

18570 Yellowhammer (*Emberiza citrinella*)

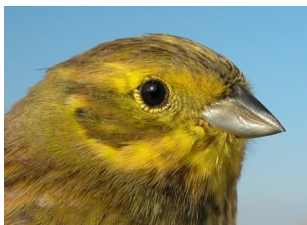


Yellowhammer. Winter. Adult. Male (04-XI)

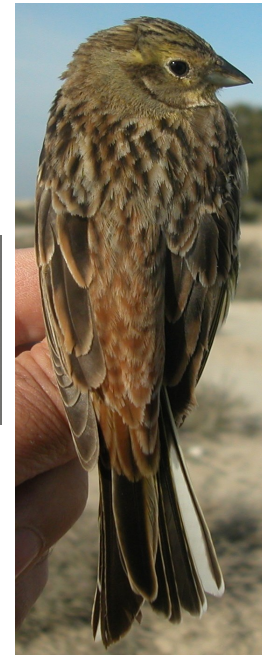
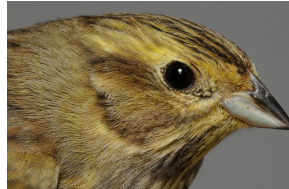
YELLOWHAMMER (*Emberiza citrinella*)

IDENTIFICATION

14-18 cm. **Breeding male** with yellow head; reddish upperparts, brown streaked; chestnut-reddish rump and uppertail coverts, unstreaked; bluish bill; in **winter** similar to **female**. **Female** more brownish and streaked than **male**.



Yellowhammer. Winter. Pattern of upperparts and head: top male; bottom female.



Yellowhammer. Spring. Pattern of upperparts and head: top male (Photo: Ottenby Bird Observatory); bottom female (Photo: Ottenby Bird Observatory).



Yellowhammer. Juvenile. Pattern of head (Photo: Ondrej Kauzal) and upperparts (Photo: Alejandro Corregidor).

SIMILAR SPECIES

Male in **breeding** plumage unmistakable. **Female** similar to **female Cirl Bunting** which has grey-olive rump and lacks pale patch on nape. **Female Ortolan Bunting** has brown rump and grey-buff underparts. **Juveniles Yellowhammer** are unmistakable due to their chestnut rump.

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Cirl Bunting. Female



Ortolan Bunting. 1st year.

SEXING

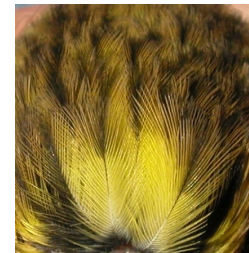
In **breeding** plumage, **male** with head and underparts deep yellow. **Female** with head and underparts brownish. After **postbreeding/postjuvenile** moults, **adult male** with crown feathers yellow on more than half length without a dark shaft streak. **Adult female** and **1st/2nd year male** (**CAUTION:** it is necessary to find out the age first to differentiate them) with crown feathers about half of feather yellow and dark shaft streak on distal part. **1st/2nd year female** with none or only a little yellow on crown feathers and dark shaft streak on distal part. **CAUTION:** some birds cannot be sexed safely due to overlap. **Juveniles** cannot be sexed using plumage pattern.



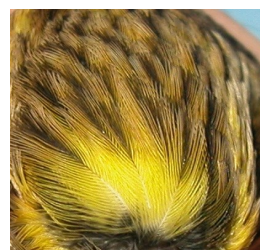
Yellowhammer. Spring. Sexing. Pattern of head: top male (Photo: Ottenby Bird Observatory); bottom female (Photo: Ottenby Bird Observatory).



Yellowhammer. Spring. Sexing. Pattern of breast: left male (Photo: Reinhard Vohwinkel); right female (Photo: Reinhard Vohwinkel).



Yellowhammer. Autumn. Adult. Sexing. Pattern of crown feathers: left male; right female.



Yellowhammer. Autumn. 1st year. Sexing. Pattern of crown feathers: left male; right female.

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AGEING

3 age groups can be recognized:

Juvenile with very fresh plumage; chin, throat, breast and flanks with clear dark streaks; median and greater wing coverts with white tips.

1st year autumn/2nd year spring with moult limits on wing between greater and primary coverts, within tertials, between tertials and secondaries or within alula feathers; tail feathers usually narrow and pointed (**CAUTION:** not always); if central tail feathers have been moulted, then contrasting with more worn **juvenile** ones; 9th primary with pointed tip.

Adult without moult limits on wing; tail feathers usually broad with rounded tips; 9th primary with rounded tip.

