

318 Grey Wagtail



Grey Wagtail. Juvenile (09-VII)

GREY WAGTAIL (*Motacilla cinerea*)

IDENTIFICATION

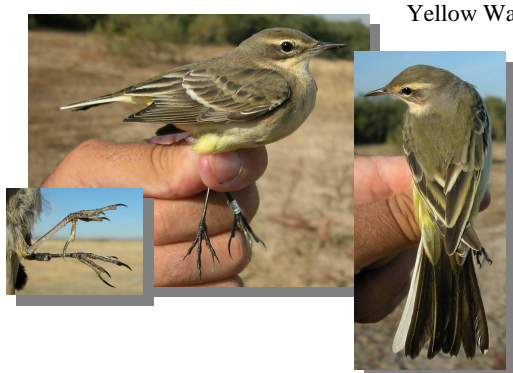
17-18 cm. Grey upperparts; white and yellow underparts. **Male** in **breeding** plumage with black bib and deep yellow underparts; **female** very similar but with blackish bib; pale legs.



Grey Wagtail. Pattern of upperparts and legs.

SIMILAR SPECIES

Recalls a **Yellow Wagtail**, which has yellow greenish upperparts and dark legs.

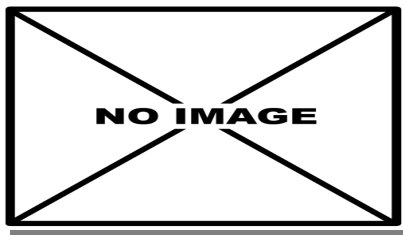
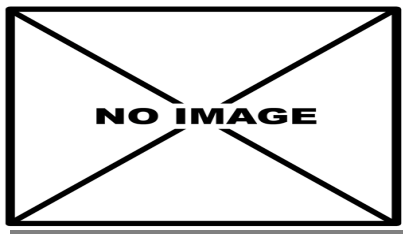
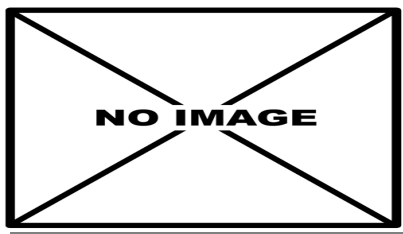


Yellow Wagtail

SEXING

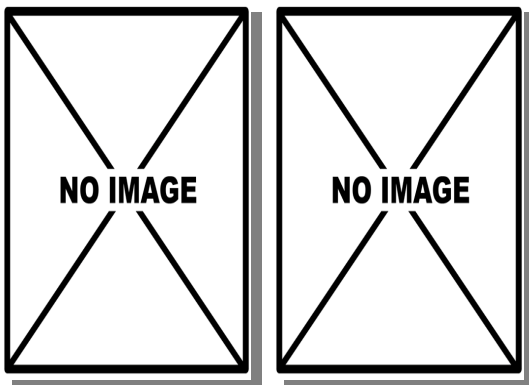
In **spring**, with **breeding** plumage, **adult male** and few **2nd year males** with black bib; forehead and crown grey; head with white bands; underparts deep yellow. **Adult female** can have white throat, sometimes with a blackish tinge, or black throat with a whitish mottling; underparts no so yellow like in **males**; forehead and crown green-grey; head with dirty-white bands; **2nd year male** usually with a white mottled on throat similar to **adult female**; **2nd year female** always with whitish throat (**CAUTION:** some **females** have black throat like **adult males** and few **2nd year males** can have whitish throat similar to **adult females**). In **winter**, although **males** tend to be more yellow than **females**, both sexes have similar plumages and there is overlap so sexing is not possible using plumage characters. **Juveniles** cannot be sexed.

NOTE: due to variability in this species, sexing is very complicated using only plumage characters, so techniques such checking the incubation patch can often be a decisive help. Sex of **2nd year** birds can be determined only confirming before the age using the study of moult.

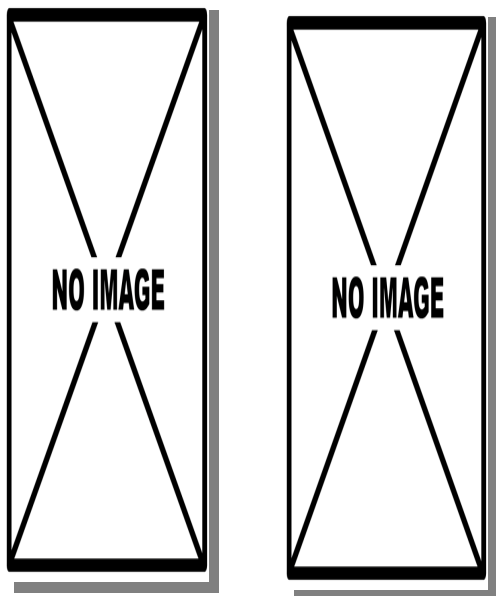


Grey Wagtail. Spring. Sexing. Pattern of head and throat: top male; middle female with dark throat; bottom female with pale throat.

