

298 Lesser Short-toed Lark

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Lesser Short-toed Lark. Adult (04-V).



Lesser Short-toed Lark. Juvenile.



LESSER SHORT-TOED LARK (*Alaudala rufescens*)

IDENTIFICATION

13-15 cm. Brown upperparts, streaked dark; white underparts, with streaked breast; head without crest; with folded wing, tertials shorter than primary tips; bill short and with convex lower mandible; pale mouth in breeding period. **Juveniles** have streaked breast and pale edges on upperpart and wing feathers.

SIMILAR SPECIES

Among small larks, **Woodlark** has a marked white supercilium and black patches on primary coverts. **Short-toed Lark** is very similar, but lacks streaked breast and has both dark patches on upper breast; tertials cloak primary tips; breeders have black inside of upper mandible. **Juveniles** of both species are very difficult to determine since tertials are short in both species; usually **juveniles** of **Short-toed Lark** have longer and narrower bill and paler plumage.



Lesser Short-toed Lark. Adult.



Woodlark



Lesser Short-toed Lark. Spring. Colour inside of upper mandible.

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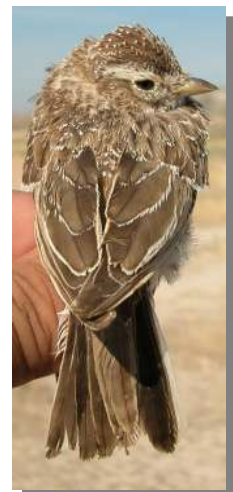
Short-toed Lark. Adult.



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



Short-toed Lark. Juvenile.



Lesser Short-toed Lark. Ageing. Pattern of upperparts: left adult; right juvenile.

MOULT

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

SEXING

Plumage of both sexes alike.

AGEING

2 age groups can be recognized:

Juvenile with pale white edges on wing coverts; fresh plumage.

Adult with sandy-buff edges on wing coverts (usually missing by wear); worn plumage in **spring**.

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

PHENOLOGY

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

STATUS IN ARAGON

Resident. Breeds only in steppic areas from the Ebro Basin.

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Lesser Short-toed Lark. Juvenile (28-VI)



Lesser Short-toed Lark. Upperpart pattern: left adult (04-V); right juvenile (28-VI)



Lesser Short-toed Lark. Pattern of head and bill: top adult (04-V); bottom juvenile (28-VI)



Lesser Short-toed Lark. Wing formula: tertials don't cloak primary tips: top adult (04-V); bottom juvenile (06-VII).



Lesser Short-toed Lark. Breast pattern: left adult (04-V); right juvenile (28-VI)



Lesser Short-toed Lark. Legs colour: left adult (04-V); right juvenile (06-VII).

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Lesser Short-toed Lark. Tail pattern: left adult (04-V); right juvenile (28-VI).



Lesser Short-toed Lark. Adult: pattern of wing (04-V).



Lesser Short-toed Lark. Juvenile: pattern of wing (28-VI).