

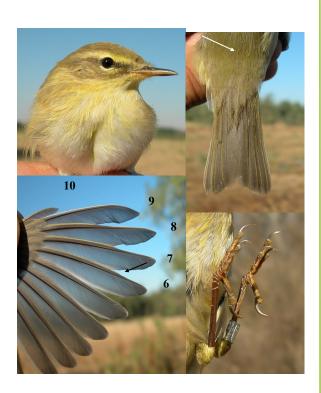


Willow Warbler. Spring (05-IV).

### **WILLOW WARBLER** (Phylloscopus trochilus)

### **IDENTIFICATION**

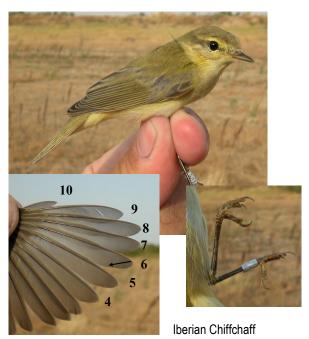
10-12 cm. Green olive upperparts, with some brownish tinge; white underparts, with yellow throat and breast; pale legs; on wing, 7th and 8th primaries have the same length; emarginated to 6th primary.

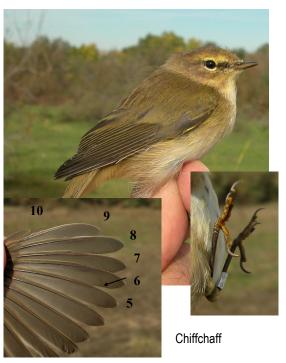


Willow Warbler. Pattern of breast, rump, wing formula and colour of legs.

### **SIMILAR SPECIES**

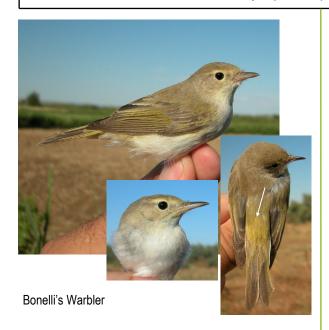
Iberian Chiffchaff is similar but has emarginated only five primaries. Chiffchaff is not so yellow, has dark legs and emarginated to 5th primary. Bonelli's Warbler has white underparts and yellow rump. Wood Warbler has 10th primary shorter than primary coverts and with contrast between the yellow head and upper breast and pure white underparts. Melodious Warbler is bigger, with uniform yellow underparts and broad bill on the base.





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### **SEXING**

Plumage of both sexes alike.

#### **AGEING**

This species doesn't breed in Aragon, so only 2 age groups can be recognized:

**1st year autumn** with throat, breast and belly uniform yellow (not streaked yellow on white ground); yellow undertail coverts; if feathers on wings have been moulted, then with moult limit on lesser or median coverts, rarely on greater coverts or tertials; central tail feathers narrow.

Adult with white underparts, with some yellow streaks; belly white without yellow or with only a very slight yellowish tinge; white or pale yellowish undertail coverts; always without moult limits on wings; central tail feathers broad.

**CAUTION:** ageing using only body colour is not always possible due to overlap.

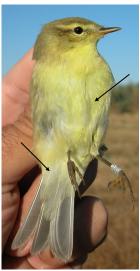
In **spring**, after **prebreeding** moult, ageing is not possible using plumage pattern.





Willow Warbler. Autumn. Ageing. Pattern of breast: left adult; right 1st year.





Willow Warbler. Autumn. Ageing. Pattern of underparts: left adult; right 1st year.

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Willow Warbler. Autumn. Ageing. Moult limit on wing coverts: top adult; middle 1st year no moulted; bottom 1st year with only lesser coverts moulted

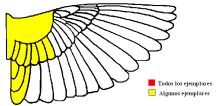




Willow Warbler. Autumn. Ageing. Width of tail feathers: left adult; right 1st year

#### **MOULT**

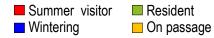
September. Partial **postjuvenile** moult involving body feathers; some specimens may include some lesser and median coverts, some inner greater coverts and tertials, although a large number of birds don't moult any wing feather. Both age groups have a complete **prebreeding** moult in wintering quarters.



W i I I o w Warbler. Extent of postjuvenile moult.

### **PHENOLOGY**

I	П	Ш	IV	V	VI	VII	VIII	IX	Χ	ΧI	XII





Willow Warbler. Autumn. Adult (11-VIII)

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Willow Warbler. Autumn. 1st year (10-VIII)





Willow Warbler. Breast pattern: top in spring (05-IV); middle adult in autumn (11-VIII); bottom 1st year (10-VIII).







Willow Warbler. Head pattern: top in spring (05-IV); middle adult in autumn (11-VIII); bottom 1st year (10-VIII).









Willow Warbler. Tail pattern: top left in spring (21-III); top right adult in autumn (11-VIII); left 1st year (10-VIII).









Willow Warbler. Pattern of undertail coverts: top left in spring (05-IV); top right adult in autumn (11-VIII); left 1st year (10-VIII).







Willow Warbler. Upperpart pattern: top left in spring (05-IV); top right adult in autumn (11-VIII); left 1st year (10-VIII).







Willow Warbler. Underpart pattern: top left in spring (05-IV); top right adult in autumn (11-VIII); left 1st year (10-VIII).



Willow Warbler. Autumn. Adult: pattern of wing coverts (11-VIII).



Willow Warbler. Autumn. 1st year no moulted: pattern of wing coverts (22-VIII).

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Willow Warbler. Autumn. 1st year with only lesser coverts moulted: pattern of wing coverts (22-VIII)



Willow Warbler. Spring: pattern of wing (05-IV).



Willow Warbler. Autumn. Adult: pattern of wing (11-VIII).



Willow Warbler. Autumn. 1st year no moulted: pattern of wing (22-VIII).



Willow Warbler. Autumn. 1st year with only lesser coverts moulted: pattern of wing (22-VIII)