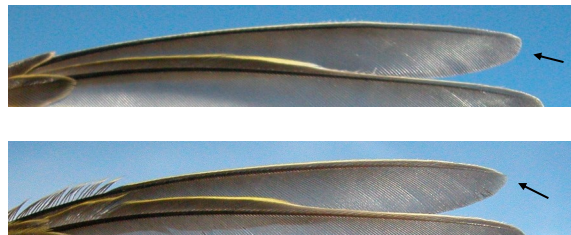
See **SEXING** for details about pattern of crown feathers.



Yellowhammer. Spring. Ageing. Pattern of breast: left adult (Photo: Reinhard Vohwinkel); right juvenile (Photo: Reinhard Vohwinkel).



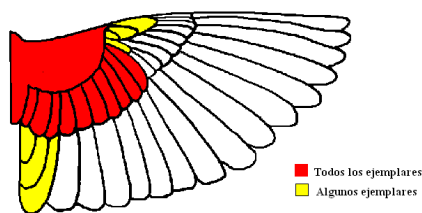
Yellowhammer. Ageing. Wear of the central tail feather: left adult; right juvenile.



Yellowhammer. Ageing. Pattern of tip of the 9th primary: top adult; bottom juvenile.

MOULT

Complete **postbreeding** moult; usually finished in October; exceptionally may suspend moult of primaries. Partial **postjuvenile** moult involving body feathers, lesser, median, often all greater coverts and sometimes tertials and central tail feathers; usually finished in October. Both age classes have a **prebreeding** moult including only body feathers and exceptionally tail feathers.



Yellowhammer. Extent of postjuvenile moult.

PHENOLOGY

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

- Summer visitor
- Wintering
- Resident
- On passage

PICTURE NOT AVAILABLE

Yellowhammer. Spring. Adult. Female ()

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Yellowhammer. Spring. 2nd year. Male ()



Yellowhammer. Spring. 2nd year. Female (26-III)



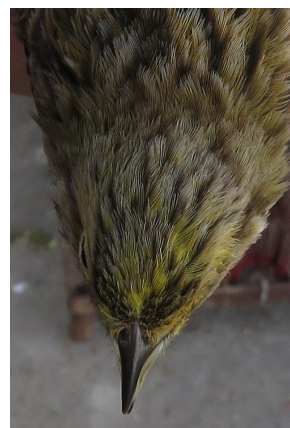
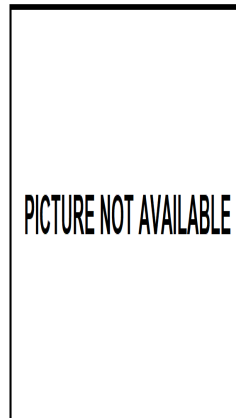
Yellowhammer. Spring. Juvenile (16-VIII) (Photo: Ondrej Kauzal)



Yellowhammer. Spring. Adult. Head pattern: top male (16-III) (Photo: Ottenby Bird Observatory); bottom female (16-III) (Photo: Ottenby Bird Observatory).



Yellowhammer. Spring. Head pattern: top 2nd year male (16-III) (Photo: Ottenby Bird Observatory); middle 2nd year female (26-III); bottom juvenile (15-IV) (Photo: Ondrej Kauzal).

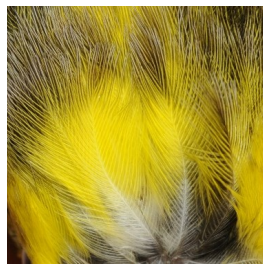


Yellowhammer. Spring. Crown pattern: top left 2nd year male (); top right 2nd year female (26-III); left juvenile (20-IV) (Photo: Alejandro Corredor).

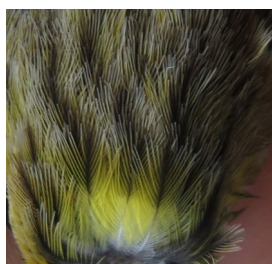
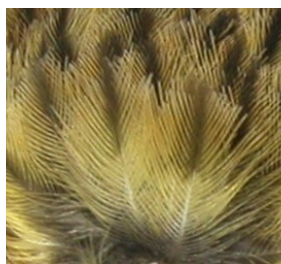
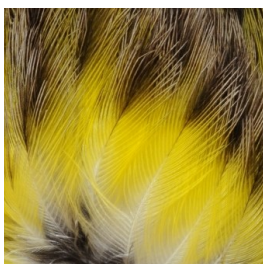
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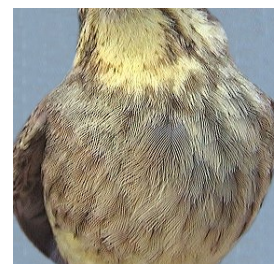
Yellowhammer. Spring. Adult. Crown pattern: left male (16-III) (Photo: Reinhard Vohwinkel); right female (16-III) (Photo: Reinhard Vohwinkel).



