

Contents

Introduction	4
Using this book	7
Size	7
Structure and shape	10
Coloration	14
Flight	16
Flocking	22
Calls	27
Confusion species	28
The illustrations	29
The photographs, Nomenclature, Family and species order, Sources of knowledge	29
Glossary	30
Topography of a flying bird	32
The species accounts	29
The types of bird	34
Pigeons and doves (including comparative illustrations).....	42
Cuckoos.....	58
Parakeets.....	62
Hoopoes.....	64
Bee-eaters.....	66
Rollers.....	70
Kingfishers.....	72
Woodpeckers (including comparative illustrations).....	78
Orioles.....	96
Swifts, swallows and martins (including comparative illustrations).....	98
Shrikes (including comparative illustrations).....	120
Corvids (including comparative illustrations).....	136
Tits (including comparative illustrations).....	162
Larks and pipits (including comparative illustrations).....	186
Wagtails (including comparative illustrations).....	222
Cisticolas.....	234
Prinias.....	246
Acrocephalus and Locustella warblers (including comparative illustrations).....	232
Iduna and Hippolais warblers (including comparative illustrations).....	232
Phylloscopus warblers and crests (including comparative illustrations).....	262
Sylvia warblers (including comparative illustrations).....	284
Nuthatches.....	308
Wallcreeper.....	312
Treecreepers.....	314
Wrens.....	316
Dippers.....	318
Waxwings.....	320
Starlings.....	322
Thrushes (including comparative illustrations).....	328
Flycatchers.....	354
Robins, nightingales and chats	362
Wheatears (including comparative illustrations).....	388
Accentors.....	404
Sparrows and finches (including comparative illustrations).....	408
Buntings (including comparative illustrations).....	456
Sources of further information	484
Acknowledgements and credits	486
Index	492

Columba pigeons

STRUCTURE & SHAPE: Body large, deep-breasted but head small. Wing large, moderately pointed. Tail broad, with broad black terminal band. **COLORATION:** Shades of grey. **FLIGHT:** Fast, energetic with strong wingbeats. **FLOCK:** Gregarious.

Rock Dove (Feral Pigeon)

Columba livia

L 30–35 cm | W 62–68 cm

SIZE Like Stock Dove [p. 46]; comparable to EURASIAN JACKDAW [p. 8] and Eurasian Jay [p. 138].

STRUCTURE & SHAPE Body rather narrow but deep-breasted. Head small and narrow. Wing large, moderately pointed. Tail broad.

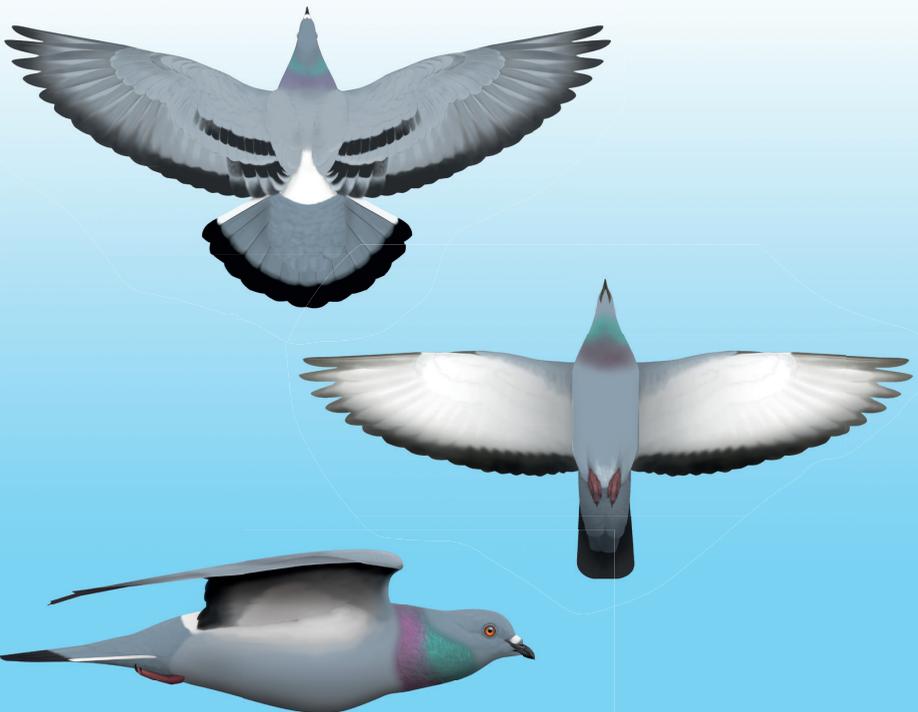
COLORATION Body mid-grey. Green and purple gloss on throat and around neck onto nape; no white on side of neck. Bill blackish. **ABOVE:** Upperwing grey, trailing edge black; two black bars on base of wing. Back contrastingly grey. Tail grey with black terminal band, *narrower than on Common Woodpigeon*, sides white. **BELOW:** Underwing uniformly white except for black trailing edge. Underbody as dark as breast, neck and head. Feral forms very variable: black, brown, grey-blue or white, some with mottled or sharply contrasted patchy patterning; many lack white on lower back, but underwing usually white with black trailing edge.

