

# 392 Coal Tit



Coal Tit. Adult. Male (08-XII).

## COAL TIT (*Parus ater*)

### IDENTIFICATION

11-12 cm. Black head with a white patch on face and nape; grey upperparts; white breast, with yellowish tinge on flanks; wings with two pale bars.

### SIMILAR SPECIES

Recalls a **Great Tit** which is bigger, has a black band on breast, greenish upperparts and a white bar on wing.



Great Tit. Nape pattern.

### SEXING

Sexes very similar and difficult to separate if pair is not together for comparison. **Male** with head deep black and bluish gloss; throat black and glossy; lesser wing coverts with black base and bluish edges. **Female** with head dull black; throat dull black grey; lesser wing coverts with dark grey base and dull grey edges. **Juveniles** cannot be sexed using plumage characters.

### AGEING

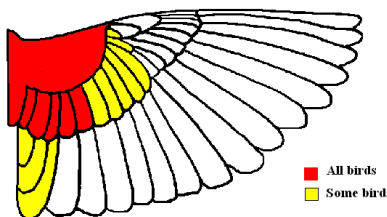
3 types of age can be recognized:

**Juvenile** with fresh plumage; dull colours.

**1st year autumn/2nd year spring** with moult limit between moulted greater coverts, dark and with bluish edges, and grey juvenile retained; if all greater coverts have been moulted limit is with alula and between moulted tertials and juvenile retained secondaries.

### MOULT

Complete **postbreeding** moult, usually finished in October. Partial **postjuvenile** moult including body feathers, lesser and median coverts and inner greater coverts; some birds can moult all greater coverts, small alula feather and tertials; usually finished in September.



Coal Tit. Extent of postjuvenile moult.

### PHENOLOGY

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

### STATUS IN ARAGON

Resident. Very common in pinus forests from Pyrenees and Sistema Iberico.



Coal Tit. Adult. Female (08-XII).

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Coal Tit. 1st year. Male (26-XII).



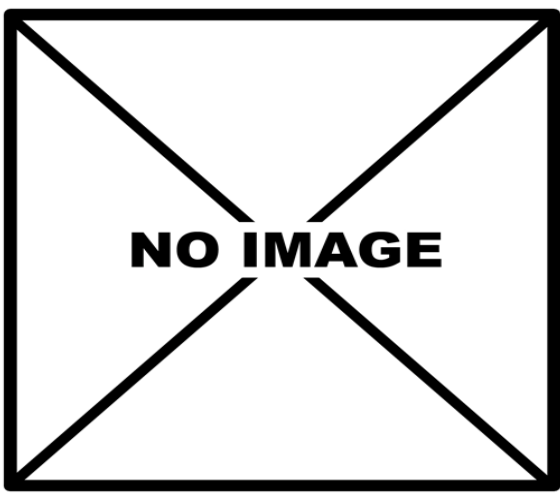
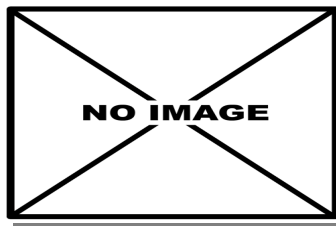
Coal Tit. Adult. Head pattern: top male (08-XII); bottom female (08-XII).



Coal Tit. 1st year. Female (26-XII).



Coal Tit. Head pattern: top 1st year male (26-XII); middle 1st year female (26-XII); bottom juvenile ().



Coal Tit. Juvenile ().



Coal Tit. Adult. Nape pattern: left male (08-XII); right female (08-XII).

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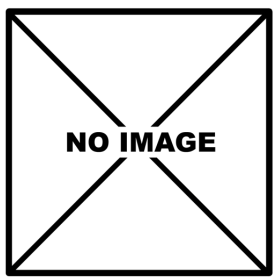


Coal Tit. Nape pattern: top left 1st year male (26-XII); top right 1st year female (26-XII); left juvenile ().

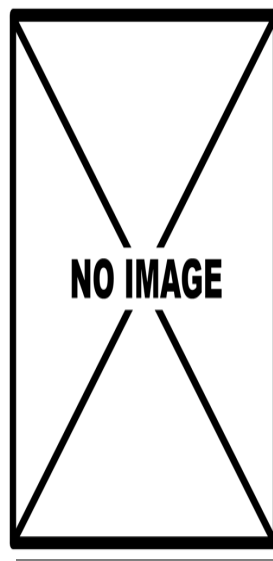
Coal Tit. Adult. Upperpart pattern: left male (08-XII); right female (08-XII).