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Grey Wagtail. Spring. Sexing. Pattern of crown: left male; right female.



Grey Wagtail. Spring. Sexing. Pattern of underparts: left male; right female.

AGEING

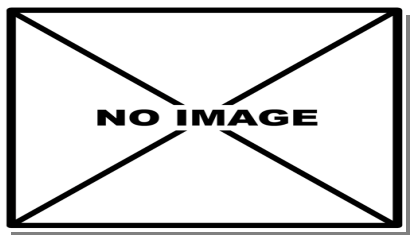
4 types of age can be recognized:

Juvenile with fresh plumage; small supercilium; tips of greater covers white.

1st year autumn/2nd year winter with moult limit between moulted fresh greater covers and worn paler **juvenile** retained; if none greater covert has been moulted then moult limit is between median and lesser wing coverts; if all greater covers have been moulted then moult limit is between tertials, in alula feathers or tail (**CAUTION:** the inner greater covers have a different pattern and may simulate a moult limit); flight feathers will be always **juvenile** and more bleached than in **adults**.

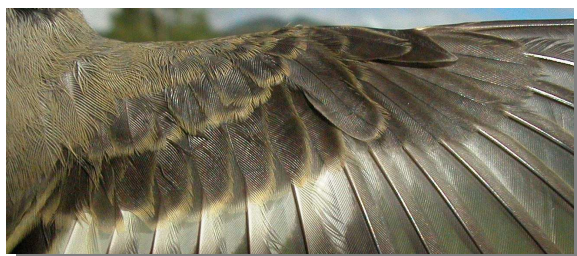
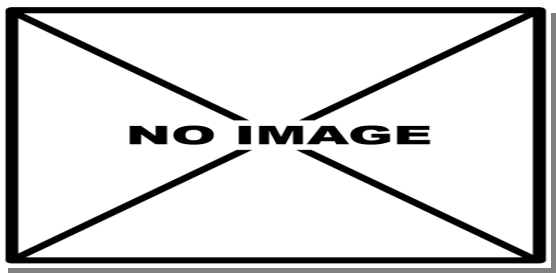
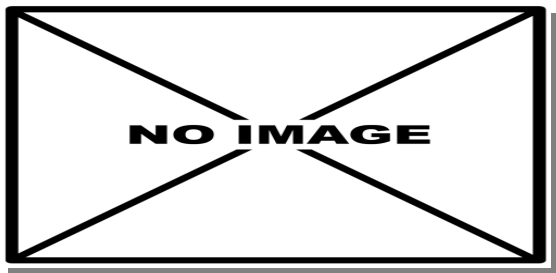
2nd year spring only in birds retaining **juvenile** feathers or with three ages of feathers.

Adult in **autumn** without moult limits on the wing; in **spring**, after **prebreeding** moult, have two ages of feathers (**CAUTION:** the inner greater covers have a different pattern and may simulate a moult limit). **CAUTION:** after **prebreeding** moult ageing is not always possible; birds with two generations of feathers can be **adults** or **2nd year** birds.



Grey Wagtail. Spring. Ageing. Pattern of head: top female with pale throat; bottom juvenile.

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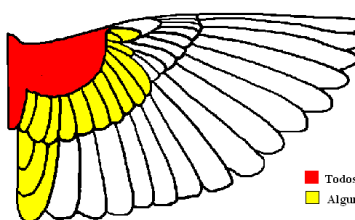
Grey Wagtail. Spring. Ageing. Limit of moult on greater coverts: top adult; middle 2nd year; bottom juvenile.



Grey Wagtail. Winter. Ageing. Limit of moult on greater coverts: top adult; bottom 1st year.

MOULT

Complete **postbreeding** moult, usually finished late September. Partial **postjuvenile** moult including body feathers and lesser and median coverts; there are birds moulting none, most or all greater coverts and tertials; finished in September. Both types of age have a **prebreeding** moult acquiring breeding plumage and changing inner greater coverts and tertials.



Grey Wagtail. Extent of postjuvenile moult.

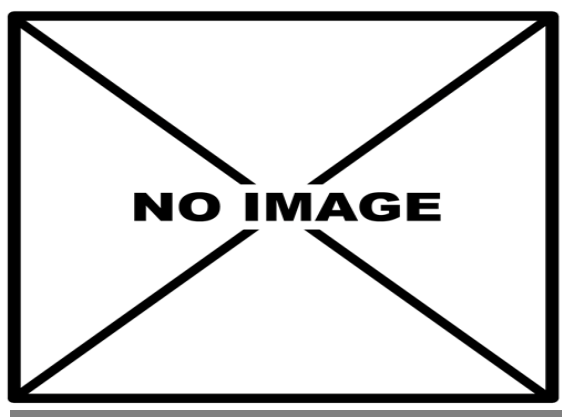
■ Todos los ejemplares
■ Algunos ejemplares

