

261 Wood Pigeon



Wood Pigeon. Adult (16-VI).

WOOD PIGEON (*Columba palumbus*)

IDENTIFICATION

41-45 cm. **Adults** with grey bluish plumage; wings with a white patch; grey blue tail with a broad dark terminal band; neck with a white patch. **Juvenile** duller and without white patch on neck.

Wood Pigeon.
Pattern of head and wing.

SIMILAR SPECIES

Recalls a **Feral Pigeon/Rock Dove** which has white rump and underwing coverts. **Stock Dove**, with a smaller size, without the white patch on wings.



Feral Pigeon



Stock Dove

SEXING

Male with breast more vinaceous and less grey than **female**. **CAUTION:** this character is only useful when both sexes have the same age and in the same season, so sexing this species is really very difficult.

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AGEING

4 types of age can be recognized:

Juvenile without white patch on neck; grey brown wing coverts with buff tips.

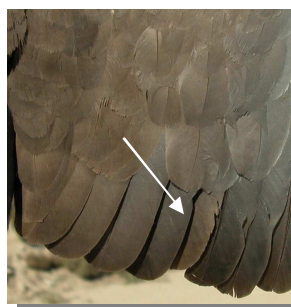
1st year autumn/2nd year spring if there are unmoulted juvenile feathers on wings; with only one centre of moult in primaries; if retained juvenile secondaries then shorter than adult ones.

2nd year autumn/3rd year spring only if there are unmoulted central juvenile secondaries retained, which are shorter and very worn.

Adult with white patch on neck; dark slate grey wing coverts lacking buff tips; two moulting centres on primaries if the bird is moulting; if there are unmoulted secondaries have the same length than the neighbors.



Wood Pigeon. Ageing. Pattern of head and neck: top adult; bottom juvenile.



Wood Pigeon. Ageing. Pattern of secondaries. From top to bottom: adult, 3rd year, 2nd year, juvenile.



Wood Pigeon. Ageing. Pattern of tips of primary coverts: top adult; bottom juvenile.

MOULT

Complete **postbreeding** and **postjuvenile** moults, usually finished in December.

CAUTION: both types of age can suspend their moult retaining unmoulted flight feathers during all the winter.

PHENOLOGY

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

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STATUS IN ARAGON

Resident, widely distributed and absent only from the highest zones of the Pyrenees and the most deforested areas of the Ebro Basin.



Wood Pigeon. 2nd year (22-VI).



Wood Pigeon. Juvenile (10-XI)



Wood Pigeon. Head pattern and iris colour: top adult (16-VI); middle 2nd year (22-VI); bottom juvenile (10-XI).



Wood Pigeon. Breast pattern and iris colour: top left adult (16-VI); top right 2nd year (22-VI); left juvenile (10-XI).



Wood Pigeon. Upperpart pattern: top left adult (16-VI); top right 2nd year (22-VI); left juvenile (10-XI).

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Wood Pigeon. Legs pattern: top adult (22-VI); bottom juvenile (10-XI).



Wood Pigeon. 2nd year: pattern of primary coverts (22-VI).



Wood Pigeon. Pattern and wear of tail: top left adult (16-VI); top right 2nd year (22-VI); left juvenile (10-XI).



Wood Pigeon. Juvenile: pattern of primary coverts (10-XI).



Wood Pigeon. Adult: pattern of primary coverts (16-VI).



Wood Pigeon. Adult: pattern of primaries (16-VI).

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Wood Pigeon. 2nd year spring: pattern of primaries (22-VI).



Wood Pigeon. 3rd year spring: pattern of secondaries and wing coverts (1 juvenile feather; 2 postjuvenile feathers; 3 adult feathers) (22-VI).



Wood Pigeon. Juvenile: pattern of primaries (10-XI).



Wood Pigeon. 2nd year spring: pattern of secondaries and wing coverts (1 juvenile feathers; 2 postjuvenile feathers) (22-VI).



Wood Pigeon. Adult: pattern of secondaries and wing coverts (16-VI).

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Wood Pigeon. Juvenile: pattern of wing (10-XI).

Wood Pigeon. Juvenile: pattern of secondaries and wing coverts (10-XI).



Wood Pigeon. Adult: pattern of wing (16-VI).



Wood Pigeon. 3rd year spring: pattern of wing (22-VI).



Wood Pigeon. 2nd year spring: pattern of wing (22-