

279 Alpine Swift



Alpine Swift. Adult (10-VII).

ALPINE SWIFT (*Apus melba*)

IDENTIFICATION

21-22 cm. Brown upperparts; white underparts with a brown-grey band on upper breast.

SIMILAR SPECIES

This species is unmistakable.

SEXING

Plumage of both sexes alike.

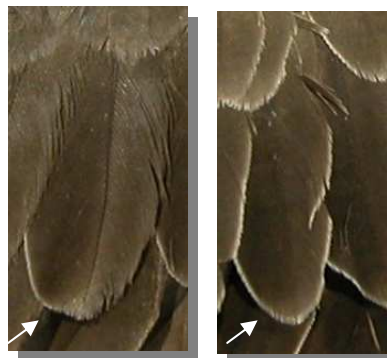
AGEING

3 types of age can be recognized:

Juvenile with body feathers pale edged; median and greater wing coverts with narrow white edge and pointed tip; outermost tail feather with convex edges.

2nd year with juvenile flight feathers, which are worn; wing coverts with **adult** and **juvenile** feathers admixed; outermost tail feather with straight edges.

Adult with plumage without white edges due to wear; median and greater wing covers, when fresh, only with a white spot on tips; median and greater wing coverts with rounded or squared tips; outermost tail feather with concave edges.



Alpine Swift. Ageing. Pattern of a wing covert: left adult; right juvenile.



Alpine Swift. Ageing. Pattern of the outermost tail feather: left adult; right juvenile.

MOULT

Complete **postbreeding** moult, starting in July and finished in breeding areas or, in some birds, in wintering quarters. Partial **postjuvenile** moult, including body feathers, tail and some wing coverts; takes place in wintering quarters.

PHENOLOGY

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

STATUS IN ARAGON

Summer visitor. Breeds related with cliffs and rock faces of Pyrenees, Sistema Iberico and some places of the Ebro Valley.

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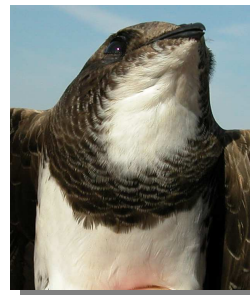
Alpine Swift. 2nd year (10-VII).



Alpine Swift. Juvenile (21-VIII)



Alpine Swift. Head pattern: top adult (10-VII); middle 2nd year (10-VII); bottom juvenile (21-VIII)



Alpine Swift. Head pattern: top left adult (10-VII); top right 2nd year (10-VII); left juvenile (21-VIII)



Alpine Swift. Upperpart pattern: top left adult (10-VII); top right 2nd year (10-VII); left juvenile (21-VIII)

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Alpine Swift.
A d u l t :
p a t t e r n
o f t h e
o u t e r m o s t
t a i l f e a t h e r
(10-VII)



Alpine Swift. Adult: pattern of primary coverts (10-VII)



Alpine Swift.
2 n d y e a r:
p a t t e r n
o f t h e
o u t e r m o s t
t a i l f e a t h e r
(10-VII)



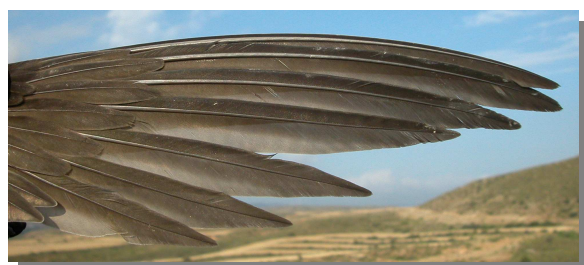
Alpine Swift. 2nd year: pattern of primary coverts (10-VII)



Alpine Swift.
J u v e n i l e :
p a t t e r n
o f t h e
o u t e r m o s t
t a i l f e a t h e r
(21-VIII)



Alpine Swift. Juvenile: pattern of primary coverts (21-VIII)



Alpine Swift. Adult: pattern of primaries (10-VII)

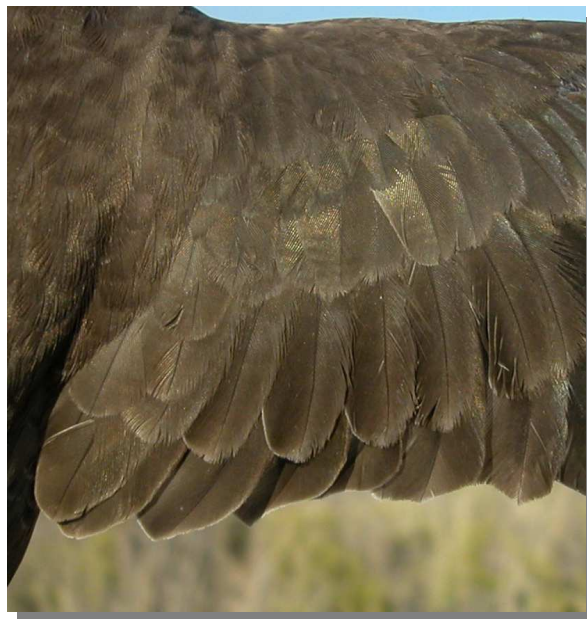
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Alpine Swift. 2nd year: pattern of primaries (10-VII)



Alpine Swift. Juvenile: pattern of primaries (21-VIII)



Alpine Swift. Adult: pattern of wing coverts and secondaries (10-VII)



Alpine Swift. 2nd year: pattern of wing coverts and secondaries (10-VII)



Alpine Swift. Juvenile: pattern of wing coverts and secondaries (21-VIII)

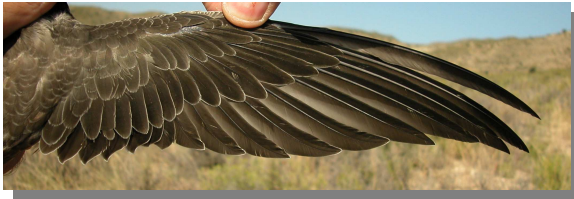


Alpine Swift. Adult: pattern of wing (10-VII).

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Alpine Swift. 2nd year: pattern of wing (10-VII).



Alpine Swift. Juvenile: pattern of wing (21-VIII).