PHENOLOGY

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

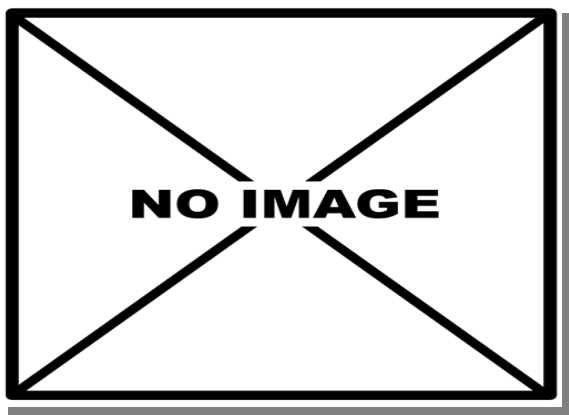
STATUS IN ARAGON

Resident, breeds in rivers from mountainous areas; widespread in winter.

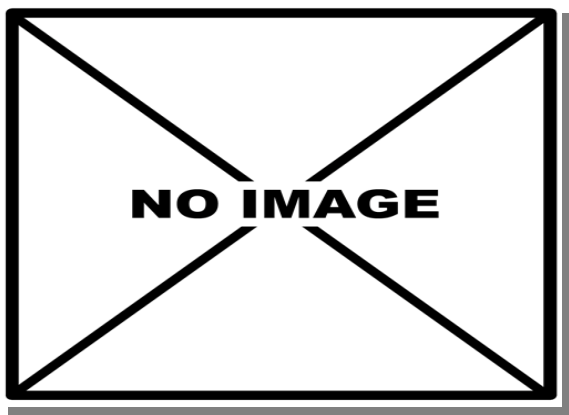


Grey Wagtail. Spring. Adult. Male ().

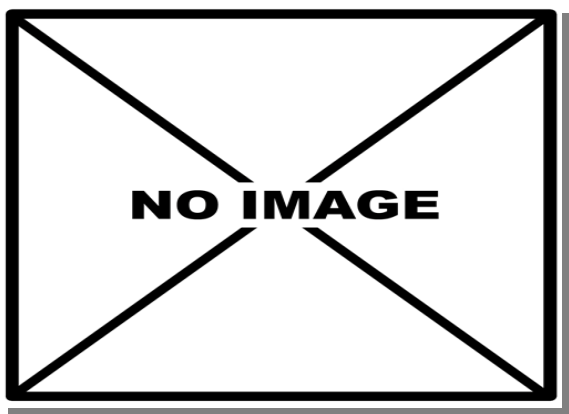
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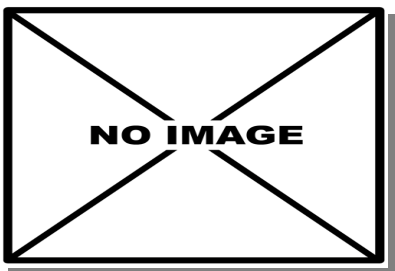
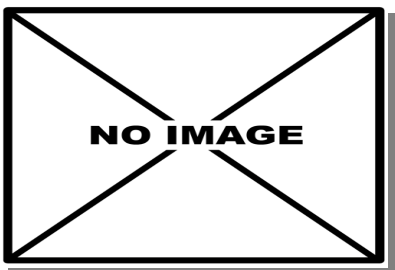
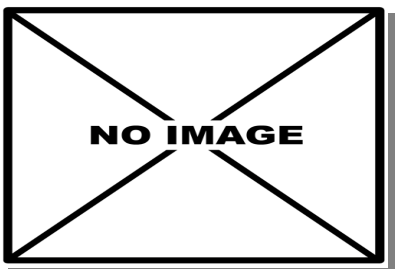
Grey Wagtail. Spring. Adult. Female with dark throat ().



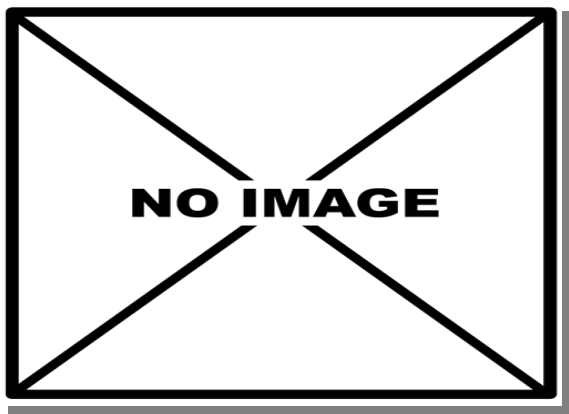
Grey Wagtail. Spring. 2nd year. Female ().



Grey Wagtail. Spring. Adult. Female with pale throat ().

