

# 297 Greater Short-toed Lark

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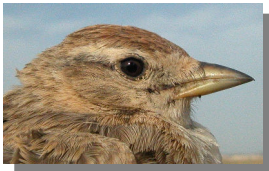
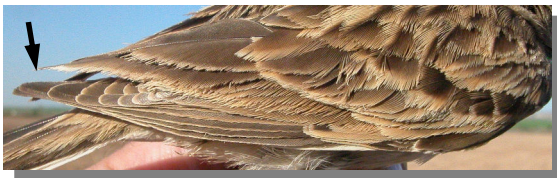


Greater Short-toed Lark. Autumn (27-VIII).

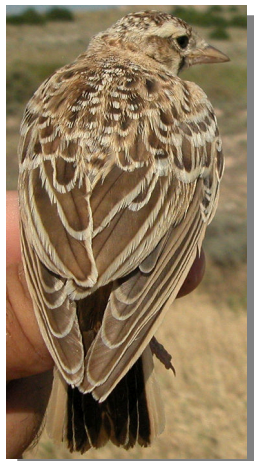
## GREATER SHORT-TOED LARK (*Calandrella brachydactyla*)

### IDENTIFICATION

14-16 cm. Brown upperparts, streaked dark; white underparts, with unstreaked breast but with two dark patches on the sides; with the wing folded tertials cover the tips of the primaries; bill long and with straight lower mandible; dark mouth in breeding period. **Juveniles** have streaked breast and pale edges on upperpart and wing feathers.



Greater Short-toed Lark. Juvenile: pattern of head and upperparts.



### SIMILAR SPECIES

Among small larks, **Woodlark** has a marked white supercilium and black patches on primary coverts. **Lesser Short-toed Lark** is very similar, but has streaked breast lacking both dark patches on upper breast; tertials don't cloak primary tips; breeders lack black inside of upper mandible. **Juveniles** of both species are very difficult to determine since tertials are short in both species; usually **juveniles** of **Lesser Short-toed Lark** have shorter and thick bill and darker plumage.



Woodlark



Lesser Short-toed Lark. Adult.

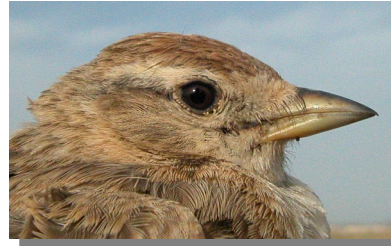


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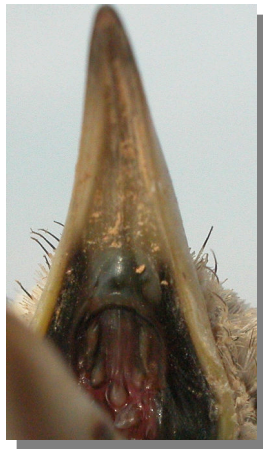
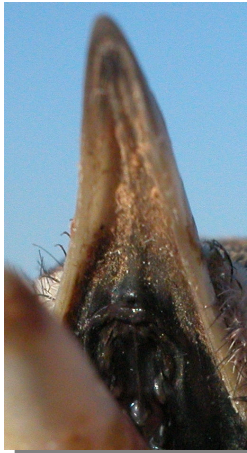
Lesser Short-toed Lark.  
Juvenile.



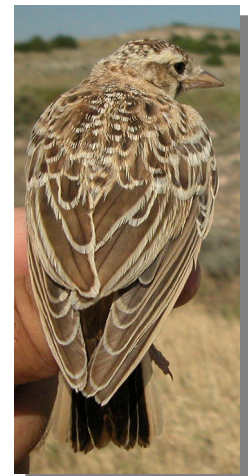
Greater Short-toed Lark.  
Ageing. Pattern of head:  
top adult; bottom juvenile.

## SEXING

Plumage of both sexes alike. Size can be helpful in extreme birds: **male** with wing longer than 95 mm; **female** with wing shorter than 85 mm. In **breeding season males** tend to have more intense black colour inside of upper mandible than **females**.



Greater Short-toed Lark. Spring. Sexing. Colour inside of upper mandible: left male; right female.



