

11393 European Stonechat (*Saxicola rubicola*)



Stonechat. Summer. Adult. Male (11-VII).

EUROPEAN STONECHAT (*Saxicola rubicola*)

IDENTIFICATION

13-15 cm. **Male** with black head and neck, brown in **female**; both sexes with white patch on neck and wing. **Juveniles** brown, similar to a **female** but paler.



Stonechat. Adult. Pattern of head of male (top) and female (bottom), tail and rump.



Stonechat. Juvenile. Pattern of head, tail and rump.

SIMILAR SPECIES

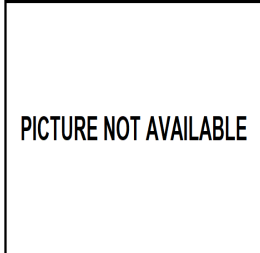
Male is unmistakable. **Female** recalls a **Whinchat**, with white supercilium, white patch on base of tail feathers and with spotted uppertail coverts.



Whinchat. Male



Whinchat. Female



Whinchat. Juvenile

SEXING

In **adult** birds, **male** with black upperparts (head, neck, mantle); patch on neck pure white; rump with white patch; 3 or 4 all white inner greater coverts; dark tail. **Female** is brownish and without white patch on rump; patch on neck is not pure white; 1 or 3 all white inner greater coverts; brownish tail. **Juveniles** can be sexed in extreme birds: **male** with less than 6 brown outermost greater coverts; innermost greater coverts pure white; breast tinged chestnut; tail and wing coverts dark. **Female** with more than 7 brown outermost greater coverts; innermost greater coverts creamy-white; pale breast; tail and wing coverts brownish.



Stonechat. Sexing. Adult. Pattern of head: top male; bottom female.



Stonechat. Sexing. Adult. Pattern of upperparts: left male; right female.



Stonechat. Sexing. Adult. Pattern of rump: left male; right female.



Stonechat. Sexing. Adult. Pattern of tail: left male; right female.



Stonechat. Sexing. Juvenile. Pattern of breast: left male; right female.

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Stonechat. Sexing. Juvenile. Molt limit on greater coverts: top male; bottom female.



AGEING

3 age groups can be recognized:

Juvenile with fresh plumage; head and upperparts speckled pale; inside of upper mandible yellowish till October.

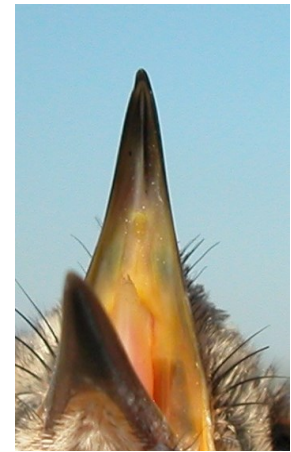
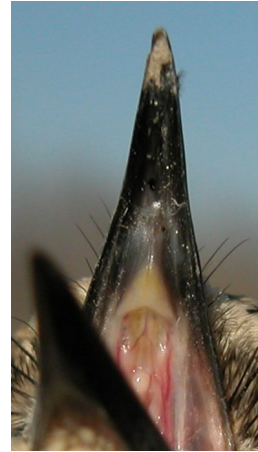
1st year autumn/2nd year spring with contrast between moulted wing feathers, which are darker than pale brown **juvenile** retained (check moult limits within greater coverts, within tertials or between moulted tertials and inner secondaries).

Adult without moult limits on wing; dark colour inside of upper mandible.

CAUTION: the inner greater covert next to the white coverts has a darker pattern looking like a moult limit.



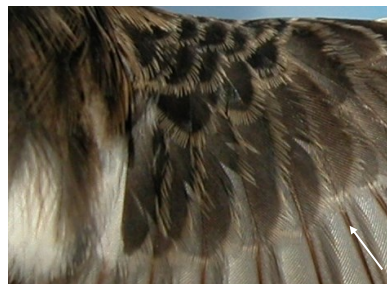
Stonechat. Ageing. Pattern of head: top female; bottom juvenile.



Stonechat. Ageing. Colour of the upper mandible: left adult; right juvenile.

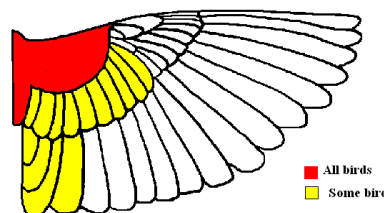


Stonechat. Ageing. Molt limit on greater coverts: top adult; bottom 2nd year.



MOULT

Complete **postbreeding** moult, usually finished early October. Partial **postjuvenile** moult involving body feathers, lesser, median and some inner greater coverts; some birds extend their moult to all greater coverts, some or all tertials and some flight feathers; usually finished early October.

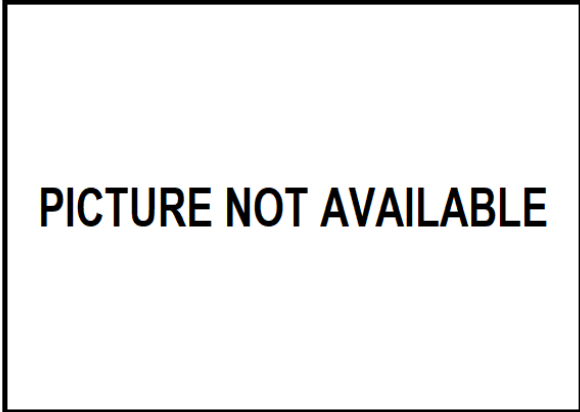


Stonechat. Extent of postjuvenile moult.