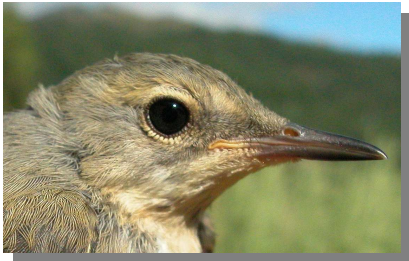
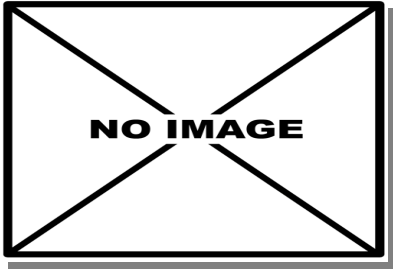
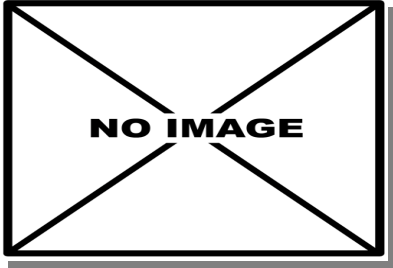


Grey Wagtail. Spring. Adult. Pattern of head and throat: top male (); middle female with dark throat (); bottom female with pale throat ().

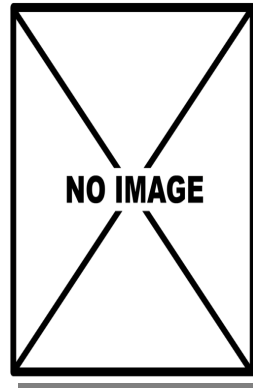
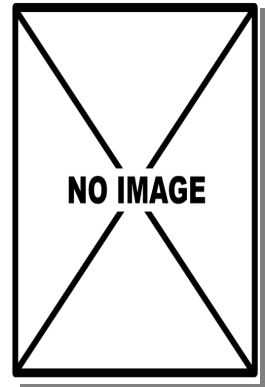
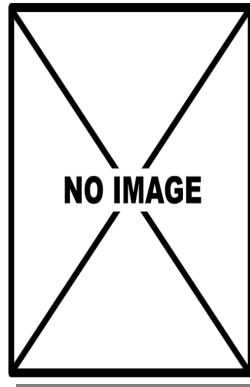


Grey Wagtail. Spring. 2nd year. Male ().

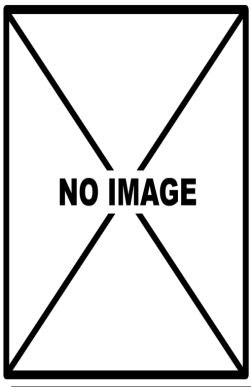
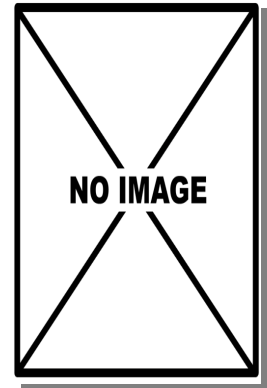
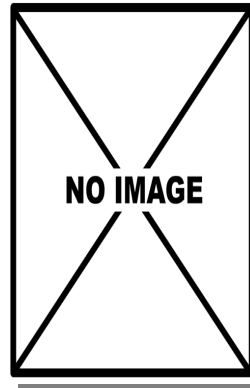
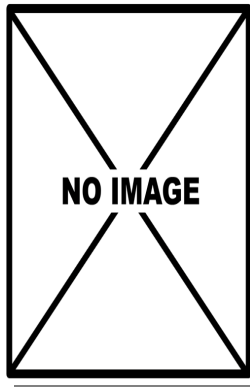
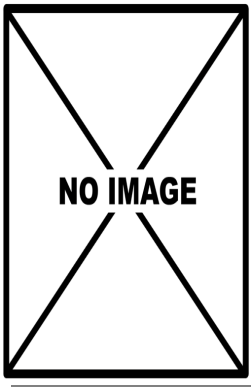
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Grey Wagtail. Spring. Adult. Pattern of head and throat: top 2nd year male (); middle 2nd year female (); bottom juvenile (09-VII)



