

341 Rock Thrush



Rock Thrush. Summer. 2nd year. Male (11-VI).

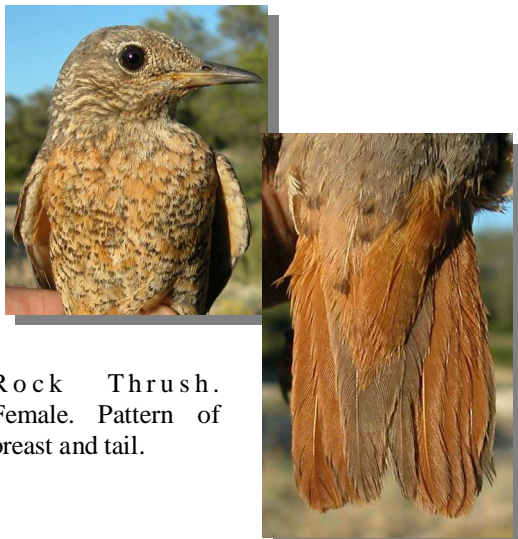
ROCK THRUSH (*Monticola saxatilis*)

IDENTIFICATION

18-19 cm. In **breeding** plumage: **male** with bluish head and neck; whitish lower back; chestnut-reddish underparts. **Female** with brown-grey upperparts; lower back without white; brown-orange underparts with vermiculated feathers. In **non-breeding** plumage with duller pattern similar to **female**. Both sexes with reddish tail.



Rock Thrush. Male. Pattern of breast.



Rock Thrush. Female. Pattern of breast and tail.

SIMILAR SPECIES

The red tail makes this species unmistakable.



Blue Rock Thrush. Female.

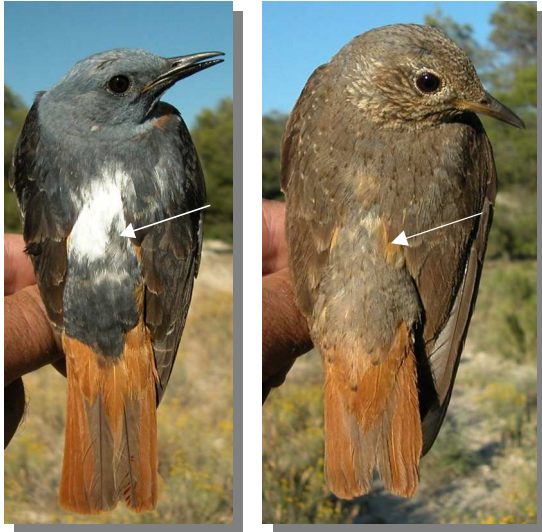
SEXING

In **breeding** plumage, **male** with blue head and neck; reddish underparts; white on lower back. **Female** with grey-brown head and upperparts; without white on lower back (sometimes with a little in **older females**). In **autumn**, **male** with pure white bases of the feathers on the lower back; crown and throat with hidden blue tinge. **Female** with buffish white bases of feathers on the lower back; crown and throat without blue tinge. **Juveniles** cannot be sexed. **CAUTION:** some **adult females** and **2nd year males** are very similar.

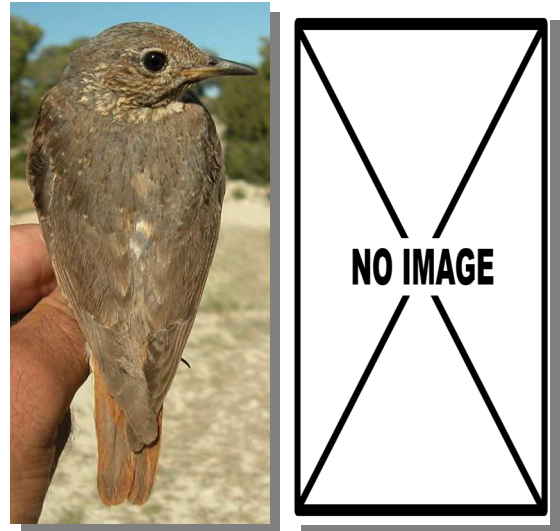


Rock Thrush. Summer. Sexing. Pattern of head and breast: left male; right female.

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Rock Thrush. Summer. Sexing. Pattern of upperparts: left male; right female.



Rock Thrush. Ageing. Pattern of upperparts: left female; right juvenile.

AGEING

3 types of age can be recognized:

Juvenil similar to **female**, but with greyer underparts and ochrer underparts; fresh plumage.

