Cirl Bunting

**IDENTIFICATION**
14-18 cm. Adults with brown upperparts; yellowish underparts; brown-olive rump; flanks with brown tinge; bluish bill. Male with black throat and green-grey breast. Female without black throat and breast with diffuse streaks. Juveniles with greenish lesser coverts.

**SIMILAR SPECIES**
Male is unmistakable. Female similar to female Yellowhammer which has chestnut rump and a pale patch on nape. Female Ortolan Bunting has brown rump and brown-yellowish underparts. Juveniles Cirl Bunting are similar to Rock Bunting which have grey lesser coverts; Yellowhammer have chestnut rump; Ortolan Bunting have brown-yellowish throat and breast; Corn Bunting is bigger (16-19 mm) and without white on outermost tail feathers.

Yellowhammer. Female

Cirl Bunting. Adult. Pattern of upperparts and head: top male; bottom female.


Yellowhammer. Juvenile
SEXING

In **Spring**, **male** with black chin and throat; breast unstreaked; wing 75-84 mm. **Female** with white-yellowish chin and throat; breast streaked; wing 71-79 mm. After **postbreeding/postjuvenile** moults, **male** with black feathers on chin and throat with white-buff tips; unstreaked breast; reddish upperparts. **Female** with chin and throat buff-yellowish; streaked breast; little or no reddish on upperparts. **Juveniles** cannot be sexed using plumage characteristics.
AGEING
3 types of age can be recognized:
- **Juvenile** similar to **females**; clearly dark streaked; with fresh plumage.
- **1st year autumn/2nd year spring** with moult limits on wing within tertials or between tertials and secondaries; with moult limit on tail if central pair is moulted; unmoulted tail feathers with pointed tips due to wear.
- **Adult** without moult limits on wing; tail feathers with rounded tips.

MOULT
Complete **postbreeding** moult, usually finished in October. Partial **postjuvenile** moult including body feathers, lesser, median, most or all greater coverts and sometimes tertials and central tail feathers; usually finished in October. Both types of age have a **prebreeding** moult including only body feathers.

PHENOLOGY

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STATUS IN ARAGON
Resident. Widely distributed throughout the Region, absent from the highest areas of the Pyrenees and the most deforested zones of the Ebro Basin.
445  Cirl Bunting


Cirl Bunting. Spring. Adult. Breast pattern: left male (25-IV); right female (03-IV).

Cirl Bunting. Spring. Adult. Head pattern: top male (25-IV); bottom female (03-IV).

Cirl Bunting. Spring. Adult. Breast pattern: top left 2nd year male (02-V); top right 2nd year female (02-IV); left juvenile (27-VI).

Cirl Bunting. Spring. Head pattern: top 2nd year male (02-V); middle 2nd year female (02-IV); bottom juvenile (27-VI).

Cirl Bunting. Spring. Adult. Tail pattern: left male (25-IV); right female (03-IV).
Cirl Bunting. Spring. Tail pattern: top left 2nd year male (02-V); top right 2nd year female (02-IV); left juvenile (27-VI).

Cirl Bunting. Spring. Adult. Upperparts pattern: left male (25-IV); right female (03-IV).


Cirl Bunting. Spring. 2nd year. Male: pattern of wing (02-V).


Cirl Bunting. Spring. 2nd year. Female: pattern of wing (02-IV).


Cirl Bunting. Autumn. Adult. Breast pattern: left male (10-X); right female (26-XII).

Cirl Bunting. Autumn. Adult. Head pattern: top male (10-X); bottom female (26-XII).


Cirl Bunting. Autumn. Adult. Upperparts pattern: left male (10-X); right female (26-XII).

Cirl Bunting. Autumn. 1st year. Upperparts pattern: left male (25-IX); right female (27-XI).

Cirl Bunting. Autumn. Adult. Tail pattern: left male (10-X); right female (26-XII).

Cirl Bunting. Autumn. 1st year. Tail pattern: left male (25-IX); right female (27-XI).

