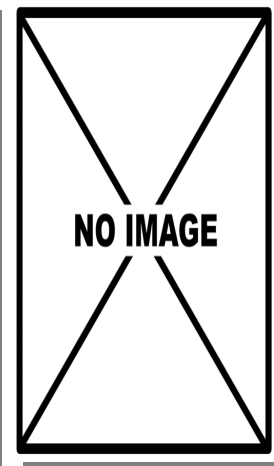
Nuthatch. Juvenile. Breast pattern: left male (18-VII); right female ().



Nuthatch. Adult. Upperparts pattern: left male (13-XI); right female (13-XI).



Nuthatch. 1st year. Upperparts pattern: left male (13-XI); right female (30-XII).



Nuthatch. Juvenile. Upperparts pattern: left male (18-VII); right female ().



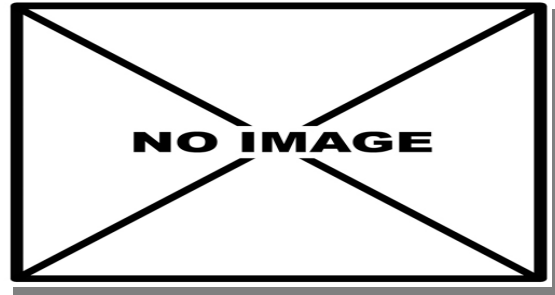
Nuthatch. Adult. Male: flank pattern (13-XI).



# 395 Nuthatch



Nuthatch. Adult. Female: flank pattern (13-XI).



Nuthatch. Juvenile. Female: flank pattern ().



Nuthatch. 1st year. Male: flank pattern (13-XI).



Nuthatch. Adult. Pattern of undertail coverts: left male (13-XI); right female (13-XI).



Nuthatch. 1st year. Female: flank pattern (30-XII).



Nuthatch. 1st year. Pattern of undertail coverts: left male (13-XI); right female (30-XII).



Nuthatch. Juvenile. Male: flank pattern (18-VII).



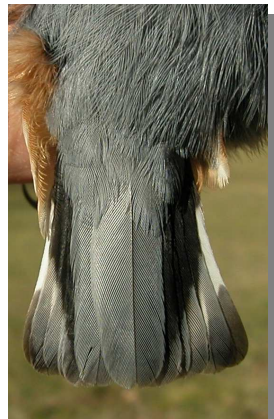
# 395 Nuthatch



Nuthatch. Juvenile. Pattern of undertail coverts: left male (18-VII); right female ().



Nuthatch. Juvenile. Tail pattern: left male (18-VII); right female ().



Nuthatch. Adult. Tail pattern: left male (13-XI); right female (13-XI).



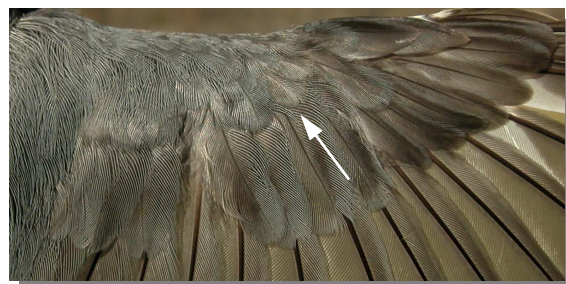
Nuthatch. Adult. Male: pattern of wing coverts (13-XI).



Nuthatch. Adult. Female: pattern of wing coverts (13-XI).



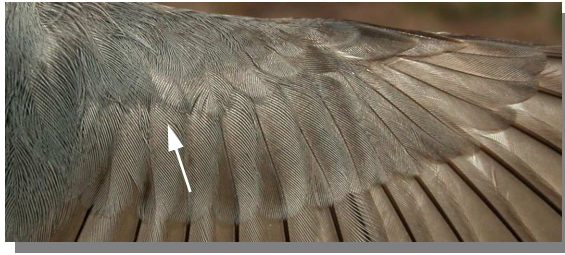
Nuthatch. 1st year. Tail pattern: left male (13-XI); right female (30-XII).



Nuthatch. 1st year. Male: pattern of wing coverts (13-XI).



# 395 Nuthatch



Nuthatch. 1st year. Female: pattern of wing coverts (30-XII).



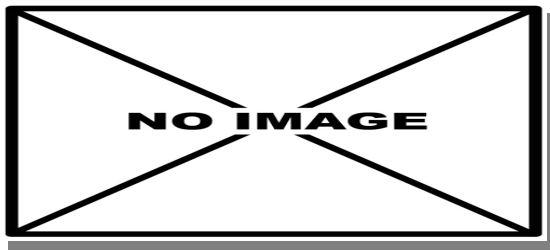
Nuthatch. Adult. Female: pattern of wing (13-XI)



Nuthatch. Juvenile. Male: pattern of wing coverts (13-XI).



Nuthatch. 1st year. Male: pattern of wing (13-XI)



Nuthatch. Juvenile. Female: pattern of wing coverts ().



Nuthatch. 1st year. Female: pattern of wing (30-XII)

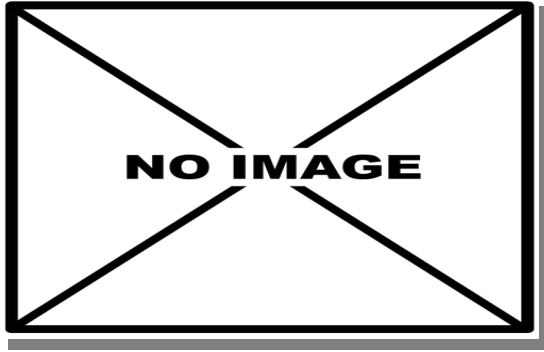


Nuthatch. Adult. Male: pattern of wing (13-XI)



Nuthatch. Juvenile. Male: pattern of wing (18-VII)

## 395 Nuthatch



Nuthatch. Juvenile. Female: pattern of wing ()