

# 44 Purple Heron



Purple Heron. Adult. Male (10-IX).

## PURPLE HERON (*Ardea purpurea*)

### IDENTIFICATION

70-90 cm. Slate upperparts and wing coverts, with chestnut scapulars in breeding plumage; chesnut underparts; neck chestnut with two black lateral lines; yellowish legs and bill. **Juveniles** with buff upperparts.



Purple Heron. Pattern of upperparts and head.

### SIMILAR SPECIES

Confusion only possible with **Grey Heron**, which has grey neck and wing coverts and pale underparts.

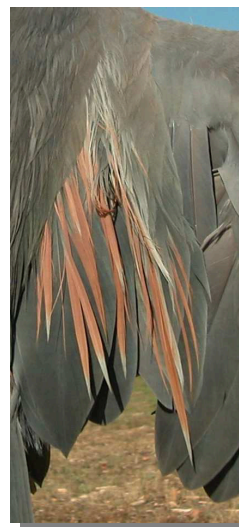


Grey Heron



### SEXING

Plumage of both sexes quite alike although **male** with upperparts more glossy purple than **female**. Size can be an useful character in extreme birds (only **adults**): **male** with wing longer than 375 mm; bill longer than 125 mm; **female** with wing shorter than 355 mm; bill shorter than 120 mm.



Purple Heron. Sexing. Pattern of scapulars: left male; right female.

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## AGEING

3 types of age can be recognized:

**Juvenile** with neck without lateral lines; dark brown upperparts and wing coverts with broad buff edges; under neck and breast pale buff with brown straked.

**2nd year** with 2 types of plumages: some birds have **juvenile** plumage but with ornamental feathers on scapulars and breast, Another birds are similar to **adults** but can be recognized by their their worn feathers (mainly late summer), chestnut feathers admixed with black on crown and upperparts less glossy than **adults**.

**Adult** with black crown, fresh flight feathers; glossy feathers on upper and underparts.



Purple Heron. Ageing. Pattern of head and neck: left adult; right juvenile.



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

## MOULT

Complete **postbreeding** moult, usually starting in June and finished in winter quarters. Partial **postjuvenile** moult confined to body feathers and some wing coverts. Partial **prebreeding** moult confined only to ornamental feathers on nape.

## PHENOLOGY

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

## STATUS IN ARAGON

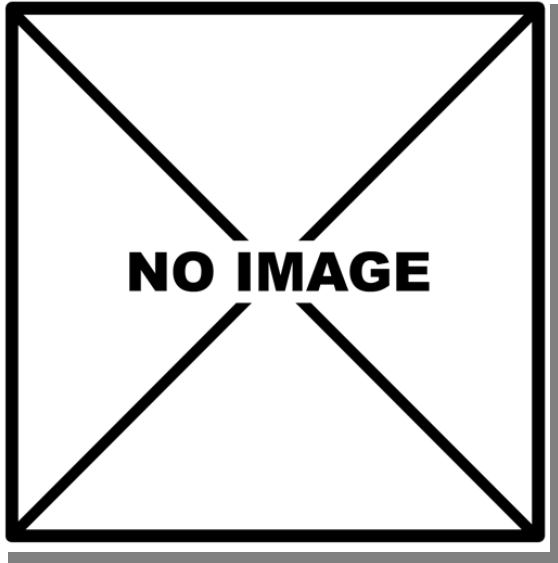
Summer visitor, very scarce breeder with records only in the Ebro Basin.



Purple Heron. Adult. Female (22-IV).