FLIGHT Fast, *but slightly slower than Stock Dove*, energetic; wingbeats full, *stiffer than Common Woodpigeon*. Glides on high-raised wings (in deep 'V'-shape), often 'swaying' from side to side.

FLOCK Usually 10–60, most often 15–20. Compact and dense, usually rounded, sometimes extended transversely. Very well coordinated, continuously manoeuvring, *rather similar to Eurasian Jackdaw* [p. 154] flock. Will sometimes join a Common Woodpigeon flock.

Non-migratory

Stock Dove (p. 46)
Common Woodpigeon (p. 48)
Eurasian Jackdaw (p. 154)



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CALL None known.

ROCK DOVE



FERAL PIGEONS



FERAL PIGEONS



ROCK DOVES



This index includes the English and scientific (in *italics*) names of all the birds featured.

Bold figures are used for the SECTION INTRODUCTIONS and main Species Accounts.

Bold Italicized figures indicate page(s) on which photographs appear if not on the main page-spread for the species concerned.

Normal figures indicate comparison spreads.

Regular text is used for alternative English names or spellings.

A

Acanthis flammea 450
Accentor, Alpine 406
Acrocephalus agricola 240
— *arundinaceus* 236
— *dumetorum* 243
— *melanopogon* 238
— *paludicola* 242
— *palustris* 238
— *schoenobaenus* 242
— *scirpaceus* 238
ACROCEPHALUS WARBLERS 232
Aegithalos caudatus 182
Alauda arvensis 188
Alaudala rufescens 192
Alcedo atthis 72
Alexandrinus krameri 62
Anthus campestris 206
— *cervinus* 216
— *godlewskii* 208
— *gustavi* 211
— *hodgsoni* 221
— *petrosus* 218
— *pratensis* 212
— *richardi* 208
— *spinoletta* 218
— *trivialis* 214
Apus affinis 106
— *apus* 100
— *caffer* 108
— *pallidus* 102

B

Bee-eater, Blue-cheeked 68
—, **European** 66
Blackbird, Eurasian 328, 269, 330
Blackcap, Eurasian 284, 285, 286, 288
Bluetail, Red-flanked 364
Bluethroat 361, 372
Bombycilla garrulus 320
Brambling 418
Bullfinch, Eurasian 420, 432
Bunting, Black-headed 456, 457, 466
—, **Cirl** 456, 457, 464
—, **Corn** 408, 409, 456, 457, 458
—, **Cretzschmar's** 456, 457, 468
—, **Lapland** 408, 409, 456, 457, 478
—, **Little** 456, 457, 474, 475
—, **Ortolan** 456, 457, 468
—, **Pine** 456, 457, 462
—, **Reed** 409, 456, 457, 476

Bunting, Rock 456, 457, 472, 475
—, **Rustic** 456, 457, 473, 475
—, **Snow** 456, 480
—, **Yellow-breasted** 456, 457, 470
BUNTINGS 408, 456
Bush-rob-in, Orange-flanked 364

C

Calandrella brachydactyla 192
Calcarius lapponicus 478
Carduelis carduelis 444
— *citrinella* 442
Carpodacus erythrinus 428
Cecropis daurica 112
Cercotrichas galactotes 376
Certhia brachydactyla 314
— *familiaris* 314
Ceryle rudis 76
Cettia cetti 248
Chaffinch, Common 408, 416, 457
CHATS 362
Chersophilus duponti 200
Chiffchaff, 'Caucasian' Mountain 263, 268
—, **Common** 233, 262, 263, 266
—, **Iberian** 263, 268
—, **Mountain** 263, 268
—, **Siberian** 268
Chloris chloris 434
Chough, Red-billed 136, 137, 158
—, **Yellow-billed** 136, 137, 156
Cinclus cinclus 318
Cisticola juncidis 234
Cisticola, Zitting 234
Clamator glandarius 60
Coccothraustes coccothraustes 454
Collared-dove, Eurasian 42, 43, 50
Columba livia 44
— *oenas* 46
— *palumbus* 48
Coracias garrulus 70
CORVIDS 136
Corvus corax 160
— *corone cornix* 150
— *corone corone* 150
— *frugilegus* 148
— *monedula* 154
CRESTS 262
Crossbill, Common 422, 424
—, **Parrot** 420, 422, 425
—, **Red** 420, 421, 422, 424
—, **Scottish** 422

