

265 Cuckoo



Cuckoo. Adult. Male (02-VI).

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**.

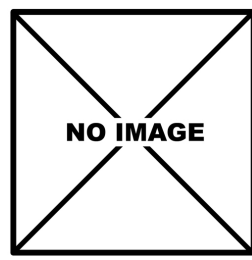
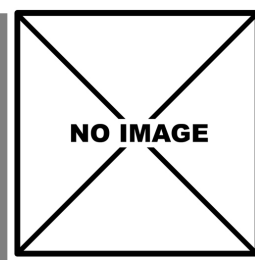
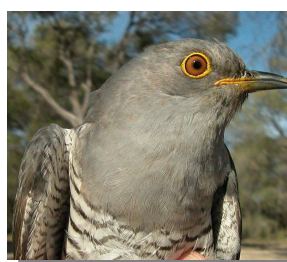
CUCKOO (*Cuculus canorus*)

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

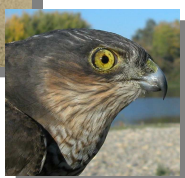
Size and long tail recall a **Sparrowhawk** or a **Kestrel**, both with curved bills.



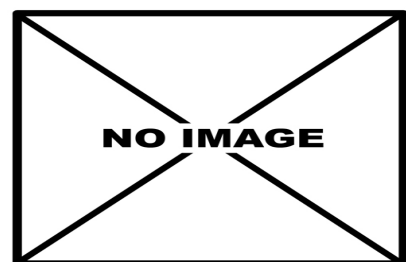
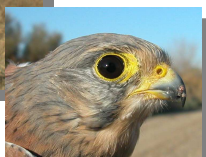
Cuckoo. Sexing. Pattern of breast: top left male; top right female with grey morph; left female with rufous morph.



Sparrowhawk



Kestrel



Cuckoo. Sexing. Pattern of wing coverts: top male; bottom female with grey morph.

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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 wing 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

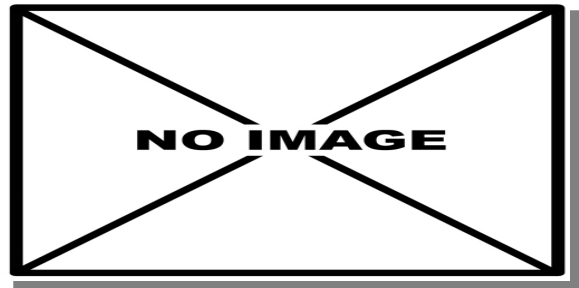
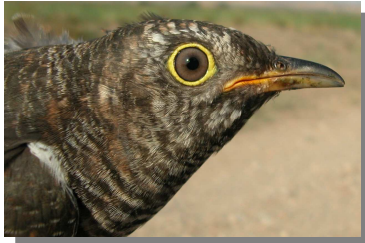
I	II	III	IV	V	VI	VII	VIII	IX	X	XI	XII

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.



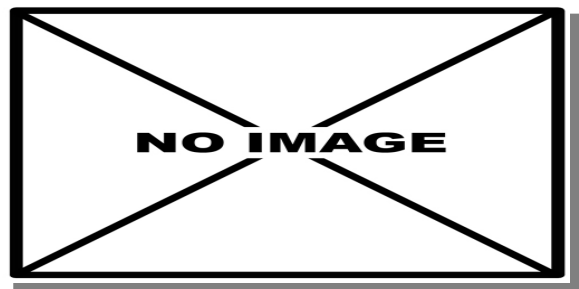
Cuckoo. Ageing. Pattern of iris: top adult; bottom juvenile.



Cuckoo. Adult. Female with grey morph ()



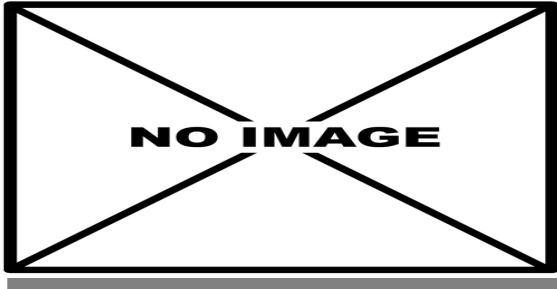
Cuckoo. Ageing. Pattern of secondaries: top adult; bottom juvenile.



