

# 374 Blackcap



Blackcap. Spring. Adult. Male (16-III).

## BLACKCAP (*Sylvia atricapilla*)

### IDENTIFICATION

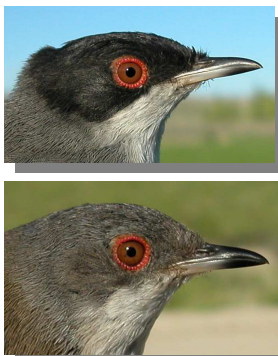
13-15 cm. Grey upperparts; pale brownish underparts; head with a black (**males**) or brown (**females** and **juveniles**) cap, reaching the upper part of the eyes; tail grey.



Blackcap. Adult. Pattern of tail and head: top male; bottom female.

### SIMILAR SPECIES

This is the only **Warbler** with black/brown cap upper the eye.



Sardinian Warbler. Adult. Pattern of head: top male; bottom female.



Orphean Warbler. Adult. Pattern of head: top male; bottom female.

### SEXING

**Male** with black cap; plumage darker than **females**. **Female** with brown-reddish cap; plumage browner than **male**. **CAUTION: juveniles** are very similar to **females** and cannot be sexed using plumage characters, so it is very important a right ageing before **postjuvenile** moult.



Blackcap. Adult. Sexing. Pattern of head: top male; bottom female.

### AGEING

3 types of age can be recognized:

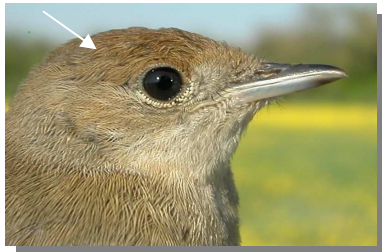
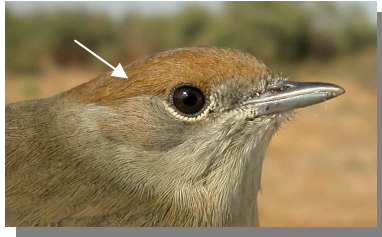
**Juvenile** similar to **females** but with fresh plumage; iris dark grey-brown.

**1st year autumn/2nd year spring** with moult limit on wing between moulted greater coverts, with greenish edges, and juvenile retained, with brownish edges; between tertials or between tertials and secondaries; tail feathers with pointed tips; some **males** have brown juvenile feathers on black crown. **CAUTION: some 1st year males** can have a pure black cap.

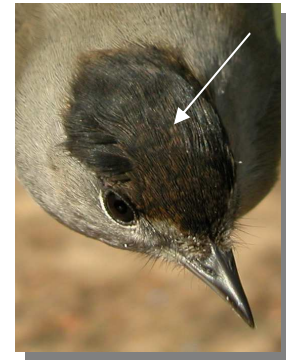
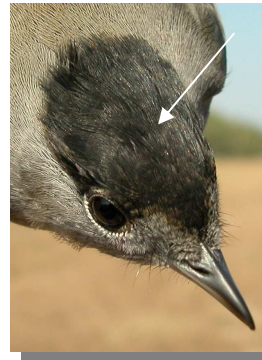
**Adult** without moult limits on the wing; iris reddish; tail feathers with rounded tips.

**CAUTION: in spring**, both types of age can have moult limits if a **prebreeding** moult is done.

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Blackcap. Ageing. Pattern of crown: top adult female; bottom juvenile.



Blackcap. Male. Ageing. Pattern of crown: left adult/1st year; right 1st year



Blackcap. Ageing. Colour of iris: top adult female; bottom juvenile.



Blackcap. Ageing. Pattern of tips of tail feathers: left adult; right 1st year



Blackcap. Ageing. Moulting limit on greater coverts: top adult; bottom 1st year



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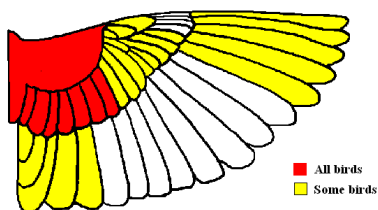


## MOULT

Complete **postbreeding** moult, usually finished in October. Partial **postjuvenile** moult, including cap, body feathers, lesser and median coverts and a minimum of seven inner greater coverts; most of the birds moult tertials and some several primary coverts and some flight feathers; usually finished in October. Some birds, of both types of age, can have a **prebreeding** moult including tertials and some inner greater coverts.



Blackcap. Spring. 2nd year. Male (21-III).



Blackcap.  
Extent of  
postjuvenile  
moult.



Blackcap. Spring. 2nd year. Female (13-IV).

## PHENOLOGY

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

## STATUS IN ARAGON

Resident in the lower areas of the Region. Widespread on passage.



Blackcap. Spring. Adult. Female (23-III).



Blackcap. Spring. Juvenile (29-VI).

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Blackcap. Spring. Adult. Head pattern: top male (16-III); bottom female (23-III).



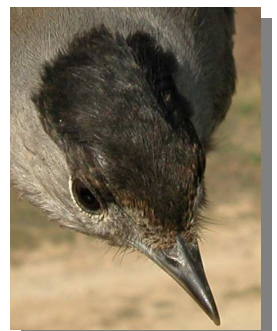
Blackcap. Spring. Breast pattern: top left 2nd year male (21-III); top right 2nd year female (23-IV); left juvenile (29-VI).



Blackcap. Spring. Head pattern: top 2nd year male (21-III); middle 2nd year female (23-IV); bottom juvenile (29-VI).



