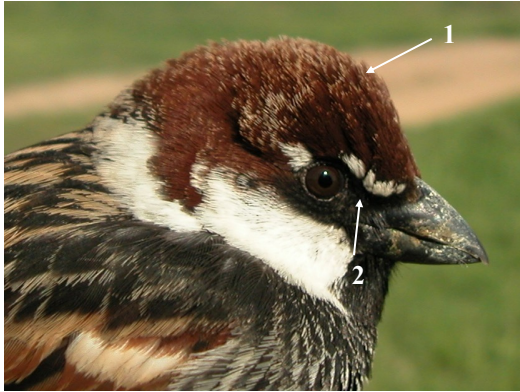


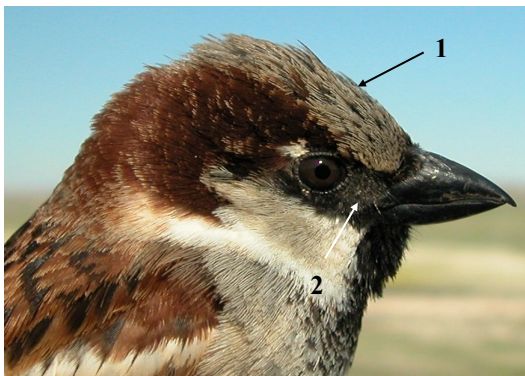
**IDENTIFICATION OF SPANISH SPARROW (*Passer hispaniolensis*) AND HOUSE SPARROW (*Passer domesticus*)**

**MALE IN SPRING**

In **spring**, **males** are unmistakable by pattern of plumage.



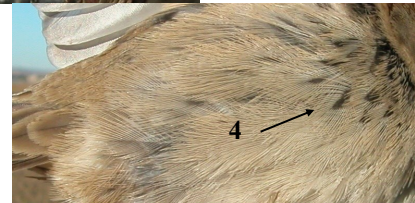
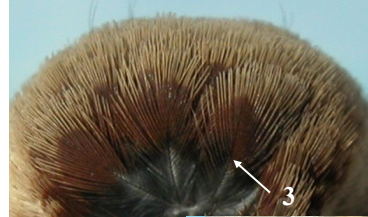
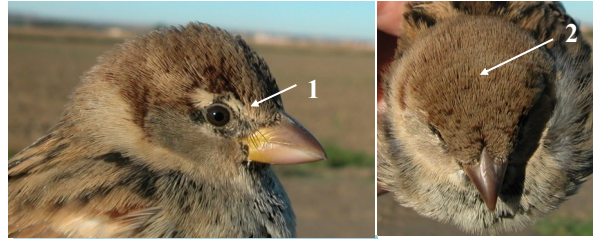
Spanish Sparrow. Spring. Male: chestnut head without grey (1); white supercilium before the eye (2); with streaked breast and flanks (3).



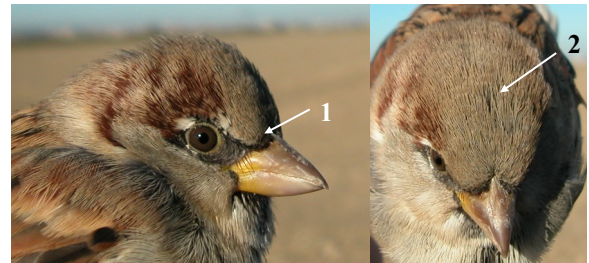
House Sparrow. Spring. Male: chestnut and grey head (1); without white supercilium before the eye (2); breast and flanks unstreaked (3).

**MALE IN WINTER**

In **winter**, **males** can be separated by pattern of head and flank.



Spanish Sparrow. Winter. Male: long supercilium before the eye (1); brownish crown (2); brown bases of crown feathers (3); with streaked flanks (4).



House Sparrow. Winter. Male: short supercilium before the eye (1); greyish crown (2); grey bases of crown feathers (3); with unstreaked flanks (4).



