

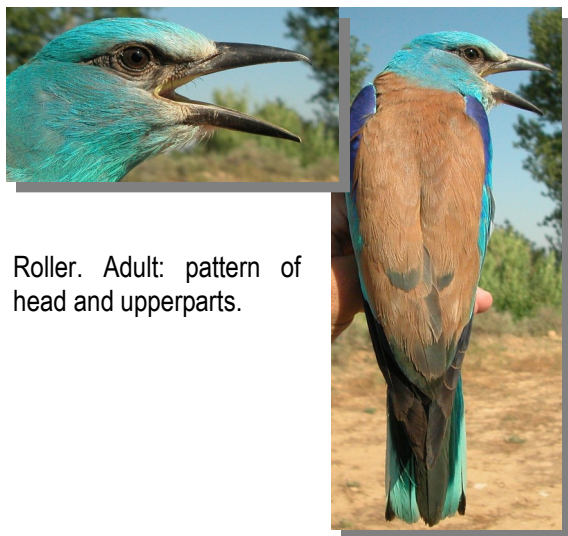
08410 European Roller (*Coracias garrulus*)



Roller. Summer. Adult. Male (03-VI).

IDENTIFICATION

28-31 cm. In **breeding** plumage, reddish chesnut upperparts, with bluish rump; blue greenish underparts with white streaks on throat; blue greenish head; tail with blue feathers, with green central pair; dark wings with blue coverts; black bill; yellowish legs. Duller plumage after **postbreeding** moult.



Roller. Adult: pattern of head and upperparts.

SIMILAR SPECIES

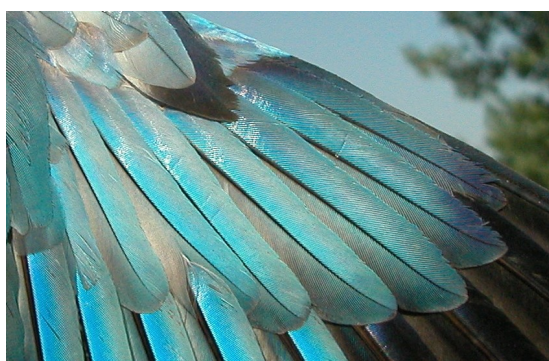
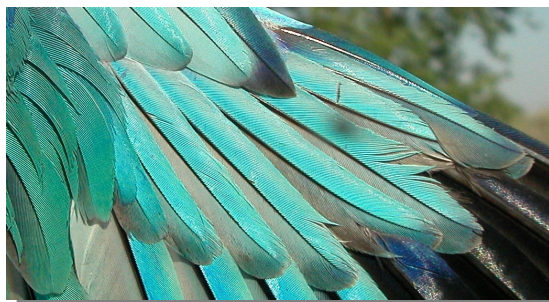
This species is unmistakable

SEXING

Both sexes look similar and the overlap is very large, making it a very difficult species to sex, often impossible. Only in some very extreme specimens: **male** with intense blue rump; pure blue lesser and median coverts. **Female** with blue and green feathers admixed on rump; lesser and median coverts with green feathers (**CAUTION**: some **2nd year males** look similar to **adult females**). Wing length may be helpful in extreme cases: **male** with wing longer than 20 cm. **Female** with wing shorter than 19 cm.



Roller. Adult. Sexing. Pattern of rump: left male; right female.



Roller. Adult. Sexing. Pattern of primary coverts: top male; bottom female.

08410 European Roller (*Coracias garrulus*)



Roller. Adult. Sexing. Pattern of wing coverts: top male; bottom female.

AGEING

3 age groups can be recognized:

Juvenile resembles an **adult** but duller and fresh; tip of the outermost tail feather without a black spot.

2nd year similar to **adult** but with unmoulted **juvenile** greater coverts, flight and tail feathers very worn.

