



Orphean Warbler. Spring. Adult. Male (16-V).

WESTERN ORPHEAN WARBLER (*Curruca hortensis*)

IDENTIFICATION

14-15 cm. **Male** with black cap going under the eye; pale grey upperparts, unspotted; white underparts, with pinkish tinge; dark wings; tail with white edges; dark legs. **Female** similar to **male** with grey cap and breast with brownish tinge.



Orphean Warbler. Adult. Pattern of head.

SIMILAR SPECIES

Male Blackcap has black over the eye. **Male Sardinian Warbler** is smaller, with red eye-ring and pale legs.



Blackcap. Male.



Sardinian Warbler. Male.



SEXING

In **spring**, **male** with uniformly black-grey head without distinct (or just a little) ear-coverts; black eye-ring. **Female** with grey head with distinct darker ear-coverts; white eye-ring with some grey feathers. (**CAUTION: 2nd year males** are very similar to **adult females**). **Juveniles** cannot be sexed using plumage characteristics.

In **autumn**, **adult male** with head uniformly blackish-grey, without distinct ear-coverts or just slightly darker; eye-ring mostly black; underparts white tinged pinkish grey. **Adult female** with head greyer than **male**, with distinct darker ear-coverts; eye-ring white or with grey feathers; underparts like **male** but less extensively tinged pinkish. After **postjuvenile** moult, only some extreme **1st year** birds can be sexed: **male** tends to have darker head than **female** and distinct darker ear-coverts; eye-ring usually pure grey. **Female** with pale grey head and ear-coverts slightly marked; eye-ring grey tinged brownish.



Orphean Warbler. Spring. Adult. Sexing. Pattern of head: top male; bottom female.

12720 Western Orphean Warbler (*Curruca hortensis*)



Orphean Warbler. Spring. 2nd year. Sexing. Pattern of head: top male; bottom female.



Orphean Warbler. Autumn. Adult. Sexing. Pattern of head: top male; bottom female.



Orphean Warbler. Autumn. 1st year. Sexing. Pattern of head: top male; bottom female.



AGEING

4 age groups can be recognized:

Juvenile with fresh plumage, without moult limits; iris dark brown-olive; dark brown crown little contrasted with sides of head; outermost tail feathers with creamy-brown edges.

1st year autumn similar to **juveniles**, but with moult limit on wing between darker lesser and median coverts and unmoulted greater coverts; if some greater coverts moulted then with limit within the grey inner and outer brown **juvenile** retained; grey crown.

2nd year spring easy to see in some birds that do not yet have the pale yellow iris of **adults**; very worn primary coverts; some birds retain **juvenile** tail feathers, which will be very worn (**CAUTION**: there are **2nd year** birds with iris and tail similar to **adults**).

Adult in **autumn** without moult limits on wing (**CAUTION**: birds with suspended moult have very worn secondaries); iris whitish; outermost tail feathers with white edges.

CAUTION: in **spring**, after **prebreeding** moult, both **2nd year** and **adult** birds have moult limits.



Orphean Warbler. Ageing. Pattern of head and iris colour: from top to bottom: adult female; 2nd year female; 1st year; juvenile.





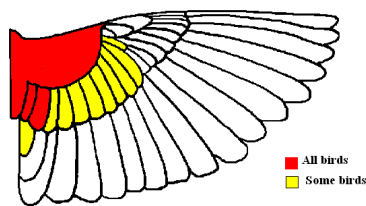
Orphean Warbler. Ageing. Pattern of crown: left 1st year; right juvenile.



Orphean Warbler. Ageing. Mould limit on wing covers. From top to bottom: adult; 2nd year; 1st year; juvenile.

MOULT

Complete **postbreeding** moult, usually finished early September (**CAUTION:** some birds suspend moulting (usually secondaries) to finish it in their wintering quarters). Partial **postjuvenile** moult, involving body feathers, lesser and median coverts and some inner greater coverts; some birds can moult all the greater coverts and some tertials; usually finished in August. Both age classes have a **prebreeding** moult including part of body feathers, a variable number of greater coverts, some tertials and secondaries and some tail feathers (**2nd year** birds usually change all tail feathers).



Orphean Warbler. Extent of postjuvenile moult.

PHENOLOGY

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

- Summer visitor
- Wintering
- Resident
- On passage



Orphean Warbler. Spring. Adult. Female (16-V).

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Orphean Warbler. Spring. 2nd year. Male (16-V).



Orphean Warbler. Spring. 2nd year. Female (16-V).



