

12770 Eurasian Blackcap (*Sylvia atricapilla*)



Blackcap. Spring. Adult. Male (16-III).

EURASIAN BLACKCAP (*Sylvia atricapilla*)

IDENTIFICATION

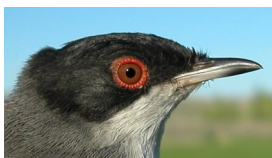
13-15 cm. Grey upperparts; pale brownish underparts; head with a black (**males**) or brown (**females** and **juveniles**) cap, reaching the upper part of the eyes; tail grey.



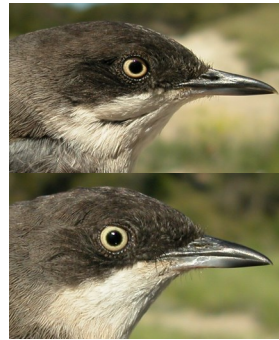
Blackcap. Adult. Pattern of tail and head: top male; bottom female.

SIMILAR SPECIES

This is the only **Warbler** with black/brown cap upper the eye.



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



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

SEXING

Male with black cap; plumage greyer than **female**. **Female** with brown-reddish cap; plumage browner than **male**. **CAUTION: juveniles** are very similar to **females** and cannot be sexed using plumage pattern, so it is very important a right ageing before **postjuvenile** moult.



Blackcap. Adult. Sexing. Pattern of head: top male; bottom female.

AGEING

3 age groups can be recognized:

Juvenile resembles a **female** but with dull brown cap; fresh plumage; iris dark grey-brown.

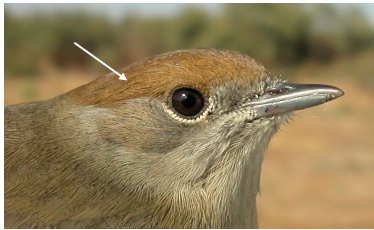
1st year autumn/2nd year spring with moult limit within greater coverts (the inner moulted with greenish edges and **juvenile** retained with brownish edges), within tertials or between tertials and secondaries (**CAUTION: juvenile** tertials are more greyish than **juvenile** secondaries, which may resemble a moult limit); some **males** have brown feathers mixed on black crown (**CAUTION: there are 1st year males** with completely black cap, so this pattern does not necessarily indicates **adult male**); dark iris until October.

Adult in **autumn** without moult limits on wing; pure black cap without brown feathers mixed (**CAUTION: some 1st year males** have pure black cap too); iris reddish.

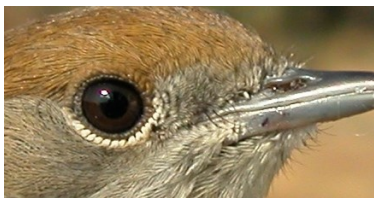
CAUTION: in spring, both age classes may have moult limits on wing if they have made a **prebreeding** moult.

Adult often with more rounded tail feathers but poorly usable due to overlap with **1st year**.

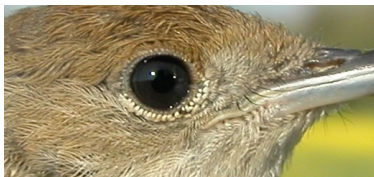
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Blackcap. Ageing. Pattern of crown: top adult female; bottom juvenile.



Blackcap. Ageing. Colour of iris: top adult female; bottom juvenile.



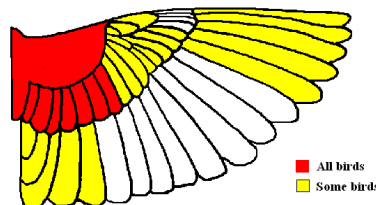
Blackcap. Ageing. Mould limit on greater coverts: top adult; bottom 1st year

MOULT

Complete **postbreeding** moult, usually finished in October. Partial **postjuvenile** moult involving cap, body feathers, lesser and median coverts and from 3 inner to all greater coverts; most of the birds moult tertials and some change several primary coverts and some flight feathers; usually finished in October. Some birds of both age classes have a **prebreeding** moult, between December-March, including tertials and some inner greater coverts.



