

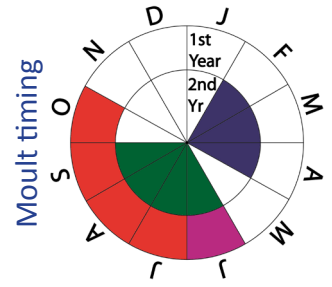
# Spotted Towhee

*Pipilo maculatus*

Account #: 9904



Species code: SPTO  
 Band size: 1A-2 (measure with leg gauge)  
 Skull: 1 Nov  
 Pyle: p536  
 Sibley: p474



## Moult

Juvenile	95%	50%	5%
Formative			
Basic			
Alternate			

likelihood moulted  
 9 visible primaries  
 9 secondaries  
 12 tail feathers



Formative & basic plumages are easily identified in males and slightly less easily in females. Alternate plumage is limited to throat.

## Ageing

Almost all individuals should be aged.



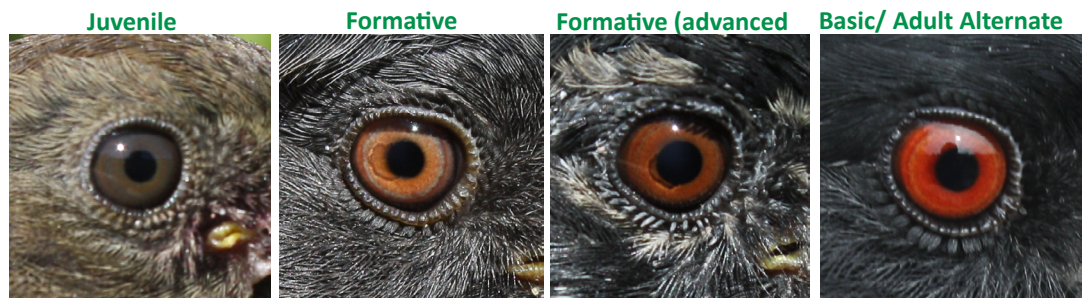
## GC/PC moult limit

Juvenile PC are much paler than formative GC and Alula.  
 In basic PC contrast slightly with GC and very little with Alula.



## Eye colour

**Beware:** From November onwards, birds in formative plumage may have fully developed eye colour.



## Juvenile plumage

Juvenile lacks black cap and rufous flanks.



# 9904 Sexing

Juvenile ☆☆☆☆☆

Formative ★★★★★

Basic ★★★★★

After the pre-formative moult sex is easily determined, although some interior subspecies are difficult. Juveniles of certain interior subspecies may be sexed. Cloacal Protuberance & Brood patch may be used.

## Male

**Head & upperparts:**

Glossy jet black

**Flight feathers:**

Dark brown or black



Male



Female

## Female

**Head & upperparts:**

Western Populations:

Ashy grey-black

Eastern Populations:

Grey-brown

**Flight feathers:** brown

(paler than male)

## Identification

Similar species: Eastern Towhee, hybrid Eastern X Spotted Towhee

### Spotted Towhee

Male and Female:

White spots on greater and median coverts

Female:

Ashy grey-black head



Spotted Towhee ♂



Eastern Towhee ♂

### Eastern Towhee

Male and Female:

No white spots on greater and median coverts

Female:

Dull brown head & back

White patch on primaries below primary coverts



Spotted Towhee ♀



Eastern Towhee ♀