

334 European Stonechat

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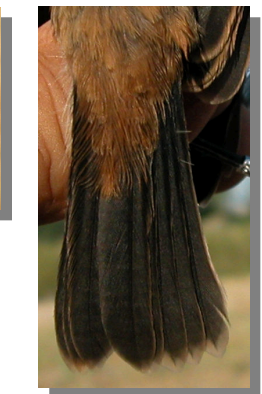
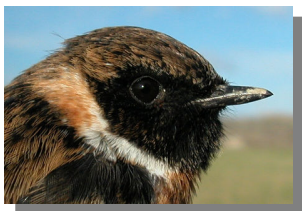


Stonechat. Summer. Adult. Male (11-VII).

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.



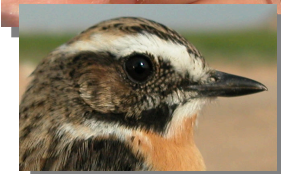
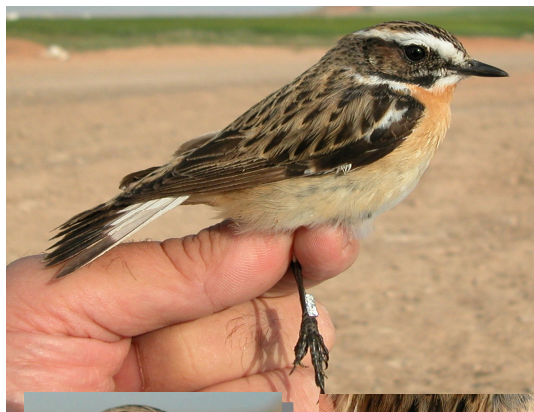
Stonechat. Adult. Pattern of head of male (top) and female (bottom), tail and rump.



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

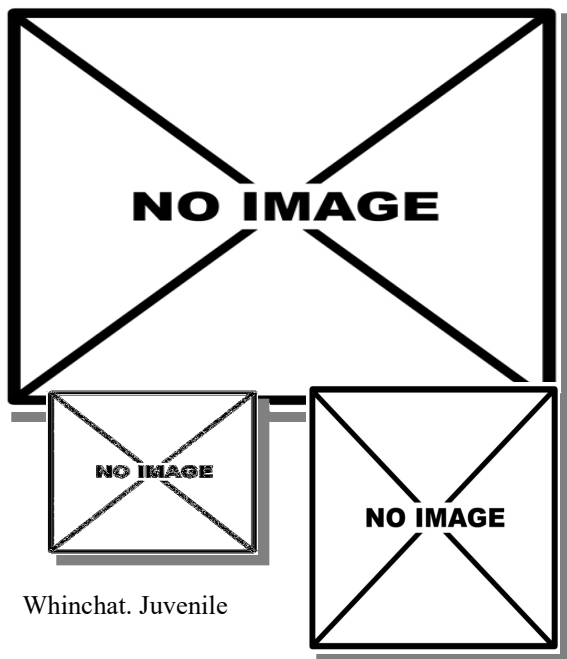


Whinchat. Female



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Whinchat. Juvenile

SEXING

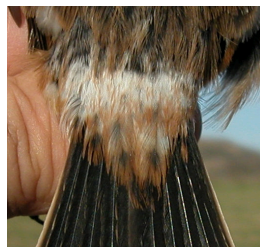
In **adult** birds, **male** with black upperparts (head, neck, mantle); patch on neck pure white; rump with white patch; 3 or 4 all white inner greater coverts; dark tail. **Female** is brownish and without white patch on rump; patch on neck is not pure white; 1 or 3 all white inner greater coverts; 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.



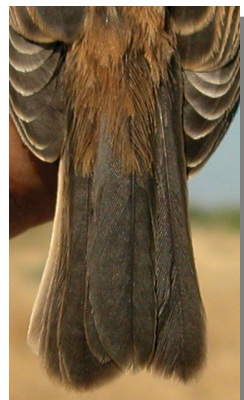
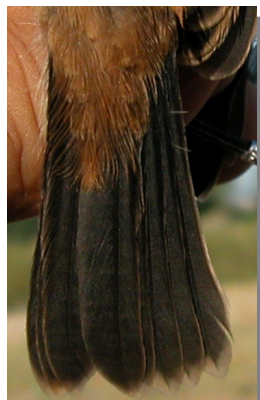
Stonechat.
Sexing. Adult.
Pattern of
head: top
male; bottom
female.



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.



