

12600 Melodious Warbler (*Hippolais polyglotta*)



Melodious Warbler. Spring (06-VI).

MELODIOUS WARBLER (*Hippolais polyglotta*)

IDENTIFICATION

12-13 cm. Brown olive upperparts; yellowish underparts; yellow supercilium; brown bill and legs; yellowish underwing coverts; with bristles near the base of bill.



Melodious Warbler. Pattern of underwing coverts and bristles near the base of bill.

SIMILAR SPECIES

Similar to **Reed Warbler**, which is brown and has rufous underwing coverts. **Willow Warbler** is yellow, but is smaller, with more distinct supercilium and narrow bill.



Reed Warbler



Willow Warbler



SEXING

Plumage of both sexes alike.

AGEING

2 types of age can be recognized:

Juvenile with fresh feathers; iris dark grey; tongue with two black spots.

Adult in **autumn** with worn plumage; iris reddish; tongue without black spots.

In **spring**, after **postbreeding/postjuvenile** moults, ageing is not possible using plumage pattern. Some authors indicate that **2nd year** birds sometimes have traces of tongue spots.



Melodious Warbler. Autumn. Ageing. Wear of tertials: left adult; right juvenile

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Melodious Warbler. Ageing. Colour of iris: top adult; bottom juvenile.



Melodious Warbler. Autumn. Juvenile (04-VII).

MOULT

Complete **postbreeding** and **postjuvenile** moults taking place in wintering quarters. Both types of age have a **prebreeding** moult involving body feathers and, sometimes, inner greater coverts, tertials and inner secondaries.

PHENOLOGY

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

- Summer visitor
- Resident
- Wintering
- On passage



Melodious Warbler. Autumn. Adult (20-VII).



Melodious Warbler. Head pattern and iris colour: top in spring (04-VI); middle adult in autumn (20-VII); bottom juvenile (20-VII).



Melodious Warbler. Breast pattern: top left in spring (04-VI); top right adult in autumn (20-VII); left juvenile (30-VI).

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Melodious Warbler. Legs colour: top adult (04-VI); bottom juvenile (07-VII).



Melodious Warbler. Tail pattern: top left in spring (04-VI); top right adult in autumn (14-VI); left juvenile (20-VII).



Melodious Warbler. Upperpart pattern: top left in spring (05-VI); top right adult in autumn (20-VII); left juvenile (20-VII).



Melodious Warbler. Spring: pattern of wing (06-VI).



Melodious Warbler. Autumn. Adult: pattern of wing (20-VII).



Melodious Warbler. Autumn. Juvenile: pattern of wing (20-VI)