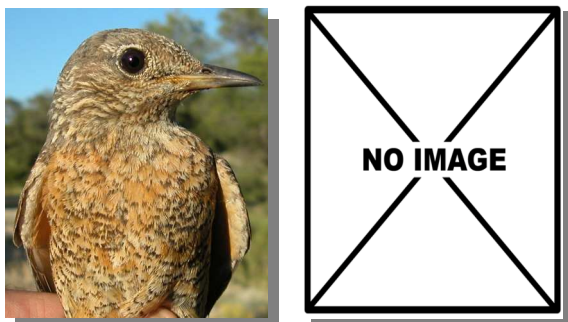
1st year autumn/2nd year spring similar to **adults**, but with juvenile retained flight and tail feathers, which will be slightly worn in **autumn** and strongly worn in **spring**.

Adult with flight and tail feathers fresh in **autumn** and slightly worn in **spring**.

CAUTION: no always is possible a correct ageing due to intermediate birds.



Rock Thrush. Ageing. Pattern of tail: left adult; right 2nd year.



Rock Thrush. Ageing. Pattern of breast: left female; right juvenile.

MOULT

Complete **postbreeding** moult, usually finished in September. Partial **postjuvenile** moult, involving body feathers, lesser and median coverts and sometimes tertials and inner greater coverts; usually finished between August and September. Both types of age have a **prebreeding** moult involving body feathers and lesser and median wing coverts.

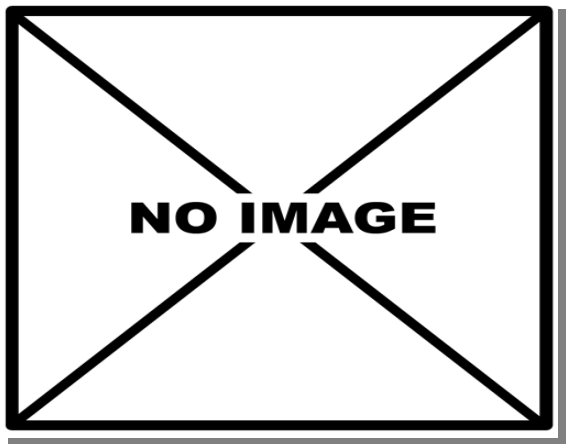
PHENOLOGY

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

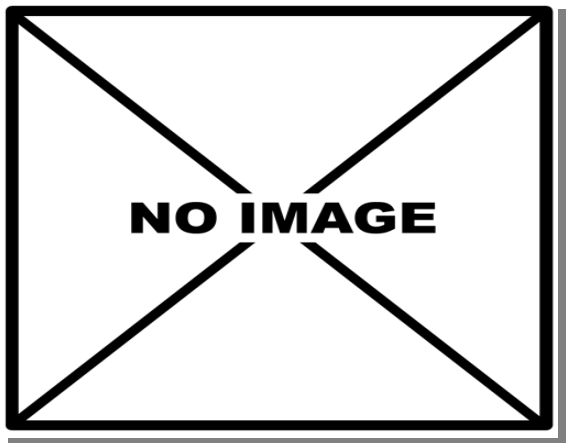
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STATUS IN ARAGON

Summer visitor. Widely distributed throughout the mountainous areas from the Region, being absent in plain areas.



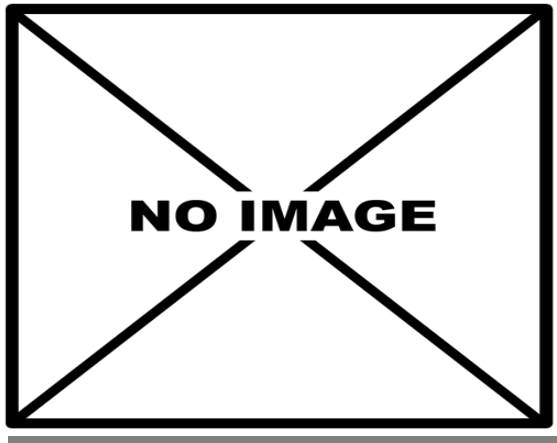
Rock Thrush. Summer. Adult. Male ().



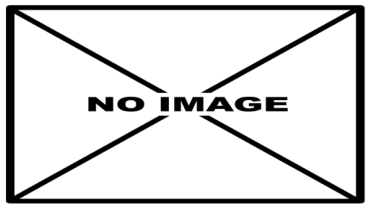
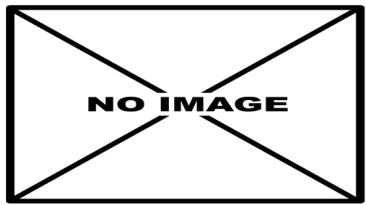
Rock Thrush. Summer. Adult. Female ().



