

447 Ortolan Bunting

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Ortolan Bunting. Spring. Adult. Male (15-VI).

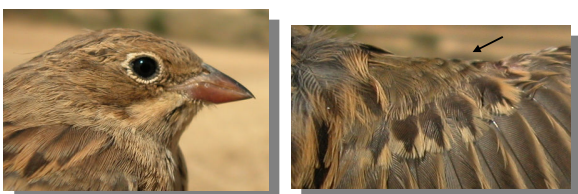
ORTOLAN BUNTING (*Emberiza hortulana*)

IDENTIFICATION

15-17 cm. Upperparts brown streaked dark; buff underparts, with yellow throat and moustachial stripe; greenish head; brown bill with pinkish tinge. **Juveniles** brown, with paler underparts.



Ortolan Bunting. Adult. Pattern of upperparts, breast and head.



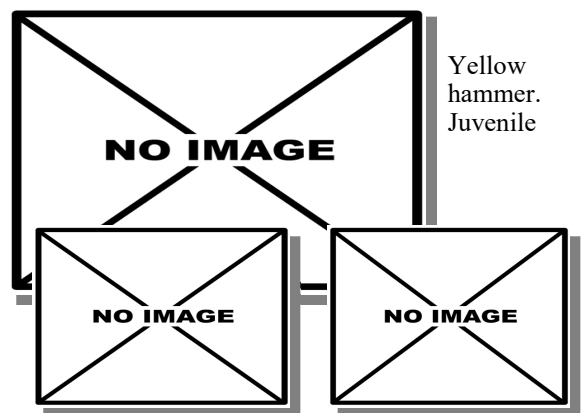
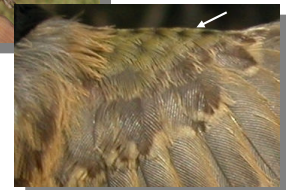
Ortolan Bunting. Juvenile. Pattern of head and small wing coverts.

SIMILAR SPECIES

Adult birds are unmistakable due to their head pattern with a moustachial stripe. **Juveniles** recalls to the **Cirl Bunting** ones, which have dark bill and greenish lesser coverts; juveniles **Yellowhammer** have dark bill and chestnut rump; juveniles **Rock Bunting** have dark bill and grey lesser coverts.



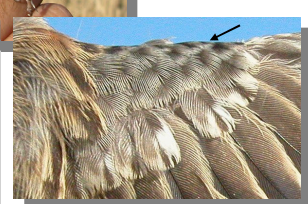
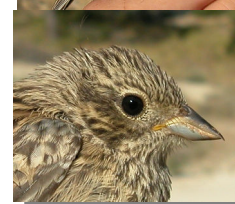
Cirl Bunting. Juvenile.



Yellowhammer. Juvenile



Rock Bunting. Juvenile.

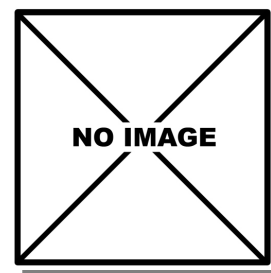


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SEXING

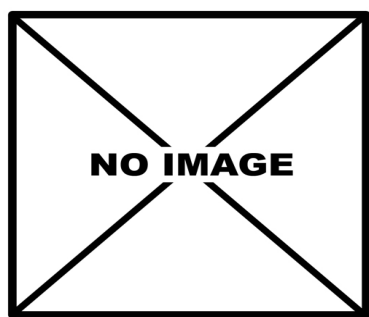
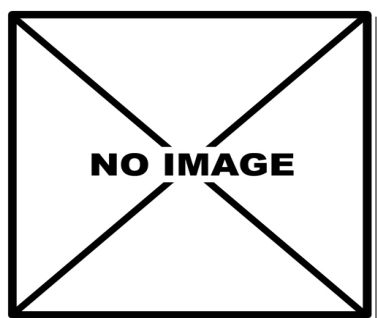
In **spring**, **male** with grey crown and line under the “moustache”; crown without streaks; band on breast wide and unstreaked. **Female** with greenish crown and line under the “moustache”; crown with streaks; band on breast streaked dark (**CAUTION**: birds with crown and breast slightly streaked must not be sexed). In **autumn**, and with **adult** birds, only **males** with breeding plumage can be sexed since, after **postbreeding** moult, **males** similar to **females** can be found. **Juveniles** and **1st year** birds cannot be sexed using plumage characters.