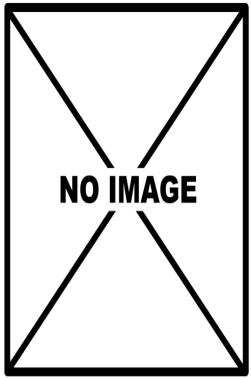
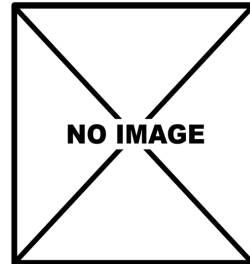
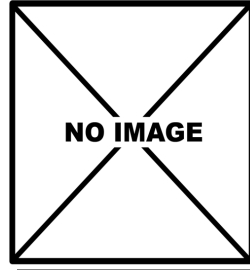
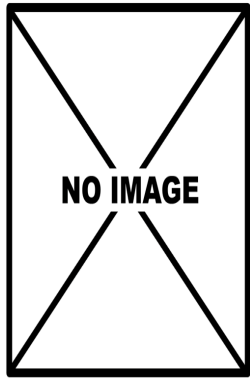
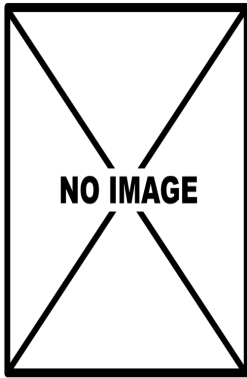
Grey Wagtail. Spring. Adult. Pattern of head and throat: top left 2nd year male (); top right 2nd year female (); left juvenile (09-VII)



Grey Wagtail. Spring. Adult. Pattern of throat: top left male (); top right female with dark throat (); left female with pale throat ().

Grey Wagtail. Spring. Adult. Crown pattern: left male (); right female ().

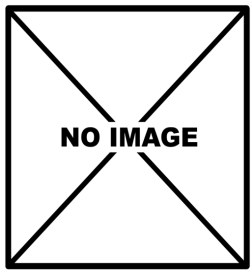
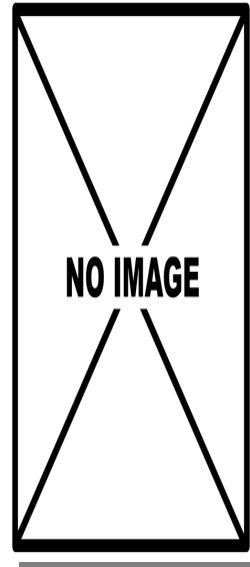
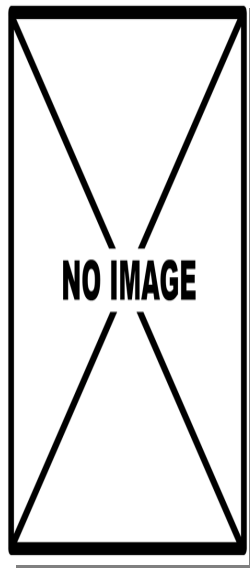
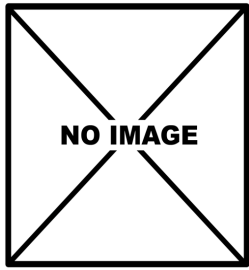
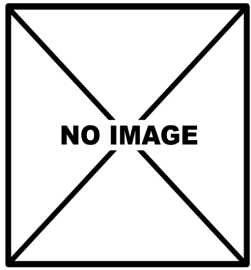
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Grey Wagtail. Spring. Crown pattern: top left 2nd year male (); top right 2nd year female (); left juvenile ()



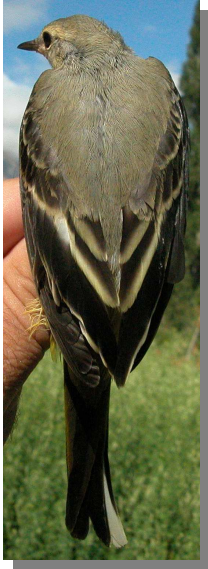
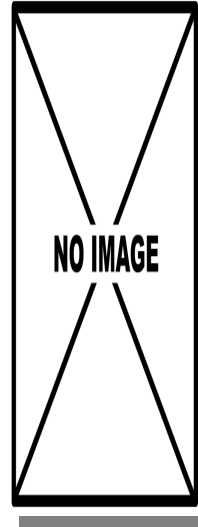
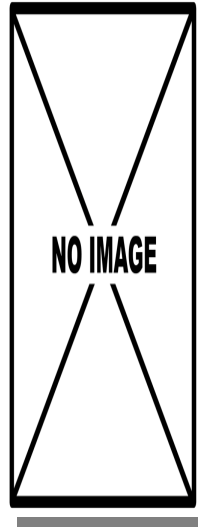
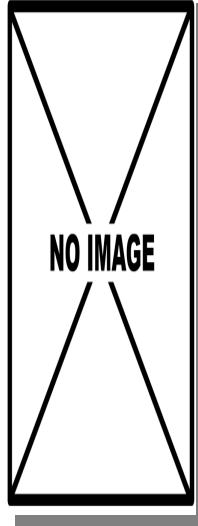
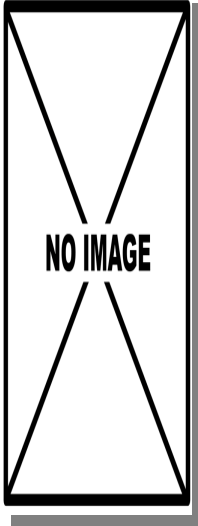
Grey Wagtail. Spring. Breast pattern: top left 2nd year male (); top right 2nd year female (); left juvenile (09-VII)



Grey Wagtail. Spring. Adult. Breast pattern: top left male (); top right female with dark throat (); left female with pale throat ().