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Crossbill, Two-barred 420, 426
Crow, Carrion 136, 137, 150, 152
 —, **Hooded** 136, 137, 150, 153
Cuckoo, Common 58
 —, **Great Spotted** 60
Cuculus canorus 58
Cyanecula svecica 372
Cyanistes caeruleus 168
 — *cyaneus* 170
Cyanopica cooki 146

D

Delichon urbicum 110
Dendrocopos leucotos 84
 — *major* 80
 — *syriacus* 80
Dipper, White-throated 318
Dove, Collared 42, 43, 50
 —, Eurasian Collared- 42, 43, 50
 —, European Turtle- 42, 43, 52
 —, **Laughing** 42, 43, 56
 —, Oriental Turtle- 42, 43, 54
 —, **Rock** 42, 43, 44
 —, **Stock** 42, 43, 46
 —, Turtle 42, 43, 52
DOVES 42
Dryobates minor 86
Dryocopus martius 90
Dunnock 404, 408, 409

E

Emberiza aureola 470
 — *caesia* 468
 — *calandra* 458
 — *cia* 472
 — *cirlus* 464
 — *citrinella* 460
 — *hortulana* 468
 — *leucocephalos* 462
 — *melanocephala* 466
 — *pusilla* 474
 — *rustica* 473
 — *schoeniclus* 476
Eremophila alpestris 204
Erithacus rubecula 362

F

Ficedula albicollis 358
 — *hypoleuca* 358
 — *parva* 356
 — *semitorquata* 358
Fieldfare 328, 329, 334
Finch, Citril 421, 442
FINCHES 408, 420, 421
Firecrest, Common 263, 282
Flycatcher, Collared 358, 360, 361
 —, **European Pied** 358, 360, 361
 —, **Red-breasted** 356, 361
 —, **Semi-collared** 358, 360, 361
 —, **Spotted** 354, 361
Fringilla coelebs 416
 — *montifringilla* 418

G

Galerida cristata 196
 — *theklae* 196
Garrulus glandarius 138
Geokichla sibirica 350
Goldcrest 262, 263, 282
Goldfinch, European 444
Grasshopper-warbler, Common 252
 —, **Pallas's** 254
Greenfinch, European 421, 434
Grosbeak, Pine 420, 430

H

Halcyon smyrnensis 74
Hawfinch 454
Hippolais icterina 260
 — *olivetorum* 258
 — *polyglotta* 260
HIPPOLAIS WARBLERS 232
Hirundo rustica 114
Hoopoe, Common 64

I

Iduna caligata 255
 — *opaca* 256
 — *pallida* 256
IDUNA WARBLERS 232
Irania gutturalis 374

J

Jackdaw, Eurasian 136, 137, 154
Jay, Eurasian 136, 138
 —, **Siberian** 136, 142
Jynx torquilla 306

K

Kingfisher, Common 72
 —, **Pied** 76
 —, **White-breasted** 74

L

Lanius collurio 122
 — *excubitor* 126
 — *isabellinus* 124
 — *meridionalis* 128
 — *minor* 130
 — *nubicus* 132
 — *phoenicuroides* 124
 — *senator* 134
Lark, Calandra 186, 187, 190
 —, **Crested** 186, 187, 196, 198
 —, **Dupont's** 187, 200
 —, Eurasian Sky 186, 187, 188
 —, **Greater Short-toed** 187, 192, 194
 —, **Horned** 187, 204
 —, **Lesser Short-toed** 187, 192, 195
 —, Shore 204
 —, Sky 186, 187, 188
 —, **Thekla's** 187, 196, 199
 —, Wood 187, 202
LARKS 186
Leaf-warbler, Hume's 263, 278
 —, **Pallas's** 262, 263, 280
Luscinia megarhynchos 82

