



Zitting Cisticola. Spring. Adult. Male (05-V).

ZITTING CISTICOLA (*Cisticola juncidis*)

IDENTIFICATION

10-11 cm. Brown reddish upperparts, streaked dark; rump reddish and unstreaked; brownish wings with white band on secondaries; pale underparts; tail feathers with white tips except the central pair; legs and bill pale brown.



Zitting Cisticola. Pattern of head, tail and upperparts.

SIMILAR SPECIES

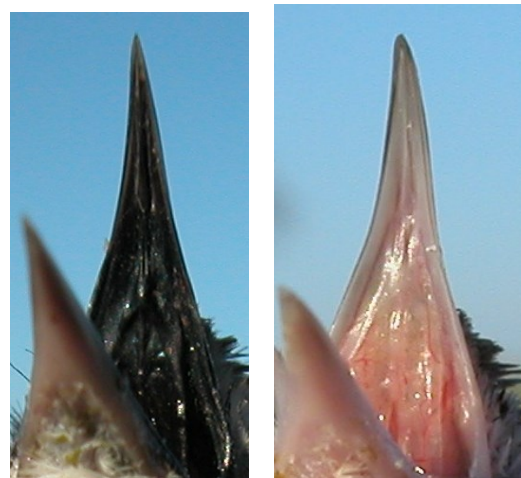
This species is unmistakable.

SEXING

Only in **breeding** season, **male** with black inside of upper mandible; lower mandible grey with black tip; crown unstreaked and uniformly dark brown. **Female** with pink inside of upper mandible (sometimes dark on sides); lower mandible pinkish; crown with diffused streaked black. (**CAUTION:** outside the breeding season **adults** cannot be sexed using plumage characteristics or mouth colours). Size can be helpful in extreme birds: **male** with wing longer than 56 mm; **female** with wing shorter than 46 mm. **Juveniles** cannot be sexed using plumage pattern.



Zitting Cisticola. Breeding season,. Sexing. Colour of bill: top male; bottom female.



Zitting Cisticola. Breeding season,. Sexing. Colour inside of upper mandible: left male; right female.



Zitting Cisticola. Breeding season. Sexing. Pattern of crown: left male; right female.

AGEING

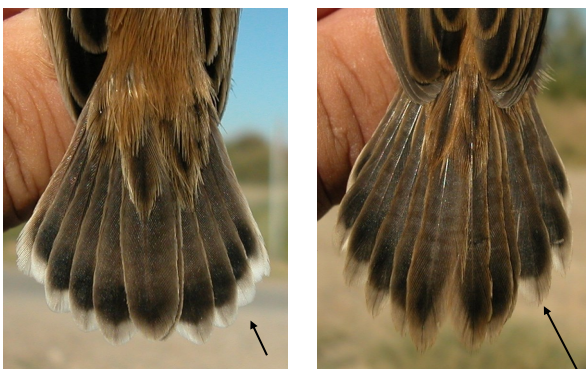
3 age groups can be recognized:

Juvenile with fresh plumage; tail feathers, except the central pair, with pale ochre tips.

1st year autumn/2nd year spring only in birds with partial moult, which have differences between fresh moulted flight feathers and worn **juvenile** retained. **CAUTION:** if **postjuvenile** moult has been complete, then **1st year** birds are indistinguishable from **adults** (early hatching birds can breed since the end of Summer).

Adult without moult limits; tail feathers, except the central pair, with off-white tips.

CAUTION: after **prebreeding** moult in Spring both age classes may have moult limits.



Zitting Cisticola. Ageing. Pattern of tips of the outer tail feathers: left adult; right juvenile.

MOULT

Complete **postbreeding** moult, usually finished in October. **Postjuvenile** moult is very variable: early hatching birds may have a complete moult; late hatching birds or **1st year** birds breeding late summer usually have a partial moult, retaining a variable number of outer primaries. Both age classes may have a partial **prebreeding** moult (only in some birds) involving body feathers, some or all wing coverts, some tertials, some inner secondaries and usually all tail feathers, retaining sometimes the outer ones.

PHENOLOGY

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

- Summer visitor
- Wintering
- Resident
- On passage



Zitting Cisticola. Spring. Adult. Female (17-V).

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Zitting Cisticola. Spring. 2nd year. Male (18-V).



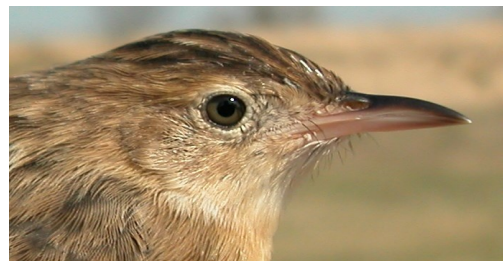
Zitting Cisticola. Spring. 2nd year. Female (01-IV).



Zitting Cisticola. Spring. Juvenile (20-VII).



Zitting Cisticola. Spring. Adult. Head pattern and colour of iris and bill: top male (05-V); bottom female (17-V).

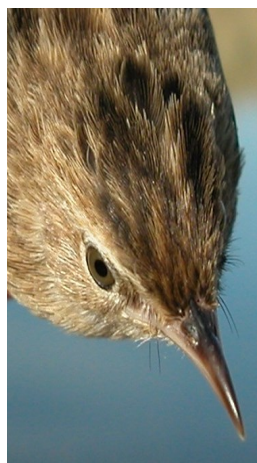


Zitting Cisticola. Spring. Head pattern and colour of iris and bill: top 2nd year male (18-V); middle 2nd year female (01-IV); bottom juvenile (20-VII).