PHENOLOGY

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

- Summer visitor ■ Resident
- Wintering ■ On passage



Stonechat. Summer. Adult. Female (11-VII)



Stonechat. Summer. Juvenile. Male (10-VII).



Stonechat. Summer. 2nd year. Male (22-V).



Stonechat. Summer. Juvenile. Female (30-VI).

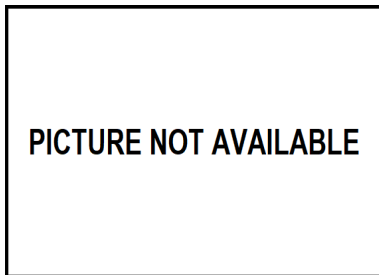
11393 European Stonechat (*Saxicola rubicola*)



Stonechat. Summer. Adult. Head pattern: top male (11-VII); bottom female (11-VII).



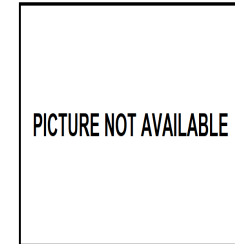
Stonechat. Summer. 2nd year. Head pattern: top male (22-V); bottom female ().



Stonechat. Summer. Juvenile. Head pattern: top male (10-VII); bottom female (30-VI).



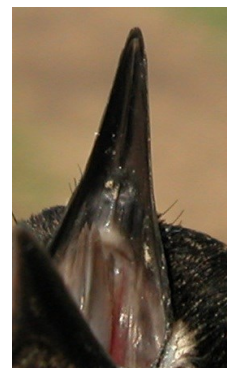
Stonechat. Summer. Adult. Breast pattern: left male (11-VII); right female (11-VII).



Stonechat. Summer. 2nd year. Breast pattern: left male (22-V); right female ().



Stonechat. Summer. Juvenile. Breast pattern: left male (10-VII); right female (30-VI).



Stonechat. Summer. Colour of the upper mandible: top left adult (11-VII); top right 2nd year (22-V); left juvenile (30-VI).

11393 European Stonechat (*Saxicola rubicola*)



Stonechat. Summer. Adult. Tail pattern: left male (11-VII); right female (11-VII).



Stonechat. Summer. Adult. Upperparts pattern: left male (11-VII); right female (11-VII).



Stonechat. Summer. 2nd year. Tail pattern: left male (22-V); right female ().



Stonechat. Summer. 2nd year. Upperparts pattern: left male (22-V); right female ().



Stonechat. Summer. Juvenile. Tail pattern: left male (10-VII); right female (30-VI).



Stonechat. Summer. Juvenile. Upperpart pattern: left male (10-VII); right female (30-VI).



Stonechat. Summer. Adult. Male: pattern of wing (11-VII).



Stonechat. Summer. Adult. Female: pattern of wing (23-III).



Stonechat. Summer. 2nd year. Male: pattern of wing (22-V).

PICTURE NOT AVAILABLE

Stonechat. Summer. 2nd year. Female: pattern of wing ().



Stonechat. Summer. Juvenile. Male: pattern of wing (10-VII)

11393 European Stonechat (*Saxicola rubicola*)



Stonechat. Summer. Juvenile. Female: pattern of wing (30-VI)



Stonechat. Winter. 1st year. Male (30-XII).



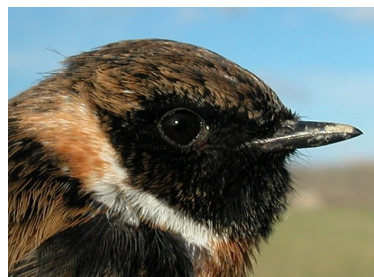
Stonechat. Winter. Adult. Male (25-I)



Stonechat. Winter. 1st year. Female (10-XII).



Stonechat. Winter. Adult. Female (15-II).



Stonechat. Winter. Adult. Head pattern: top male (25-I); bottom female (15-II).



11393 European Stonechat (*Saxicola rubicola*)



Stonechat. Winter. 1st year. Head pattern: top male (30-XII); bottom female (10-XII).



Stonechat. Winter. Adult. Pattern of tail and rump: left male (25-I); right female (15-II).



Stonechat. Winter. Adult. Breast pattern: left male (25-I); right female (15-II).



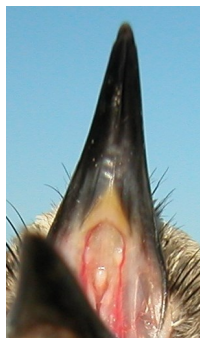
Stonechat. Winter. 1st year. Pattern of tail and rump: left male (30-XII); right female (10-XII).



Stonechat. Winter. 1st year. Breast pattern: left male (30-XII); right female (10-XII).



Stonechat. Winter. Adult. Upperparts pattern: left male (25-I); right female (15-II).



Stonechat. Winter. Colour of the upper mandible: left adult (15-II); right 1st year (08-X).



Stonechat. Winter. 1st year. Upperparts pattern: left male (30-XII); right female (08-X).



Stonechat. Winter. 1st year. Male: pattern of wing (30-XII).



Stonechat. Winter. 1st year. Female: pattern of wing (with greater covers and flight feathers unmoulted) (10-XII).



Stonechat. Winter. Adult. Male: pattern of wing (25-I)



Stonechat. Winter. Adult. Female: pattern of wing (15-II)