<i>Linaria cannabina</i>	446	Parakeet, Rose-ringed	62
— <i>flavirostris</i>	448	<i>Parus major</i>	164
Linnet, Common	408, 409, 420, 446	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	410
<i>Locustella certhiola</i>	254	— <i>hispaniolensis</i>	410
— <i>fluviatilis</i>	250	— <i>italiae</i>	410
— <i>lanceolata</i>	252	— <i>montanus</i>	413
— <i>luscinioides</i>	250	<i>Pastor roseus</i>	326
— <i>naevia</i>	252	Penduline-tit, Eurasian	162, 163, 180
LOCUSTELLA WARBLERS	232	<i>Periparus ater</i>	166
Longspur, Lapland	408, 409, 456, 457, 478	<i>Perisoreus infaustus</i>	142
<i>Lophophanes cristatus</i>	178	<i>Petronia petronia</i>	414
<i>Loxia curvirostra</i>	422	<i>Phoenicurus ochruros</i>	366
— <i>leucoptera</i>	426	— <i>phoenicurus</i>	366
— <i>pytyopsittacus</i>	422	<i>Phylloscopus bonelli</i>	270
— <i>scotica</i>	422	— <i>borealis</i>	273
<i>Lullula arborea</i>	202	— <i>collybita</i>	266
<i>Luscinia luscinia</i>	370	— <i>fuscatus</i>	276
— <i>megarhynchos</i>	370	— <i>humei</i>	278
M		— <i>ibericus</i>	268
Magpie, Eurasian	136, 144	— <i>inornatus</i>	278
—, Iberian Azure-winged	136, 146	— <i>nitidus</i>	274
Martin, Collared Sand	98, 99, 118	— <i>orientalis</i>	270
—, Eurasian Crag	98, 99, 116	— <i>proregulus</i>	280
—, Northern House	98, 99, 110	— <i>schwarzii</i>	277
MARTINS	98	— <i>sibilatrix</i>	272
<i>Melanocorypha calandra</i>	190	— <i>sindianus lorenzii</i>	268
<i>Merops apiaster</i>	66	— <i>tristis</i>	268
— <i>persicus</i>	68	— <i>trochiloides</i>	274
<i>Monticola saxatilis</i>	378	— <i>trochilus</i>	264
— <i>solitarius</i>	380	PHYLLOSCOPUS WARBLERS	262
<i>Montifringilla nivalis</i>	482	<i>Pica pica</i>	144
<i>Motacilla alba</i>	224	<i>Picoides tridactylus</i>	88
— <i>cinerea</i>	230	<i>Picus canus</i>	92
— <i>citreola</i>	228	— <i>viridis</i>	94
— <i>flava</i>	226	Pigeon, Common Wood	42, 43, 48
<i>Muscicapa striata</i>	354	—, Feral	42, 43, 44
N		—, Wood	42, 43, 48
Nightingale, Common	305, 361, 370	PIGEONS	42
—, Thrush	370	<i>Pinicola enucleator</i>	430
NIGHTINGALES	362	Pipit, Blyth's	187, 208, 210, 222, 223
<i>Nucifraga caryocatactes</i>	140	—, Meadow	186, 187, 212
Nutcracker, Northern	136, 140	—, Olive-backed	187, 221
Nuthatch, Eurasian	308	—, Pechora	187, 211
—, Krueper's	311	—, Red-throated	187, 216
—, Western Rock	310	—, Richard's	187, 208, 210, 222, 223
NUTHATCHES	308	—, Rock	187, 218, 220
O		—, Tawny	186, 187, 206
<i>Oenanthe deserti</i>	394	—, Tree	186, 187, 214
— <i>finschii</i>	400	—, Water	187, 218, 220
— <i>hispanica</i> (incl. <i>melanoleuca</i>)	396	PIPITS	186, 222
— <i>isabellina</i>	392	<i>Plectrophenax nivalis</i>	480
— <i>leucura</i>	402	<i>Poecile cinctus</i>	174
— <i>oenanthe</i>	390	— <i>lugubris</i>	176
— <i>pleschanka</i>	396	— <i>montanus</i>	172
Oriole, Eurasian Golden	78, 96	— <i>palustris</i>	172
<i>Oriolus oriolus</i>	96	<i>Prinia gracilis</i>	246
Ouzel, Ring	328, 329, 332	Prinia, Graceful	246
P		<i>Prunella collaris</i>	406
<i>Panurus biarmicus</i>	184	— <i>modularis</i>	404
For general queries contact webmaster@press.princeton.edu		<i>Ptyonoprogne rupestris</i>	116
		<i>Parus major</i>	156