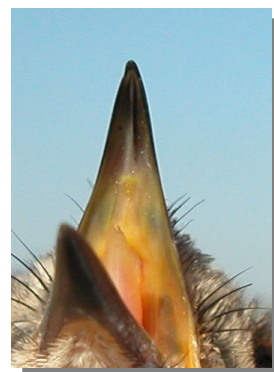
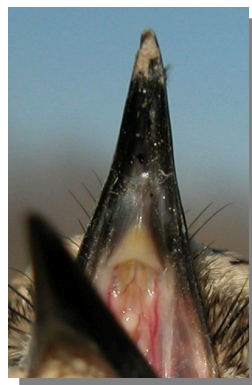
Stonechat. Sexing. Juvenile. Pattern of breast: left male; right female.

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



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

AGEING

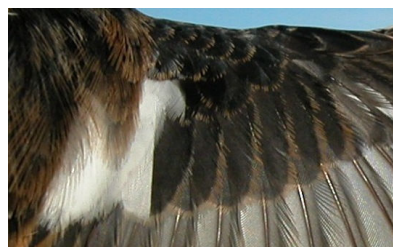
3 age groups can be recognized:

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

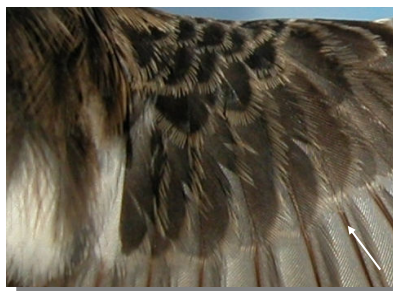
1st year autumn/2nd year spring with contrast between moulted wing feathers, which are darker than pale brown **juvenile** retained (check moulting limits within greater coverts, within tertials or between moulted tertials and inner secondaries).

Adult without moulting 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 moulting limit.



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

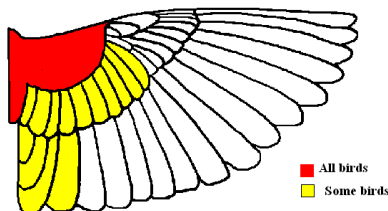


Stonechat.
Ageing. Pattern of head: top female; bottom juvenile.



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.

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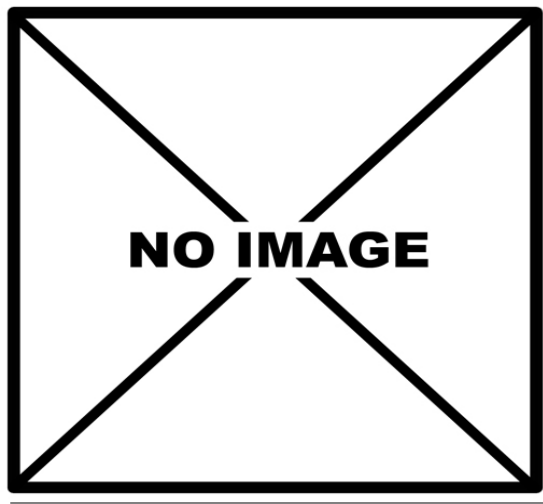
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PHENOLOGY

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

STATUS IN ARAGON

Resident, with contribution of wintering European birds. Widely distributed throughout the Region, absent only from the highest areas of the Pyrenees.



Stonechat. Summer. 2nd year. Female ().



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).

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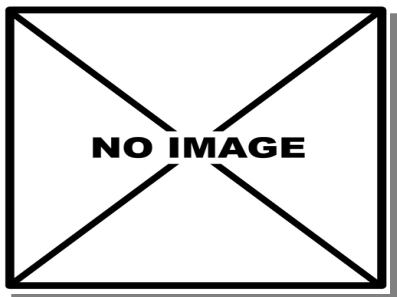
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Stonechat.
Summer.
Adult.
Head pat-
tern: top
male (11-
VII); bot-
tom female
(11-VII).



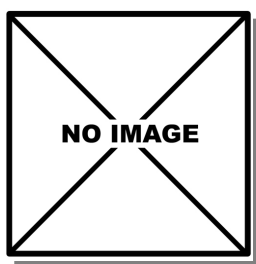
Stonechat.
Summer.
2nd year.
Head pat-
tern: top
male (22-
V); bottom
female ().



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



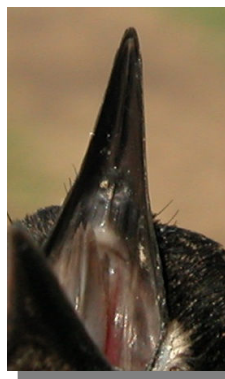
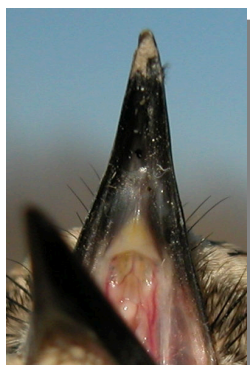
Stonechat. Summer. Adult. Breast pattern: left male (11-VII); right female (11-VII).