Coal Tit. Adult. Breast pattern: left male (08-XII); right female (08-XII).

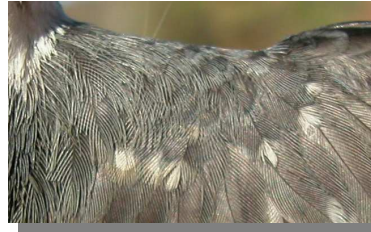
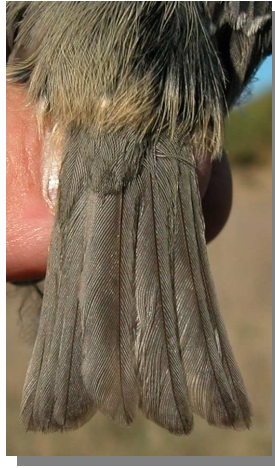


Coal Tit. Breast pattern: top left 1st year male (26-XII); top right 1st year female (26-XII); left juvenile ().



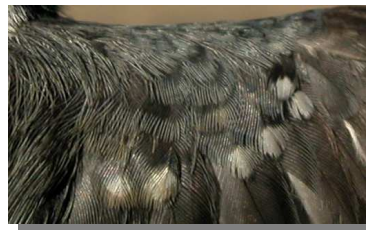
Coal Tit. Upperpart pattern: top left 1st year male (26-XII); top right 1st year female (26-XII); left juvenile ().

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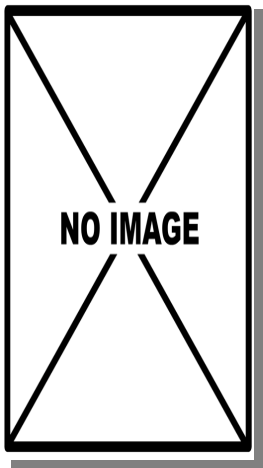


Coal Tit. Adult. Pattern of lesser coverts: top male (08-XII); bottom female (08-XII).

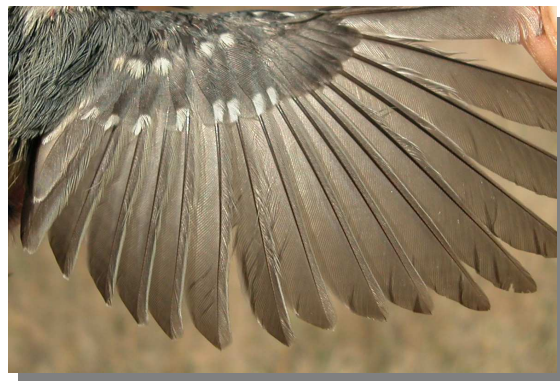
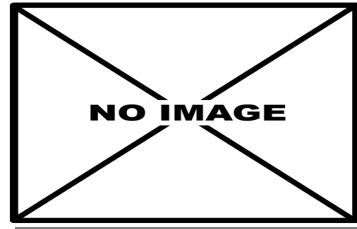
Coal Tit. Adult. Tail pattern: left male (08-XII); right female (08-XII).



Coal Tit. Pattern of lesser coverts: top 1st year male (26-XII); middle 1st year female (26-XII); bottom juvenile ().



Coal Tit. Tail pattern: top left 1st year male (26-XII); top right 1st year female (26-XII); left juvenile ().

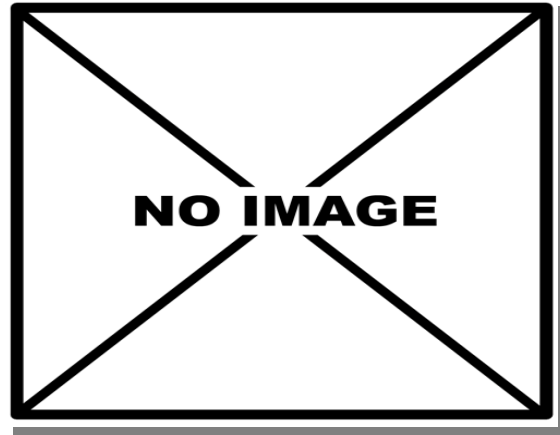


Coal Tit. Adult. Male: pattern of wing (08-XII).

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Coal Tit. Adult. Female: pattern of wing (08-XII).



Coal Tit. Juvenile: pattern of wing ().



Coal Tit. 1st year. Male: pattern of wing (26-XII).



Coal Tit. 1st year. Female: pattern of wing (05-XI).