

BIRD IN THE HAND

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Jacky Winter *Microeca leucophaea*

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AGEING

This species, like the other members of its genus, has distinctive spotted juveniles. The juvenile wing coverts are retained in the immature, permitting separation from the otherwise similar adult. The outer tail feathers are white in all plumages, the amount varying geographically rather than with age or sex. Sexes do not differ in size or colouration, and cannot be separated.

Juvenile

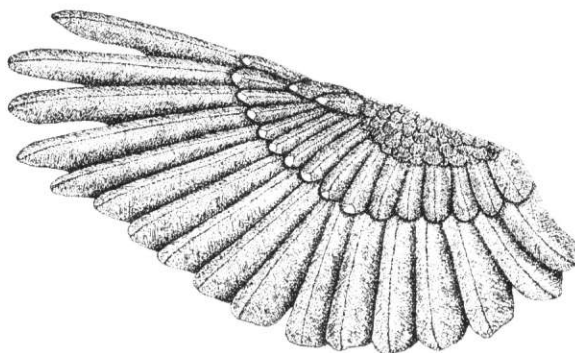
Upperparts dusky brown with whitish spots; underparts off-white with brownish spots; pale spots on tips of wing coverts; tail with white outer feathers (1a).

Immature

Like adult except for pale spots on tips of primary and outer secondary coverts and alula (1b and right).

Adult

Upperparts and wings dusky brown; underparts off-white; tail dusky brown with white on outer feathers (1c).



Wing of immature Jacky Winter showing pale tips to coverts.

Drawing by L. Hazel.



1a

JUVENILE



1b

IMMATURE



1c

ADULT

Drawing by D. Kent.