**FEMALE**

All authors consulted agree that **it is not always possible** to separate the **females** of both species using only the plumage pattern, since the overlap between both species is very large and it is very difficult to find specimens that meet all the conditions. To verify this, photographs of **females** of both **Spanish Sparrow** and **House Sparrow** randomly chosen are provided comparing the differentiating characters obtained from the following bibliography: S. Cramp (ed.) (1994), A. Harris *et al.* (1989), A. Harris *et al.* (1996), Demongin (2016) and Shirihai & Svensson (2018).

These characters are:

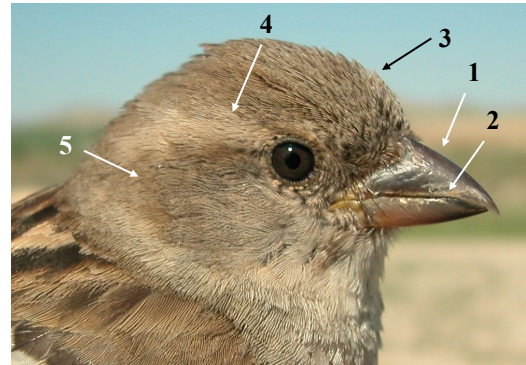
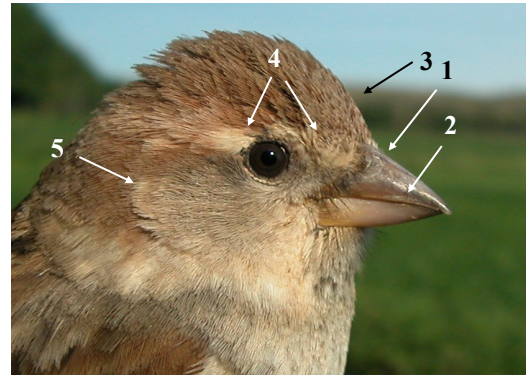
**Spanish Sparrow:**

- Bill more robust (1).
- Cutting edge of upper mandible more curved (2).
- Steeper-sloping forehead (3).
- Broader supercilium both before and behind the eye, pale cream coloured (4).
- Pale ear-coverts, contrasting less with supercilium (5).
- Shaft streaks on crown feathers dark (6).
- Breast usually with faint darkish streaks and dots (7).
- Flanks with diffuse streaked (8).
- Mantle sides with paler and better-pronounced tramlines (9).
- Uppertail coverts and rump feathers usually with faint darkish shaft streaks (10).
- Undertail coverts with diffuse greyish centres (11).
- Tertials with pale edges merging slightly more with less blackish centres (12).
- Tips of median wing coverts with large pale patch (13).

**House Sparrow:**

- Bill slightly weaker (1).
- Cutting edge of upper mandible less curved (2).
- With squared forehead (3)
- Diffuse supercilium only behind the eye, grey-browed coloured (4).
- Ear-coverts dark grey and with great contrast with supercilium (5).
- Shaft streaks on crown feathers pale and uniform (6).
- Breast without faint darkish streaks and dots (7).
- Flanks without diffuse streaked (8).
- Mantle sides with darker and worse-pronounced tramlines (9).
- Uppertail coverts and rump feathers usually without faint darkish shaft streaks (10).
- Undertail coverts with narrow greyish centres often almost restricted to shaft area (11).
- Tertials with more brown-reddish edges (12).
- Tips of median wing coverts with small pale patch (13).

**CAUTION:** other compared birds would give different coincidences and differences.



Top Spanish Sparrow, bottom House Sparrow. Pattern of head and bill: Spanish with more robust bill (1) (it is not fulfilled, the House's bill seems shorter and thicker); Spanish with cutting edge of upper mandible more curved (2) (it is not fulfilled, the cutting edge of this House is more curved); Spanish with steeper-sloping forehead and House with squared forehead (3) (it is fulfilled, but the Spanish bird has bristling feathers and can distort the appreciation); Spanish with supercilium both before and behind the eye and House with supercilium only behind the eye (4) (it is fulfilled); Spanish with paler ear-coverts contrasting less with supercilium (5) (it is fulfilled with a subtle difference).



