

# 265 Cuckoo



Cuckoo. Male (02-VI).

## CUCKOO (*Cuculus canorus*)

### IDENTIFICATION

32-34 cm. **Adult** with grey head and upperparts; long tail with white spots on tip; some **females** have chestnut upperparts with reddish head and rump. **Juveniles** chestnut and strongly barred.

### SIMILAR SPECIES

Size and long tail recall a **Sparrowhawk** or a **Kestrel**, both with curved bills.



Sparrowhawk

Kestrel



### SEXING

**Male** with slate grey nape, chin and throat extending well down breast, demarcation line of grey against barring is well defined; grey median and greater coverts, always without buff spots. **Female** in rufous morph unmistakable; in grey morph very similar to **male**, but usually with rufous or pink buff background to barring on chest and sides of neck; sometimes with rufous spots on grey median and greater coverts. **CAUTION:** some **females** in grey morph are indistinguishable from **males**.

### AGEING

3 types of age can be recognized:

**Juvenile** with fresh plumage; variable plumage pattern going on upperparts from chestnut barred to uniform grey with white fringes; whitish fringes on wing coverts and flight feathers; secondaries and greater coverts barred or spotted chestnut; white patch on nape; grey iris.

**2nd year** only if some barred juvenile secondaries (sometimes greater coverts too) have been retained, which are different of neighbors **adult** type, unbarred and longer.

**Adult** without white fringes on wing coverts and flight feathers; secondaries without chestnut barred; whitout patch on nape; yellow iris.

**CAUTION:** some **adult** birds suspend their moult and have in spring two generation of secondaries, but old feathers lack **juvenile** barred.

### MOULT

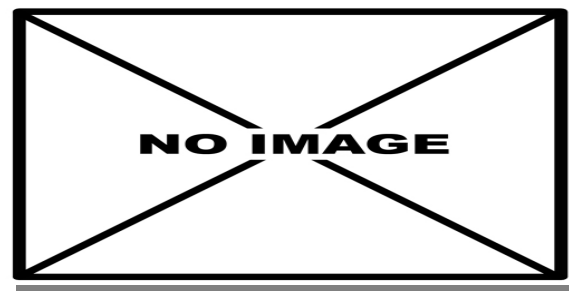
Complete **postbreeding** and **postjuvenile** moults which starts in winter quarters; both types of age can suspend their moult having in spring two generations of flight feathers.

### PHENOLOGY

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

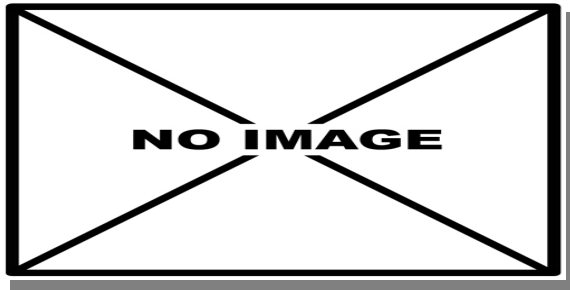
### STATUS IN ARAGON

Summer visitor. Widely distributed throughout the Region, absent from the highest areas of the Pyrenees and the most deforested zones of the Ebro Basin.

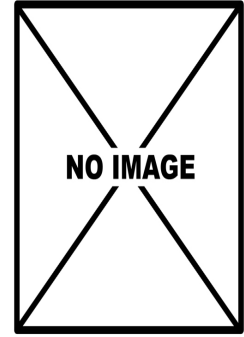


Cuckoo. Female in grey morph ()

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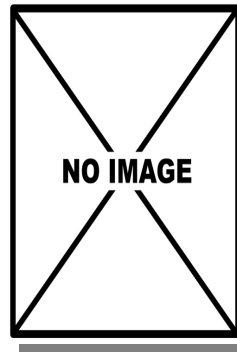
Cuckoo. Female in rufous morph ().