Adult in **spring/summer** with colourfull plumage; flight and tail feathers worn; tip of the outer tail feather with a black spot. **CAUTION:** in **autumn**, body feathers moulted in **postbreeding** moult resemble **juvenile**, but **adults** have worn flight feathers.



Roller. Ageing. Pattern of head: top adult; bottom juvenile.



Roller. Ageing. Pattern of breast: left adult; right juvenile.

MOULT

Complete **postbreeding** moult; moult of body and flight feathers start in breeding areas in June, suspended before migration and then finished in wintering sites. Partial **postjuvenile** moult in wintering areas involving only body feathers, lesser and median coverts and some tail feathers (usually central and outer pairs). Both age classes have a **prebreeding** moult changing only body feathers.

PHENOLOGY

I	II	III	IV	V	VI	VII	VIII	IX	X	XI	XII



Roller. Summer. Adult. Female (03-VII).

08410 European Roller (*Coracias garrulus*)



Roller. Summer. 2nd year. Male (03-VII).



Roller. Summer. 2nd year. Female (03-VII).



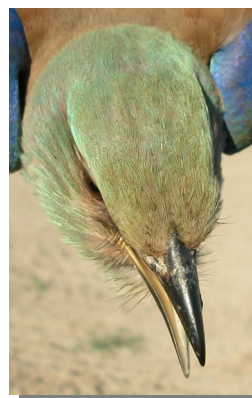
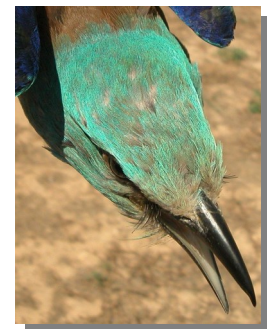
Roller. Summer. Juvenile (14-IX).



Roller. Summer. Adult. Head pattern: top male (03-VII); bottom female (03-VII).



Roller. Summer. Head pattern: top 2nd year male (03-VII); middle 2nd year female (03-VII); bottom juvenile (14-IX).



Roller. Summer. Crown pattern: top left 2nd year male (03-VII); top right 2nd year female (03-VII); left juvenile (14-IX).

08410 European Roller (*Coracias garrulus*)

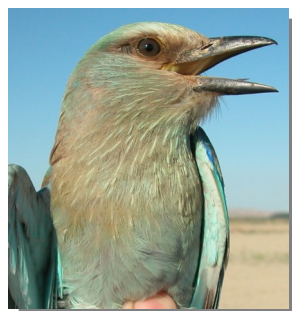
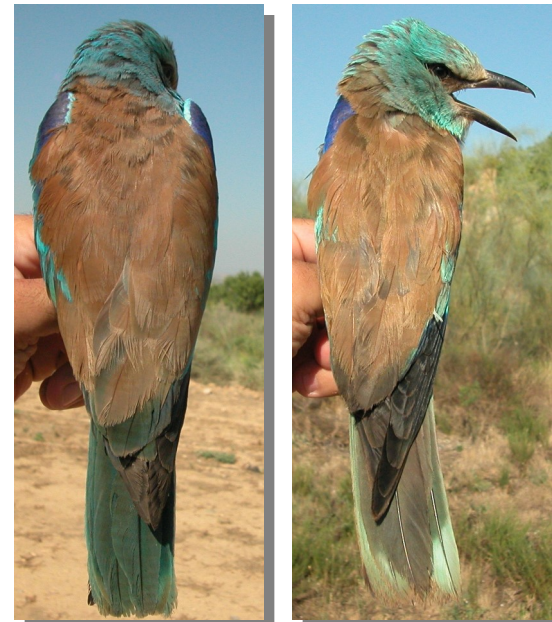


Roller. Summer. Adult. Crown pattern: left male (03-VII); right female (03-VII).



Roller. Summer. Adult. Upperpart pattern: left male (03-VII); right female (03-VII).

Roller. Summer. Adult. Breast pattern: left male (03-VII); right female (03-VII).