Grey Wagtail. Spring. Adult. Upperpart pattern: left male (); right female ().

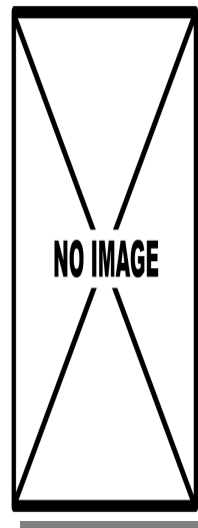
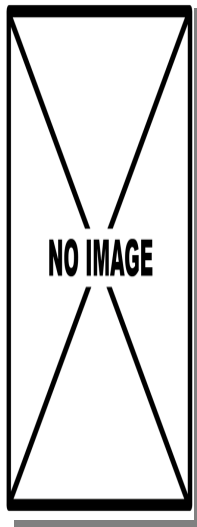
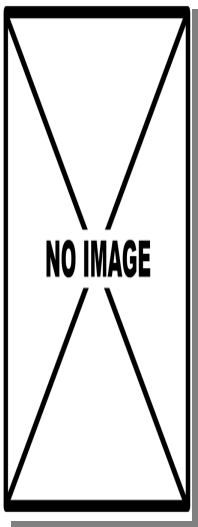
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Grey Wagtail. Spring. Upperpart pattern: top left 2nd year male (); top right 2nd year female (); left juvenile (09-VII)



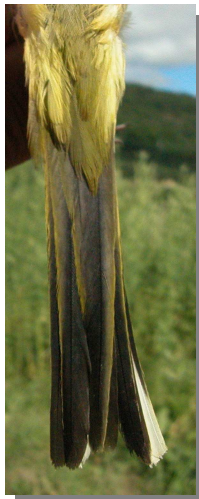
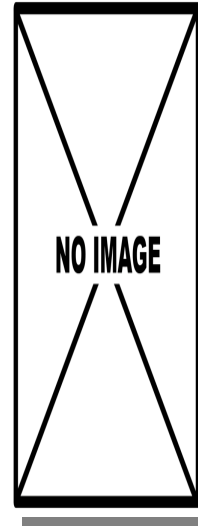
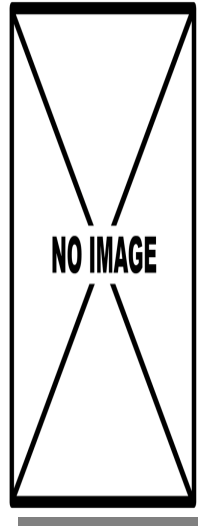
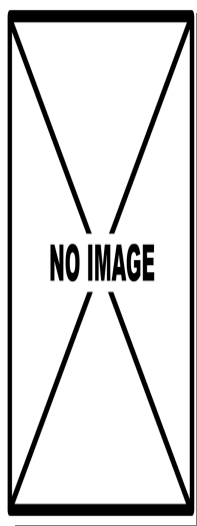
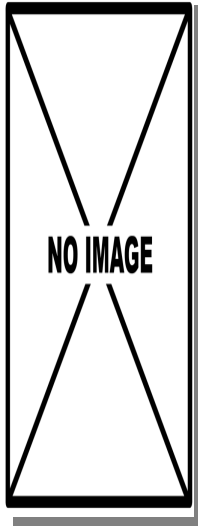
Grey Wagtail. Spring. Underpart pattern: top left 2nd year male (); top right 2nd year female (); left juvenile ()



Grey Wagtail. Spring. Adult. Underpart pattern: left male (); right female ().

Grey Wagtail. Spring. Adult. Tail pattern: left male (); right female ().

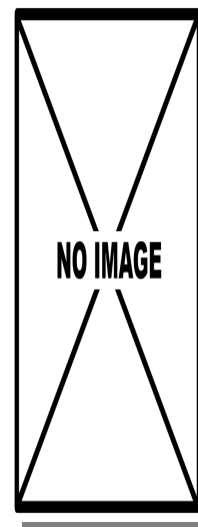
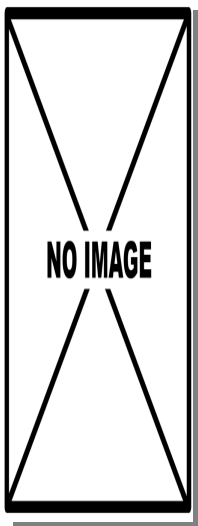
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Grey Wagtail. Spring. Tail pattern: top left 2nd year male (); top right 2nd year female (); left juvenile (09-VII)