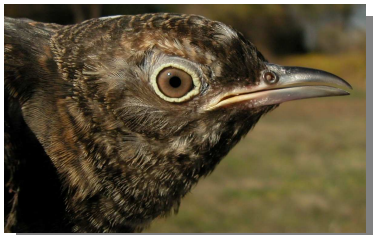
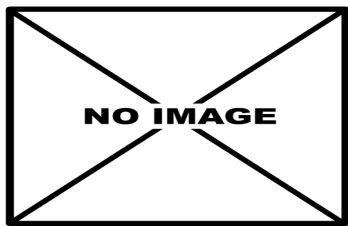
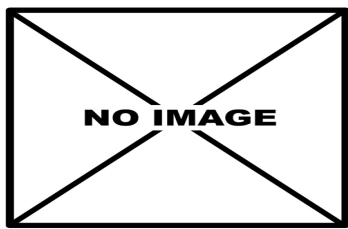
Cuckoo. Nape pattern: left male (02-VI); right female in grey morph ().



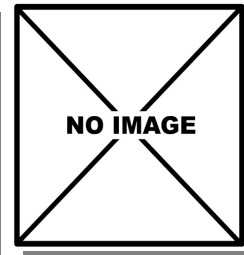
Cuckoo. Juvenile (25-X).



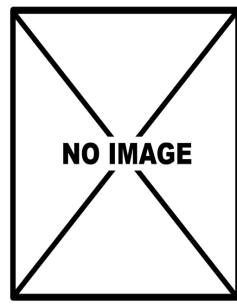
Cuckoo. Nape pattern: left female in rufous morph (); right juvenile (25-X).



C u c k o o .  
Head pattern.  
From top to  
bottom: male  
(02-VI); fe-  
male in grey  
morph ();  
female in  
rufous morph  
(); juvenile  
(25-X).

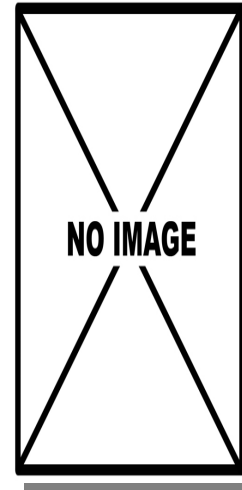
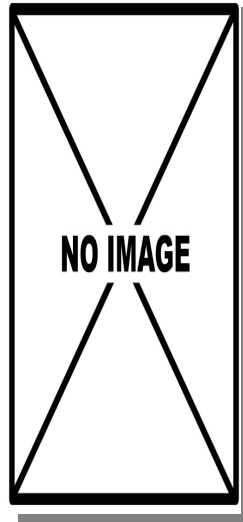


Cuckoo. Breast pattern: left male (02-VI); right female in grey morph ().



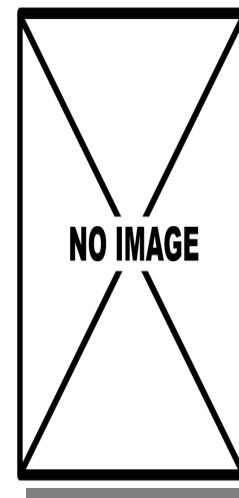
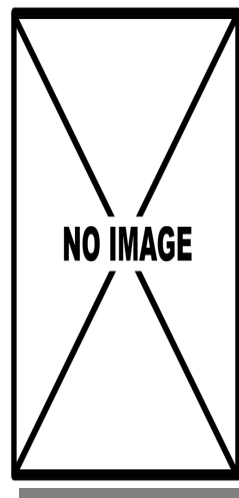
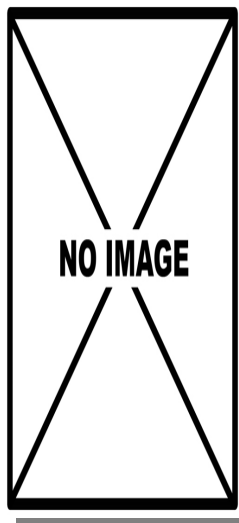
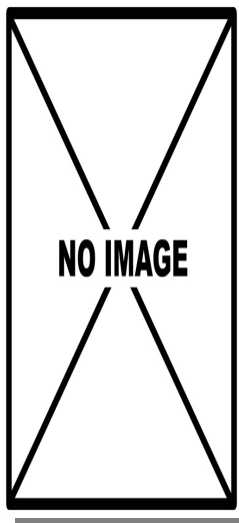
Cuckoo. Breast pattern: left female in rufous morph (); right juvenile (25-X).