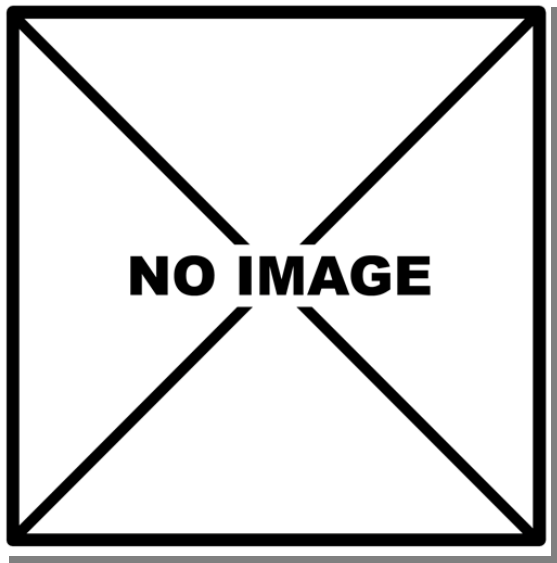
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Purple Heron. 2nd year with adult-like pattern ().



Purple Heron. Juvenile (10-IX).

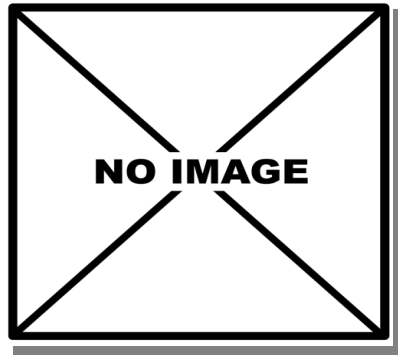
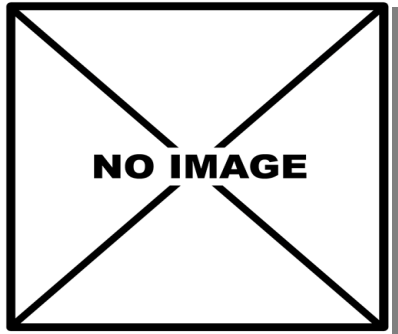


Purple Heron. 2nd year with juvenile-like pattern ().

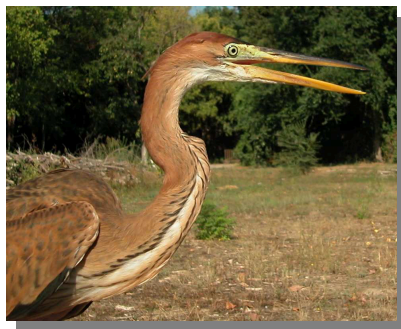
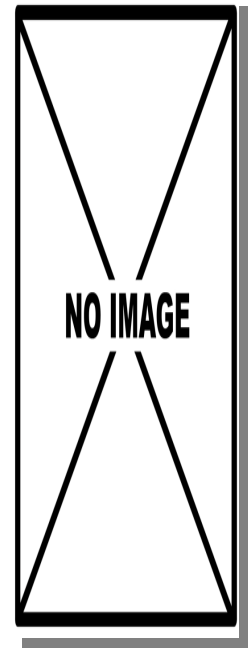
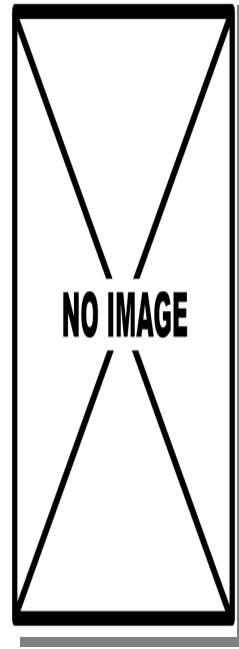


Purple Heron. Adult. Pattern of head and ornamental feathers of neck: top male (10-IX); bottom female (22-IV).