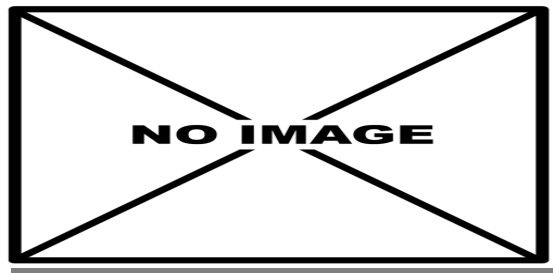
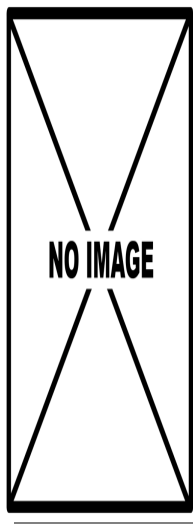
Grey Wagtail. Spring. Pattern of undertail coverts: top left 2nd year male (); top right 2nd year female (); left juvenile (09-VII)



Grey Wagtail. Spring. Adult. Pattern of undertail coverts: left male (); right female ().

Grey Wagtail. Spring. Adult. Pattern of tertials: left male (); right female ().

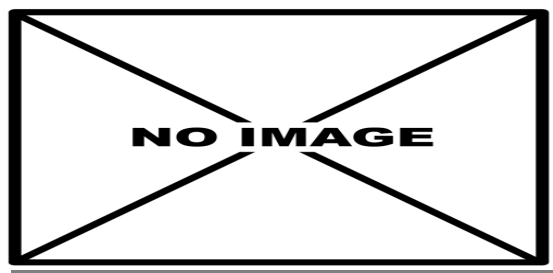
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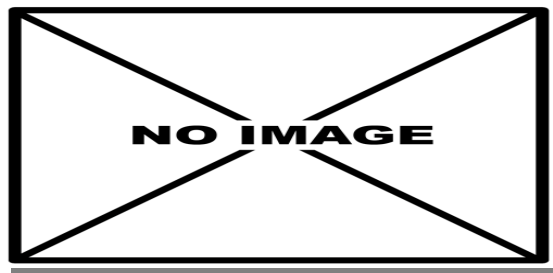
Grey Wagtail. Spring. Adult. Female: pattern of wing coverts ().



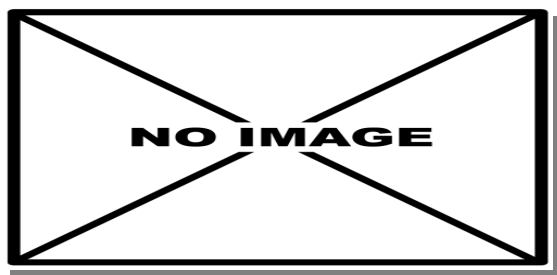
Grey Wagtail. Spring. Pattern of tertials: top left 2nd year male (); top right 2nd year female (); left juvenile ()



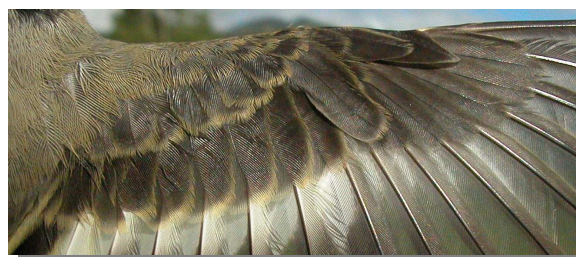
Grey Wagtail. Spring. 2nd year. Male: pattern of wing coverts ().



Grey Wagtail. Spring. 2nd year. Female: pattern of wing coverts ().

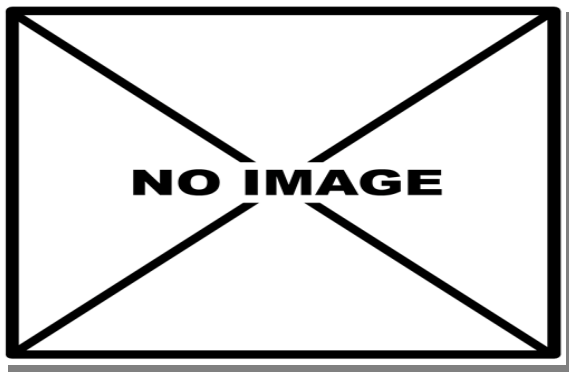


Grey Wagtail. Spring. Adult. Male: pattern of wing coverts ().

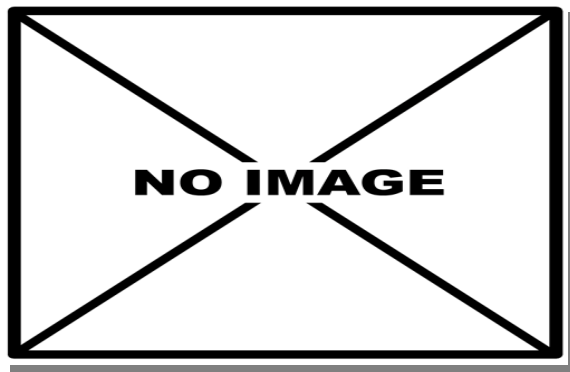


Grey Wagtail. Spring. Juvenile: pattern of wing coverts (09-VII).

