LESSER SHORT-TOED LARK
*(Alaudala rufescens)*

**IDENTIFICATION**
13-15 cm. Brown upperparts, streaked dark; white underparts, with streaked breast; head without crest; with folded wing, tertials shorter than primary tips; bill short and with convex lower mandible; pale mouth in breeding period. **Juveniles** have streaked breast and pale edges on upperpart and wing feathers.

**SIMILAR SPECIES**
Among small larks, **Woodlark** has a marked white supercilium and black patches on primary coverts. **Short-toed Lark** is very similar, but lacks streaked breast and has both dark patches on upper breast; tertials cloak primary tips; breeders have black inside of upper mandible. **Juveniles** of both species are very difficult to determine since tertials are short in both species; usually **juveniles** of **Short-toed Lark** have longer and narrow bill and paler plumage.
Lesser Short-toed Lark

**SEXING**
Plumage of both sexes alike.

**AGEING**
2 age groups can be recognized:
- **Juvenile** with pale white edges on wing coverts; fresh plumage.
- **Adult** with sandy-buff edges on wing coverts (usually missing by wear); worn plumage in spring.

After postbreeding/postjuvenile moult, ageing is not possible using plumage pattern.

**MOULT**
Complete postbreeding and postjuvenile moult, usually finished in October.

**PHENOLOGY**

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**STATUS IN ARAGON**
Resident. Breeds only in steppic areas from the Ebro Basin.

http://blascozumeta.com

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Lesser Short-toed Lark. Pattern of head and bill: top adult (04-V); bottom juvenile (28-VI)

Lesser Short-toed Lark. Juvenile (28-VI)

Lesser Short-toed Lark. Upperpart pattern: left adult (04-V); right juvenile (28-VI)

Lesser Short-toed Lark. Breast pattern: left adult (04-V); right juvenile (28-VI)

Lesser Short-toed Lark. Wing formula: tertials don’t cloak primary tips: top adult (04-V); bottom juvenile (06-VII).

Lesser Short-toed Lark. Legs colour: left adult (04-V); right juvenile (06-VII).
Lesser Short-toed Lark. Tail pattern: left adult (04-V); right juvenile (28-VI).

Lesser Short-toed Lark. Adult: pattern of wing (04-V).