<i>Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax</i>	158	Sparrow, Spanish	408, 409, 410, 412
<i>Pyrrhula pyrrhula</i>	432	—, Tree	408, 409, 413
R		SPARROWS	408
Raven, Common	136, 137, 160	<i>Spilopelia senegalensis</i>	56
Redpoll	420, 450, 452, 453	<i>Spinus spinus</i>	436
—, Arctic	450	Starling, Common	322
—, Common	450	—, Rosy	326
—, Mealy	450	—, Spotless	324
Redstart, Black	361, 366, 368	STARLINGS	320
—, Common	361, 366, 369	Stonechat, 'Armenian'	386
Redwing	328, 329, 340	—, 'Caspian'	386
Reed-warbler, Blyth's	233, 238	—, Common	361, 384
—, Common	233, 238	—, 'Eastern'	386, 388, 223
—, Great	233, 236, 305	—, 'Siberian'	386
Reedling, Bearded	162, 163, 184	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>	50
<i>Regulus ignicapilla</i>	282	— <i>orientalis</i>	54
— <i>regulus</i>	282	— <i>turtur</i>	52
<i>Remiz pendulinus</i>	180	<i>Sturnus unicolor</i>	324
<i>Riparia riparia</i>	118	— <i>vulgaris</i>	322
Robin, European	361, 362	Swallow, Barn	98, 99, 114
—, Orange-flanked Bush-	364	—, Red-rumped	98, 99, 112
—, Rufous-tailed Scrub-	376	SWALLOWS	98
—, White-throated	374	Swift, Alpine	98, 99, 104
ROBINS	362	—, Common	98, 99, 100
Rock-thrush, Blue	380	—, Little	98, 99, 106
—, Rufous-tailed	378	—, Pallid	98, 99, 102
Roller, European	70	—, White-rumped	98, 99, 108
Rook	136, 137, 148	SWIFTS	98
Rosefinch, Common	408, 409, 420, 428	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>	286
S		— <i>borin</i>	287
<i>Saxicola rubetra</i>	382	— <i>cantillans</i>	292
— <i>torquatus hemprichii</i>	386	— <i>communis</i>	290
— <i>torquatus hibernans</i>	384	— <i>conspicillata</i>	291
— <i>torquatus maurus</i>	386	— <i>crassirostris</i>	297
— <i>torquatus rubicola</i>	384	— <i>curruca</i>	296
— <i>torquatus variegatus</i>	386	— <i>hortensis</i>	297
Scrub-robin, Rufous-tailed	376	— <i>melanocephala</i>	302
Serin, European	421, 438	— <i>mystacea</i>	303
—, Red-fronted	440	— <i>nisoria</i>	298
<i>Serinus pusillus</i>	440	— <i>ruppeli</i>	300
— <i>serinus</i>	438	— <i>subalpina</i>	292
Shrike, Great Grey	120, 121, 126	— <i>undata</i>	293
—, Iberian Grey	120, 121, 128	SYLVIA WARBLERS	284
—, Isabelline	120, 121, 124	T	
—, Lesser Grey	120, 121, 130	<i>Tachymarptis melba</i>	104
—, Masked	120, 121, 132	<i>Tarsiger cyanurus</i>	364
—, Red-backed	120, 121, 122, 305	Thrush, Black-throated	328, 329, 346, 348
—, Red-tailed	120, 121, 124	—, Blue Rock-	380
—, Woodchat	120, 121, 134	—, Dusky	328, 329, 342, 344
SHRIKES	120	—, Eyebrowed	328, 329, 345
Siskin, Eurasian	421, 436	—, Mistle	328, 329, 336
<i>Sitta europaea</i>	308	—, Naumann's	328, 329, 342
— <i>krueperi</i>	311	—, Red-throated	346
— <i>neumayer</i>	310	—, Rufous-tailed Rock-	378
Skylark, Eurasian	186, 187, 188	—, Rufous-throated	328, 329, 346, 349
Snowfinch, White-winged	456, 482	—, Siberian	328, 329, 350
Sparrow, Eurasian Tree	408, 409, 413	—, Song	328, 329, 338
—, House	408, 409, 410, 412	—, White's	328, 329, 352
—, Italian	408, 410, 412	THRUSHES	328
—, Rock	408, 409, 414	<i>Tichodroma muraria</i>	312
		Tit, Alpine	162, 163, 170