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



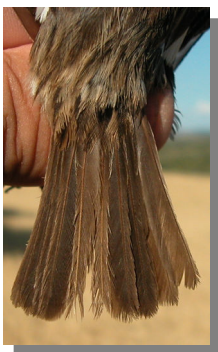
Stonechat. Summer. Juvenile. Breast pattern: left male (10-VII); right female (30-VI).



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

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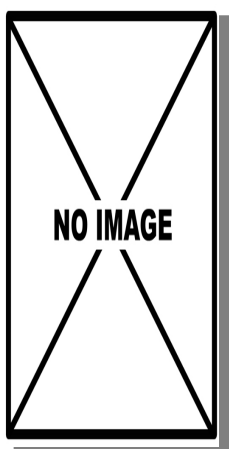
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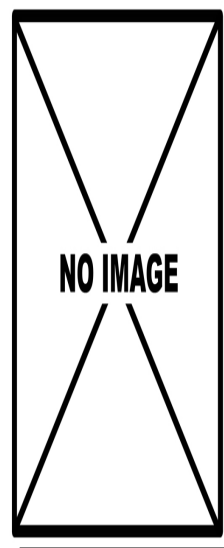
Stonechat. Summer. Adult. Tail pattern: left male (11-VII); right female (11-VII).



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).

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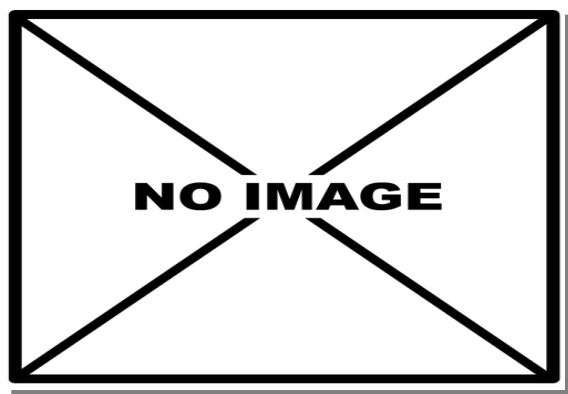
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Stonechat. Summer. Juvenile. Upperpart pattern: left male (10-VII); right female (30-VI).



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



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



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



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



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

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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 fe-
male (15-II).

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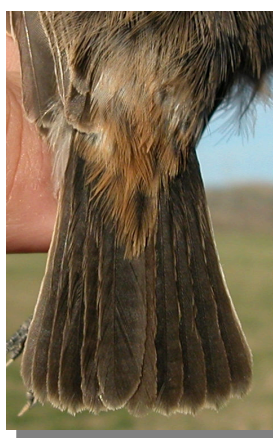
Stonechat.
Winter. 1st
year. Head
pattern: top
male (30-
XII); bottom
female (10-
XII).



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).



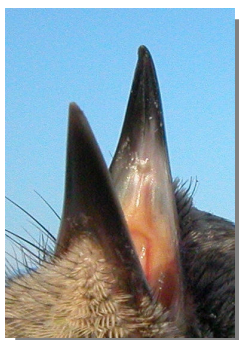
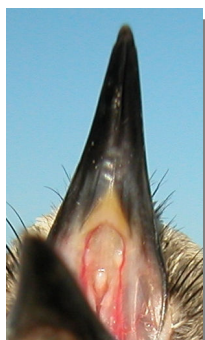
Stonechat. Winter. 1st year. Pattern of tail and rump:
left male (30-XII); right female (10-XII).



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).



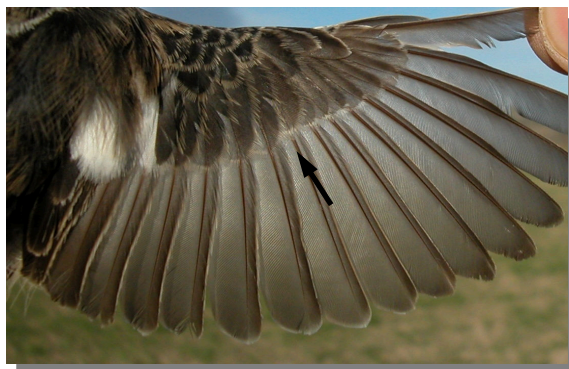
Stonechat. Winter. Colour of the upper mandible:
left adult (15-II); right 1st year (08-X).

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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 coverts and flight feathers unmoulted) (10-XII).



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



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