



Common Chiffchaff. Spring, Adult (20-III).

COMMON CHIFFCHAFF (*Phylloscopus collybita*)

IDENTIFICATION

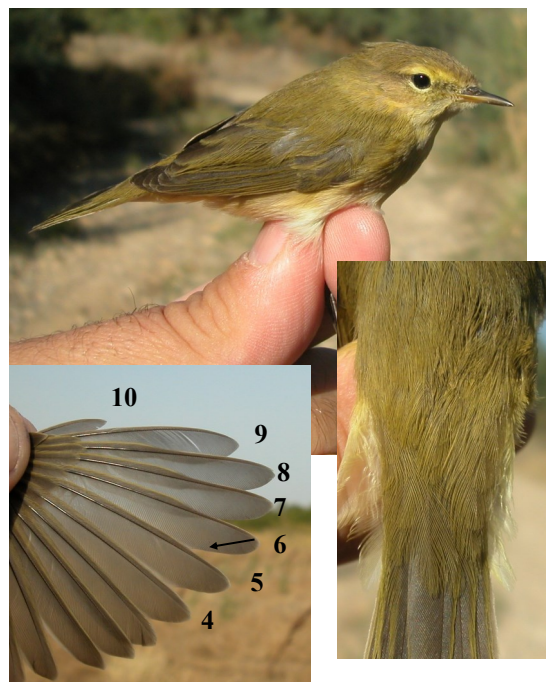
11-12 cm. Brown olive upperparts, with brownish tinge; breast with yellow and rufous tinge; ear coverts and neck with brown-greyish tinge; rump more yellow than back; dark legs; in wing, 6th, 7th and 8th primaries have the same length, 9th primary has the same length than 3rd or between 3rd and 4th, emargination until 5th primary.



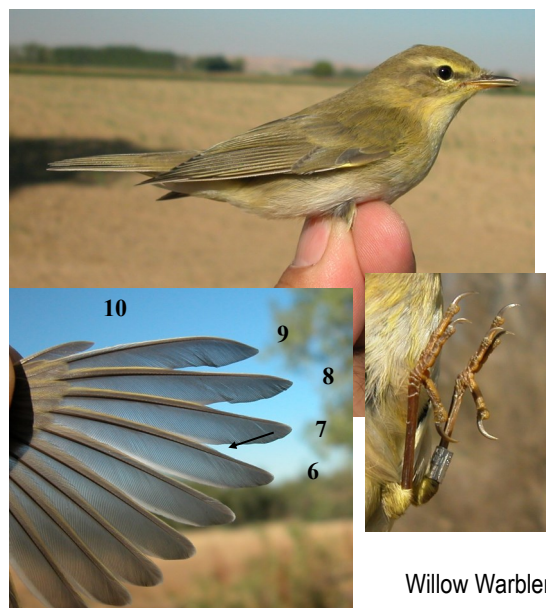
Common Chiffchaff. Pattern of breast, rump, wing formula and colour of legs.

SIMILAR SPECIES

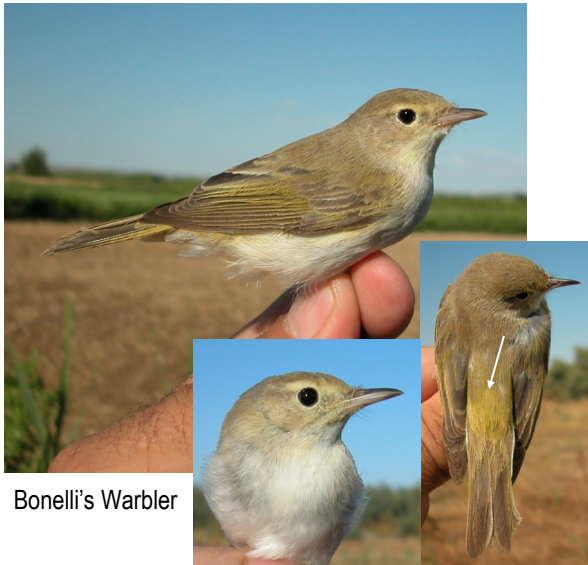
Iberian Chiffchaff has similar colours than **Willow Warbler**; rump with the same colour than back and only 7th and 8th primaries have the same length. **Willow Warbler** has yellow underparts, pale legs and emarginated only to 6th primary. **Bonelli's Warbler** has white underparts and yellow rump. **Wood Warbler** has 10th primary shorter than primary coverts and with contrast between the yellow head and upper breast and pure white underparts. **Melodious Warbler** is bigger, with uniform yellow underparts and broad bill on the base.



Iberian Chiffchaff



Willow Warbler



Bonelli's Warbler



Wood Warbler



Melodious Warbler

SEXING

Plumage of both sexes alike.

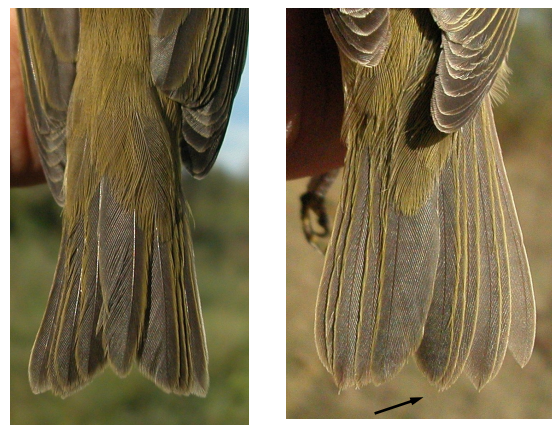
AGEING

3 age groups can be recognized:

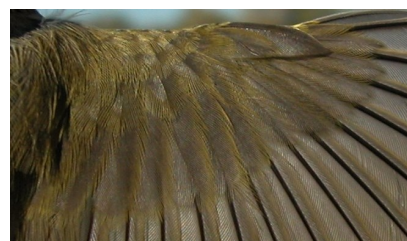
Juvenile with very fresh plumage, without moult limits.