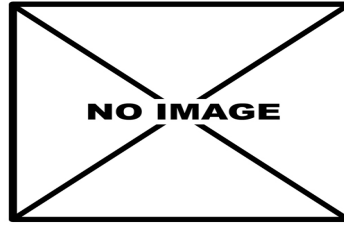
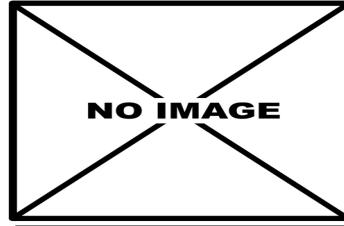
Cuckoo. Adult. Female with rufous morph ().



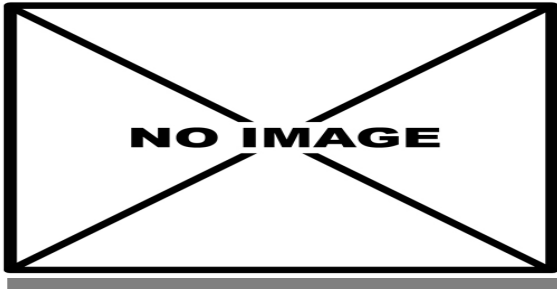
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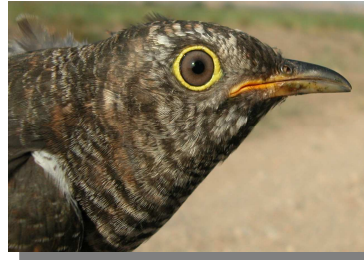
Cuckoo. 2nd year. Male ()



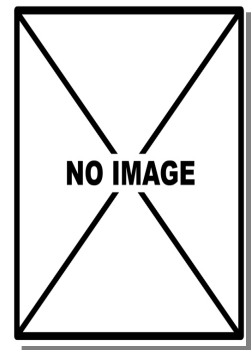
Cuckoo.
Head pattern:
top 2nd year
male ();
middle 2nd
year female
(); bottom
juvenile (21-
VIII).



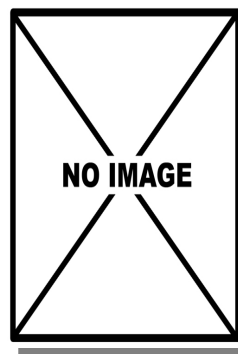
Cuckoo. 2nd year. Female ().



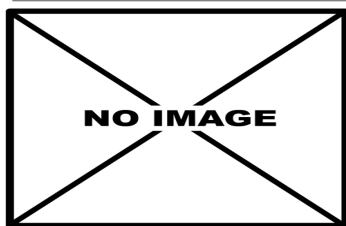
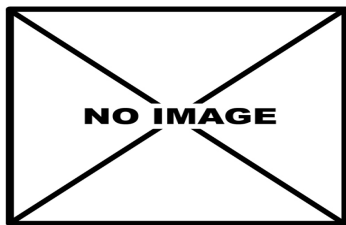
Cuckoo. Juvenile (21-VIII).



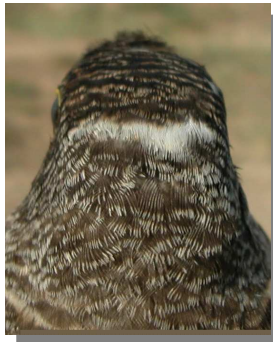
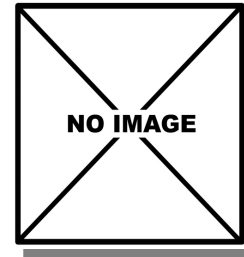
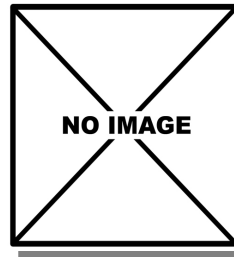
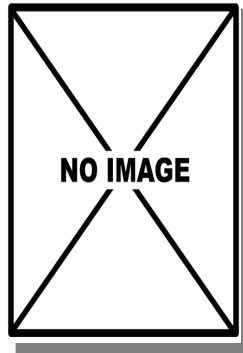
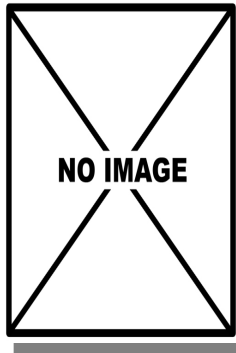
Cuckoo.
Adult. Head
pattern: top
male (02-
VI); middle
female with
grey morph
(); bottom
female with
rufous morph
().



