

397 Treecreeper



SEXING

Plumage of both sexes alike.

AGEING

2 types of age can be recognized:

Juvenile similar to **adults**, but with more spotted upperparts; whitish breast with some brownish feathers; fresh plumage.

Adult with streaked upperparts; breast tinged 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.

TREECREEPER (*Certhia familiaris*)

IDENTIFICATION

11-13 cm. Upperparts brownish and streaked white; buff rump; head with white supercilium and long and curved bill; white throat; white-greyish underparts with buff flanks; bigger alula feather usually without a long white line on the edge; buff patches on wing usually have rounded tips; inner primaries with wide pale patches on tips without romboidal shape; brown tail; hindclaw 7,6-11,5 mm.

SIMILAR SPECIES

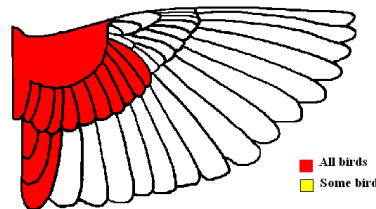
Short-toed Treecreeper is very similar and difficult to separate: hindclaw is shorter (6,8-8,9 mm), bigger alula feather usually with a large white line on the edge; buff patches on wing usually have pointed tips; primaries with narrow pale patches on tips.



Short-toed Treecreeper

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.



Treecreeper. Extent of postjuvenile moult.

PHENOLOGY

| I | II | III | IV | V | VI | VII | VIII | IX | X | XI | XII |
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STATUS IN ARAGON

Resident. Breeds in woods of *Fagus* and *Abies* in the Western Pyrenees.