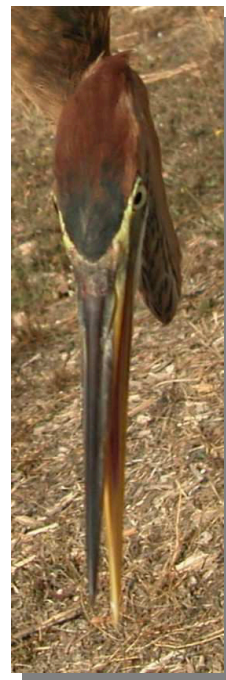
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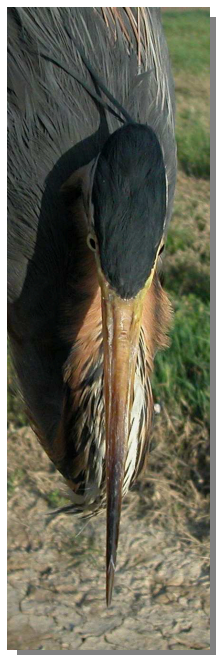
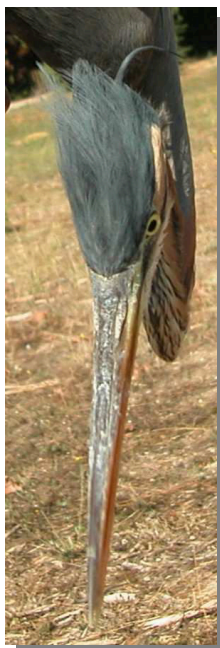
P u r p l e Heron. 2nd year. Pattern of head and ornamental feathers of neck: top with adult-like pattern (); bottom with juvenile-like pattern ().



P u r p l e Heron. Juvenile. Pattern of head and ornamental feathers of neck (10-IX).

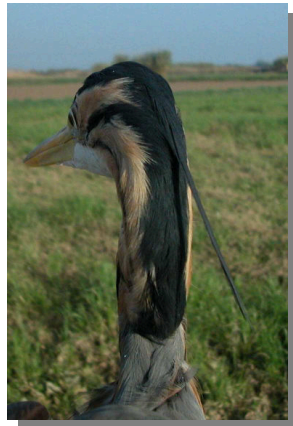


Purple Heron. Crown pattern: top left 2nd year with adult-like pattern (); top right 2nd year with juvenile-like pattern (); left juvenile (10-IX).



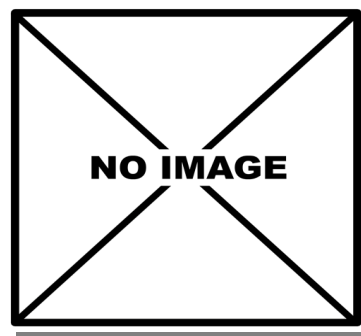
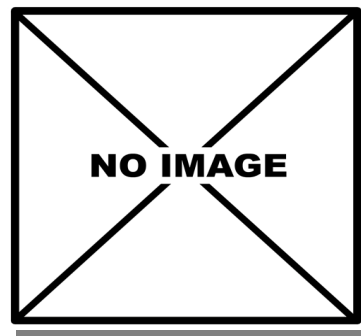
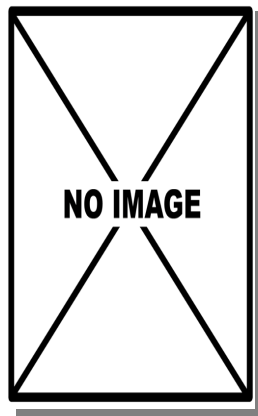
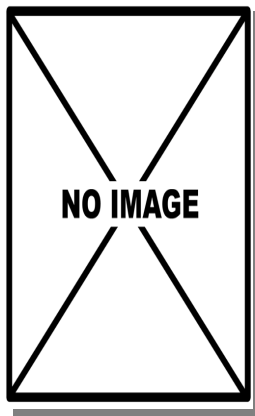
Purple Heron. Adult. Crown pattern: left male (10-IX); right female (22-IV).

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Purple Heron. Adult. Breast pattern: top male (10-IX); bottom female (22-IV).

Purple Heron. Adult. Nape pattern: left male (10-IX); right female (22-IV).



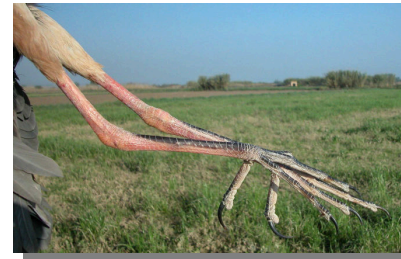
Purple Heron. Nape pattern: top left with adult-like pattern (); top right with juvenile-like pattern (); left juvenile (10-IX).