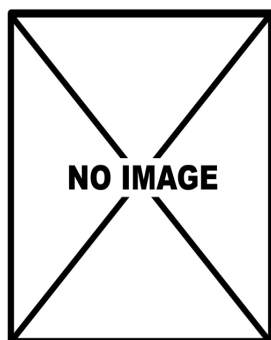
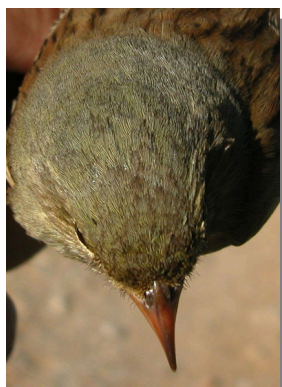
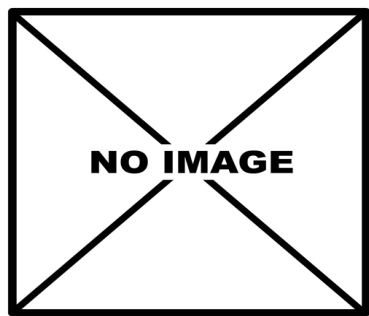
Ortolan Bunting. Sexing. Spring. Pattern of breast: left male; right female.



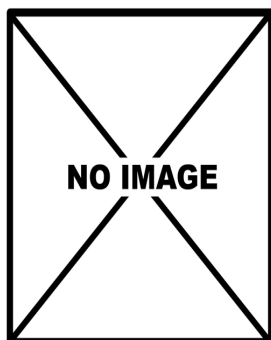
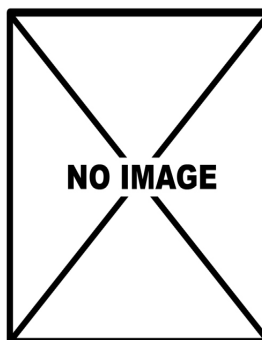
Ortolan Bunting. Sexing. Spring. Pattern of head: top male; bottom female.



Ortolan Bunting. Sexing. Autumn. Adult. Pattern of head: top male; bottom unsexable



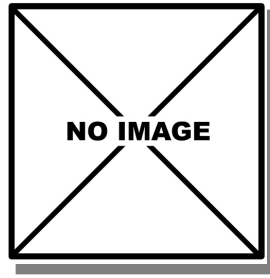
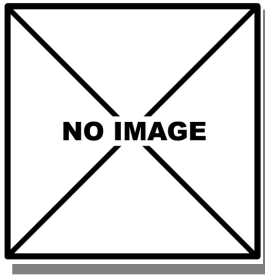
Ortolan Bunting. Sexing. Spring. Pattern of crown: left male; right female.



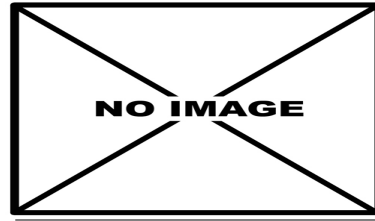
Ortolan Bunting. Sexing. Autumn. Adult. Pattern of crown: left male; right unsexable

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Ortolan Bunting. Sexing. Autumn. Adult. Pattern of breast: left male; right unsexable



Ortolan Bunting. Ageing. Autumn. Moult limit on greater coverts: top adult; bottom 1st year

AGEING

4 types of age can be recognized:

Juvenile with fresh plumage; face and underparts whitish-buff streaks blackish; the two outermost tail feathers usually with pointed tips.