Rock Thrush. Summer. 2nd year. Female (11-VI).



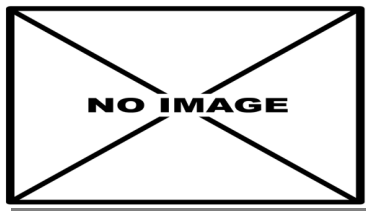
Rock Thrush. Summer. Juvenile ().



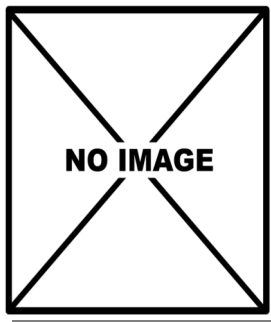
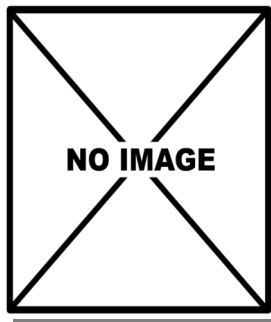
Rock Thrush. Summer. Adult. Head pattern: top male (); bottom female ().



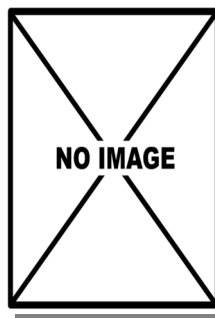
Rock Thrush. Summer. Head pattern: top 2nd year male (11-VI); middle 2nd year female (11-VI); bottom juvenile ().



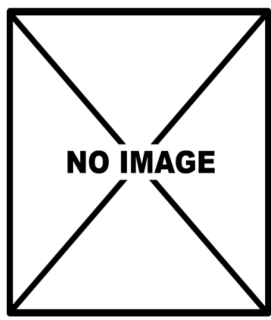
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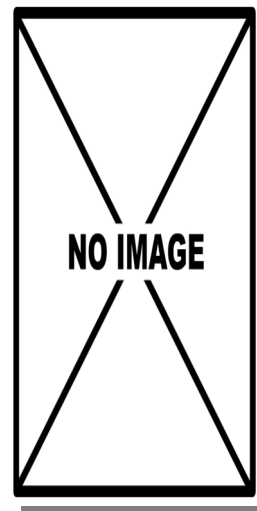
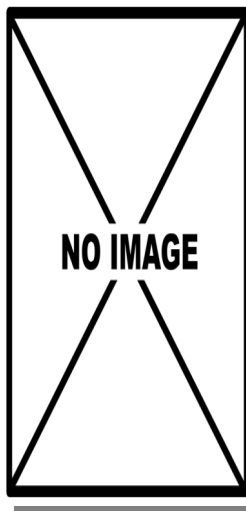
Rock Thrush. Summer. Adult. Breast pattern: left male (); right female ().



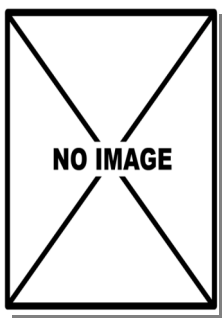
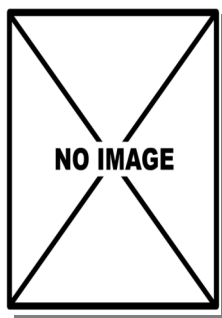
Rock Thrush. Summer. Crown pattern: top left 2nd year male (11-VI); top right 2nd year female (11-VI); left juvenile ().



Rock Thrush. Summer. Breast pattern: top left 2nd year male (11-VI); top right 2nd year female (11-VI); left juvenile ().

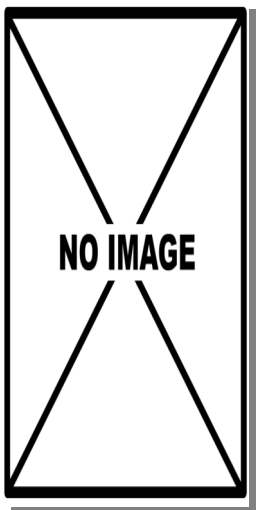


Rock Thrush. Summer. Adult. Upperpart pattern: left male (); right female ().