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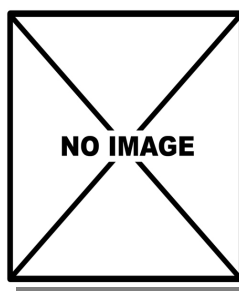
Cuckoo. Tail pattern: left male (02-VI); right female in grey morph ().

Cuckoo. Upperparts pattern: left male (02-VI); right female in grey morph ().



Cuckoo. Tail pattern: left female in rufous morph (); right juvenile ().

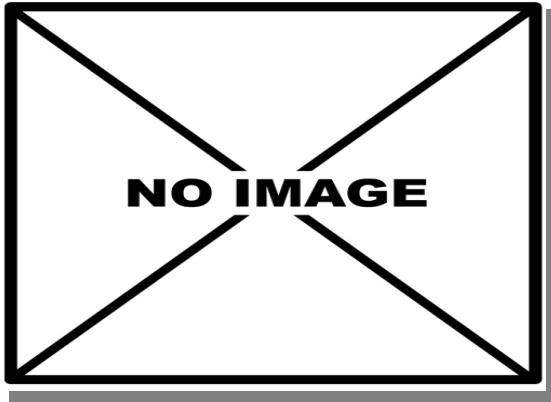
Cuckoo. Upperparts pattern: left female in rufous morph (); right juvenile ().



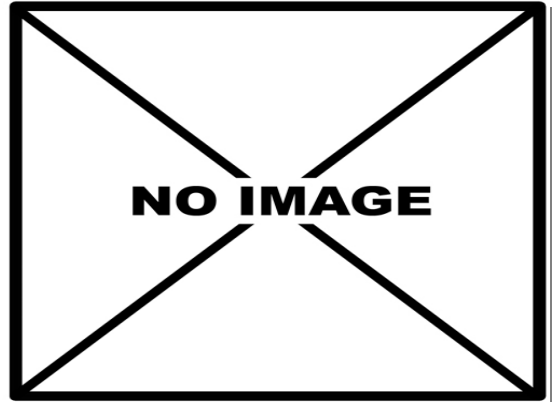
Cuckoo. Pattern of legs: left adult (02-VI); right juvenile ().

Cuckoo. Adult: pattern of primaries (26-IV).

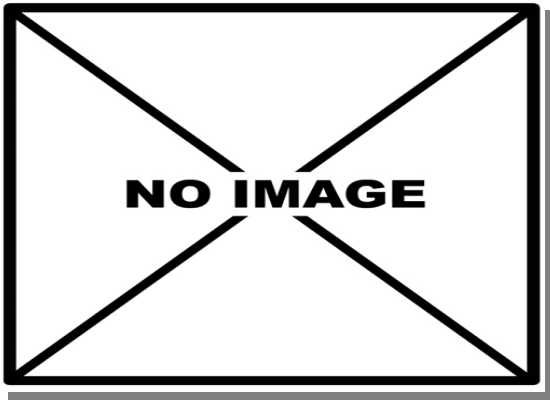
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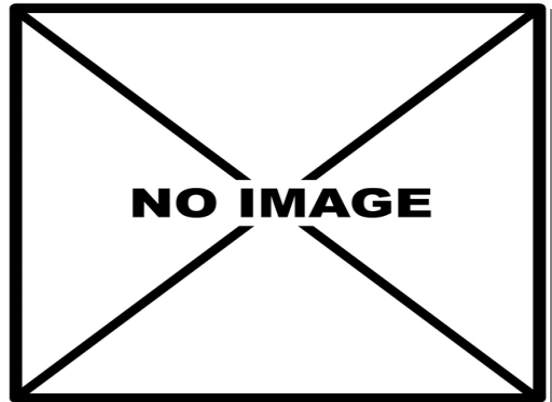
Cuckoo. 2nd year: pattern of primaries ().



