

296 Calandra Lark

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Calandra Lark. Adult (27-VII).



Short-toed Lark

CALANDRA LARK (*Melanocorypha calandra*)

IDENTIFICATION

18-20 cm. Brown upperparts, with pale edges; head without crest; with pale supercilium; strong and thick bill; upper breast softly streaked, with two dark patches on both sides; wings with a pale band on tips of secondaries; dark underwing coverts. **Juveniles** with feathers on body and wing edged whitish; dark patches on neck little conspicuous.

SEXING

Plumage of both sexes alike. Size can be helpful in extreme birds: **male** with wing longer than 126 mm; **female** with wing shorter than 122 mm.

AGEING

2 age groups can be recognized:

Juvenile with pale edges on wing coverts; fresh plumage.

Adult without pale edges on wing coverts; worn plumage in **spring**.

After **postbreeding/postjuvenile** moults ageing is not possible using plumage pattern.



Calandra Lark. Pattern of wing and head.



Calandra Lark. Ageing. Pattern of head: top adult; bottom juvenile.

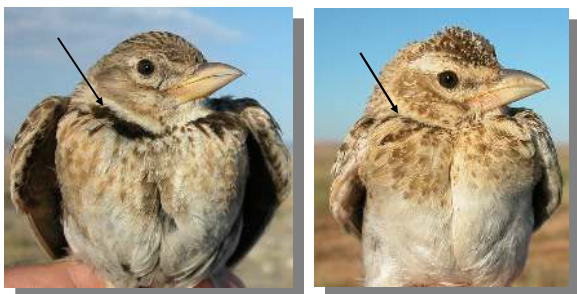


SIMILAR SPECIES

Only **Short-toed Lark** has two black patches on neck sides, but is smaller and lacks a white band on wings.

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Calandra Lark. Ageing. Pattern of breast: left adult; right juvenile.



Calandra Lark. Juvenile (06-VII)



Calandra Lark. Ageing. Pattern of upperparts: left adult; right juvenile.



Calandra Lark. Head pattern: top adult (07-VII); bottom juvenile (06-VII)

MOULT

Complete **postbreeding** and **postjuvenile** moults, usually finished in November.

PHENOLOGY

I	II	III	IV	V	VI	VII	VIII	IX	X	XI	XII

STATUS IN ARAGON

Resident. Breeds in plain areas from the Ebro Basin and Sistema Iberico.



Calandra Lark. Breast pattern: top adult (07-VII); bottom juvenile (06-VII)

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Calandra Lark. Upperpart pattern: left adult (07-VII); right juvenile (06-VII)



Calandra Lark. Adult: pattern of wing (07-VII).



Calandra Lark. Juvenile: pattern of wing (06-VII)



Calandra Lark. Legs colour: left adult (07-VII); right juvenile (06-VII)



Calandra Lark. Tail pattern: left adult (07-VII); right juvenile (06-VII)