Greater Short-toed Lark. Ageing. Pattern of upper-parts: left adult; right juvenile.

## MOULT

Complete **postbreeding** and **postjuvenile** moults, usually finished in September.

## PHENOLOGY

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

## AGEING

2 age groups can be recognized:

**Juvenile** with pale edges on wing coverts; fresh plumage; with folded wing tertials do not cover the tips of the primaries.

**Adult** with narrow pale edges on wing coverts (usually early missing by wear); worn plumage in **spring**; with folded wing tertials cover the tips of the primaries.

After **postbreeding/postjuvenile** moults ageing is not possible using plumage pattern.

## STATUS IN ARAGON

Summer visitor. Widely distributed throughout the Region, absent only from Pyrenees and forests from Sistema Iberico.



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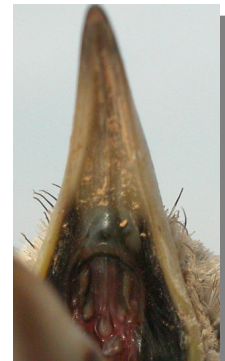
Greater Short-toed Lark. Spring. Adult (07-VII).



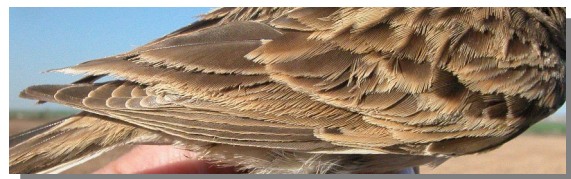
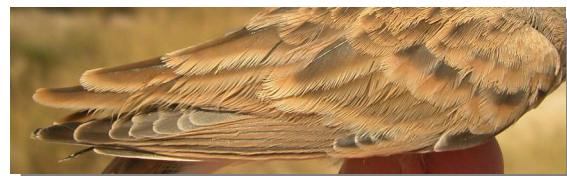
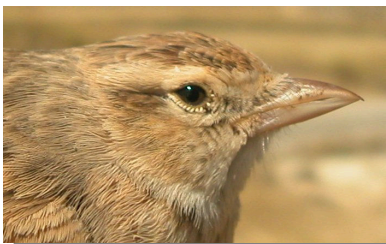
Greater Short-toed Lark. Pattern of breast: top left in autumn (27-VIII); top right adult in spring (15-V); left juvenile (07-VII)



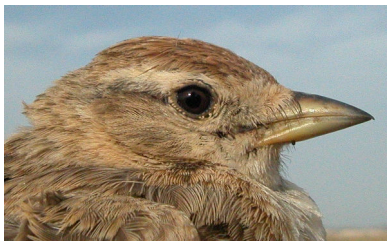
Greater Short-toed Lark. Spring. Juvenile (07-VII).



Greater Short-toed Lark. Spring. Colour inside of upper mandible: left male (26-IV); right female (15-V).



Greater Short-toed Lark. Pattern of head and bill: top in autumn (27-VIII); middle adult in spring (15-V); bottom juvenile (07-VII)

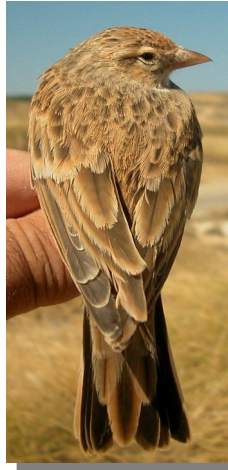


Greater Short-toed Lark. Wing formula (tertials cloak primary tips only in adults): top in autumn (27-VIII); middle adult in spring (15-V); bottom juvenile (07-VII)



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Greater Short-toed Lark. Spring. Legs colour: left adult (26-IV); right juvenile (03-VII)



Greater Short-toed Lark. Pattern of upperparts: top left in autumn (27-VIII); top right adult in spring (15-V); left juvenile (07-VII)



Greater Short-toed Lark. Autumn: pattern of wing (27-VIII)



Greater Short-toed Lark. Spring. Adult: pattern of wing (15-V)



Greater Short-toed Lark. Pattern of tail: top left in autumn (27-VIII); top right adult in spring (15-V); left juvenile (07-VII)



Greater Short-toed Lark. Spring. Juvenile: pattern of wing (06-VII)