



Nightingale. Spring. Adult (08-IV).

COMMON NIGHTINGALE (*Luscinia megarhynchos*)

IDENTIFICATION

15-17 cm. **Adult** with brown upperparts and greyish underparts; reddish tail. **Juvenile** with buff spots on upperparts and pale barred on underparts; tail similar to **adults**.



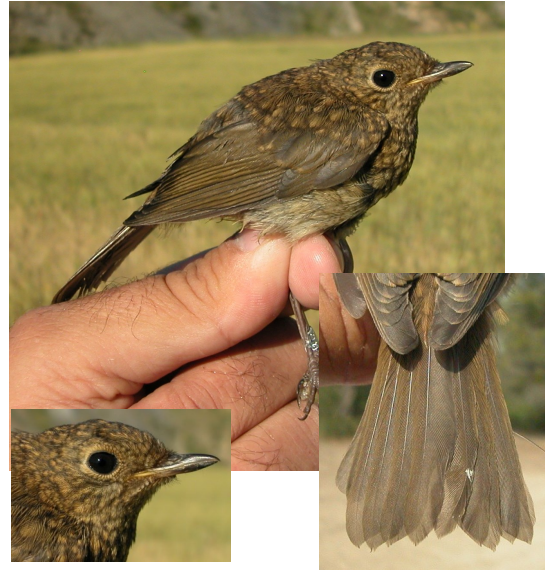
Nightingale. Adult: pattern of head and tail.



Nightingale. Juvenile: pattern of head and tail.

SIMILAR SPECIES

Juvenile is quite similar to juvenile **Robin**, which has not reddish tail. **Adult** recalls a female and juvenile **Redstart**, which have dark legs and central pair of tail feathers darker than the neighbors.



Robin. Juvenile.



Redstart. Female

SEXING

Plumage of both sexes alike. Size can be helpful in extreme birds: **male** with wing longer than 90 mm; **female** with wing shorter than 83 mm.


AGEING

3 age groups can be recognized:

Juvenile with spotted plumage.

1st year autumn/2nd year spring with moult limit between **juvenile** retained greater coverts, with pale spots on tips, and moulted ones, without spots; if all the greater coverts have been moulted then the moult limit is between tertials and secondaries. **CAUTION:** wear can delete pale spots on tips of **juvenile** greater coverts in **spring**.

Adult without spots on wing coverts.

11040 Common Nightingale (*Luscinia megarhynchos*) 



Nightingale. Ageing. Pattern of head: top adult; bottom juvenile.



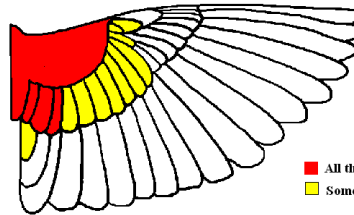
Nightingale. Ageing. Pattern of upperparts: left adult; right juvenile.



Nightingale. Ageing. Mould limit on greater coverts: top adult; bottom 1st year.

MOULT

Complete **postbreeding** moult, usually finished in early September. Partial **postjuvenile** moult involving body feathers, lesser and median coverts and inner greater coverts; some birds extend their moult to all the greater coverts and some tertials; finished between late July and early September.



Nightingale. Extent of postjuvenile moult.

■ All the specimens
■ Some specimens

PHENOLOGY

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

■ Summer visitor ■ Resident
■ Wintering ■ On passage



Nightingale. Spring. 2nd year (08-IV).

11040 Common Nightingale (*Luscinia megarhynchos*)



Nightingale. Spring. Head pattern: left adult (08-IV); right 2nd year (08-IV).



Nightingale. Spring. Breast pattern: left adult (08-IV); right 2nd year (08-IV).



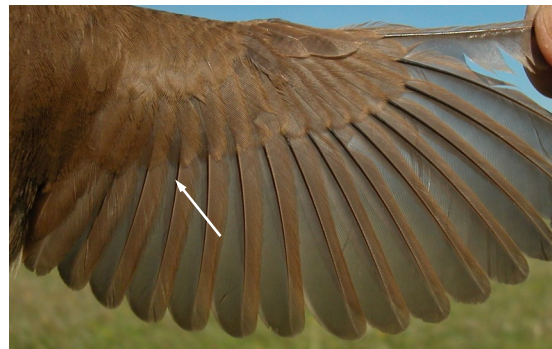
Nightingale. Spring. Upperpart pattern: left adult (08-IV); right 2nd year (08-IV).



Nightingale. Spring. Pattern and wear of tail: left adult (08-IV); right 2nd year (08-IV).



Nightingale. Spring. Adult: pattern of wing (08-IV).



Nightingale. Spring. 2nd year: pattern of wing (08-IV).



Nightingale. Summer. Adult (01-VII).

11040 Common Nightingale (*Luscinia megarhynchos*)



Nightingale. Summer. 2nd year (01-VII).



Nightingale. Summer. Juvenile (04-VII).



Nightingale. Spring. Head pattern and iris colour: top adult (01-VII); middle 2nd year (01-VII); bottom juvenile (04-VII).



Nightingale. Spring. Pattern and wear of upperpart: top left adult (01-VII); top right 2nd year (01-VII); left juvenile (04-VII).



Nightingale. Spring. Breast pattern: top left adult (01-VII); top right 2nd year (01-VII); left juvenile (04-VII).



Nightingale. Spring. Juvenile: pattern of wing (04-VII).



Nightingale. Spring. Pattern and wear of tail: top left adult (01-VII); top right 2nd year (01-VII); left juvenile (04-VII).



Nightingale. Autumn. Adult (10-VIII).



Nightingale. Spring. Adult: pattern of wing (01-VII).



Nightingale. Autumn. 1st year (04-VIII).



Nightingale. Spring. 2nd year: pattern of wing (01-VII).

11040 Common Nightingale (*Luscinia megarhynchos*)



Nightingale. Autumn. Head pattern: top adult (10-VIII); bottom 1st year (04-VIII).



Nightingale. Autumn. Upperpart pattern: left adult (04-VIII); right 1st year (04-VIII).

Nightingale. Autumn. Breast pattern: left adult (04-VIII); right 1st year (04-VIII).



Nightingale. Autumn. Adult: pattern of wing (02-VIII)



Nightingale. Autumn. Tail pattern: left adult (04-VIII); right 1st year (04-VIII).



Nightingale. 1st year: pattern of wing (04-VIII).