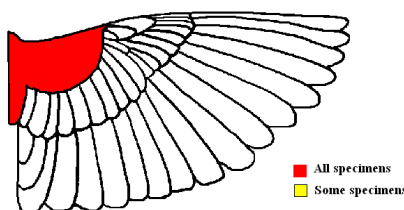


396 Wallcreeper



MOULT

Complete **postbreeding** moult; usually finished in September. Partial **postjuvenile** moult, including body feathers and lesser and median coverts, usually finished in October. Both types of age have a **prebreeding** moult, between February and April, acquiring the breeding plumage.



Wallcreeper. Extent of postjuvenile moult.

WALLCREEPER (*Tichodroma muraria*)

IDENTIFICATION

16-17 cm. Grey upperparts; red wing coverts and flight feathers; black tail with grey tip; underparts grey but black on **breeding male**; bill long and thin.

SIMILAR SPECIES

This species is unmistakable

SEXING

In **breeding** plumage, **male** with black chin, throat and upper breast; **female** with whitish chin, throat and upper breast but some birds with a black spot surrounded by white-grey. After **postbreeding** moult both sexes alike.

AGEING

3 types of age can be recognized:

Juvenile similar to **adults**, but with paler greyish colour; fresh plumage.

1st year autumn/2nd year spring very difficult to age; some birds can be recognized by more intensive wear of **juvenile** unmoulted flight feathers and greater and primary coverts.

Adult with worn feathers in summer.

PHENOLOGY

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

STATUS IN ARAGON

Resident. Breeds in rocky areas of the Pyrenees, wintering in lower zones.