1st year autumn usually with moult limits between moulted and retained greater coverts (**CAUTION:** some birds moult all greater coverts); all flight feathers with only one age; the two outermost tail feathers without white tips, or with only a little on the outermost one; tail feathers are juvenile and usually pointed.

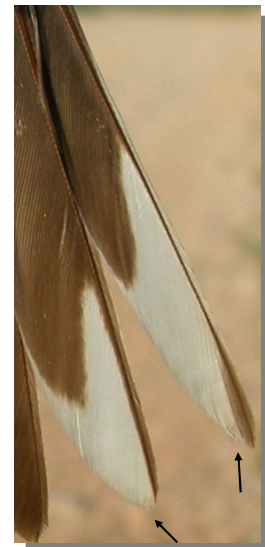
2nd year spring with primary coverts and flight feathers more worn and bleached than in adults; if greater coverts or juvenile tail feathers are retained then they will be worn; flight feathers always with only one age.

Adult in autumn without moult limits on wing coverts; if moult is stopped then with two generations of flight feathers; the two outermost tail feathers with rounded tips; tail feathers fresh and rounded; in **spring** all wing coverts and tail feathers with adult pattern.

CAUTION: due to the interruption of the moult and its continuity in the wintering areas it can have two generations of greater coverts and, sometimes, two generations of flight feathers.



Ortolan Bunting. Ageing. Spring. Pattern of tip of the central tail feathers: left adult; right 2nd year.



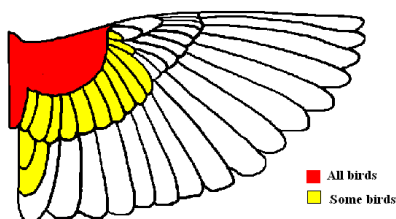
Ortolan Bunting. Ageing. Spring. Pattern of tip of the outermost tail feathers: left adult; right 2nd year.

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MOULT

Complete **postbreeding** moult; usually finished in October; some birds stop moult to finish in wintering quarters. Partial **postjuvenile** moult including body feathers and lesser and median coverts; some birds change a variable number of greater coverts and tertials; usually finished late september before migration. Both types of age have a **prebreeding** moult more extense in **2nd year** birds, changing body feathers.



Ortolan Bunting.
Extent of
postjuvenile
moult.



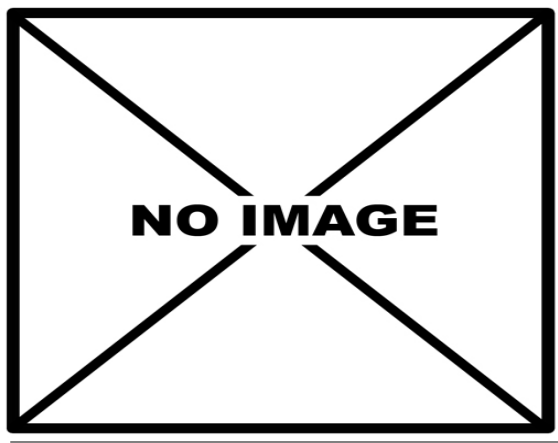
Ortolan Bunting. Spring. 2nd year. Male (15-VI).

PHENOLOGY

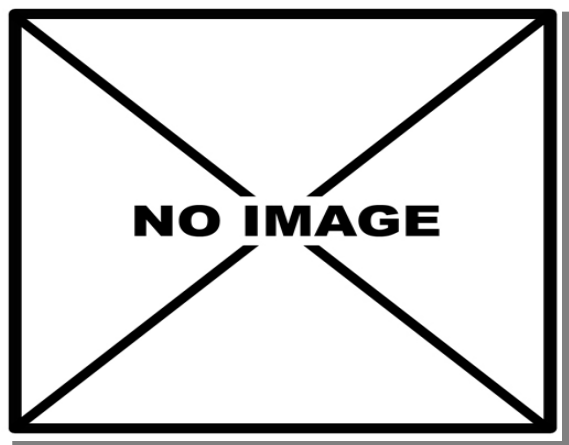
I	II	III	IV	V	VI	VII	VIII	IX	X	XI	XII

STATUS IN ARAGON

Summer visitor breeding in the mountainous areas of the Region.



