

Basics: Postjuvenile moult comprises body-feathers, lesser and median coverts and 2-10 greater coverts. On average, 4.7 greater coverts are renewed (mostly 5); only 3% moult all greater coverts ($n = 64$). According to Svensson (1992), some can renew all their greater coverts, all tertials and even R1 in the tail.

Adults have a complete post-nuptial moult.

1Y birds in autumn: Almost all 1Y birds show a moult break in the greater coverts. The unmoulted greater coverts have a light tip, which from about GC6 inwards is often drawn into a rose-thorn shape up the feather shaft. Moulted greater coverts show no tips, or more generally, a narrow lighter fringe. As in Song Thrush, the run of the pattern of the light tips along the greater coverts is often abruptly interrupted. There is also often a length-difference between the juvenile and renewed greater coverts.

Juvenile T8 and T9 as a rule show a triangular light tip, again drawn up the shaft. These tips can be individually variable. In adults only T8 occasionally has a narrow tip. Tail feathers are narrower and more pointed than in adults (as Song Thrush).

Adults: No moult limit in the greater coverts. Greater coverts at most with only narrow light tips, and mainly on the outer edge. These tips not drawn up the feather shaft, and not triangular or rose-thorn shaped. Tail feathers broader and more rounded than in 1Ys (as Song Thrush).

Ageing in winter: There is no pre-breeding moult, so the same autumn ageing criteria remain valid. However, wear into spring can result in the disappearance of the IY light tips to the greater coverts and tertials. Since there is barely any difference in the ground colour of the moulted and unmoulted greater coverts, the result is that some individuals will not be distinguishable.