Roller. Summer. Breast pattern: top left 2nd year male (03-VII); top right 2nd year female (03-VII); left juvenile (14-IX).



Roller. Summer. Upperpart pattern: top left 2nd year male (03-VII); top right 2nd year female (03-VII); left juvenile (14-IX).

08410 European Roller (*Coracias garrulus*)



Roller. Summer. Adult. Rump pattern: left male (03-VII); right female (03-VII).



Roller. Summer. Adult. Tail pattern: left male (03-VII); right female (03-VII).



Roller. Summer. Rump pattern: top left 2nd year male (03-VII); top right 2nd year female (03-VII); left juvenile (14-IX).



Roller. Summer. Tail pattern: top left 2nd year male (03-VII); top right 2nd year female (03-VII); left juvenile (14-IX).

08410 European Roller (*Coracias garrulus*)



Roller. Summer. Adult. Male: pattern of alula and primary coverts (03-VII).



Roller. Summer. 2nd year. Female: pattern of alula and primary coverts (03-VII).



Roller. Summer. Adult. Female: pattern of alula and primary coverts (03-VII).



Roller. Summer. Juvenile: pattern of alula and primary coverts (14-IX).



Roller. Summer. 2nd year. Male: pattern of alula and primary coverts (03-VII).



Roller. Summer. Adult. Male: pattern of primaries (03-VII).



Roller. Summer. Adult. Female: pattern of primaries (03-VII).



Roller. Summer. Juvenile: pattern of primaries (14-IX).



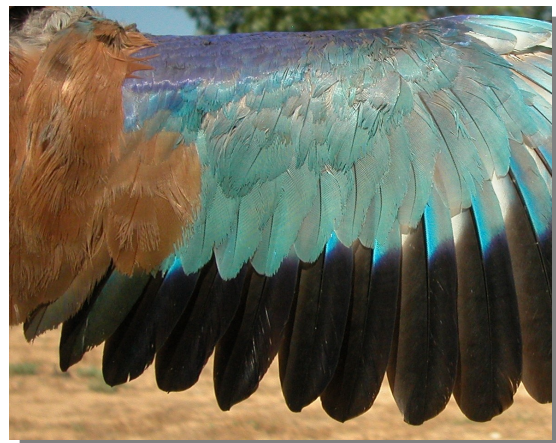
Roller. Summer. 2nd year. Male: pattern of primaries (03-VII).



Roller. Summer. Adult. Male: pattern of wing covers and secondaries (03-VII).



Roller. Summer. 2nd year. Female: pattern of primaries (03-VII).



Roller. Summer. Adult. Female: pattern of wing covers and secondaries (03-VII).

08410 European Roller (*Coracias garrulus*)



Roller. Summer. 2nd year. Male: pattern of wing coverts and secondaries (03-VII).



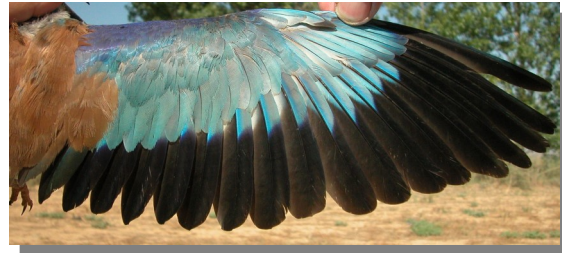
Roller. Summer. 2nd year. Female: pattern of wing coverts and secondaries (03-VII).



Roller. Summer. Juvenile: pattern of wing coverts and secondaries (14-IX).



Roller. Summer. Adult. Male: pattern of wing (03-VII).



Roller. Summer. Adult. Female: pattern of wing (03-VII).



Roller. Summer. 2nd year. Male: pattern of wing (03-VII).



Roller. Summer. 2nd year. Female: pattern of wing (03-VII).



Roller. Summer. Juvenile: pattern of wing (14-IX).