



Sardinian Warbler. Spring. Male. Adult (06-V).

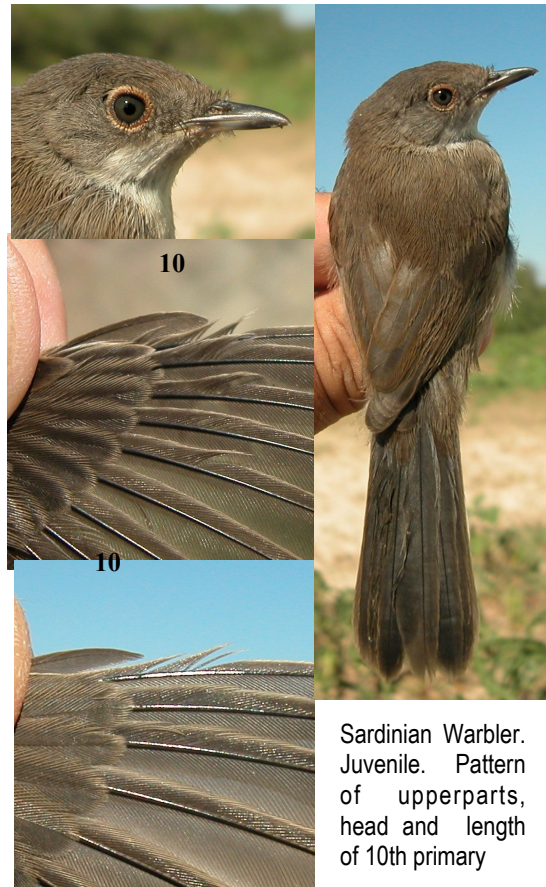
**SARDINIAN WARBLER** (*Curruca melanocephala*)

**IDENTIFICATION**

13-14 cm; wing between 55-63 mm. **Adult male** with black cap going under the eyes; grey upperparts; white underparts. **Adult female** with grey cap; upper and underparts brownish; eye-ring red (**males**) or orange (**females**); pale legs; 10th primary from 1 to 6 mm longer than primary coverts. In **juveniles**, **male** greyer than **female** and with paler outermost tail feathers.



Sardinian Warbler. Adult. Pattern of head: top male; bottom female.



Sardinian Warbler. Juvenile. Pattern of upperparts, head and length of 10th primary

**SIMILAR SPECIES**

**Male** recalls an **Orphean Warbler** which is bigger, lacks red eye-ring and has dark legs. **Juveniles** can be more difficult to determine: **Spectacled Warbler** has greater coverts, tertials and secondaries with broad buff edges; some with wing shorter than 55 mm; **Subalpine Warbler** has paler upperparts; flanks buff without grey; plumage is not fluffy; 10th primary with the same length than primary coverts.



Orphean Warbler.



Subalpine Warbler



Spectacled Warbler

**SEXING**

**Adult male** with black head and grey upperparts. **Adult female** with greyish head and brown upperparts. Some extreme **juveniles** can be sexed before their **postjuvenile** moult: **male** with greyish pattern; outermost tail feathers dark glossy greyish. **Female** with brownish pattern; outermost tail feathers dark grey-buffish.



Sardinian Warbler. Adult. Sexing. Pattern of upperparts: top male; bottom female.



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



Sardinian Warbler. Juvenile. Sexing. Pattern of upperparts: top male; bottom female.



Sardinian Warbler. Juvenile. Sexing. Pattern of the outermost tail feather: left male; right female.

### AGEING

4 age groups can be recognized:

**Juvenile** without dark cap; iris dark; fresh plumage.

**1st year autumn** usually with moult limit on wing within greater coverts, tertials, secondaries or primaries, recognizable by contrast between greyer and fresh moulted feathers and paler dark brown **juvenile** retained. **CAUTION:** some **juveniles** have a complete **postjuvenile** moult (so check iris colour).

**2nd year spring** only if some **juvenile** primary coverts or flight feathers are retained, which will be very worn and bleached brown; reddish iris, sometimes tinged greyish.

**Adult** without moult limits on wing (**CAUTION:** this is true also with **postjuvenile** birds with complete moult) ; iris reddish or orange.

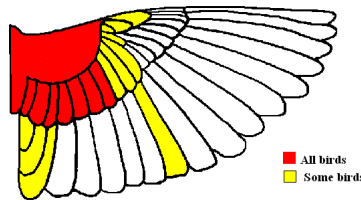
**CAUTION:** in **spring**, after **prebreeding** moult, both age classes have moult limits on wing, but birds that had a complete **postbreeding/postjuvenile** moult have unmoulted primary coverts and flight feathers little worn and quite grey.