Cuckoo. Adult. Nape
pattern: top left male
(02-VI); top right fe-
male with grey morph
(); left female with
rufous morph ().



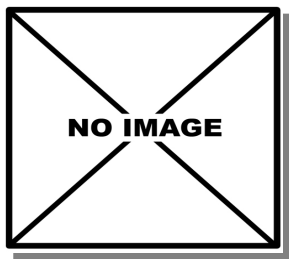
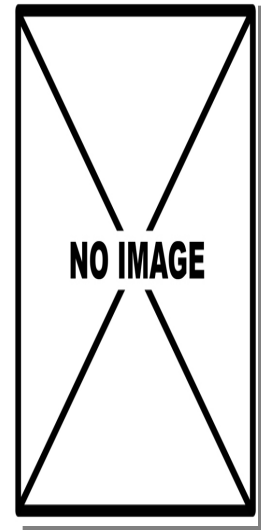
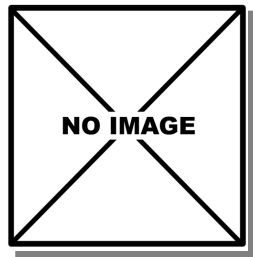
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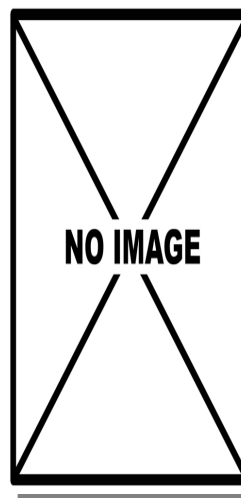
Cuckoo. Nape pattern: top left 2nd year male (); top right 2nd year female (); left juvenile (21-VIII).



Cuckoo. Breast pattern: top left 2nd year male (); top right 2nd year female (); left juvenile (21-VIII).

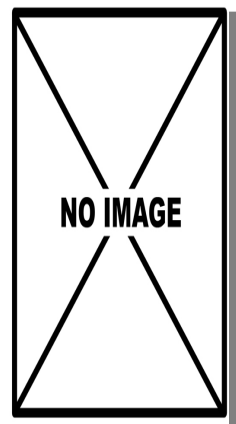
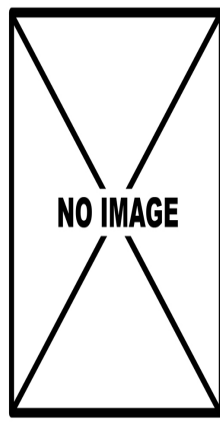
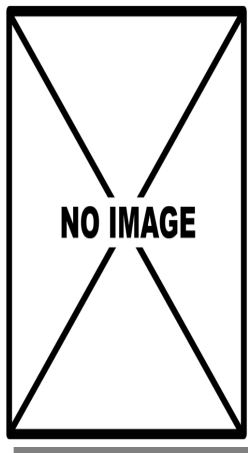
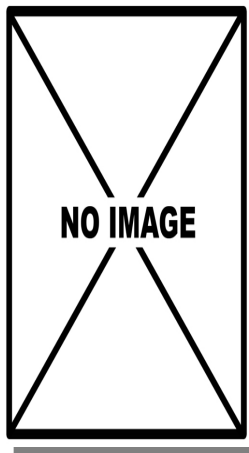


Cuckoo. Adult. Breast pattern: top left male (02-VI); top right female with grey morph (); left female with rufous morph ().



Cuckoo. Adult. Upperpart pattern: top left male (02-VI); top right female with grey morph (); left female with rufous morph ().

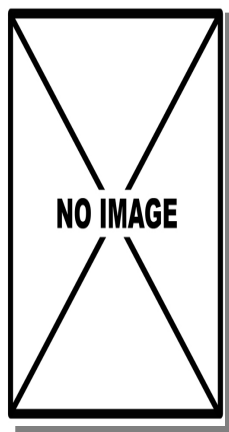
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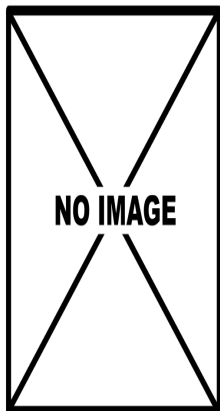
Cuckoo. Upperpart pattern: top left 2nd year male (); top right 2nd year female (); left juvenile (21-VIII).



