

# 298 Lesser Short-toed Lark



Lesser Short-toed Lark. Adult (04-V).

## LESSER SHORT-TOED LARK (*Calandrella rufescens*)

### IDENTIFICATION

14-16 cm. Brown upperparts, streaked dark; white underparts, with streaked breast; tertials shorter than primary tips; bill short and with convex lower mandible. **Juveniles** have streaked breast and pale edges on upperpart and wing feathers.

### SIMILAR SPECIES

Among small larks, **Woodlark** has a marked white supercilium and black patches on primary coverts. **Short-toed Lark** is very similar, but lacks streaked breast and has both dark patches on upper breast; tertials cloak primary tips; breeders have black inside of upper mandible. **Juveniles** of both species are very difficult to determine since tertials are short in both species; usually **juveniles** of **Short-toed Lark** have longer and narrow bill and paler plumage.



Top Short-toed Lark adult and juvenile; left Woodlark.

### SEXING

Plumage of both sexes alike.

### AGEING

2 types of age can be recognized:

**Juvenile** with fresh plumage; feathers with pale edges.

**Adult** without pale edges on feathers; worn feathers in **spring**.

After the **postbreeding/postjuvenile** moult, ageing is not possible using plumage characters.

### MOULT

Complete **postbreeding** and **postjuvenile** moults, finished in October.

### PHENOLOGY

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

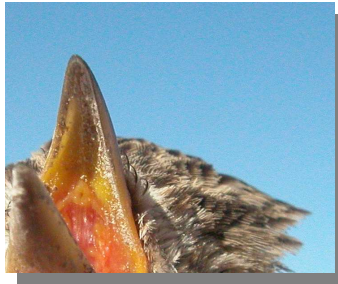
### STATUS IN ARAGON

Resident. Breeds only in steppe areas from the Ebro Basin.



Lesser Short-toed Lark. Juvenile (28-VI)

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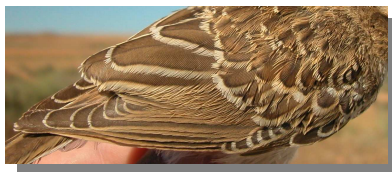
Lesser Short-toed Lark. Colour inside of upper mandible in spring (24-III).



Lesser Short-toed Lark. Pattern of head and bill: top adult (04-V); bottom juvenile (28-VI)



Lesser Short-toed Lark. Wing formula: tertials don't cloak primary tips: top adult (04-V); bottom juvenile (06-VII).



Lesser Short-toed Lark. Tail pattern: left adult (04-V); right juvenile (28-VI).



Lesser Short-toed Lark. Upperpart pattern: left adult (04-V); right juvenile (28-VI)



Lesser Short-toed Lark. Legs colour: left adult (04-V); right juvenile (06-VII).



Lesser Short-toed Lark. Breast pattern: left adult (04-V); right juvenile (28-VI)



Lesser Short-toed Lark. Adult: pattern of wing (04-V).

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Lesser Short-toed Lark. Juvenile: pattern of wing (28-VI).