Yellowhammer. Spring. Adult. Pattern of crown feathers: left male (16-III) (Photo: Ottenby Bird Observatory); right female (16-III) (Photo: Ottenby Bird Observatory).



Yellowhammer. Spring. Pattern of crown feathers: top left 2nd year male (15-IV) (Photo: Ottenby Bird Observatory); top right 2nd year female (26-III); left juvenile (20-IV) (Photo: Alejandro Corregidor).



Yellowhammer. Spring. Adult. Breast pattern: left male (16-III) (Photo: Reinhard Vohwinkel); right female (16-III) (Photo: Reinhard Vohwinkel).

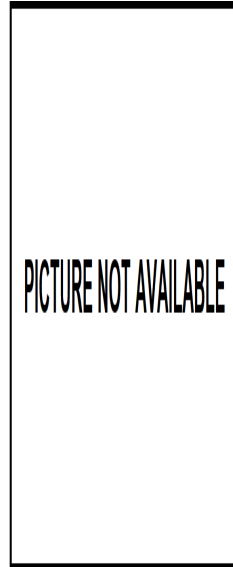
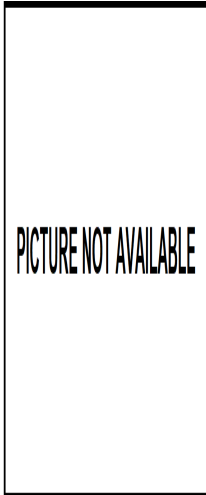


Yellowhammer. Spring. Breast pattern: top left 2nd year male (); top right 2nd year female (26-III); left juvenile (03-IX) (Photo: Pere Josa).



Yellowhammer. Spring. Adult. Tail pattern: left male (16-III) (Photo: Reinhard Vohwinkel); right female (16-III) (Photo: Reinhard Vohwinkel).

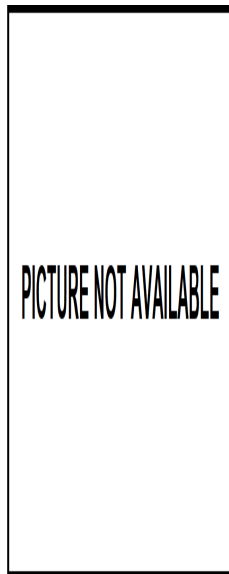
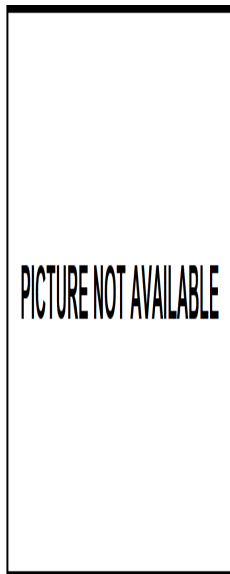
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Yellowhammer. Spring. Tail pattern: top left 2nd year male (); top right 2nd year female (26-III); left juvenile (15-VII) (Photo: Ondrej Kauzal).



Yellowhammer. Spring. Upperparts pattern: top left 2nd year male (); top right 2nd year female (26-III); left juvenile (03-IX) (Photo: Alejandro Corredor).



Yellowhammer. Spring. Adult. Upperparts pattern: left male (); right female ().

Yellowhammer. Spring. Adult. Male: pattern of wing ().



Yellowhammer. Spring. Adult. Female: pattern of wing ().



Yellowhammer. Spring. 2nd year. Male: pattern of wing ().



Yellowhammer. Spring. 2nd year. Female: pattern of wing (26-III).



Yellowhammer. Spring. Juvenile: pattern of wing (15-VII)



Yellowhammer. Winter. Adult. Male (04-XI)



Yellowhammer. Winter. Adult. Female (04-XI)

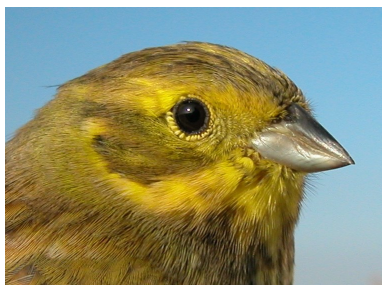


Yellowhammer. Winter. 1st year. Male (04-XI)

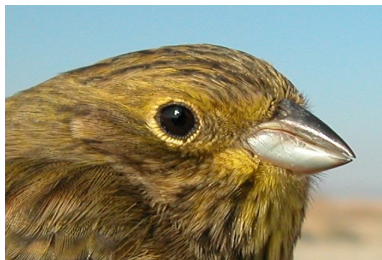
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Yellowhammer. Winter. 1st year. Female (03-XI)



Yellowhammer. Winter. Adult. Head pattern: top male (04-XI); bottom female (04-XI).



