Cetti’s Warbler

IDENTIFICATION
13-14 cm. Rufous olive upperparts; whitish underparts; whitish line over the eye; rounded tail with only 10 feathers.

SIMILAR SPECIES
Recalls a Reed Warbler or a Savi’s Warbler but has only 10 tail feathers and not 12.

SEXING
Plumage of both sexes alike. Size allows sexing most of the birds: in Aragon, male with wing longer than 59 mm; female with wing shorter than 55 mm (CAUTION: size of the species varies depending on its geographical location).

AGEING
3 age groups can be recognized: Juvenile resembles adult, with fresh plumage; tongue with two dark spots, some birds until December; tail feathers narrow; iris dark grey.
1st year autumn/2nd year spring with moult limit within moulted greater coverts, with broader edges, and the juvenile retained, with narrow and dull brown edges; primary coverts are always unmoulted; unmoulted juvenile tail feathers narrow; some birds maintain juvenile undertail coverts, with different colour and pattern from the moulted ones. CAUTION: if all greater coverts have been moulted, then moult limit is within tertials or between tertials and flight feathers. Adult with wing without moult limits; tail feathers wide; iris reddish.
MOULT
Complete postbreeding moult, usually finished in September. Partial postjuvenile moult involving body feathers, lesser and median coverts, most of the inner greater coverts and some tertial; some specimens may moult all greater coverts and a variable number of flight feathers, but primary coverts are always retained; usually finished in September. Both age groups may have a prebreeding moult changing body feathers, wing coverts and some tertial.

PHENOLOGY

STATUS IN ARAGON
Resident. Widely distributed throughout Region in places with dense waterside vegetation.
Cetti’s Warbler. Spring. Upperpart pattern: top left adult (17-V); top right 2nd year (14-V); left juvenile (24-VI)

Cetti’s Warbler. Spring. Pattern of undertail coverts: top adult (17-V); middle 2nd year (14-V); bottom juvenile (24-VI)

Cetti’s Warbler. Spring. Tail pattern: top left adult (17-V); top right 2nd year (14-V); left juvenile (24-VI)

Cetti’s Warbler. Spring. 2nd year: pattern of wing (14-V).


Cetti’s Warbler. Autumn. 1st year (16-X).

Cetti’s Warbler. Autumn. Head pattern and iris colour: top adult (20-XII); bottom 1st year (16-X).

Cetti’s Warbler. Autumn. 1st year (16-X).

Cetti’s Warbler. Autumn. Breast pattern: left adult (20-XII); right 1st year (16-X).

Cetti’s Warbler. Autumn. Adult (20-XII).
Cetti’s Warbler. Autumn. Adult: pattern of wing (20-XII).

Cetti’s Warbler. Autumn. 1st year: pattern of wing (25-VII).

Cetti’s Warbler. Autumn. Tail pattern: left adult (20-XII); right 1st year (16-X).

Cetti’s Warbler. Autumn. Upperpart pattern: left adult (20-XII); right 1st year (16-X).

Cetti’s Warbler. Autumn. Pattern of undertail coverts: top adult (20-XII); bottom 1st year (16-X).

Cetti’s Warbler. Autumn. 1st year: pattern of wing (25-VII).