

393 Blue Tit



Blue Tit. Adult. Male (06-I).

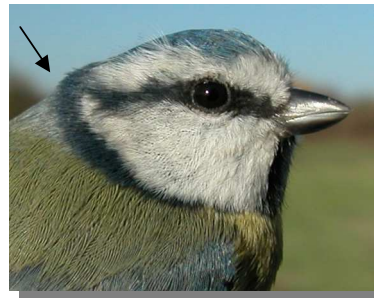
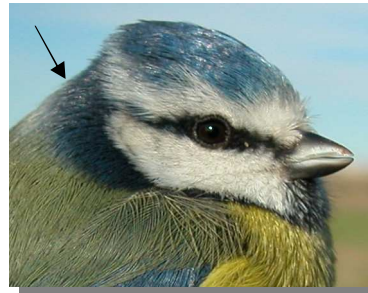
BLUE TIT (*Parus caeruleus*)

IDENTIFICATION

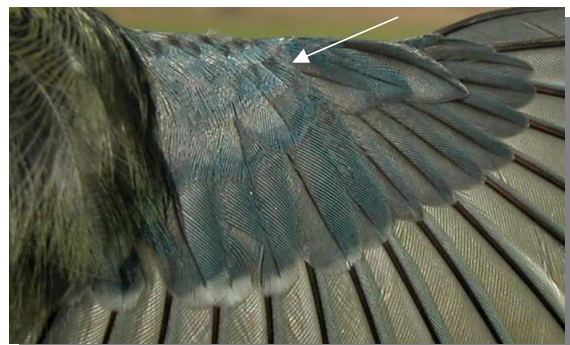
11-12 cm. Crown, wings and tail blue; upperpart greenish; underparts yellow; white cheek and wings with one white band.



Blue Tit.
Pattern of head.



Blue Tit.
Sexing. Pattern
of blue band on
neck: top male;
bottom female.



Blue Tit. Sexing. Pattern of wing coverts: top male; bottom female.

SIMILAR SPECIES

This species is unmistakable.

SEXING

Male with wing coverts with deep blue edges. **Female** with wing coverts with duller blue edges than **male** (**CAUTION:** this colour difference is not always easy to see). In extreme birds, width of blue band on neck is an useful sexing character: **male** with blue band on neck wider than 8 mm; **female** with blue band on neck narrower than 4 mm. **Juveniles** cannot be sexed using plumage characters.

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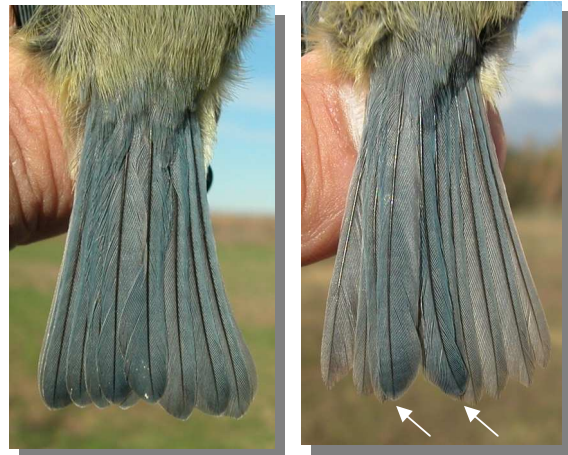
AGEING

3 types of age can be recognized:

Juvenile with fresh plumage; dull yellow on underparts and greenish colour, not bluish.

1st year autumn/2nd year spring with moult limit between moulted greater coverts, deep blue, and dull blue juvenile primary coverts; some birds with moult limit between fresh central pair of tail feathers and juvenile worn neighbors.

Adult with all wing feathers with bluish edges and without moult limits on tail.



Blue Tit. Ageing. Moult limit on tail feathers: left adult; right 1st year.



Blue Tit. Ageing. Pattern of head: top adult; bottom juvenile.



Blue Tit. Ageing. Moult limit on wing coverts: top adult; bottom 1st year.

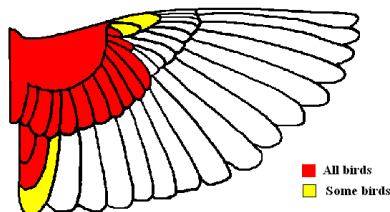


Blue Tit. Ageing. Pattern of upperparts: left adult; right juvenile.