Purple Heron. Breast pattern: top with adult-like pattern (); middle with juvenile-like pattern (); bottom juvenile (10-IX).



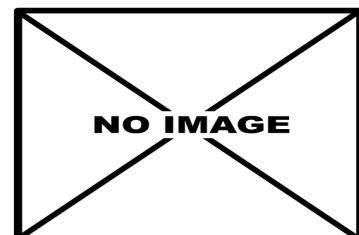
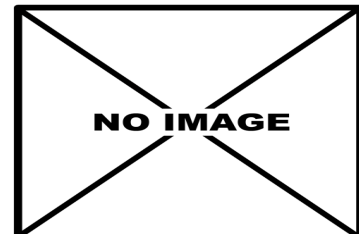
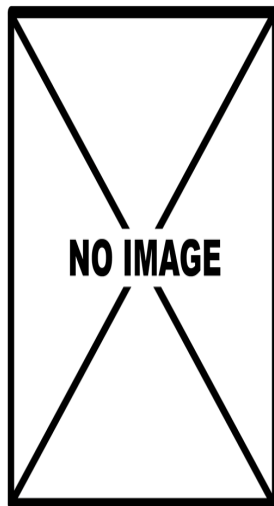
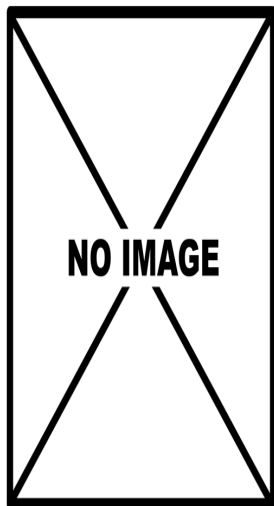


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Purple Heron. Adult. Legs pattern: top male (10-IX); bottom female (22-IV).

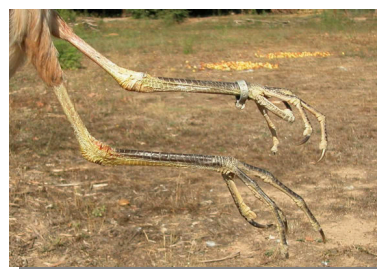
Purple Heron. Adult. Upperpart pattern: left male (10-IX); right female (22-IV).



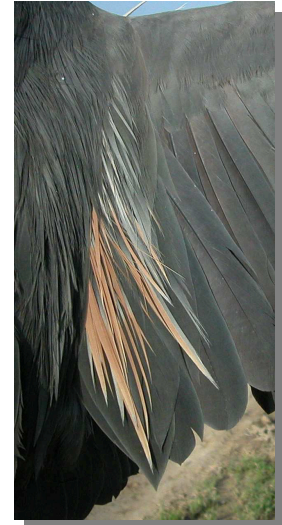
Purple Heron. Legs pattern: top with adult-like pattern (); middle with juvenile-like pattern (); bottom juvenile (10-IX).



Purple Heron. Upperpart pattern: top left with adult-like pattern (); top right with juvenile-like pattern (); left juvenile (10-IX).