Top Spanish Sparrow, bottom House Sparrow. Pattern of crown feathers: Spanish with dark e r s t r e a k s on shaft

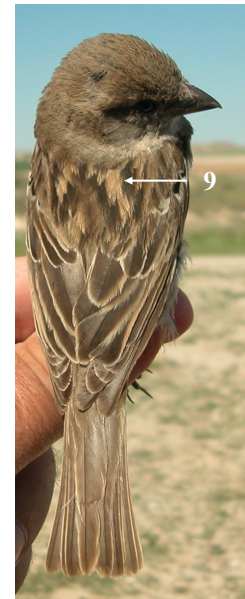
of crown feathers (6) (it is not fulfilled, House has darker shafts).



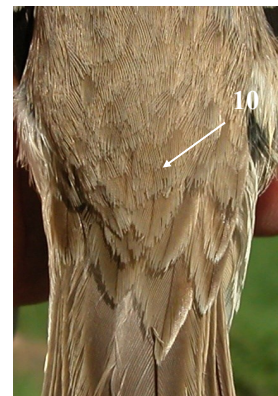
Top Spanish Sparrow, bottom House Sparrow. Pattern of breast: Spanish with more spotted breast (7) (it is fulfilled).



Top Spanish Sparrow, bottom House Sparrow. Pattern of flank: Spanish with more spotted flanks (8) (it is fulfilled).

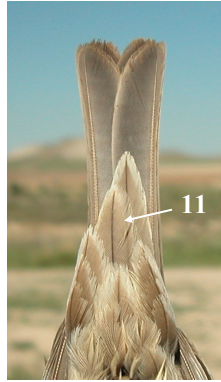
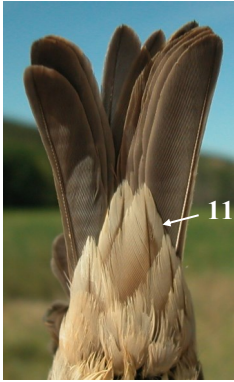


Left Spanish Sparrow, right House Sparrow. Pattern of mantle: Spanish with paler and better-pronounced tramlines (9) (it is fulfilled, but with very subtle differences).

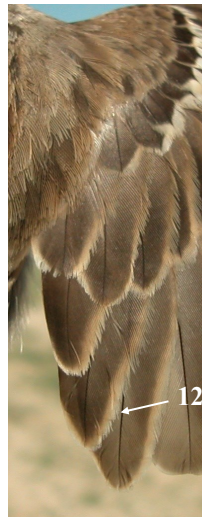


Left Spanish Sparrow, right House Sparrow. Pattern of rump and uppertail coverts: Spanish with darker shaft streaks (10) (it is not fulfilled, in these birds, House has darker shaft on rump feathers).

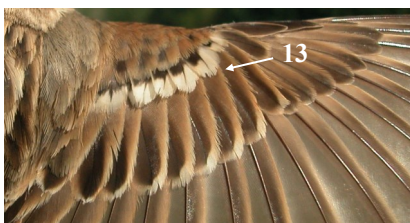




Left Spanish Sparrow, right House Sparrow. Pattern of undertail coverts: Spanish with larger dark greyish centres (11) (it is not fulfilled, in these birds House has wider dark centres around the shaft).



Left Spanish Sparrow, right House Sparrow. Pattern of tertials: Spanish with paler edges on tertials (12) (it is not fulfilled, in these birds differences are very subtle).

