

14870 Short-toed Treecreeper (*Certhia brachydactyla*)

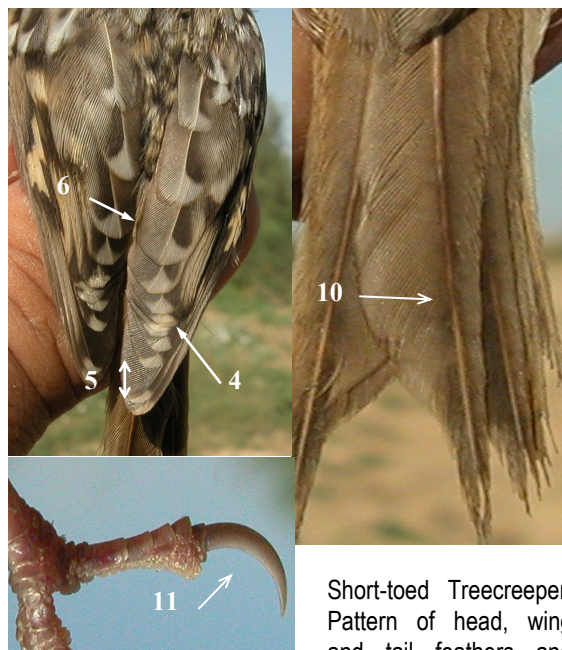
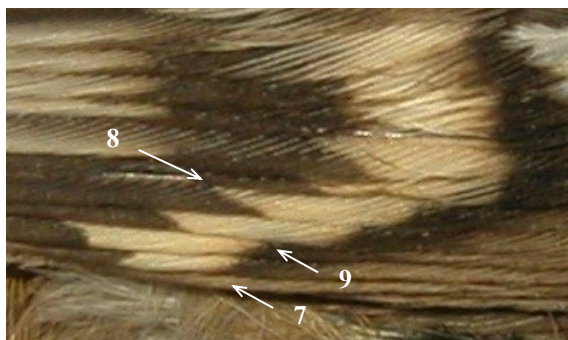
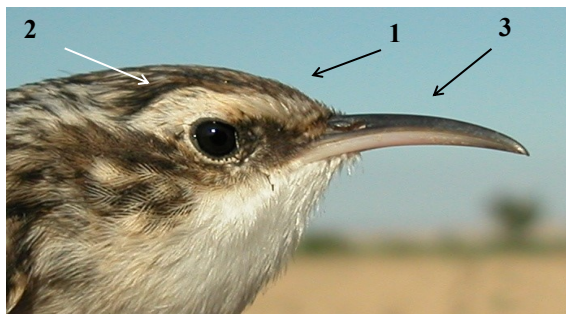


Short-toed Treecreeper. Adult. Male (16-XI).

SHORT-TOED TREECREEPER (*Certhia brachydactyla*)

IDENTIFICATION

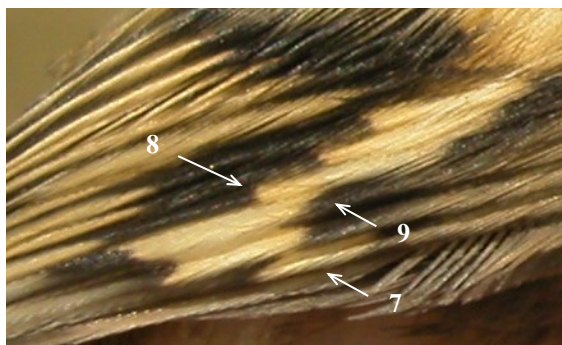
11-13 cm. Upperparts brownish and streaked white; buff rump; white throat; white-greyish underparts, with brownish flanks; forehead without pale streaked (1); short supercilium not spreading to nape (2); bill long (3); inner primaries with small isolated and pale tips (4); short primary projection (5); inner web of the longest tertial dark, clearly contrasting with pale tip of the outer web (6); 7th primary usually without a pale patch (7); pale patches with pointed distal edges (8); without an obvious "step" within pale patches (9); shaft of the central tail feather as dark as webs (10); hind claw shorter than its toe (11).