Sardinian Warbler. Ageing. Pattern of head and iris colour: top adult female, bottom juvenile.

### MOULT

Complete **postbreeding** moult, usually finished in October. Partial **postjuvenile** moult involving body feathers, lesser and median coverts, most or all greater coverts, tertials and may or all tail feathers; some birds can have a complete moult; usually finished in September. Both age classes have a **prebreeding** moult, between December-March, including some inner greater coverts, tertials, inner secondaries and tail feathers.



Sardinian Warbler. Extent of postjuvenile moult.

### PHENOLOGY

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

- Summer visitor
- Wintering
- Resident
- On passage



Sardinian Warbler. Spring. Female. Adult (05-V).



Sardinian Warbler. Spring. 2nd year. Male (05-V)



Sardinian Warbler. Spring. Female. Juvenile (06-VII).



Sardinian Warbler. Spring. Female. 2nd year (19-V).



Sardinian Warbler. Spring. Adult. Head pattern: top male (06-V); bottom female (05-V).



Sardinian Warbler. Spring. Male. Juvenile (30-VI).



Sardinian Warbler. Spring. 2nd year. Head pattern: top male (05-V); bottom female (19-V).

**12670 Sardinian Warbler** (*Curruca melanocephala*)



Sardinian Warbler. Spring. Juvenile. Head pattern: top male (30-VI); bottom female (06-VII).



Sardinian Warbler. Spring. Adult. Tail pattern: left male (06-V); right female (05-V).



Sardinian Warbler. Spring. Adult. Breast pattern: left male (06-V); right female (05-V).



Sardinian Warbler. Spring. 2nd year. Tail pattern: left male (05-V); right female (19-V).



Sardinian Warbler. Spring. 2nd year. Breast pattern: left male (05-V); right female (19-V).



Sardinian Warbler. Spring. Juvenile. Tail pattern: left male (30-VI); right female (06-VII).



Sardinian Warbler. Spring. Juvenile. Breast pattern: left male (30-VI); right female (06-VII).



Sardinian Warbler. Spring. Adult. Upperparts pattern: left male (06-V); right female (05-V).



Sardinian Warbler. Spring. Juvenile. Upperpart pattern: left male (30-VI); right female (09-VIII).



Sardinian Warbler. Spring. 2nd year. Upperparts pattern: left male (05-V); right female (19-V).



Sardinian Warbler. Spring. Legs pattern: left adult (15-IX); right juvenile (07-VII).



Sardinian Warbler. Spring. Adult. Male: pattern of wing (06-V).



Sardinian Warbler. Spring. Adult. Female: pattern of wing (05-V).



Sardinian Warbler. Spring. Juvenile. Male: pattern of wing (30-VI).



Sardinian Warbler. Spring. 2nd year. Male: pattern of wing (05-V).



Sardinian Warbler. Spring. Juvenile. Female: pattern of wing (06-VII).



Sardinian Warbler. Spring. 2nd year. Female: pattern of wing (19-V).



Sardinian Warbler. Autumn. Adult. Male (20-IX).

**12670** Sardinian Warbler (*Curruca melanocephala*)



Sardinian Warbler. Autumn. Adult. Female (17-XI).



Sardinian Warbler. Autumn. 1st year. Male (15-IX).



Sardinian Warbler. Autumn. 1st year. Female (20-IX).



Sardinian Warbler. Autumn. Adult. Head pattern: top male (20-IX); bottom female (17-XI).



Sardinian Warbler. Autumn. 1st year. Head pattern: top male (15-IX); bottom female (20-IX).



Sardinian Warbler. Autumn. Adult. Breast pattern: left male (20-IX); right female (17-XI).





Sardinian Warbler. Autumn. 1st year. Breast pattern: left male (15-IX); right female (20-IX).



Sardinian Warbler. Autumn. Adult. Tail pattern: left male (20-IX); right female 17-XI).



Sardinian Warbler. Autumn. 1st year. Tail pattern: left male (15-IX); right female (20-IX).



Sardinian Warbler. Autumn. Adult. Upperparts pattern: left male (20-IX); right female 17-XI).



Sardinian Warbler. Autumn. 1st year. Upperparts pattern: left male (15-IX); right female (20-IX).



Sardinian Warbler. Autumn. Adult. Male: pattern of wing (20-IX).



Sardinian Warbler. Autumn. 1st year. Female: pattern of wing (20-IX).



Sardinian Warbler. Autumn. Adult. Female: pattern of wing (17-XI).



Sardinian Warbler. Autumn. 1st year. Male: pattern of wing (15-IX).