

15190 Lesser Grey Shrike (*Lanius minor*)

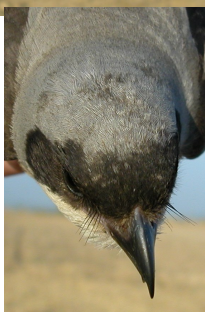


Lesser Grey Shrike. Spring. Adult. Female (11-VII).

LESSER GREY SHRIKE (*Lanius minor*)

IDENTIFICATION

19-21 cm. Grey upperparts; underparts with pinkish tinge; grey head with dark band on forehead; dark wings with white patch on base of primaries.



Lesser Grey Shrike. Pattern of wing, head and forehead.

SIMILAR SPECIES

Southern Grey Shrike is similar, but with bigger size; smaller white patch on wing; with white supercilium and without a black band on forehead.



Southern Grey Shrike



SEXING

In **breeding** plumage, **male** with forehead, lores and ear-coverts jet-black; black on forehead reaching well into forecrown (10-17 mm from base of bill); breast usually with deep salmon-pink tinge. **Female** with band on forehead, lores and ear-coverts dull black, sometimes with pale grey spots or patches; black on forehead less extensive reaching 6-12 mm from base of bill; breast usually with slightly salmon-pink tinge. **Juveniles** cannot be sexed using plumage pattern.

CAUTION: breast colour in **adults** with some overlap. In **autumn**, after **postbreeding** moult, sexing much as in **spring** but although a few **males** retain all black forehead, sexing in many birds is very difficult, or impossible, due to extensive number of grey feathers on forehead.



Lesser Grey Shrike. Summer. Sexing. Pattern of forehead (Photo: Reinhard Vohwinkel); left male; right female.

AGEING

3 age groups can be recognized:

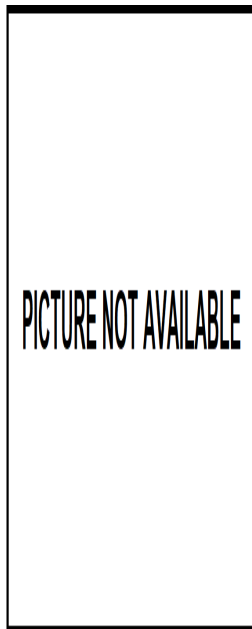
Juvenile with fresh plumage; crown and mantle finely barred dark; no black on forehead; sides of breast and flanks finely barred grey; greater coverts blackish, finely edged and tipped white.

1st year similar to **juveniles** but moulted body feathers without dark barred; fresh flight and tail feathers.

Adult with worn plumage; mantle unbarred, being pure pale grey; with black band on forehead; sides of breast and flanks without grey barred; greater coverts uniform blackish.



Lesser Grey Shrike. Ageing. Pattern of forehead: left adult female; right juvenile (Photo: Reinhard Vohwinkel).



Lesser Grey Shrike. Ageing. Pattern of upperparts: left adult female; right juvenile.

MOULT

Partial **postbreeding** moult in breeding places involving body feathers, wing coverts and occasionally tertials. Partial **postjuvenile** moult in July-September variable in extensión, mainly involving body feathers. Both age classes have a complete **prebreeding** moult in wintering sites.

PHENOLOGY

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

- Summer visitor
- Wintering
- Resident
- On passage

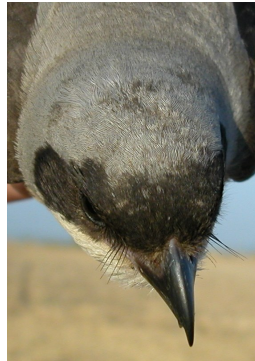


Lesser Grey Shrike. Spring. Adult. Male ().



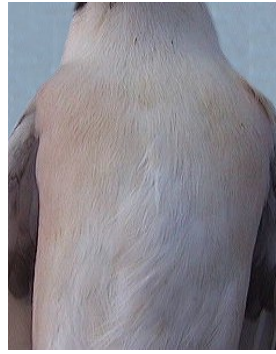
Lesser Grey Shrike. Spring. Juvenile ().

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Lesser Grey Shrike. Spring. Crown pattern: top left male (05-V) (Photo: Reinhard Vohwinkel); top right female (11-VII); left juvenile (25-VIII) (Photo: Reinhard Vohwinkel).

Lesser Grey Shrike. Spring. Head pattern: top male (05-V) (Photo: Reinhard Vohwinkel); middle female (11-VII); bottom juvenile (25-VIII) (Photo: Reinhard Vohwinkel).

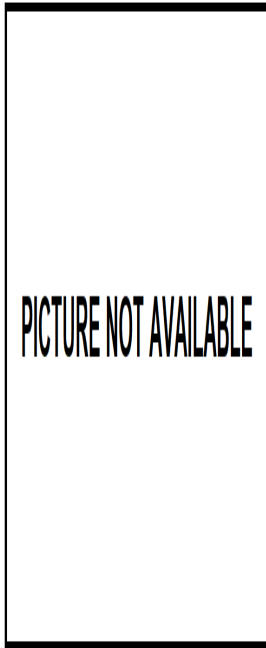


Lesser Grey Shrike. Spring. Breast pattern: top left male (05-V) (Photo: Reinhard Vohwinkel); top right female (11-VII); left juvenile (25-VIII) (Photo: Reinhard Vohwinkel).

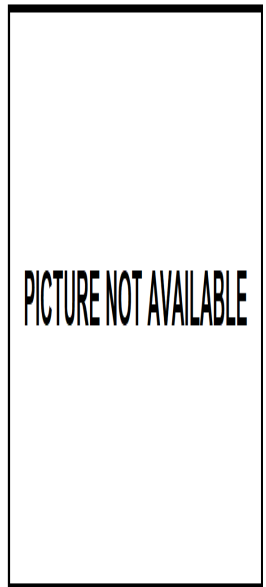


Lesser Grey Shrike. Spring. Tail pattern: top left male (05-V) (Photo: Reinhard Vohwinkel); top right female (11-VII); left juvenile (25-VIII) (Photo: Reinhard Vohwinkel).

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Lesser Grey Shrike. Spring. Adult. Female: wing pattern (11-VII).



Lesser Grey Shrike. Spring. Upperparts pattern: top left male (); top right female (11-VII); left juvenile ().



Lesser Grey Shrike. Spring. Juvenile: wing pattern (25-VIII) (Foto: Reinhard Vohwinkel).



Lesser Grey Shrike. Spring. Adult. Male: wing pattern (05-V) (Photo: Reinhard Vohwinkel).