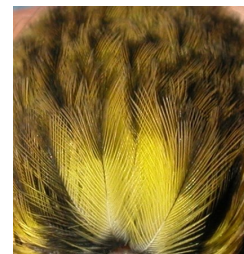
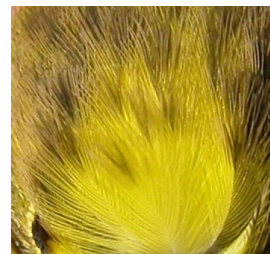
Yellowhammer. Winter. 1st year. Head pattern: top male (04-XI); bottom female (04-XI).



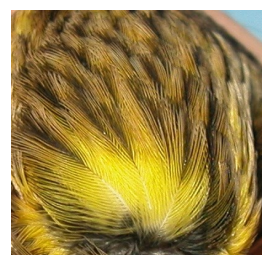
Yellowhammer. Winter. Adult. Crown pattern: left male (04-XI); right female (04-XI).



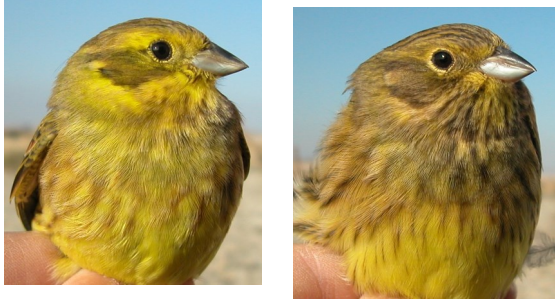
Yellowhammer. Winter. 1st year. Crown pattern: left male (04-XI); right female (04-XI).



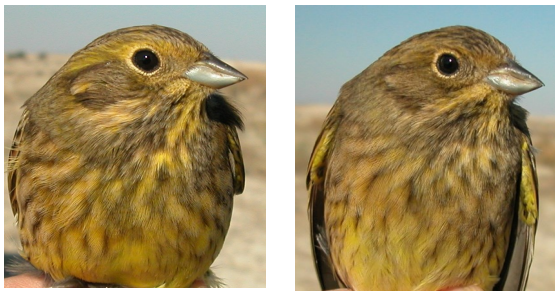
Yellowhammer. Winter. Adult. Pattern of crown feathers: left male (04-XI); right female (04-XI).



Yellowhammer. Winter. 1st year. Pattern of crown feathers: left male (04-XI); right female (04-XI).



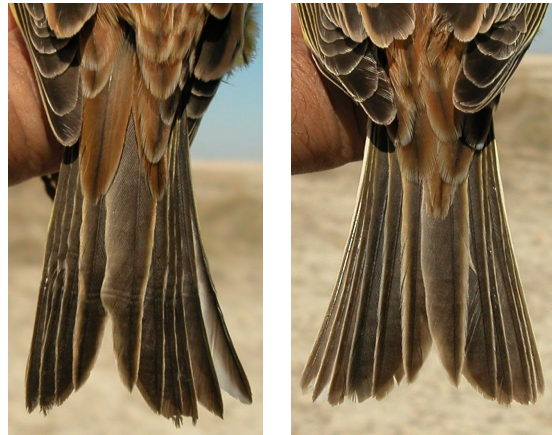
Yellowhammer. Winter. Adult. Breast pattern: left male (04-XI); right female (04-XI).



Yellowhammer. Winter. 1st year. Breast pattern: left male (04-XI); right female (04-XI).



Yellowhammer. Winter. Adult. Tail wear: left male (04-XI); right female (04-XI).



Yellowhammer. Winter. 1st year. Tail wear: left male (04-XI); right female (04-XI).



Yellowhammer. Winter. Adult. Upperpart pattern: left male (04-XI); right female (04-XI).

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Yellowhammer. Winter. 1st year. Upperpart pattern: left male (04-XI); right female (04-XI).



Yellowhammer. Winter. Adult. Female: pattern of wing (04-XI).



Yellowhammer. Winter. 1st year. Male: pattern of wing (04-XI).



Yellowhammer. Pattern of 9th primary: top adult (17-XII); bottom 1st year (06-XII)



Yellowhammer. Winter. 1st year. Female: pattern of wing (04-XI).



Yellowhammer. Winter. Adult. Male: pattern of wing (04-XI).