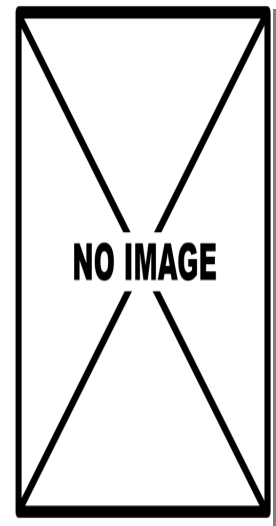
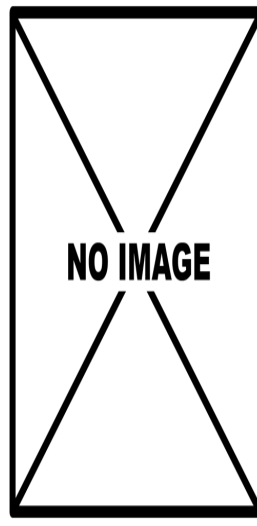
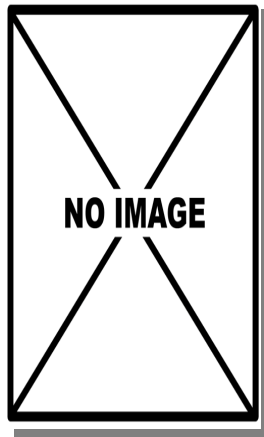
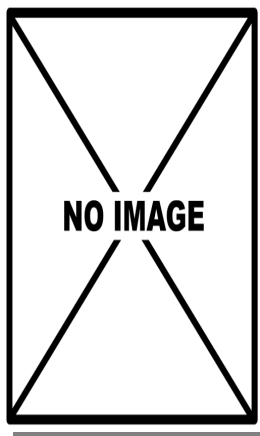


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Purple Heron. Adult. Tail pattern: left male (10-IX); right female (22-IV).

Purple Heron. Adult. Pattern of tertials: left male (10-IX); right female (22-IV).



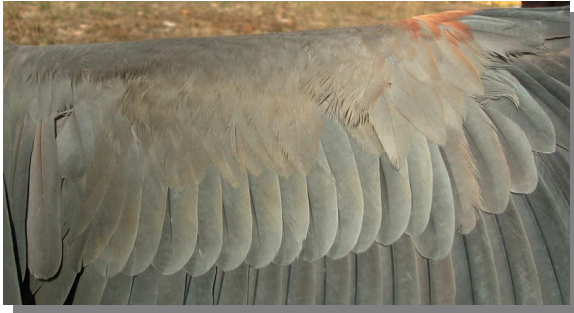
Purple Heron. Tail pattern: top left with adult-like pattern (); top right with juvenile-like pattern (); left juvenile (10-IX).



Purple Heron. Pattern of tertials: top left with adult-like pattern (); top right with juvenile-like pattern (); left juvenile (10-IX).



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Purple Heron. Adult. Male: pattern of wing covers (10-IX).



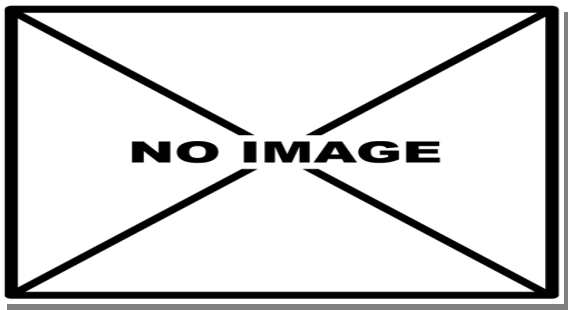
Purple Heron. Juvenile: pattern of wing covers (10-IX).



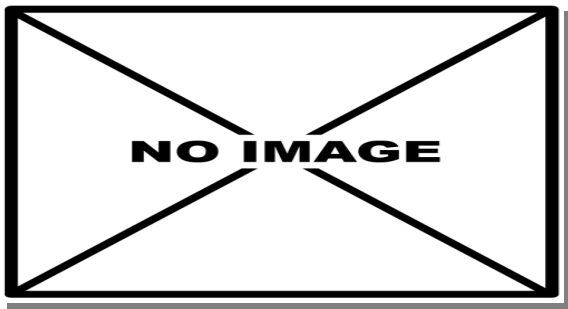
Purple Heron. Adult. Female: pattern of wing covers (22-IV).



Purple Heron. Adult. Male: pattern of primaries (10-IX).



