

	Female (Aug-Jul)	Female or Male	HY/SY (FCF) Male (Sep-Aug)
<b>Wg</b>	<b>55-57</b>	58-66	<b>67-69</b>
<b>BP/CP</b>	<b>brood patch</b> (May-Aug)		<b>cloacal protuberance</b> (May-Aug)
<b>Upperparts and throat</b>		without black mottling (especially if Aug-Apr)	<b>some black mottling</b> , especially about the lores, throat, and breast (occasionally including 1-3 inner gr covs)
<b>Outer pp cov</b>	broad, truncate, relatively fresh, and dusky brown, not contrasting in wear with the gr covs	narrow, tapered, relatively abraded, and pale brown with buff tips when fresh, contrasting with the slightly fresher gr cov	
<b>Rects</b>	relatively fresh and dusky	relatively abraded and washed brownish	
<b>R3 yellow patch</b>	<b>lacking</b>	present	
<b>Breast-side patches</b>		lemon-yellow to orange-yellow, <u>not</u> contrasting markedly in color with the underwing cov	orangish yellow to salmon colored, <b>contrasting</b> with the yellow underwing cov
<b>Rump versus back</b>	pale gray, <b>not contrasting</b> distinctly in color with the back		dark gray, <b>contrasting</b> distinctly with the paler gray back

**Notes:**

HY/SY in Aug-Mar, without the black feathering of males, should be sexed with caution.

The rump/back plumage comparison appears to be the best criterion for sexing.

Very old females may have some black body feathering.

Beware of occasional SY, Males in Apr-Jun that can lack black feathering