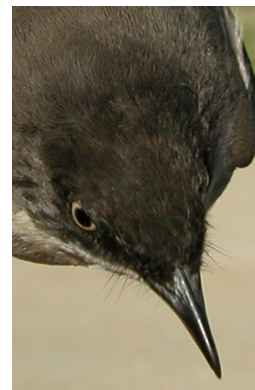
Orphean Warbler. Spring. Juvenile (21-VI)



Orphean Warbler. Spring. Adult. Head pattern: top male (16-V); bottom female (16-V).



Orphean Warbler. Spring. Head pattern: top 2nd year male (16-V); middle 2nd year female (16-V); bottom juvenile (21-VI).



Orphean Warbler. Spring. Adult. Crown pattern: left male (16-V); bottom female (16-V).

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Orphean Warbler. Spring. Head pattern: top left 2nd year male (16-V); top right 2nd year female (16-V); left juvenile (21-VI).



Orphean Warbler. Spring. Adult. Breast pattern: left male (16-V); bottom female (16-V).



Orphean Warbler. Spring. Breast pattern: top left 2nd year male (16-V); top right 2nd year female (16-V); left juvenile (21-VI).



Orphean Warbler. Spring. Adult. Upperpart pattern: left male (16-V); bottom female (16-V).



Orphean Warbler. Spring. Upperpart pattern: top left 2nd year male (16-V); top right 2nd year female (16-V); left juvenile (21-VI).



Orphean Warbler. Spring. Adult. Tail pattern: left male (16-V); bottom female (16-V).



Orphean Warbler. Spring. Tail pattern: top left 2nd year male with unmoulted tail (16-V); top right 2nd year female with moulted tail (16-V); left juvenile (21-VI).



Orphean Warbler. Spring. Adult. Male: pattern of wing (16-V).



Orphean Warbler. Spring. Adult. Female: pattern of wing (16-V).



Orphean Warbler. Spring. 2nd year. Male: pattern of wing (16-V).



Orphean Warbler. Spring. 2nd year. Female: pattern of wing (16-V).



Orphean Warbler. Spring. Juvenile: pattern of wing (21-VI)



Orphean Warbler. Autumn. Adult. Male (17-VIII).



Orphean Warbler. Autumn. Adult. Female (17-VIII).



Orphean Warbler. Autumn. 1st year. Male (23-VII).



Orphean Warbler. Autumn. 1st year. Female (23-VII).

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Orphean Warbler. Autumn. Adult. Head pattern and iris colour: top male (17-VIII); bottom female (17-VIII).



Orphean Warbler. Autumn. 1st year. Head pattern and iris colour: top male (23-VII); bottom female (23-VII).



Orphean Warbler. Autumn. 1st year. Crown pattern: left male (23-VII); derecha hembra (23-VII).



Orphean Warbler. Autumn. Adult. Breast pattern: left male (17-VIII); right female (17-VIII).



Orphean Warbler. Autumn. Adult. Crown pattern: left male (17-VIII); right female (17-VIII).



Orphean Warbler. Autumn. 1st year. Breast pattern: left male (23-VII); right female (23-VII).



Orphean Warbler. Autumn. Adult. Upperpart pattern: left male (17-VIII); right female (17-VIII).



Orphean Warbler. Autumn. 1st year. Upperpart pattern: left male (23-VII); derecha hembra (23-VII).



Orphean Warbler. Autumn. Adult. Tail pattern: left male (17-VIII); right female (17-VIII).



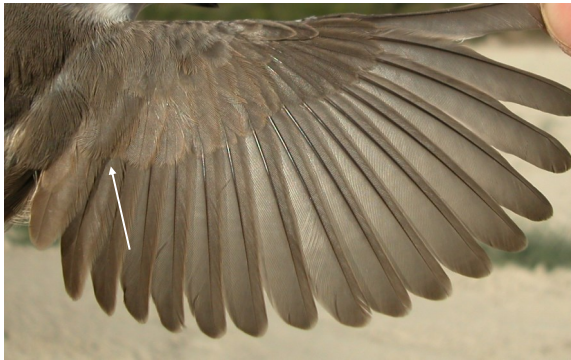
Orphean Warbler. Autumn. 1st year. Tail pattern: left male (23-VII); derecha hembra (23-VII).



Orphean Warbler. Autumn. Adult. Male: pattern of wing (17-VIII).



Orphean Warbler. Autumn. Adult. Female: pattern of wing (17-VIII).



Orphean Warbler. Autumn. 1st year. Male: pattern of wing (23-VII).



Orphean Warbler. Autumn. 1st year. Female: pattern of wing (23-VII).