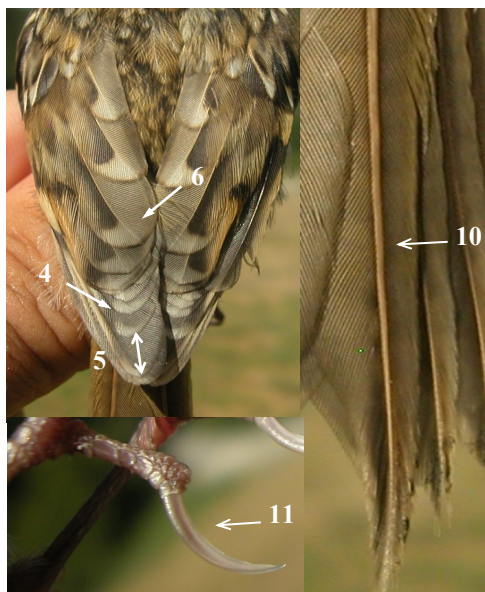
Short-toed Treecreeper. Pattern of head, wing and tail feathers and length of the hind claw.

SIMILAR SPECIES

Eurasian Treecreeper is very similar and difficult to separate: forehead with pale streaked (1); long supercilium spreading to nape (2); bill short (3); inner primaries with large and whitish tips (4); long primary projection (5); inner web of the longest tertial pale, contrasting slightly with pale tip of the outer web (6); 7th primary always with distinct pale patch (7); pale patches with squared or rounded distal edges (8); with an obvious "step" within pale patches (9); shaft of the central tail feather paler than the webs (10); hind claw longer than its toe (11).



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Eurasian Treecreeper. Pattern of head, wing and tail feathers and length of the hind claw.

SEXING

Plumage of both sexes alike although, in **adult** birds, **male** usually with wing and bill longer than **female** doing sexing possible in extreme birds (**CAUTION:** measurements are not given due to geographical variation of size in the species).



Short-toed Treecreeper. Adult. Sexing. Length of bill: top male; bottom female.

AGEING

2 age groups can be safely recognized:

Juvenile similar to **adults**, but with spotted upperparts; fresh plumage.

Adult with streaked upperparts; worn plumage in **spring**.

CAUTION: after the **postbreeding/postjuvenile** moult, ageing is very difficult using plumage characteristics. Pattern of the pale patch and tip of the longest primary covert has been recorded for ageing, which is small and rounded in **adults**, and with triangular shape and pointed in **juveniles**, but is not always an useful characteristic.



Short-toed Treecreeper. Summer. Ageing. Pattern of breast feathers: top adult; bottom juvenile.



Short-toed Treecreeper. Summer. Ageing. Pattern of upperparts: left adult; right juvenile.

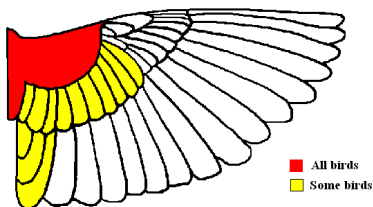
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Short-toed Treecreeper. Summer. Ageing. Wear of tail: left adult; right juvenile.

MOULT

Complete **postbreeding** moult, usually finished in September. Partial **postjuvenile** moult involving body feathers, lesser and median wing coverts and, often, some tertials and all greater coverts; usually finished in October.



Short-toed Treecreeper. Extent of postjuvenile moult.

PHENOLOGY

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

■ Summer visitor ■ Resident
■ Wintering ■ On passage



Short-toed Treecreeper. Adult. Female (26-IX).



Short-toed Treecreeper. Juvenile (19-VII).



Short-toed Treecreeper. Head pattern: top adult male (16-XI); middle adult female (26-IX); bottom juvenile (19-VII).

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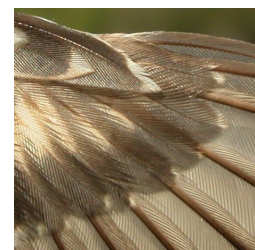
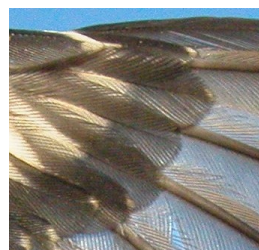
Short-toed Treecreeper. Breast pattern: top left adult male (16-XI); top right adult female (26-IX); left juvenile (19-VII).



Short-toed Treecreeper. Upperpart pattern: top left adult male (16-XI); top right adult female (26-IX); left juvenile (19-VII).



Short-toed Treecreeper. Pattern of tail: left adult male (16-XI); middle adult female (26-IX); right juvenile (19-VII).



Short-toed Treecreeper. Adult. Pattern of the pale patch and tip of the longest primary covert: left (22-VIII); right (03-V)



Short-toed Treecreeper. Juvenile. Pattern of the pale patch and tip of the longest primary covert: left (15-VII); right (26-VI).



Short-toed Treecreeper. Adult. Male: pattern of wing (16-XI).



Short-toed Treecreeper. Adult. Female: pattern of wing (26-IX).



Short-toed Treecreeper. Juvenile: pattern of wing (19-VII).