Tit, Bearded	184	Warbler, Hume's Leaf-	263, 278
—, Blue	162, 163, 168	—, Icterine	233, 260
—, Coal	162, 163, 166	—, Isabelline	233, 256
—, Crested	162, 163, 178	—, Lanceolated	252
—, Eurasian Blue	162, 163, 168	—, Marsh	233, 238
—, Eurasian Penduline-	162, 163, 180	—, Melodious	233, 260
—, Great	162, 163, 164	—, Menetries's	284, 285, 303, 304
—, Long-tailed	162, 163, 182	—, Moltoni's	285, 292, 294
—, Marsh	162, 163, 172	—, Moustached	247, 243
—, Penduline	162, 163, 180	—, Olivaceous	233, 256
—, Siberian	162, 163, 174	—, Olive-tree	233, 258
—, Sombre	162, 163, 176	—, Orphean	284, 285, 295, 297, 305
—, Willow	162, 163, 172	—, Paddyfield	233, 240
TITS	162	—, Pallas's Grasshopper-	254
Treecreeper, Eurasian	314	—, Pallas's Leaf-	262, 263, 280
—, Short-toed	314	—, Radde's	247, 263, 277
<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>	316	—, River	247, 250
<i>Turdus atrogularis</i>	346	—, Rüppell's	284, 285, 300
— <i>eunomus</i>	342	—, Sardinian	284, 285, 302, 304
— <i>iliacus</i>	340	—, Savi's	247, 250
— <i>merula</i>	330	—, Sedge	242
— <i>naumanni</i>	342	—, Spectacled	284, 285, 289, 291
— <i>obscurus</i>	345	—, Subalpine	284, 285, 292, 294
— <i>philomelos</i>	338	—, Western Bonelli's	263, 270
— <i>pilaris</i>	334	—, Western Olivaceous	256
— <i>ruficollis</i>	346	—, Western Orphean	284, 285, 295, 297, 305
— <i>torquatus</i>	332	—, Willow	262, 263, 264
— <i>viscivorus</i>	336	—, Wood	262, 263, 272
Turtle-dove, European	42, 43, 52	—, Yellow-browed	263, 278
—, Oriental	42, 43, 54	Waxwing, Bohemian	320
Twite	408, 409, 448	Wheat, Black	388, 389, 402
U		—, Black-eared	388, 223, 396, 398, 399
<i>Upupa epops</i>	64	—, Desert	388, 389, 394
W		—, Finsch's	388, 389, 400
Wagtail, Citrine	222, 223, 228	—, Isabelline	388, 389, 392
—, Grey	222, 223, 230	—, Northern	361, 388, 389, 390
—, 'Pied'	224	—, Pied	388, 389, 396, 399
—, Western Yellow	222, 223, 226	WHEATEARS	388
—, White	222, 223, 224	Whinchat	361, 382, 388, 223
—, Yellow	222, 223, 226	Whitethroat, Common	284, 268, 289, 290
WAGTAILS	222	—, Lesser	233, 263, 284, 285, 295, 296
Wallcreeper	312	Woodlark	187, 202
Warbler, Aquatic	242	Woodpecker, Black	78, 90, 137
—, Arctic	263, 273	—, Eurasian Green	78, 94
—, Barred	284, 285, 298, 305	—, Great Spotted	79, 80
—, Blyth's Reed-	233, 238	—, Green	78, 94
—, Bonelli's	263, 270	—, Grey-faced	78, 92
—, Booted	233, 255	—, Grey-headed	92
—, Cetti's	247, 248	—, Lesser Spotted	79, 86
—, Common Grasshopper-	252	—, Middle Spotted	79, 82
—, Common Reed-	233, 238	—, Syrian	79, 80
—, Dartford	284, 285, 293, 294	—, Three-toed	79, 88
—, Dusky	247, 263, 276	—, White-backed	79, 84
—, Eastern Bonelli's	263, 270	WOODPECKERS	78
—, Eastern Olivaceous	256	Woodpigeon, Common	42, 43, 48
—, Eastern Orphean	284, 285, 295, 297, 305	Wren, Northern (Eurasian)	247, 263, 316
—, Garden	233, 284, 285, 287, 288	Wryneck, Eurasian	305, 306
—, Great Reed-	233, 236, 305	Yellowhammer	408, 421, 456, 457, 460
—, Green	263, 274	<i>Zoothera aurea</i>	352
—, Greenish	263, 274		