Rufous-tailed Scrub-robin (Cercotrichas galactotes) 💸 aranzadi



NOTE

Text and photographs provided by the Alzacola rojizo Team of the Scientific Ringing Group Erithacus Sur (Jaén and Córdoba).



Rufous-tailed Scrub-robin. Adult. (09-VII).

IDENTIFICATION

15-17 cm. Adults with brownish back and whitish belly. Head with well marked white supercilium and dark eye-stripe. Tail reddish with black and white tops to outer feathers. Pale legs. Juveniles similar in appearance to adults, if at all with fine mottling.





Rufous-tailed Scrubrobin. Pattern of head and tail.

SIMILAR SPECIES

It is not possible to confuse this species with any other.

SEXING

Both sexes with similar plumage. Size can help in extreme cases: male with wing longer than 90 mm; smaller sizes can be of both sexes.

AGEING

3 age groups can be recognised:

Juvenile with adult-like plumage but with slightly mottled throat and breast; fresh plumage, usually without moult limits; greater coverts with buff edge and tip; juvenile outer tail feathers with small black subterminal bar; central tail feathers without black spot around shaft at distal end; 2nd and 3rd tail feathers with typical buff tip; 4th tail feather tipped whitefore; 5th and 6th tail feathers ending in pure white.

2nd year with unmottled breast; unmoulted flight and tail feathers worn; usually with moult limit on wing and tail within moulted and retained feathers; central tail feathers usually retained and lacking black spot around the shaft at the distal end. CAUTION: some 2nd year birds may have had a complete moult and are indistinguishable from adults.

Adult with unspotted breast; flight and tail feathers little worn; greater coverts with pale edge and tip; outer tail feathers with large black subterminal bar and with pure white at tip; central tail feathers with black spot around shaft at distal end; if moult has started in autumn then with a mixture of fresh and worn feathers.





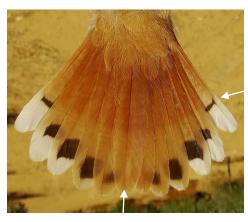
Rufous-tailed Scrub-robin. Ageing. Breast pattern: left adulto; right juvenile.

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Rufous-tailed Scrub-robin. Ageing. Tail pattern: top adult; middle 2nd year, bottom juvenile.

PHENOLOGY

| I | II | III | IV | ٧ | VI | VII | VIII | IX | Χ | XI | XII |
|--------|----|-----|----|---|----|------------|-------|----|---|----|-----|
| | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Summer | | | | | | | Resid | | | | |
| Winter | | | | | | On passage | | | | | |

MOULT

Complete postbreeding moult usually started on breeding grounds and suspended or started after arrival on wintering sites. Partial postjuvenile moult including body feathers, some or all tertials, none or some inner flight feathers, none or all tail feathers (rarely changed the central pair) and most or all wing coverts; usually started on wintering sites.



Rufous-tailed Scrub-robin. 2nd year (09-VII).



Rufous-tailed Scrub-robin. Juvenile (31-VIII).

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Rufous-tailed Scrub-robin. Head pattern: top adult (09-VII); middle 2nd year (09-VII), bottom juvenile (31-VIII).







Rufous-tailed Scrub-robin. Breast pattern: left adult (09-VII); right juvenile (31-VIII).



Rufous-tailed Scrub-robin. Adult. Tail pattern (09-VII).



Rufous-tailed Scrub-robin. 2nd year. Tail pattern (09-VII).



Rufous-tailed Scrub-robin. Juvenile. Tail pattern (31-



Rufous-tailed Scrub-robin. Adult. Wing pattern (09-VII).



Rufous-tailed Scrub-robin. 2nd year. Wing pattern (09-VII).

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Rufous-tailed Scrub-robin. Juvenile. Wing pattern (09 -VII).