Cuckoo. Tail pattern: top left 2nd year male (); top right 2nd year female (); left juvenile (21-VIII).

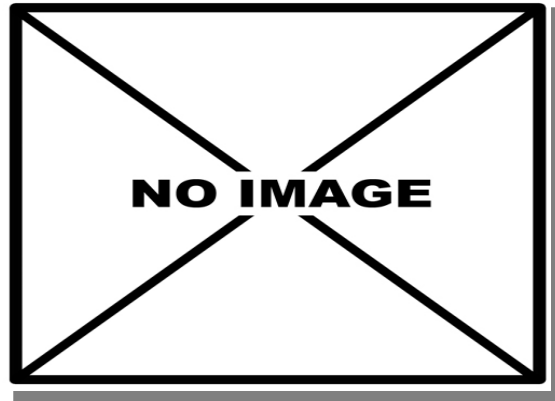
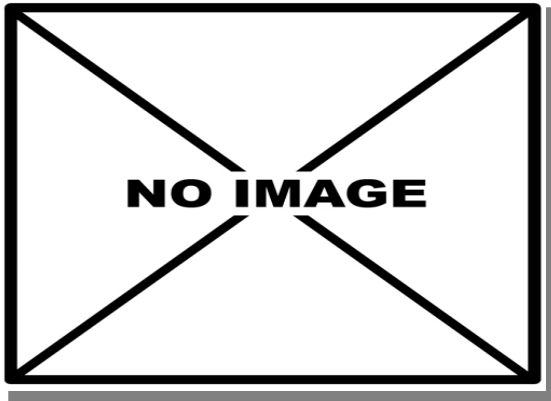


Cuckoo. Adult. Male: pattern of primaries (26-IV).



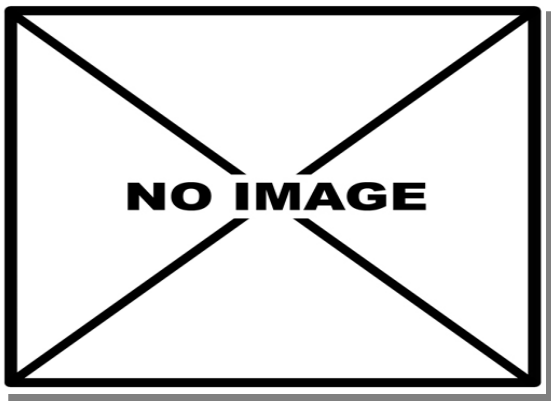
Cuckoo. Adult. Tail pattern: top left male (02-VI); top right female with grey morph (); left female with rufous morph ().

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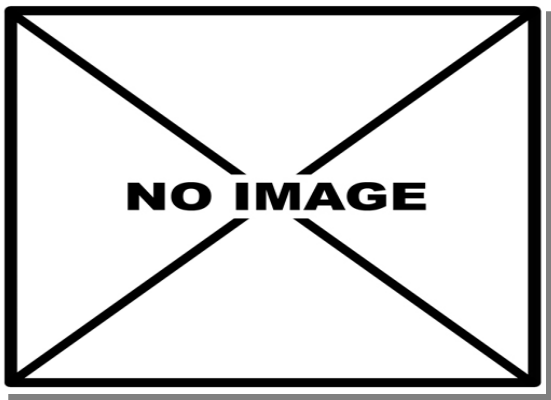
Cuckoo. Adult. Female with grey morph: pattern of primaries ().

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



Cuckoo. Adult. Female with rufous morph: pattern of primaries ().

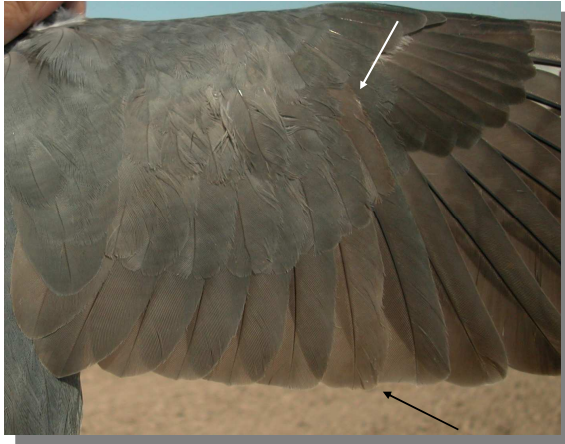
Cuckoo. Juvenile: pattern of primaries (21-VIII).