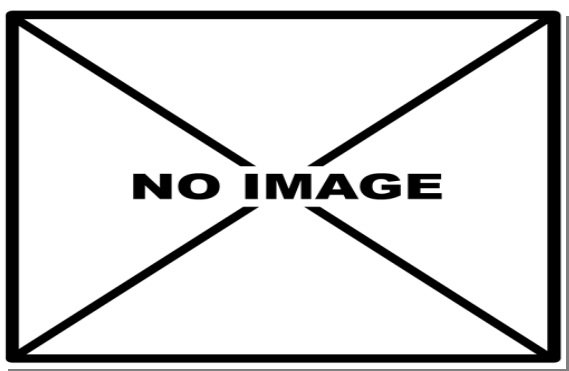
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Grey Wagtail. Spring. Adult. Male: pattern of wing ().



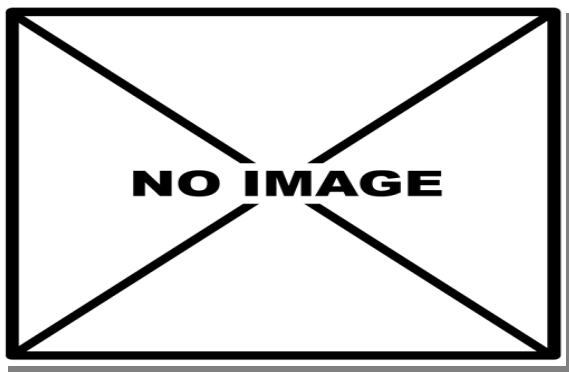
Grey Wagtail. Spring. 2nd year. Female: pattern of wing ().



Grey Wagtail. Spring. Adult. Female: pattern of wing ().



Grey Wagtail. Spring. Juvenile: pattern of wing (09-VII)



Grey Wagtail. Spring. 2nd year. Male: pattern of wing ().



Grey Wagtail. Winter. Adult (08-XII).

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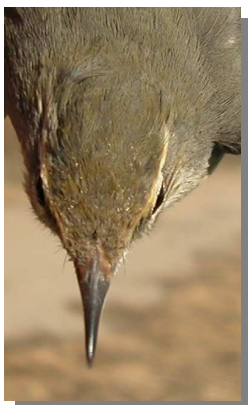
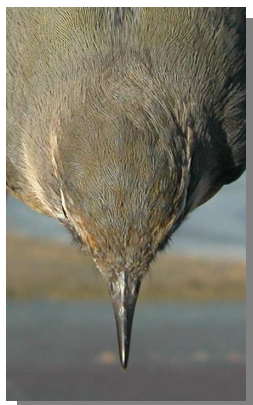
Grey Wagtail. Winter. 2nd year (02-II).



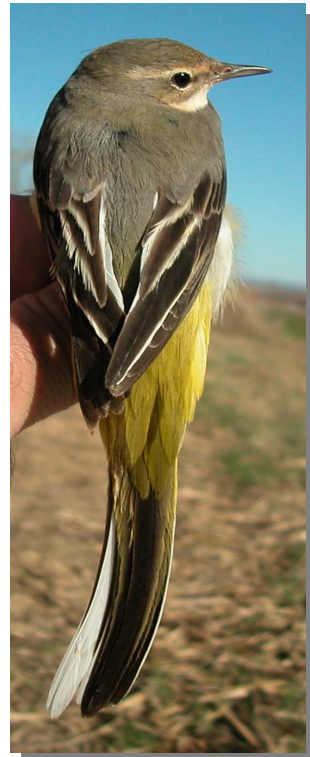
Grey Wagtail. Winter. Breast pattern: top adult (08-XII); bottom 2nd year (02-II).



Grey Wagtail. Winter. Head pattern: top adult (08-XII); bottom 2nd year (02-II).



Grey Wagtail. Winter. Crown pattern: left adult (08-XII); right 2nd year (02-II).



Grey Wagtail. Winter. Upperpart pattern: left adult (08-XII); right 2nd year (02-II).

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Grey Wagtail. Winter. Underpart pattern: left adult (08-XII); right 2nd year (02-II).



Grey Wagtail. Winter. Pattern of undertail coverts: left adult (08-XII); right 2nd year (02-II).



Grey Wagtail. Winter. Tail pattern: left adult (08-XII); right 2nd year (02-II).



Grey Wagtail. Winter. Pattern of tertials: left adult (08-XII); right 2nd year (02-II).

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Grey Wagtail. Winter. Adult; pattern of wing coverts (08-XII).



Grey Wagtail. Winter. 2nd year; pattern of wing coverts (02-II).



Grey Wagtail. Winter. Adult; pattern of wing (08-XII).



Grey Wagtail. Winter. 2nd year; pattern of wing (02-II).