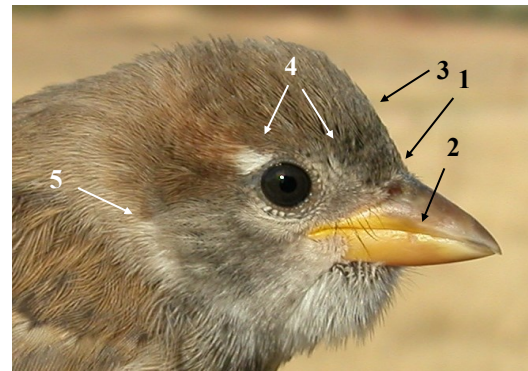
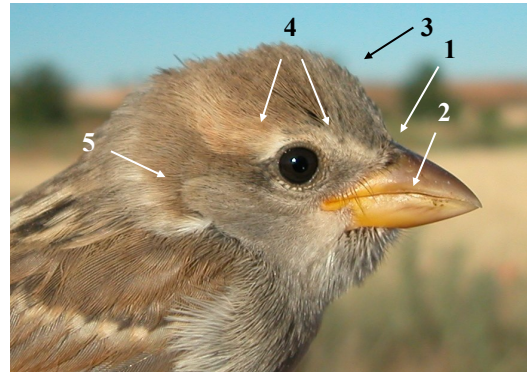


Top Spanish Sparrow, bottom House Sparrow. Pattern of wing coverts: Spanish with larger pale tips on median coverts (13) (it is fulfilled).

**JUVENILE**

The revised literature indicates that **juveniles** of both species are **indistinguishable**. To verify this, photographs of **juveniles** of both **Spanish Sparrow** and **House Sparrow** randomly chosen are provided comparing the same characters that have been used in the case of **females**.

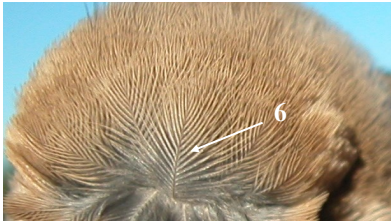
**CAUTION:** other compared birds would give different coincidences and differences.



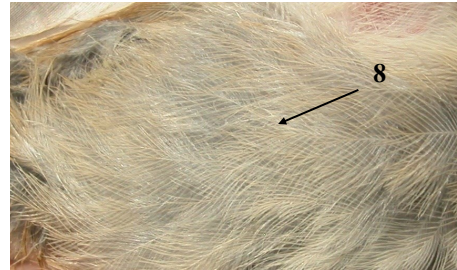
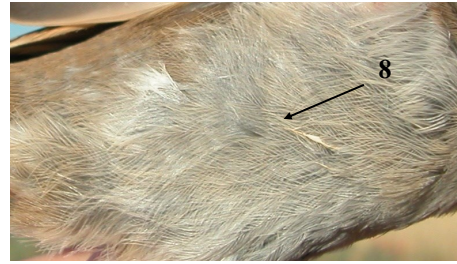
Top Spanish Sparrow, bottom House Sparrow. Pattern of head and bill: Spanish with more robust bill (1) (it is not fulfilled, both bills are quite similar); Spanish with cutting edge of upper mandible more curved (2) (it is fulfilled with a subtle difference); Spanish with steeper-sloping forehead and House with squared forehead (3) (it is not fulfilled, both birds have similar forehead); Spanish with supercilium both before and behind the eye and House with supercilium only behind the eye (4) (it is fulfilled); Spanish with paler ear-coverts contrasting less with supercilium (5) (it is fulfilled).



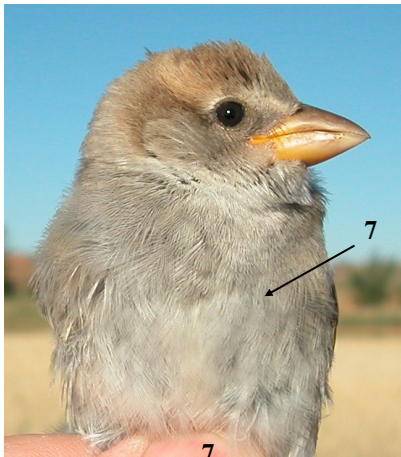
**16009 Identification of Spanish/House Sparrows**



Top Spanish Sparrow, bottom House Sparrow. Pattern of crown feathers: Spanish with darker streaks on shaft of crown feathers (6) (it is not fulfilled, they have similar feathers).