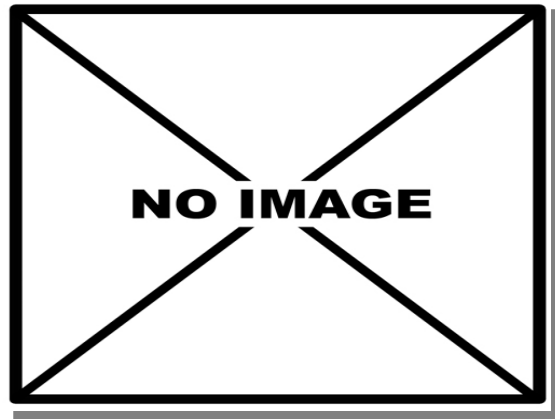
Cuckoo. 2nd year. Male: pattern of primaries ().

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

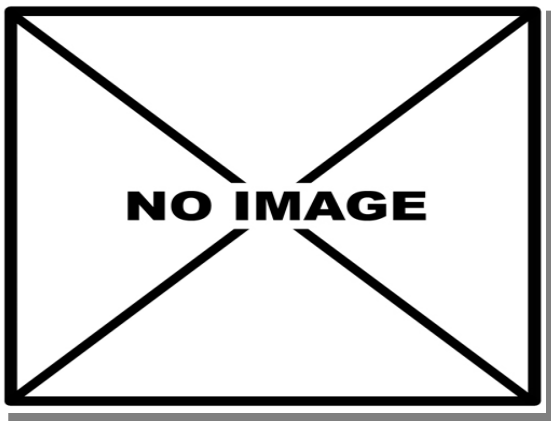
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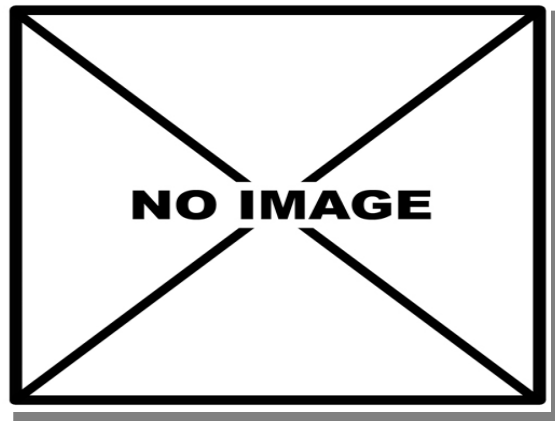
Cuckoo. Adult. Male with suspended moult: pattern of wing coverts and secondaries (12-IV).



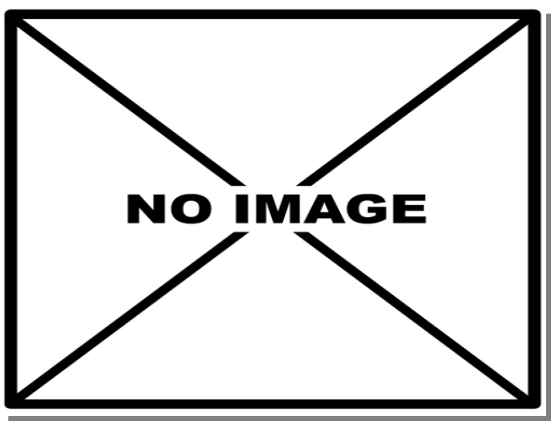
Cuckoo. 2nd year. Male: pattern of wing coverts and secondaries ().



Cuckoo. Adult. Female with grey morph: pattern of wing coverts and secondaries ().