Cuckoo. Adult with suspended moult: pattern of wing coverts and secondaries ().



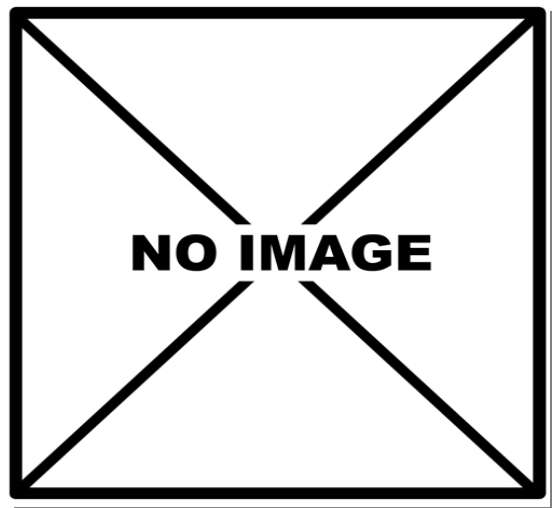
Cuckoo. Juvenile: pattern of primaries ().



Cuckoo. 2nd year: pattern of wing coverts and secondaries ().



Cuckoo. Adult with completed moult: pattern of wing coverts and secondaries (26-IV).



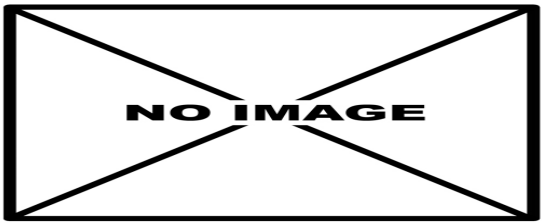
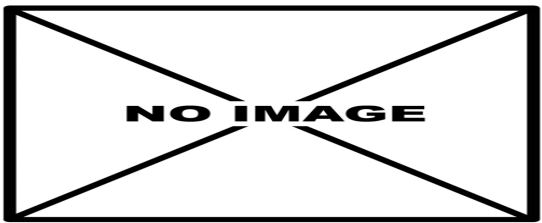
Cuckoo. Juvenile: pattern of wing coverts and secondaries ().

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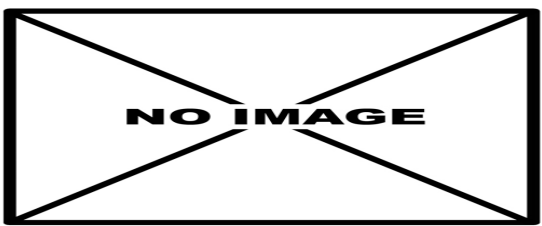
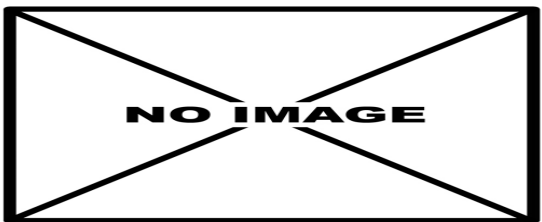


Cuckoo. Adult with completed moult: pattern of wing (26-IV).

Cuckoo. Juvenile: pattern of wing ().



Cuckoo. Adult with suspended moult: pattern of wing ().



Cuckoo. 2nd year: pattern of wing ().