

**10950 Rufous-tailed Scrub-robin** (*Cercotrichas galactotes*) 

**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).

**IDENTIFICACIÓN**

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 Scrub-robin. 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 white-fore; 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.

**10950 Rufous-tailed Scrub-robin** (*Cercotrichas galactotes*) 



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

**PHENOLOGY**

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

- Summer
- Winter
- Resident
- 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 (*Cercotrichas galactotes*)



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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-VIII).



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



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



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