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

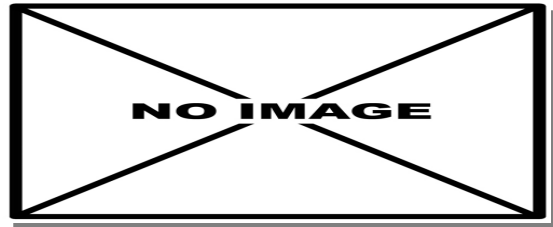
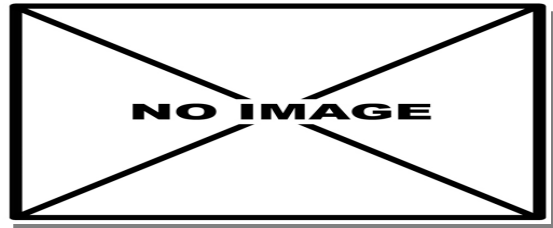


Cuckoo. Adult. Female with rufous morph: pattern of wing coverts and secondaries ().



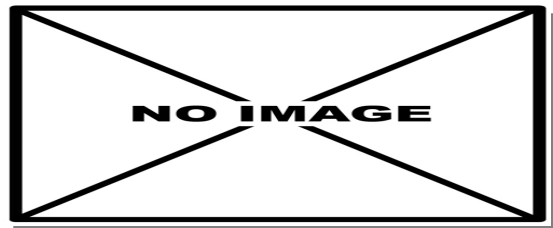
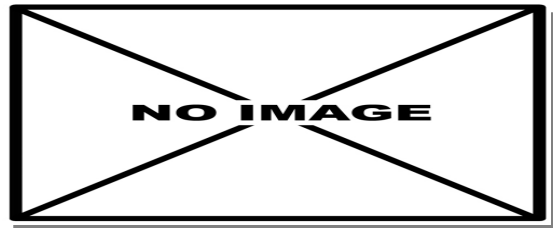
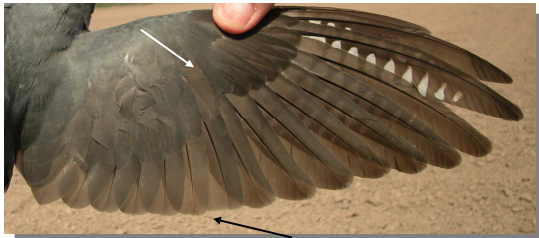
Cuckoo. Juvenile: pattern of wing coverts and secondaries (21-VIII).

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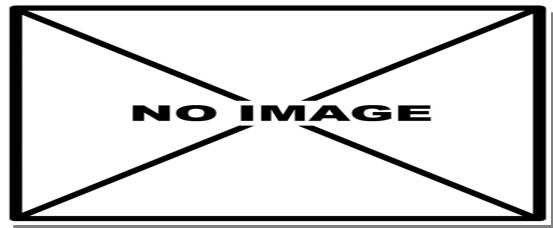
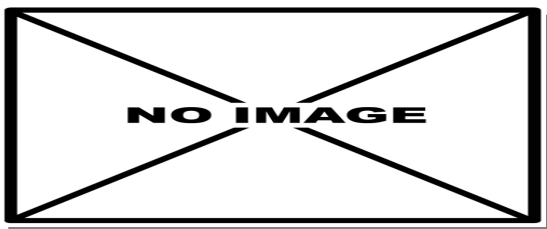
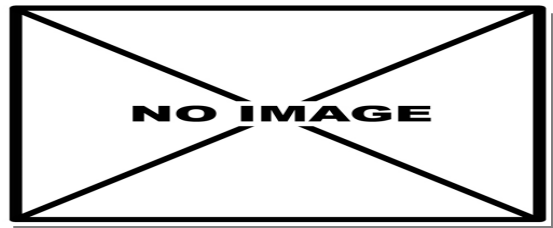
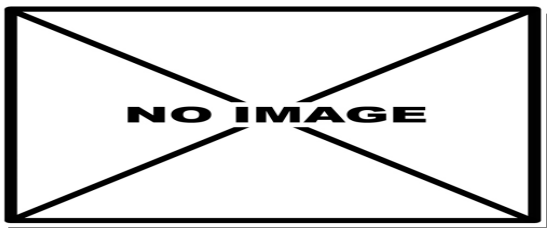
Cuckoo. Adult. Male with complete moult: pattern of wing (26-IV).

Cuckoo. Adult. Female with rufous morph: pattern of wing ().



Cuckoo. Adult. Male with suspended moult: pattern of wing (12-IV).

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



Cuckoo. Adult. Female with grey morph: pattern of wing ()

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

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Cuckoo. Juvenile: pattern of wing (21-VIII).