

353 Savi's Warbler

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Reed Warbler.

Savi's Warbler. Autumn. Adult no moulted (07-VII)

SAVI'S WARBLER (*Locustella luscinioides*)

IDENTIFICATION

13-14 cm. Brown plumage, with paler underparts; broad tail; brown olive legs; without bristles near the base of bill.



Savi's Warbler. Tail pattern and without bristles near the base of bill.

SIMILAR SPECIES

Recalls a **Reed Warbler**, with bristles near the base of bill and tail with feathers of the same length. **Cetti's Warbler** has only ten tail feathers.



SEXING

Plumage of both sexes alike.

AGEING

Since this species doesn't breed in Aragon, only 2 types of age can be recognized:

1st year usually with fresh flight feathers and similar age (**CAUTION:** some birds may have moult limits on flight feathers but then the old feathers are only slightly worn); usually with two dark spots on tongue (**CAUTION:** black spots are missing in some birds); iris grey brown; gape flange yellowish and well marked.

Adult with wing feathers without moult limits and worn, or with two ages with the old feathers quite worn (**CAUTION:** birds with complete moult in breeding areas have fresh all flight feathers); without black spots on tongue; iris brown reddish; gape flange pink and indistinct.

After **prebreeding** moult a confidently ageing is not possible using plumage characteristics.

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Savi's Warbler. Ageing. Pattern of gape flange and iris colour: top adult; bottom 1st year.



Savi's Warbler. Autumn. Adult with completed moult (05-IX).

MOULT

Complete **postbreeding** moult, which can be completed in breeding areas, suspended before migration and finished in wintering quarters or started after migration. **Postjuvenile** moult either non-existent or variably extensive and then may involve some outer primaries, tertials and greater coverts. Both age classes have in winter a very variable **prebreeding** moult which can be partial leaving some primaries and primary coverts unmoulted, complete or suspended to be finished during spring migration.

PHENOLOGY

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

STATUS IN ARAGON

On passage, related with marshlands.



Savi's Warbler. Autumn. Adult with suspended moult (18-IX)



Savi's Warbler. Autumn. 1st year no moulted (06-IX).



Savi's Warbler. Autumn. 1st year with suspended moult (24-VIII).

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Savi's Warbler. Autumn. Pattern of head, gape flange and iris colour: top adult (05-IX); middle adult (18-IX); bottom 1st year (06-IX).



Savi's Warbler. Autumn. Adult. Upperparts pattern: top left no moulted (07-VII); top right with suspended moult (06-IX); left with completed moult (05-IX).



Savi's Warbler. Autumn. Adult. Breast pattern: top left no moulted (07-VII); top right with suspended moult (06-IX); left with completed moult (05-IX).



Savi's Warbler. Autumn. 1st year. Breast pattern: left no moulted (06-IX); right with suspended moult (24-VIII).



Savi's Warbler. Autumn. 1st year. Upperpart pattern: left no moulted (06-IX); right with suspended moult (24-VIII).

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Savi's Warbler. Autumn. Adult. Tail pattern: top left no moulted (07-VII); top right with suspended moult (06-IX); left with completed moult (05-IX).



Savi's Warbler. Autumn. Adult with suspended moult: pattern of wing (18-IX)



Savi's Warbler. Autumn. Adult with completed moult: pattern of wing (05-IX)



Savi's Warbler. Autumn. 1st year. Tail pattern: left no moulted (06-IX); right with suspended moult (24-VIII).



Savi's Warbler. Autumn. 1st year no moulted: pattern of wing (06-IX).



Savi's Warbler. Autumn. Adult no moulted: pattern of wing (07-VII)



Savi's Warbler. Autumn. 1st year with suspended moult: pattern of wing (24-VIII).