Blackcap. Spring. Adult. Crown pattern: left male (16-III); right female (23-III).



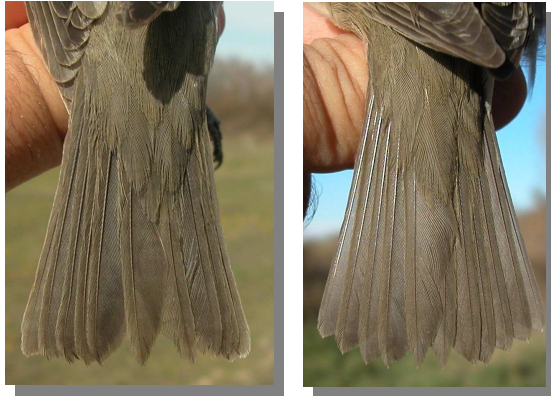
Blackcap. Spring. Adult. Breast pattern: left male (16-III); right female (23-III).



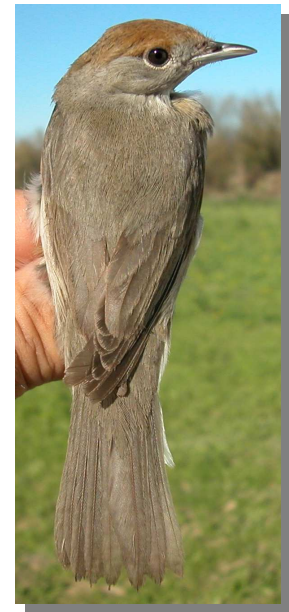
Blackcap. Spring. Crown pattern: top left 2nd year male (21-III); top right 2nd year female (23-IV); left juvenile (29-VI).



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Blackcap. Spring. Adult. Tail pattern: left male (16-III); right female (23-III).



Blackcap. Spring. Upperparts pattern: top left 2nd year male (21-III); top right 2nd year female (23-IV); left juvenile (29-VI).



Blackcap. Spring. Tail pattern: top left 2nd year male (21-III); top right 2nd year female (23-IV); left juvenile (29-VI).

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Blackcap. Spring. Adult. Upperparts pattern: left male (16-III); right female (23-III).



Blackcap. Spring. 2nd year. Male: pattern of wing (16-III).



Blackcap. Spring. 2nd year. Female: pattern of wing (13-IV).



Blackcap. Spring. Adult. Male: pattern of wing (16-III).



Blackcap. Spring. Juvenile: pattern of wing (29-VI).



Blackcap. Spring. Adult. Female: pattern of wing (23-III).



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Blackcap. Spring. 2nd year. Male (21-III).



Blackcap. Spring. Head pattern and iris colour: top left 2nd year male (21-III); top right 2nd year female (23-IV); left juvenile (29-VI).



Blackcap. Spring. 2nd year. Female (13-IV).



Blackcap. Spring. Adult. Breast pattern: left male (16-III); right female (23-III).



Blackcap. Juvenile (29-VI).



Blackcap. Spring. Breast pattern: top left 2nd year male (21-III); top right 2nd year female (23-IV); left juvenile (29-VI).



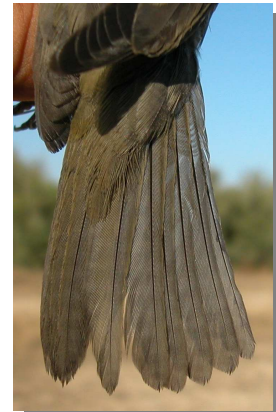
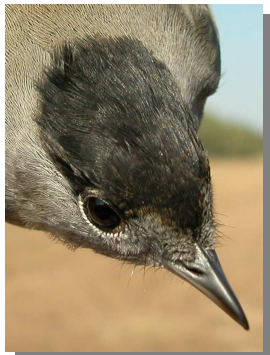
Blackcap. Spring. Adult. Head pattern and iris colour: left male (16-III); right female (23-III).

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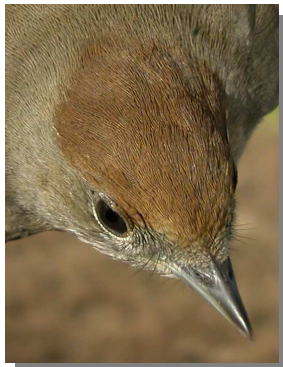


Blackcap. Autumn. 1st year. Breast pattern: left male (16-IX); right female (16-IX).

Blackcap. Autumn. Adult. Crown pattern: left male (16-IX); right female (16-IX).



Blackcap. Autumn. Adult. Tail pattern: left male (16-IX); right female (16-IX).



Blackcap. Autumn. 1st year. Crown pattern: top male (16-IX); left female (16-IX).



Blackcap. Autumn. 1st year. Tail pattern: left male (16-IX); right female (16-IX).



Blackcap. Autumn. Adult. Breast pattern: left male (16-IX); right female (16-IX).



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Blackcap. Autumn. Adult. Upperparts pattern: left male (16-IX); right female (16-IX).



Blackcap. Autumn. Adult. Male: pattern of wing (16-IX)



Blackcap. Autumn. Adult. Female: pattern of wing (06-X).



Blackcap. Autumn. 1st year. Upperparts pattern: left male (16-IX); right female (16-IX).



Blackcap. Autumn. 1st year. Male: pattern of wing (16-IX).



Blackcap. Autumn. 1st year. Female: pattern of wing (23-IX).