Ortolan Bunting. Spring. 2nd year. Female ().



Ortolan Bunting. Spring. Adult. Female ().



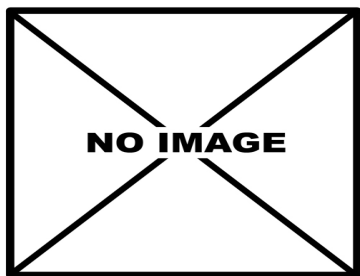
Ortolan Bunting. Spring. Juvenile (20-VII).

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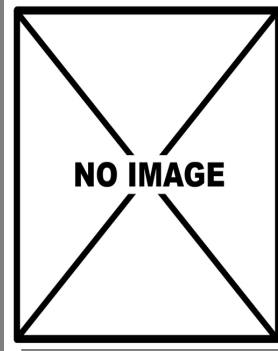
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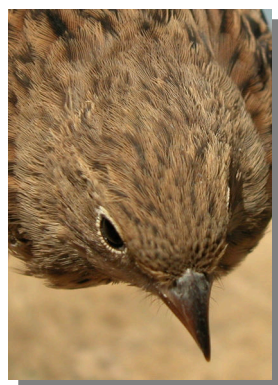
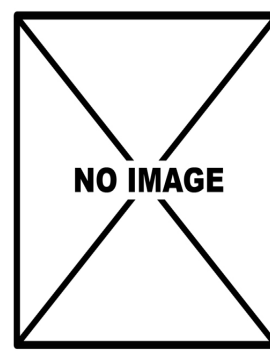
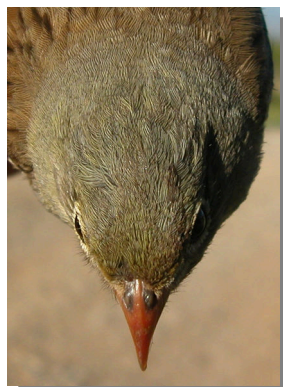
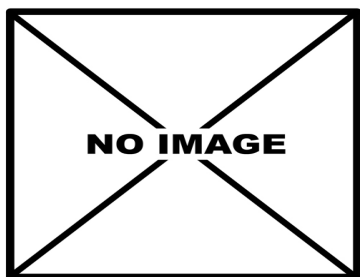
Ortolan Bunting. Spring. Adult. Head pattern: top male; (15-VI); bottom female ().



Ortolan Bunting. Spring. Adult. Crown pattern: left male; (15-VI); right female ().



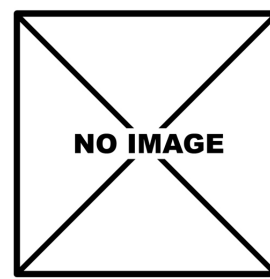
Ortolan Bunting. Spring. Head pattern: top 2nd year male (15-VI); middle 2nd year female (); bottom juvenile (20-VII).



Ortolan Bunting. Spring. Crown pattern: top left 2nd year male (15-VI); top right 2nd year female (); left juvenile (20-VII).

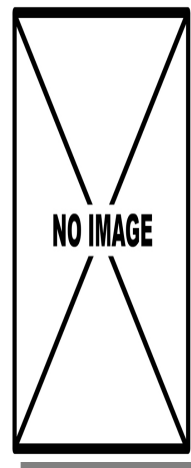
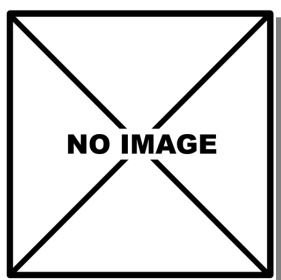


Ortolan Bunting. Spring. Adult. Breast pattern: left male; (15-VI); right female ().