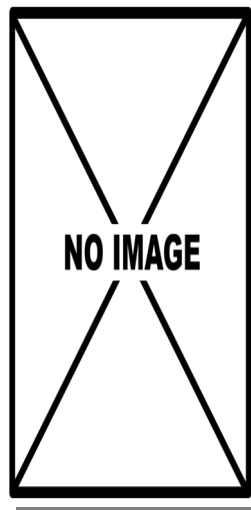


Rock Thrush. Summer. Adult. Crown pattern: left male (); right female ().

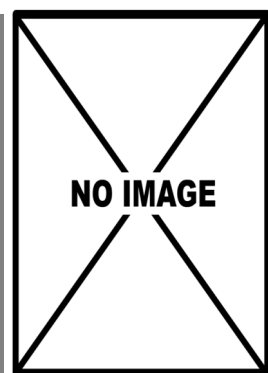
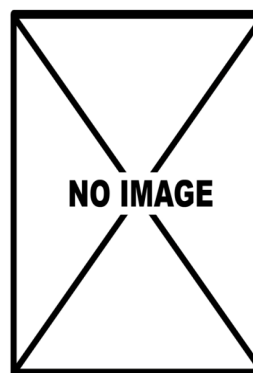
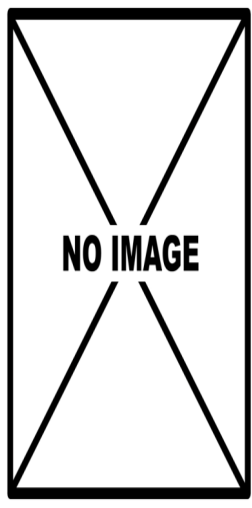
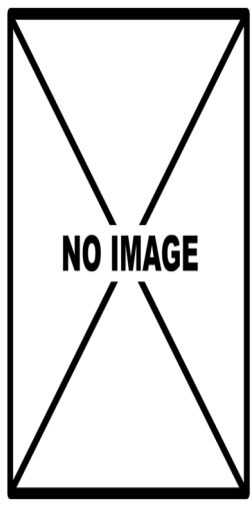
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Rock Thrush. Summer. Upperpart pattern: top left 2nd year male (11-VI); top right 2nd year female (11-VI); left juvenile ().



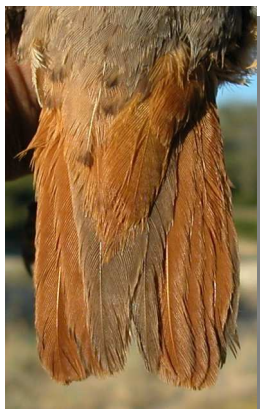
Rock Thrush. Summer. Pattern of upperparts with rump: top left 2nd year male (11-VI); top right 2nd year female (11-VI); left juvenile ().



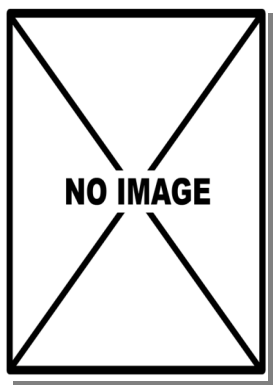
Rock Thrush. Summer. Adult. Pattern of upperparts with rump: left male (); right female ().

Rock Thrush. Summer. Adult. Tail pattern: left male (); right female ().

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Rock Thrush. Summer. 2nd year. Male: pattern of wing (11-VI).



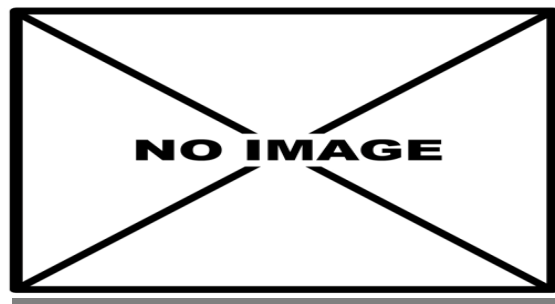
Rock Thrush. Summer. Tail pattern: top left 2nd year male (11-VI); top right 2nd year female (11-VI); left juvenile ().



Rock Thrush. Summer. 2nd year. Female: pattern of wing (11-VI).



Rock Thrush. Summer. Adult. Male: pattern of wing (02-VI) (picture from Antonio España).



Rock Thrush. Summer. Juvenile: pattern of wing ().



Rock Thrush. Summer. Adult. Female: pattern of wing (16-VII) (picture from Daniel Cazo).