Blackcap. Male. Ageing. Pattern of crown: left adult/1st year; right 1st year



Blackcap. Extent of postjuvenile moult.

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PHENOLOGY

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

- Summer visitor
- Wintering
- Resident
- On passage



Blackcap. Spring. Adult. Female (23-III).



Blackcap. Spring. 2nd year. Male (21-III).



Blackcap. Spring. 2nd year. Female (13-IV).



Blackcap. Spring. Juvenile (29-VI).



Blackcap. Spring. Adult. Head pattern: top male (16-III); bottom female (23-III).

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Blackcap. Spring. Head pattern: top 2nd year male (21-III); middle 2nd year female (23-IV); bottom juvenile (29-VI).



Blackcap. Spring. Adult. Breast pattern: left male (16-III); right female (23-III).



Blackcap. Spring. Breast pattern: top left 2nd year male (21-III); top right 2nd year female (23-IV); left juvenile (29-VI).



Blackcap. Spring. Adult. Crown pattern: left male (16-III); right female (23-III).



Blackcap. Spring. Crown pattern: top left 2nd year male (21-III); top right 2nd year female (23-IV); left juvenile (29-VI).



Blackcap. Spring. Adult. Tail pattern: left male (16-III); right female (23-III).

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Blackcap. Spring. Tail pattern: top left 2nd year male (21-III); top right 2nd year female (23-IV); left juvenile (29-VI).



Blackcap. Spring. Upper-parts pattern: top left 2nd year male (21-III); top right 2nd year female (23-IV); left juvenile (29-VI).



Blackcap. Spring. Adult. Upperparts pattern: left male (16-III); right female (23-III).



Blackcap. Spring. Adult. Male: pattern of wing (16-III).



Blackcap. Spring. Adult. Female: pattern of wing (23-III).



Blackcap. Spring. 2nd year. Male: pattern of wing (16-III).



Blackcap. Spring. 2nd year. Female: pattern of wing (13-IV).



Blackcap. Spring. Juvenile: pattern of wing (29-VI).

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Blackcap. Spring. 2nd year. Male (21-III).



Blackcap. Spring. 2nd year. Female (13-IV).



Blackcap. Juvenile (29-VI).



Blackcap. Spring. Adult. Head pattern and iris colour: left male (16-III); right female (23-III).



Blackcap. Spring. Head pattern and iris colour: top left 2nd year male (21-III); top right 2nd year female (23-IV); left juvenile (29-VI).



Blackcap. Spring. Adult. Breast pattern: left male (16-III); right female (23-III).



Blackcap. Spring. Breast pattern: top left 2nd year male (21-III); top right 2nd year female (23-IV); left juvenile (29-VI).

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Blackcap. Autumn. Adult. Crown pattern: left male (16-IX); right female (16-IX).



Blackcap. Autumn. 1st year. Crown pattern: top male (16-IX); left female (16-IX).



Blackcap. Autumn. Adult. Breast pattern: left male (16-IX); right female (16-IX).



Blackcap. Autumn. 1st year. Breast pattern: left male (16-IX); right female (16-IX).



Blackcap. Autumn. Adult. Tail pattern: left male (16-IX); right female (16-IX).



Blackcap. Autumn. 1st year. Tail pattern: left male (16-IX); right female (16-IX).

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Blackcap. Autumn. Adult. Upperparts pattern: left male (16-IX); right female (16-IX).



Blackcap. Autumn. 1st year. Upperparts pattern: left male (16-IX); right female (16-IX).



Blackcap. Autumn. Adult. Male: pattern of wing (16-IX).



Blackcap. Autumn. Adult. Female: pattern of wing (06-X).



Blackcap. Autumn. 1st year. Male: pattern of wing (16-IX).



Blackcap. Autumn. 1st year. Female: pattern of wing (23-IX).