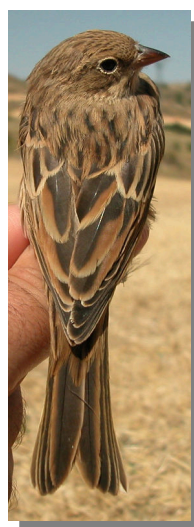


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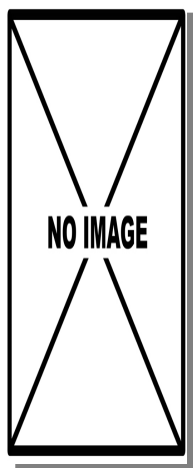
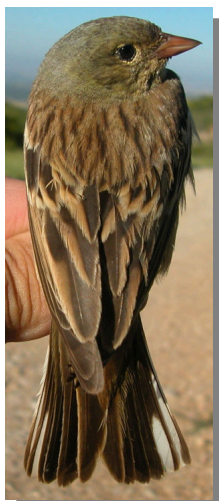
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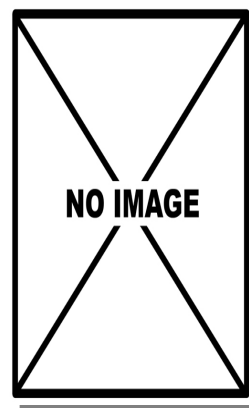
Ortolan Bunting. Spring. Breast pattern: top left 2nd year male (15-VI); top right 2nd year female (); left juvenile (20-VII).



Ortolan Bunting. Spring. Upperparts pattern: top left 2nd year male (15-VI); top right 2nd year female (); left juvenile (20-VII).



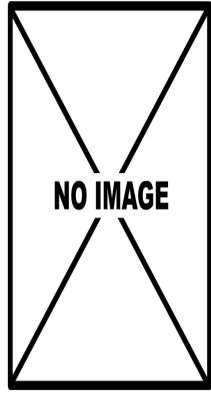
Ortolan Bunting. Spring. Adult. Upperpart pattern: left male; (15-VI); right female ().



Ortolan Bunting. Spring. Adult. Tail pattern: left male; (15-VI); right female ().

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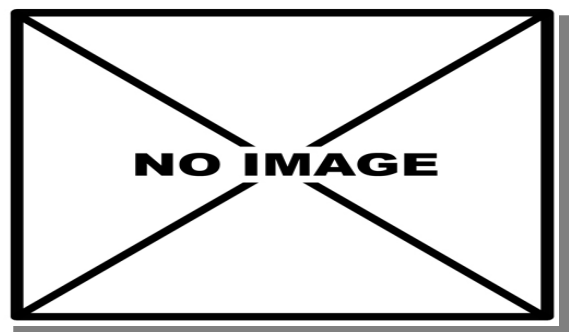
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Ortolan Bunting. Spring. 2nd year. Male: pattern of wing (15-VI).



Ortolan Bunting. Spring. Tail pattern: top left 2nd year male (15-VI); top right 2nd year female (); left juvenile (20-VII).



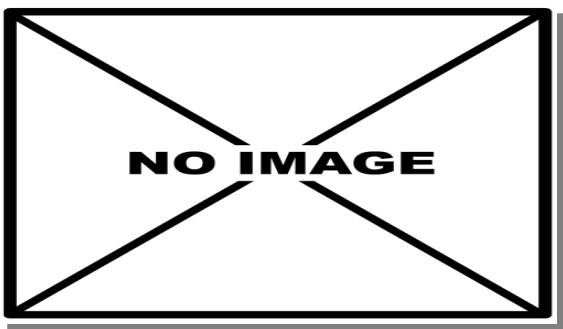
Ortolan Bunting. Spring. 2nd year. Female: pattern of wing ().



Ortolan Bunting. Spring. Adult. Male: pattern of wing (15-VI).



