

# 398 Short-toed Treecreeper



Short-toed Treecreeper. Adult (26-IX).

## SHORT-TOED TREECREEPER (*Certhia brachydactyla*)

### 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; bigger alula feather usually with a long white line on the edge; buff patches on wing usually have pointed tips; primaries with romboidal pale patches on tips; brown tail; hindclaw 6,8-8,9 mm..

### SIMILAR SPECIES

**Treecreeper** is very similar and difficult to separate: hindclaw is longer (7,6-11,5 mm), bigger alula feather usually without a large white line on the edge; buff patches on wing usually have squared tips; primaries with broad pale patches on tips.

### SEXING

Plumage of both sexes alike.

### AGEING

2 types of age can be recognized:

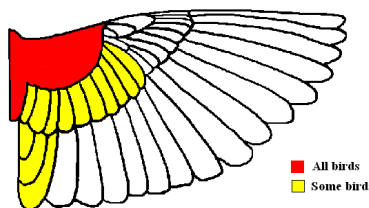
**Juvenile** similar to **adults**, but with more spotted upperparts; whitish breast with some brownish feathers; fresh plumage.

**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.

### MOULT

Complete **postbreeding** moult; usually finished in September. Partial **postjuvenile** moult, including body feathers, lesser and median coverts and, often, tertials and all greater coverts; usually finished in October.



Short-toed Treecreeper. Extent of postjuvenile moult.

### PHENOLOGY

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

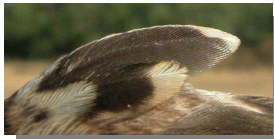
### STATUS IN ARAGON

Resident. Widely distributed throughout the forests of the Region.



Short-toed Treecreeper. Juvenile (19-VII).

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Short-toed Treecreeper. Head pattern: top adult (26-IX); right juvenile (19-VII).



Short-toed Treecreeper. Breast pattern: top adult (26-IX); bottom juvenile (19-VII).

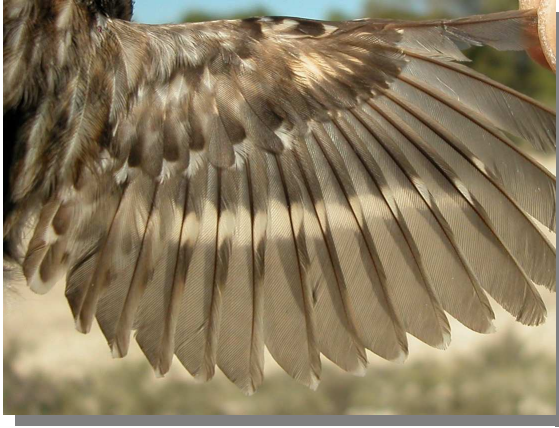


Short-toed Treecreeper. Upperpart pattern: left adult (26-IX); right juvenile (19-VII).

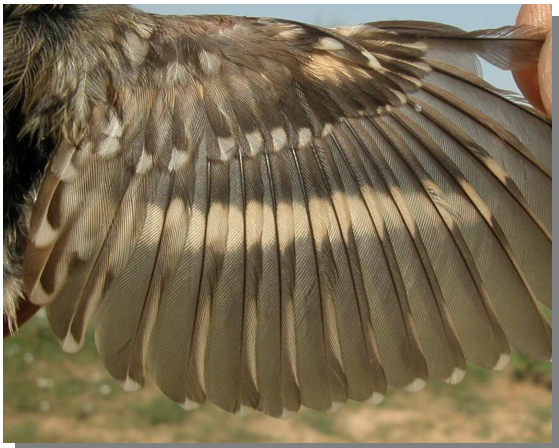


Short-toed Treecreeper. Pattern of pale patch and tip of the longest primary covert: left adult (22-VIII); right juvenile (26-VI).

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Short-toed Treecreeper. Adult: pattern of wing (22-VIII).



Short-toed Treecreeper. Juvenile: pattern of wing (19-VII).