

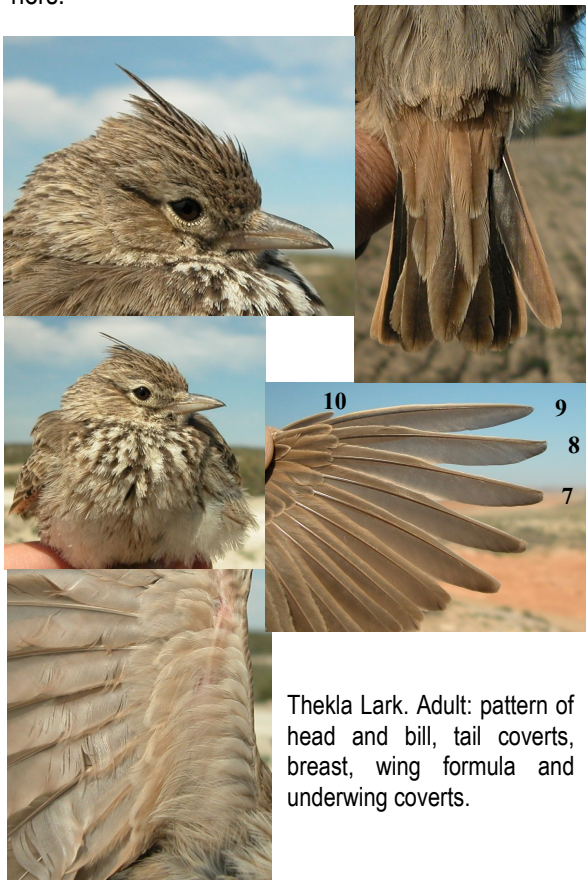


Thekla Lark. Autumn (28-XI).

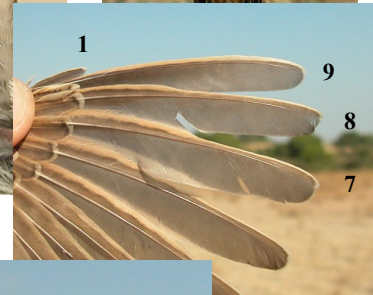
THEKLA LARK (*Galerida theklae*)

IDENTIFICATION

15-17 cm. Brown plumage; rusty outer tail feathers; head with crest and supercilium; tip of lower mandible slightly convex; breast distinctly streaked; rusty tinged uppertail coverts contrasting with rump; grey underwing coverts; 10th primary can be shorter or longer than primary coverts; primaries 7th and 8th are the longest. **Juveniles** have white edges on feathers.



Thekla Lark. Adult: pattern of head and bill, tail coverts, breast, wing formula and underwing coverts.



Thekla Lark. Juvenile: pattern of wing, breast, upperparts, underwing coverts, wing formula and head and bill.

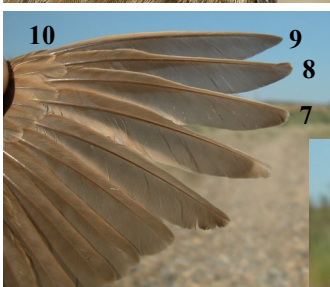
SIMILAR SPECIES

Among larks with crest, **Skylark** has white outer tail feathers. **Crested Lark** is very similar but has grey uppertail coverts; rust tinged underwing coverts; breast with diffuse streaked; 10th primary always shorter than primary coverts; bill is longer and straight near the tip. **Juveniles** of both species are difficult to determine being useful characters bill pattern, wing formula and paler plumage of **Crested Lark**.

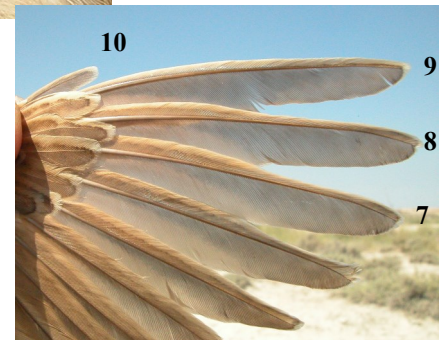
09730 **Thekla Lark** (*Galerida theklae*)



Skylark



Crested Lark. Adult.