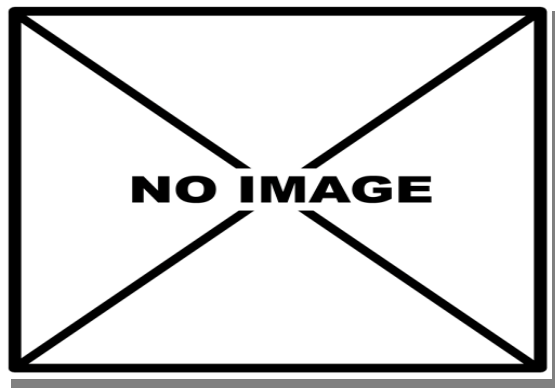
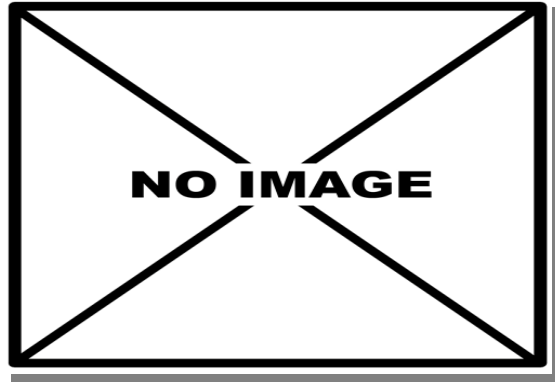
Purple Heron. 2nd year with adult-like pattern: pattern of wing covers ().



Purple Heron. 2nd year with juvenile-like pattern: pattern of wing covers ().

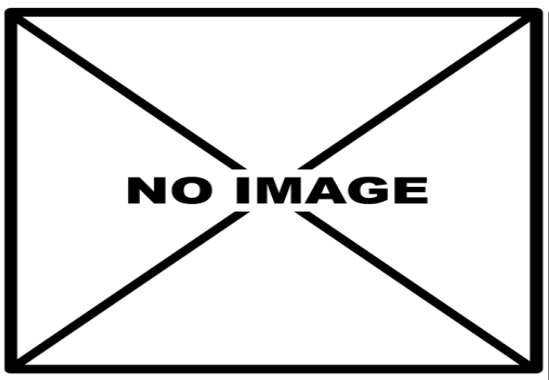
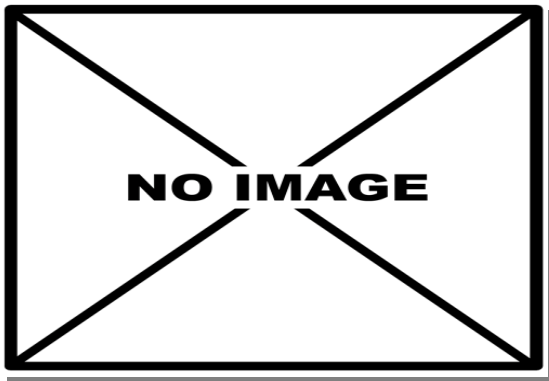


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Purple Heron. Adult. Female: pattern of primaries (10-IX).

