

421 Eurasian Tree Sparrow

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Tree Sparrow. Adult. Male (03-IV).



EURASIAN TREE SPARROW (*Passer montanus*)

IDENTIFICATION

12-14 cm. Chesnut crown, white cheeks with a black spot and a small black bib.



Tree Sparrow.
Pattern of head.

SIMILAR SPECIES

Recalls a **Spanish Sparrow male**, which has a chesnut crown too but has streaked flanks and lacks black spot on cheek; the **House Sparrow male** has grey crown and lacks black spot on cheek too.



Spanish Sparrow. Male

SEXING

Sexes with very similar pattern, if at all, **male** generally with a more intense hazel coloration on crown, blacker bib more defined auricular spot and edge of greater coverts deeper chestnut-coloured than in the **female** (**CAUTION**: these differences are sometimes very subtle and difficult to discern if the pair is not together). Wing length and bib width are useful characters: **male** with wing longer than 69 mm, bib width larger than 10 mm. **Female** with wing shorter than 67 mm, bib width less than 9 mm. (**CAUTION**: measurements valid only for Iberian specimens)



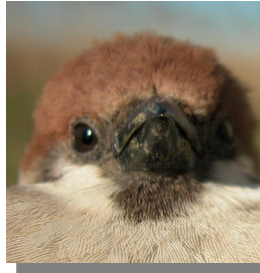
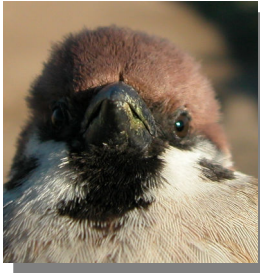
Tree Sparrow. Sexing. Head pattern: left male; right female



Tree Sparrow. Sexing. Crown pattern: left male; right female

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Tree Sparrow. Sexing. Bib size: left male; right female

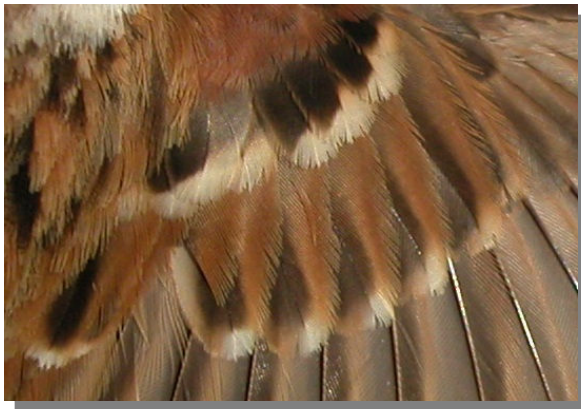
AGEING

2 types of age can be recognized:

Juvenile resembles **adult** but with least marked colours; median and greater wing coverts tipped buff; with fresh plumage.

Adult with contrasted colours; median and greater wing coverts tipped white; with worn plumage in **summer**.

After the **postbreeding/postjuvenile** moults, ageing is not possible using plumage pattern.



Tree Sparrow. Sexing. Pattern of wing coverts: top male; bottom female.



Tree Sparrow. Ageing. Pattern of head: top adult; bottom juvenile.



Tree Sparrow. Ageing. Pattern of median and greater coverts: top adult; bottom juvenile.

REFERENCE: González, S.; Morinha, F.; Villanúa, D.; Goñi, L.; Blanco, G., 2022. Discriminant Criteria for Field Sexing in the Eurasian Tree Sparrow by Combining Body Size and Plumage Features. *Birds*, 3: 402–409.

The data on differences in colour between the sexes is a personal communication from Diego Villanúa, one of the authors of the above-mentioned work.

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Tree Sparrow. Juvenile (18-VI).

Tree Sparrow. Ageing. Wear of plumage: left adult; right juvenile.

MOULT

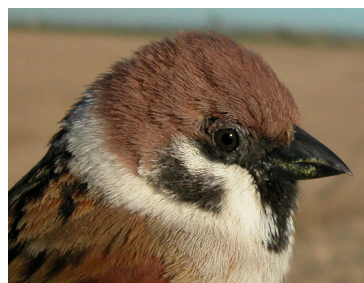
Complete **postbreeding** and **postjuvenile** moults, usually finished in November.

PHENOLOGY

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

STATUS IN ARAGÓN

Resident. Widely distributed throughout the Region, absent from the highest mountains and the most deforested areas of the Ebro Basin.



Tree Sparrow.
Head pattern:
top male (03-IV);
middle female (03-IV);
bottom juvenile (18-VI).



Tree Sparrow. Adult. Female (03-IV).



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Tree Sparrow. Breast pattern: top left male (03-IV); top right female (03-IV); left juvenile (18-VI).



Tree Sparrow. Tail pattern: top left male (03-IV); top right female (03-IV); left juvenile (18-VI).



Tree Sparrow. Upperpart pattern: top left male (03-IV); top right female (03-IV); left juvenile (18-VI).



Tree Sparrow. Adult. Male : pattern of wing (03-IV).

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Tree Sparrow. Adult. Female : pattern of wing (03-IV).



Tree Sparrow. Juvenile : pattern of wing (03-IV).