Crested Lark. Juvenile

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SEXING

Plumage of both sexes alike. Size can be helpful in extreme birds: **male** with wing longer than 106 mm; **female** with wing shorter than 104 mm.

AGEING

2 age groups can be recognized:
Juvenile with distinct pale edges on wing coverts; short crest; fresh plumage.
Adult without prominent pale edges on wing coverts; long crest; worn plumage in **spring**.
 After **postbreeding/postjuvenile** moults ageing is not possible using plumage pattern.



Thekla Lark. Ageing. Pattern of head: top adult; bottom juvenile.



Thekla Lark. Ageing. Pattern of upperparts: left adult; right juvenile.



Thekla Lark. Ageing. Pattern of wing coverts: top adult; bottom juvenile.

MOULT

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

PHENOLOGY

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

- Summer visitor
- Wintering
- Resident
- On passage



Thekla Lark. Spring. Adult (09-V)

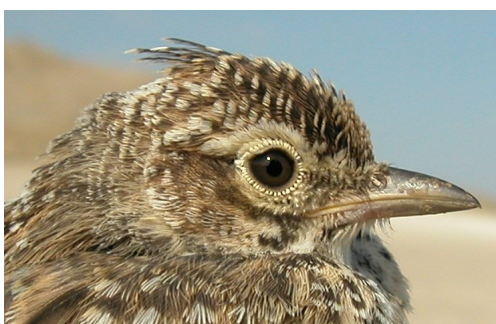
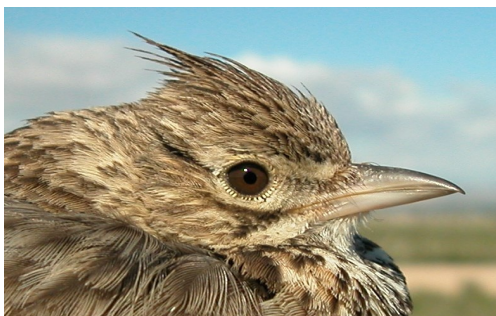
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Thekla Lark. Spring. Juvenile (11-VII)



Thekla Lark. Breast pattern: top in autumn (28-XI); middle adult in spring (09-V); bottom juvenile (11-VII).



Thekla Lark. Pattern of head and bill: top in autumn (28-XI); middle adult in spring (09-V); bottom juvenile (11-VII).



Thekla Lark. Tail pattern: top in autumn (28-XI); middle adult in spring (09-V); bottom juvenile (11-VII).

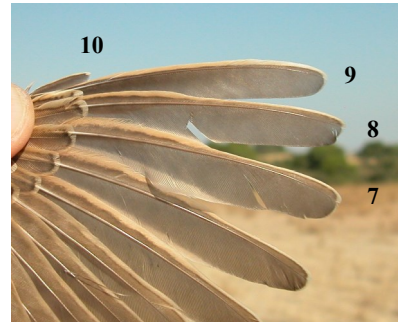
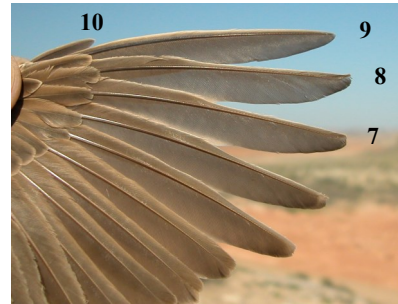
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Thekla Lark. Upperpart pattern: top in autumn (28-XI); middle adult in spring (09-V); bottom juvenile (11-VII).



Thekla Lark. Pattern of legs: top adult (04-V); bottom juvenile (27-VII)



Thekla Lark. Wing formula: top adult(04-V); bottom juvenile (27-VII)



Thekla Lark. Autumn: pattern of wing (28-XI).



Thekla Lark. Spring. Adult: pattern of wing (09-V).



Thekla Lark. Spring. Juvenile: pattern of wing (11-VII).