

15230 Woodchat Shrike (*Lanius senator*)



Woodchat Shrike. Adult. Male (11-VI).

WOODCHAT SHRIKE (*Lanius senator*)

IDENTIFICATION

17-18 cm. **Adults** with brown upperparts; white shoulders; white underparts; head with red-chestnut crown and black eye-stripe and forehead; wing with a white patch. **Juveniles** brown-grey and barred.



Woodchat Shrike. Adult. Female. Pattern of head and upperparts.



Woodchat Shrike. Juvenile. Pattern of scapulars, tail and upperparts.

SIMILAR SPECIES

Recalls a **Red-backed Shrike**, which has reddish mantle and lacks red-chestnut head. **Juveniles** of both species are similar but **Red-backed Shrike** is more reddish on mantle; without white patch on scapulars and with the outermost tail feather with a narrow pale edge on the tip.



Red-backed Shrike. Adult. Female. Pattern of head and upperparts.



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Red-backed Shrike. Juvenile. Pattern of scapulars, tail and upperparts.

SEXING

Male with mantle black contrasting with rump ash-grey; forehead and ear-coverts black. **Female** with mantle dark grey without contrast with rump, which is the same colour; forehead and ear-coverts with admixed black, brown and buff-white feathers. **Juveniles** cannot be sexed using plumage pattern.



Woodchat Shrike. Sexing. Pattern of head: top male; bottom female.



Woodchat Shrike. Sexing. Pattern of upperparts: left male; right female.

AGEING

3 age groups can be recognized:

Juvenile with fresh plumage; crown, upper and underparts barred pale and dull black.

2nd year with moult limit between moulted dark wing feathers and **juvenile** brownish unmoulted primary coverts and flight feathers.

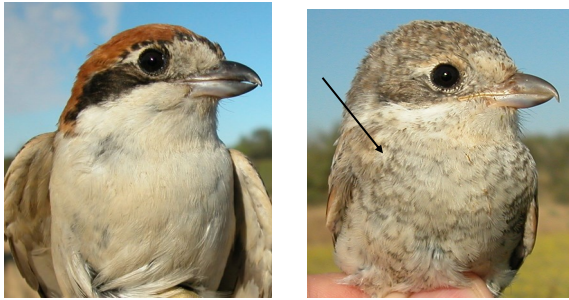
Adult with all wing feathers blackish and quite fresh.



Woodchat Shrike. Ageing. Pattern of head: top adult female; bottom juvenile.



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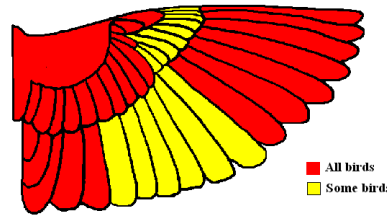
Woodchat Shrike. Ageing. Pattern of breast: left adult female; right juvenile.



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

MOULT

Complete **postbreeding** moult usually starting in breeding areas, suspended before migration and finished in wintering sites; a **prebreeding** moult takes place in winter involving body feathers, most wing coverts, some tertials and rarely some tail feathers. Partial **postjuvenile** moult including a few body feathers and some lesser and median coverts, starting in breeding areas, suspended before migration and finished in winter quarters, where the **prebreeding** moult takes place involving all body feathers, median and greater coverts, tertials, inner secondaries, outer primaries and some to all tail feathers; usually central flight feathers and mainly primary coverts remain unmoulted; a few birds have a complete moult.



Woodchat Shrike. Extent of postjuvenile moult.

PHENOLOGY

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

- Summer visitor
- Resident
- Wintering
- On passage



Woodchat Shrike. Adult. Female (02-V).



Woodchat Shrike. 2nd year. Male (17-VII).

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Woodchat Shrike. 2nd year. Female (06-V).



Woodchat Shrike. Head pattern: top 2nd year male (17-VII); middle 2nd year female (06-V); bottom juvenile (23-VIII).



Woodchat Shrike. Juvenile (23-VII).



Woodchat Shrike. Adult. Breast pattern: left male (11-VI); right female (02-V).

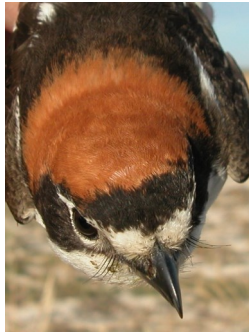


Woodchat Shrike. Adult. Head pattern: top male (11-VI); bottom female (02-V).



Woodchat Shrike. Breast pattern: top left 2nd year male (17-VII); top right 2nd year male (17-VII); top right 2nd year female (06-V); left juvenile (23-VIII).

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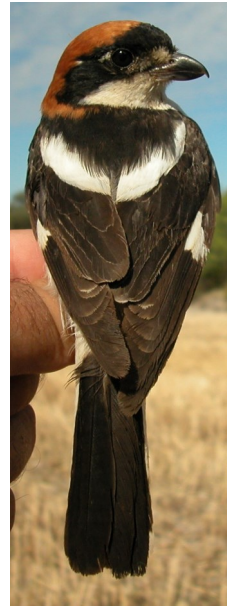
Woodchat Shrike. Adult. Pattern of crown and forehead: left male (11-VI); right female (02-V).



Woodchat Shrike. Pattern of crown and forehead: top left 2nd year male (17-VII); top right 2nd year female (06-V); left juvenile (23-VIII).



Woodchat Shrike. Adult. Upperpart pattern: left male (11-VI); right female (02-V).



Woodchat Shrike. Upperpart pattern: top left 2nd year male (17-VII); top right 2nd year female (06-V); left juvenile (23-VIII).



Woodchat Shrike. Adult. Male: pattern of wing (11-VI).



Woodchat Shrike. Adult. Female: pattern of wing (02-V).



Woodchat Shrike. 2nd year. Male: pattern of wing(17-VII).



Woodchat Shrike. 2nd year. Female: pattern of wing (06-V).



Woodchat Shrike. Juvenile: pattern of wing (31-VII).