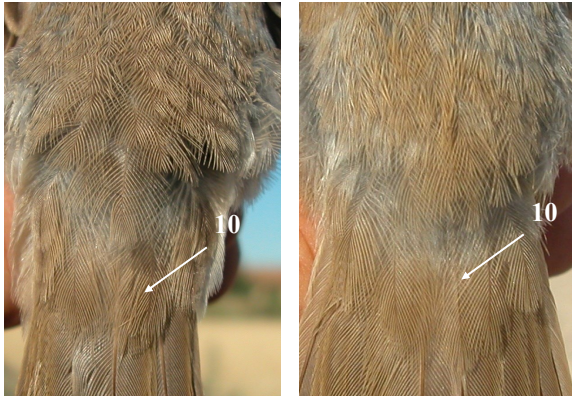
Top Spanish Sparrow, bottom House Sparrow. Pattern of flank: Spanish with more spotted flanks (8) (it is not fulfilled, no bird has a mottled flank).



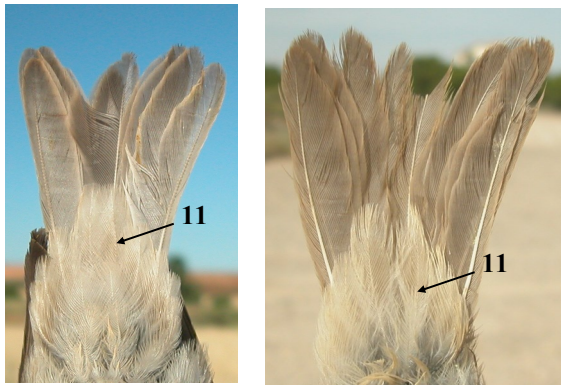
Top Spanish Sparrow, bottom House Sparrow. Pattern of breast: Spanish with more spotted breast (7) (it is not fulfilled, they have similar feathers).



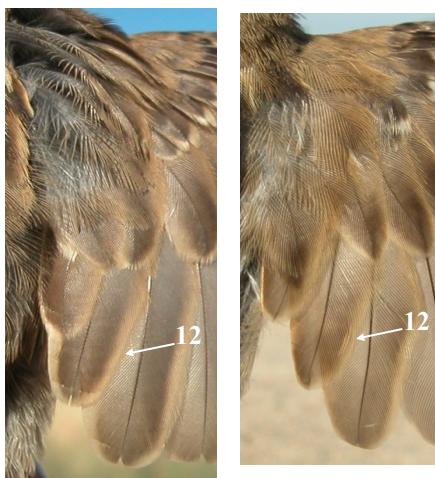
Left Spanish Sparrow, right House Sparrow. Pattern of mantle: Spanish with paler and better-pronounced tramlines (9) (it is fulfilled, but with very subtle differences).



Left Spanish Sparrow, right House Sparrow. Pattern of rump and uppertail coverts: Spanish with darker shaft streaks (10) (it is not fulfilled, both birds have similar feathers).



Left Spanish Sparrow, right House Sparrow. Pattern of undertail coverts: Spanish with larger dark greyish centres (11) (it is not fulfilled, both birds have similar feathers).



Left Spanish Sparrow, right House Sparrow. Pattern of tertials: Spanish with paler edges on tertials (12) (it is not fulfilled, both birds have similar feathers).



Top Spanish Sparrow, bottom House Sparrow. Pattern of wing coverts: Spanish with larger pale tips on median coverts (13) (it is fulfilled).