MOULT

Complete **postbreeding** moult, usually finished in early September. Partial **postjuvenile** moult including body feathers, central pair of tail feathers, lesser and median coverts, all greater coverts and some tertials; some birds can moult some alula feathers and all tertials; usually finished in October.

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Blue Tit.
Extent of
postjuvenile
moult.

■ All birds
■ Some birds

PHENOLOGY

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

STATUS IN ARAGON

Resident. Widely distributed throughout the Region, absent only from the deforested zones.



Blue Tit. 1st year. Female (06-XI).



Blue Tit. Adult. Female (06-I).



Blue Tit. Juvenile (18-VI).



Blue Tit. 1st year. Male (06-XI).



Blue Tit.
Adult. Head
pattern and
width of
neck band:
topmale (06-
I); bottom
female (06-
I).

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Blue Tit. Head pattern and width of neck band: top 1st year male (06-XI); middle 1st year female (06-XI); bottom juvenile (18-VI).



Blue Tit. Crown pattern: top left 1st year male (06-XI); top right 1st year female (06-XI); left juvenile (18-VI).



Blue Tit. Adult. Breast pattern: left male (06-I); right female (06-I).



Blue Tit. Adult. Crown pattern: left male (06-I); right female (06-I).



Blue Tit. Breast pattern: top left 1st year male (06-XI); top right 1st year female (06-XI); left juvenile (18-VI).

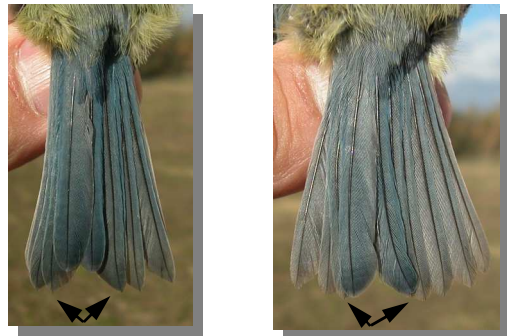
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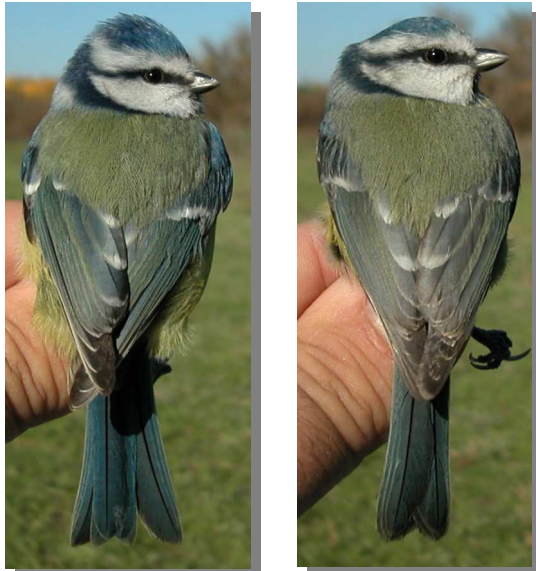
Blue Tit. Adult. Upperpart pattern: left male (06-I); right female (06-I).



Blue Tit. Adult. Tail pattern: left male (06-I); right female (06-I).



Blue Tit. Tail pattern: top left 1st year male (06-XI); top right 1st year female (06-XI); left juvenile (18-VI).

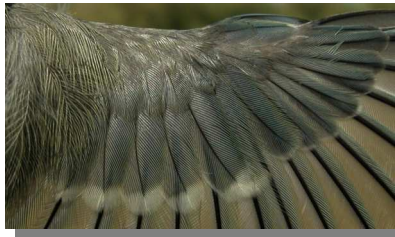


Blue Tit. Upperpart pattern: top left 1st year male (06-XI); top right 1st year female (06-XI); left juvenile (18-VI).



Blue Tit. Adult. Pattern of wing coverts: top male (06-I); bottom female (06-I).

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Blue Tit.
Pattern of
wing coverts:
top 1st year
male (06-
XI); middle
1st year
female (06-
XI); bottom
juvenile (18-
VI).



Blue Tit. 1st year. Male: pattern of wing (06-XI).



Blue Tit. 1st year. Female: pattern of wing (06-XI).



Blue Tit. Adult. Male: pattern of wing (06-I).



Blue Tit. Juvenile: pattern of wing (14-VI).



Blue Tit. Adult. Female: pattern of wing (06-I).