1st year autumn/2nd year spring usually with contrast on greater coverts between moulted fresh feathers and paler **juvenile** retained; if none has been moulted then moult limit is between lesser and median coverts; if all have been moulted contrast is between greater and primary coverts, within tertials or between tertials and secondaries; check also moult limits on tail feathers (they usually change the central pair).

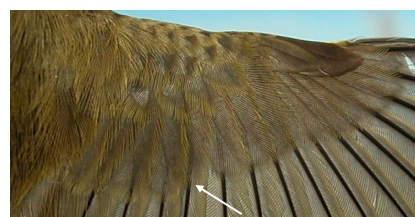
Adult in **autumn** with all wing and tail feathers with the same age, without moult limits. In **spring**, after **prebreeding** moult, both age classes may have moult limits on wing and tail, but **adult** with unmoulted flight feathers only slightly worn and **2nd year** birds with unmoulted flight feathers heavily worn.



Common Chiffchaff. Ageing. Moult limit on tail feathers: left adult; right 1st year.



Common Chiffchaff. Ageing. Moult limit on wing coverts: top adult; bottom 1st year.

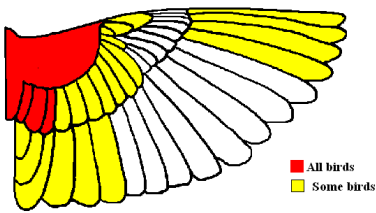


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MOULT

Complete **postbreeding** moult, usually finished late October. Partial **postjuvenile** moult, involving body feathers, lesser and median coverts, none to all greater coverts, none to all tertials and none to all tail feathers, but never primary coverts; usually finished in September. Both age classes have a variable **pre-breeding** moult, between December and April, with birds having no moult and others changing body feathers, some wing coverts, tertials and tail feathers.



Common Chiffchaff. Extent of postjuvenile moult.

PHENOLOGY

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

- Summer visitor
- Wintering
- Resident
- On passage



Common Chiffchaff. Spring. 2nd year (20-III).



Common Chiffchaff. Spring. Juvenile (18-VII).



Common Chiffchaff. Spring. Head pattern: top adult (20-III); middle 2nd year (20-III); bottom juvenile (18-VII).



Common Chiffchaff. Spring. Breast pattern: top left adult (20-III); top right 2nd year (20-III); left juvenile (18-VII).

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Common Chiffchaff. Spring. Upperpart pattern: top left adult (20-III); top right 2nd year (20-III); left juvenile (18-VII).



Common Chiffchaff. Spring. Tail pattern: top left adult (20-III); top right 2nd year with pre-breeding moult (20-III); left 2nd year with all juvenile feathers (20-III); bottom juvenile (18-VII).



Common Chiffchaff. Spring. Adult: pattern of wing (04-III).

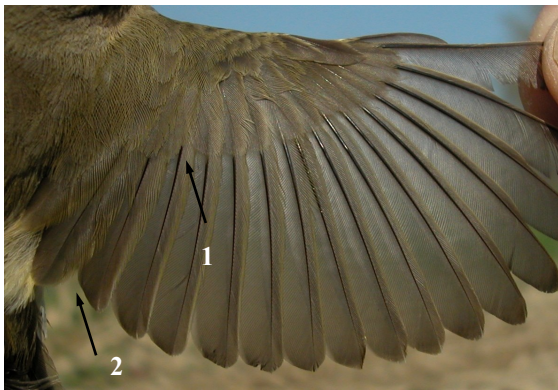
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Common Chiffchaff. Spring. 2nd year: pattern of wing (03-III).



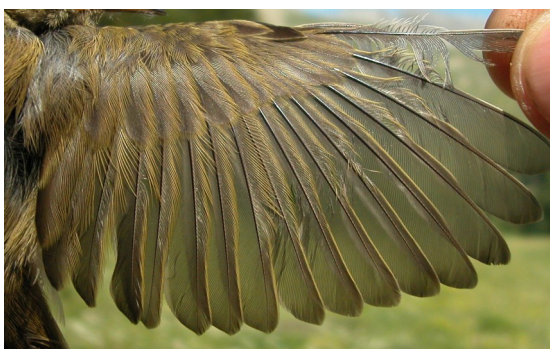
Common Chiffchaff. Autumn. Adult (01-XI).



Common Chiffchaff. Spring. 2nd year: pattern of wing (1 postjuvenile moult; 2 prebreeding moult) (03-III).



Common Chiffchaff. Autumn. 1st year (22-X).



Common Chiffchaff. Spring. Juvenile: pattern of wing (08-VII)



Common Chiffchaff. Autumn. Head pattern: top adult (22-X); bottom 1st year (13-X).

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Common Chiffchaff. Autumn. Breast pattern: left adult (22-X); right 1st year(13-X).



Common Chiffchaff. Autumn. Upperpart pattern: left adult (22-X); right 1st year(13-X).



Common Chiffchaff. Autumn. Adult: pattern of wing (31-X).



C o m m o n
Chiffchaff. Autumn.
Tail pattern: top left
adult (22-X); top
right 1st year with
moulted central
pair of tail feathers
(02-X); left 1st year
with all juvenile
feathers (10-XI).



Common Chiffchaff. Autumn. 1st year: pattern of wing (22-X).