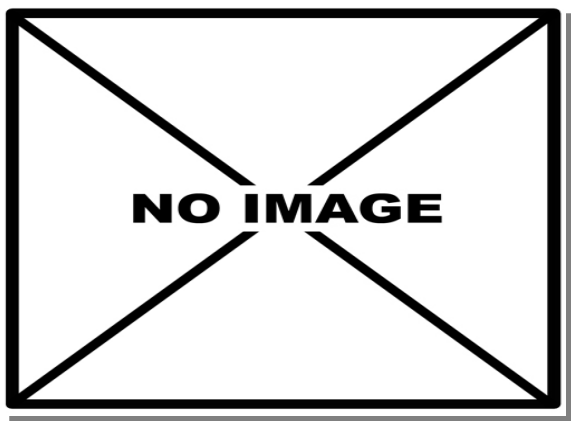
Ortolan Bunting. Spring. Juvenile: pattern of wing (20-VII).



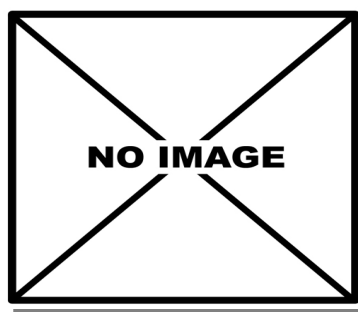
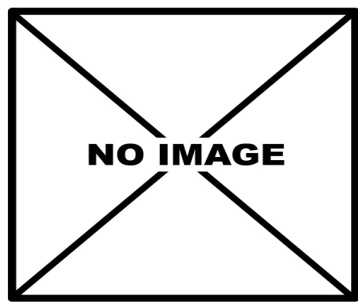
Ortolan Bunting. Spring. Adult. Female: pattern of wing ().

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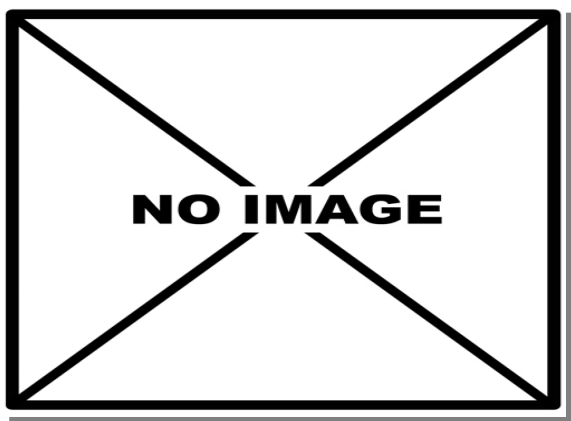
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Ortolan Bunting. Autumn. Adult. Male ().



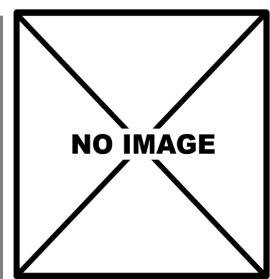
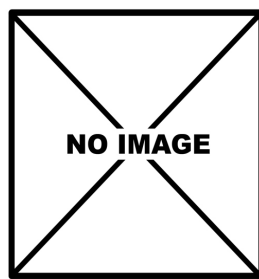
Ortolan Bunting. Autumn. Head pattern: top adult male (); middle adult unsexable (); bottom 1st year (27-IX).



Ortolan Bunting. Autumn. Adult. Unsexable ().