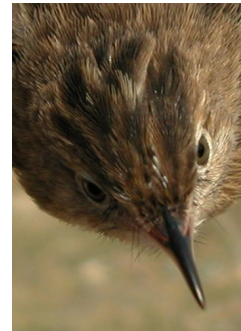
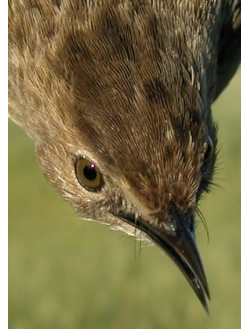
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Zitting Cisticola. Spring. Colour inside of upper mandible: top left male (05-V); top right female (28-VI); left juvenile (20-VII).



Zitting Cisticola. Spring. Adult. Crown pattern: left male (05-V); right female (17-V).



Zitting Cisticola. Spring. Crown patten: top left 2nd year male (18-V); top right 2nd year female (01-IV); left juvenile (20-VII).



Zitting Cisticola. Spring. Adult. Breast pattern: left male (05-V); right female (17-V).



Zitting Cisticola. Spring. Breast patten: top left 2nd year male (18-V); top right 2nd year female (01-IV); left juvenile (20-VII).

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Zitting Cisticola. Spring. Adult. Upperpart pattern: left male (05-V); right female (17-V).



Zitting Cisticola. Spring. Upperpart patten: top left 2nd year male (18-V); top right 2nd year female (01-IV); left juvenile (20-VII).



Zitting Cisticola. Spring. Adult. Tail pattern: left male (05-V); right female (17-V).



Zitting Cisticola. Spring. Tail patten: top left 2nd year male (1 retained juvenile feather) (18-V); top right 2nd year female (moulting all the tail feathers) (01-IV); left juvenile (20-VII).



Zitting Cisticola. Spring. Adult. Male: pattern of wing (05-V).

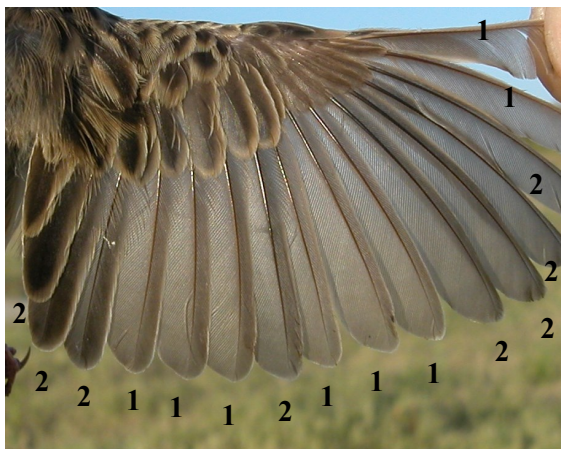
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Zitting Cisticola. Spring. Adult. Female: pattern of wing (17-V).



Zitting Cisticola. Spring. Juvenile: pattern of wing (20-VII)



Zitting Cisticola. Spring. 2nd year. Male: pattern of wing (1 juvenile feather; 2 postjuvenile feather) (18-V).



Zitting Cisticola. Autumn. Adult (25-X).



Zitting Cisticola. Spring. 2nd year. Female: pattern of wing (1 juvenile feather; 2 postjuvenile feather) (01-IV).



Zitting Cisticola. Autumn. 1st year (02-IX).

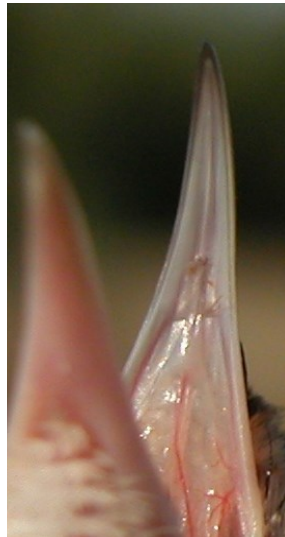
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Zitting Cisticola. Autumn. Pattern of head and bill: top adult (25-X); bottom 1st year (02-IX).



Zitting Cisticola. Autumn. Breast pattern: left adult (25-X); right 1st year (02-IX).



Zitting Cisticola. Autumn. Colour inside of upper mandible: left adult (25-X); right 1st year (02-IX).



Zitting Cisticola. Autumn. Upperpart pattern: left adult (25-X); right 1st year (02-IX).



Zitting Cisticola. Autumn. Crown pattern: left adult (25-X); right 1st year (02-IX).

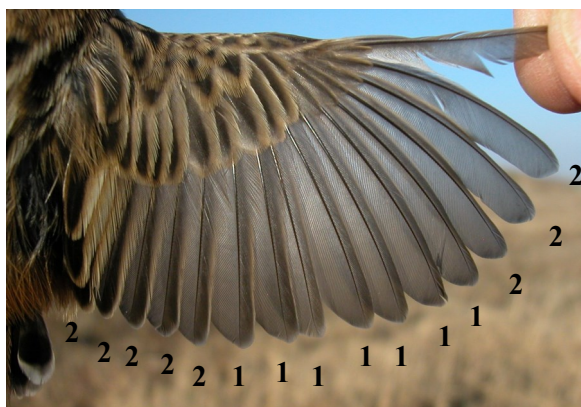


Zitting Cisticola. Autumn. Tail pattern: left adult (25-X); right 1st year (02-IX).

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Zitting Cisticola. Autumn. Adult/1st year with complete postjuvenile moult: pattern of wing (25-XII).



Zitting Cisticola. Autumn. 1st year with partial postjuvenile moult: pattern of wing (06-XI).