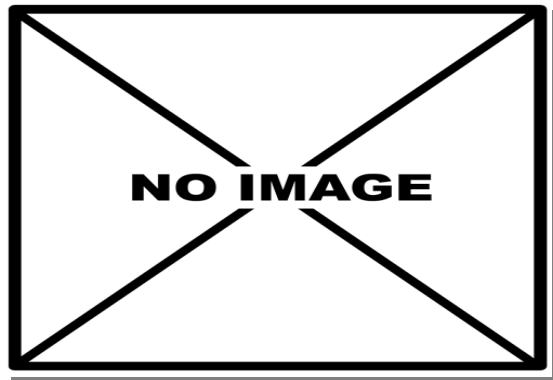
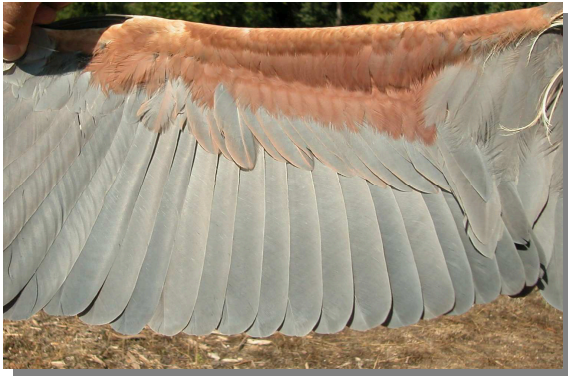
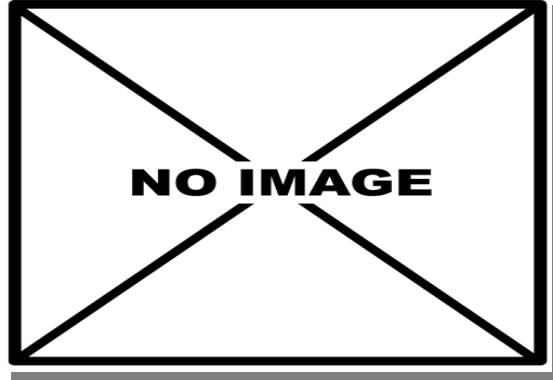
Purple Heron. 2nd year with juvenile-like pattern: pattern of primaries ().



Purple Heron. 2nd year with adult-like pattern: pattern of primaries ().

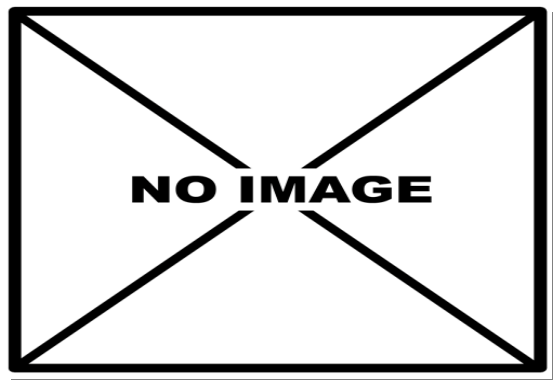
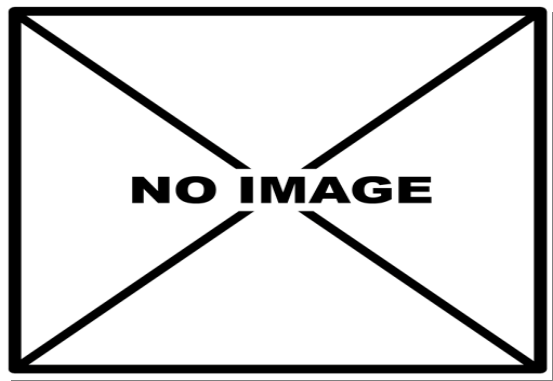
Purple Heron. Juvenile: pattern of primaries (10-IX).

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Purple Heron. Adult. Male: pattern of secondaries (10-IX).

Purple Heron. 2nd year with adult-like pattern: pattern of secondaries ().



Purple Heron. Adult. Female: pattern of secondaries (22-IV).

Purple Heron. 2nd year with juvenile-like pattern: pattern of secondaries ().

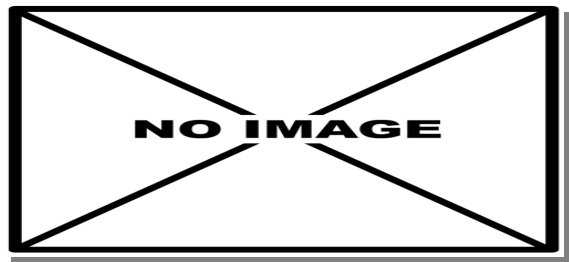


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Purple Heron. Adult. Female: pattern of wing (22-IV).

Purple Heron. Juvenile: pattern of secondaries (10-IX).



Purple Heron. 2nd year with adult-like pattern: pattern of wing ().

Purple Heron. Adult. Male: pattern of wing (10-IX).

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Purple Heron. 2nd year with juvenile-like pattern: pattern of wing ().



Purple Heron. Juvenile: pattern of wing (10-IX).