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.

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.
SEXING

In *breeding* plumage, *male* with head and underparts deep yellow. *Female* with head and underparts brownish. After *postbreeding/postjuvenile* mouls, *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).

Ortolan Bunting. 1st year.

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

Cirl Bunting. Female


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

PHENOLOGY

**STATUS IN ARAGON**
Resident. Breeds in the highest valleys of Pyrenees, wintering in lower zones of the Region.
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Yellowhammer. Spring. 2nd year. Male ()

Yellowhammer. Spring. 2nd year. Female ()

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: Ondrej Kauzal).

Yellowhammer. Spring. Crown pattern: top left 2nd year male (); top right 2nd year female (16-III) (Photo: Reinhard Vohwinkel); left juvenile (20-IV) (Photo: Alejandro Corregidor).

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


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

Yellowhammer. Spring. Pattern of crown feathers: top left 2nd year male (15-IV) (Photo: Ottenby Bird Observatory); top right 2nd year female (16-III) (Photo: Reinhard Vohwinkel); left juvenile (15-VII) (Photo: Reinhard Vohwinkel).

Yellowhammer. Spring. Adult. Crown pattern: left male (16-III) (Photo: Ottenby Bird Observatory); top right 2nd year female (16-III) (Photo: Reinhard Vohwinkel); left juvenile (20-IV) (Photo: Alejandro Corregidor).
Yellowhammer. Spring. Tail pattern: top left 2nd year male (); top right 2nd year female (16-III) (Photo: Reinhard Vohwinkel); left juvenile (15-VII) (Photo: Ondrej Kauzal).

Yellowhammer. Spring. Adult. Upperparts pattern: top left 2nd year male (); top right 2nd year female (); left juvenile (20-IV) (Photo: Alejandro Corregidor).


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


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

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

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

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


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

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

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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).

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


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