EURASIAN TREECREEPER (Certhia familiaris)

IDENTIFICATION
11-13 cm. Upperparts brownish and streaked white; buff rump; white throat; white-greyish underparts with buff flanks; forehead with pale streaked (1); long supercilium spreading to nape (2); bill short (3); inner primaries with large and whitish tips (4); long primary projection (5); inner web of the longest tertial pale, contrasting slightly with pale tip of the outer web (6); 4th primary always with distinct pale patch (7); pale patches with squared or rounded distal edges (8); with an obvious “step” within pale patches (9); shaft of the central tail feather paler than the webs (10); hind claw longer than its toe (11).

SIMILAR SPECIES
Short-toed Treecreeper is very similar and difficult to separate: forehead without pale streaked (1); short supercilium not spreading to nape (2); bill long (3); inner primaries with small isolated and pale tips (4); short primary projection (5); inner web of the longest tertial dark, clearly contrasting with pale tip of the outer web (6); 4th primary usually without a pale patch (7); pale patches with pointed distal edges (8); without an obvious “step” within pale patches (9); shaft of the central tail feather as dark as webs (10); hind claw shorter than its toe (11).
SEXING
Plumage of both sexes alike.

AGEING
2 types of age can be safely recognized:
Juvenile similar to adults, but with more
spotted upperparts; whitish breast with some
brownish feathers; fresh plumage.
Adult with streaked upperparts; breast tined buff-brownish.
CAUTION: after the postbreeding/
postjuvenile moult, ageing is very difficult
using plumage characters. Pattern of the pale
patch and tip of the longest primary covert has
been recorded for ageing, which is small and
rounded in adults, and with triangular shape and
pointed in juveniles, but is not always an useful
character.

MOULT
Complete postbreeding moult; usually finished
in September. Partial postjuvenile moult, including
body feathers, lesser and median coverts,
tertials and all greater coverts; usually finished
in October.

PHENOLOGY

STATUS IN ARAGON
Resident. Breeds in woods of Fagus and Abies
in the Western Pyrenees.

Eurasian Treecreeper. Head pattern: top adult (27-VI); bottom juvenile (23-VII)

Eurasian Treecreeper. Breast pattern: left adult (27-VI); right juvenile (23-VII)

Eurasian Treecreeper. Upperparts pattern: left adult (27-VI); right juvenile (23-VII)

Eurasian Treecreeper. Tail pattern: left adult (27-VI); right juvenile (23-VII)
Eurasian Treecreeper. Adult: pattern of wing (27-VI).

Eurasian Treecreeper. Juvenile: pattern of wing (23-VII)

Eurasian Treecreeper. Adult: pattern of primary coverts (27-VI).

Eurasian Treecreeper. Juvenile: pattern of primary coverts (23-VII)

Eurasian Treecreeper. Pattern of undertail coverts: left adult (27-VI); right juvenile (23-VII)