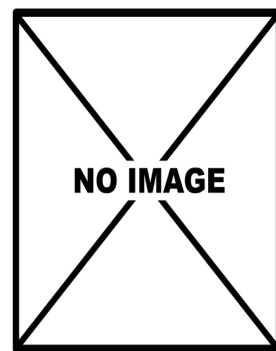
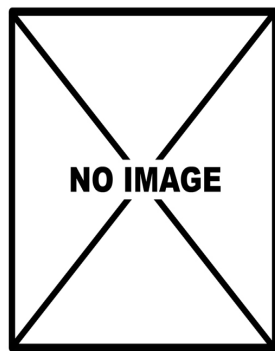
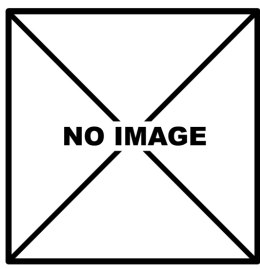
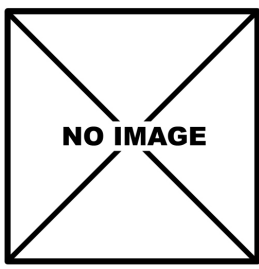
Ortolan Bunting. Autumn. 1st year (27-IX).



Ortolan Bunting. Autumn. Crown pattern: top left adult male (); top right adult unsexable (); left 1st year (27-IX).

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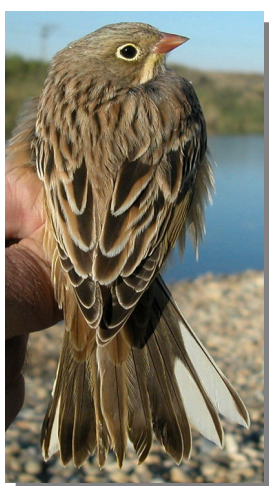
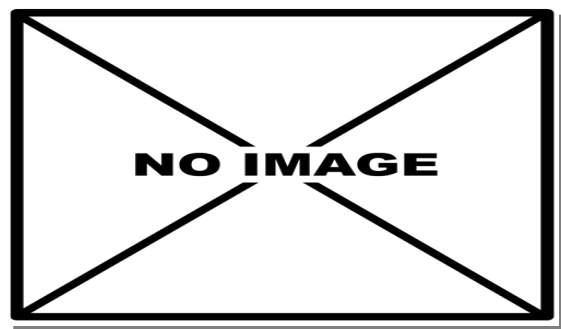
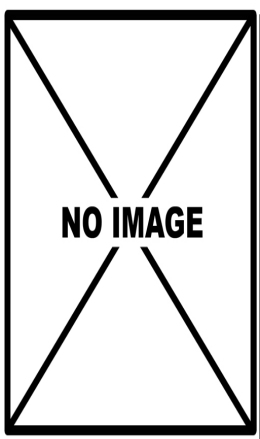
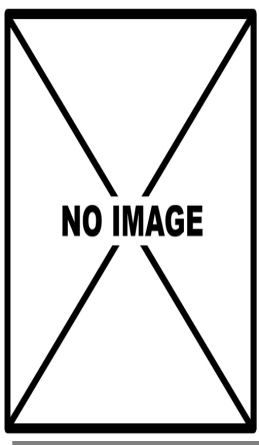
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Ortolan Bunting. Autumn. Breast pattern: top left adult male (); top right adult unsexable (); left 1st year (27-IX).

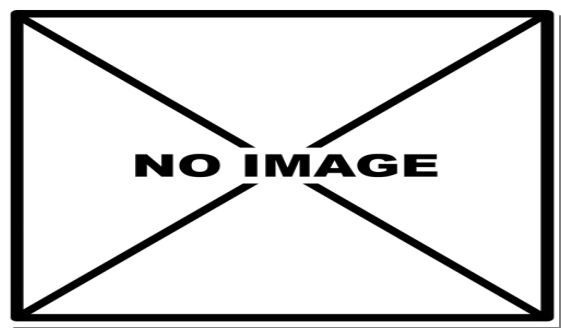


Ortolan Bunting. Autumn. Tail pattern: top left adult male (); top right adult unsexable (); left 1st year (27-IX).



Ortolan Bunting. Autumn. Upperpart pattern: top left adult male (); top right adult unsexable (); left 1st year (27-IX).

Ortolan Bunting. Autumn. Adult. Male: pattern of wing ().



Ortolan Bunting. Autumn. Adult. Unsexable: pattern of wing ().

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Ortolan Bunting. Autumn. 1st year: pattern of wing (27-IX).