**LESSER GREY SHRIKE** *(Lanius minor)*

**IDENTIFICATION**
19-21 cm. Grey upperparts; underparts with pinkish tinge; grey head with dark band on forehead; dark wings with white patch on base of primaries.

**SEXING**
In breeding plumage, male with forehead, lores and ear-coverts jet-black; black on forehead reaching well into forecrown (10-17 mm from base of bill); breast usually with deep salmon-pink tinge. **Female** with band on forehead, lores and ear-coverts dull black, sometimes with pale grey spots or patches; black on forehead less extensive reaching 6-12 mm from base of bill; breast usually with slightly salmon-pink tinge. **Juveniles** cannot be sexed using plumage pattern.

**CAUTION:** breast colour in adults with some overlap. In autumn, after postbreeding moult, sexing much as in spring but although a few males retain all black forehead, sexing in many birds is very difficult, or impossible, due to extensive number of grey feathers on forehead.

**SIMILAR SPECIES**
Southern Grey Shrike is similar, but with bigger size; smaller white patch on wing; with white supercilium and without a black band on forehead.


Lesser Grey Shrike. Pattern of wing, head and forehead.

Lesser Grey Shrike. Summer. Sexing. Pattern of forehead (Photo: Reinhard Vohwinkel); left male; right female.
AGEING
3 age groups can be recognized:

**Juvenile** with fresh plumage; crown and mantle finely barred dark; no black on forehead; sides of breast and flanks finely barred grey; greater coverts blackish, finely edged and tipped white.

**1st year** similar to juveniles but moulted body feathers without dark barred; fresh flight and tail feathers.

**Adult** with worn plumage; mantle unbarred, being pure pale grey; with black band on forehead; sides of breast and flanks without grey barred; greater coverts uniform blackish.

MOULT
Partial **postbreeding** moult in breeding places involving body feathers, wing coverts and occasionally tertials. Partial **postjuvenile** moult in July-September variable in extension, mainly involving body feathers. Both age classes have a complete **prebreeding** moult in wintering sites.

PHENOLOGY

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STATUS IN ARAGON
Summer visitor. Very scarce breeder in Eastern Huesca.


Lesser Grey Shrike. Spring. Adult. Male ()

Lesser Grey Shrike. Spring. Juvenile ()

Lesser Grey Shrike. Spring. Head pattern: top male (05-V) (Photo: Reinhard Vohwinkel); middle female (11-VII); bottom juvenile (25-VIII) (Photo: Reinhard Vohwinkel).

Lesser Grey Shrike. Spring. Breast pattern: top left male (05-V) (Photo: Reinhard Vohwinkel); top right female (11-VII); left juvenile (25-VIII) (Photo: Reinhard Vohwinkel).

Lesser Grey Shrike. Spring. Tail pattern: top left male (05-V) (Photo: Reinhard Vohwinkel); top right female (11-VII); left juvenile (25-VIII) (Photo: Reinhard Vohwinkel).

Lesser Grey Shrike. Spring. Crown pattern: top left male (05-V) (Photo: Reinhard Vohwinkel); top right female (11-VII); left juvenile (25-VIII) (Photo: Reinhard Vohwinkel).
