

402 Lesser Grey Shrike

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Lesser Grey Shrike. Spring. Adult. Female (11-VII).

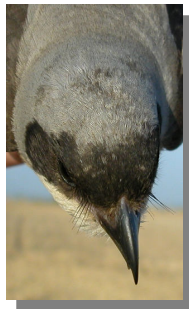
LESSER GREY SHRIKE (*Lanius minor*)

IDENTIFICATION

19-21 cm. Grey upperparts; underparts with pinkish tinge; grey head with dark band on forehead; dark wings with white patch on base of primaries.



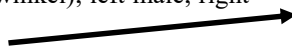
Lesser Grey Shrike. Pattern of wing, head and forehead.



SIMILAR SPECIES

Southern Grey Shrike is similar, but with bigger size; smaller white patch on wing; with white supercilium and without a black band on forehead.

Lesser Grey Shrike. Summer. Sexing. Pattern of forehead (Photo: Reinhard Vohwinkel); left male; right female.



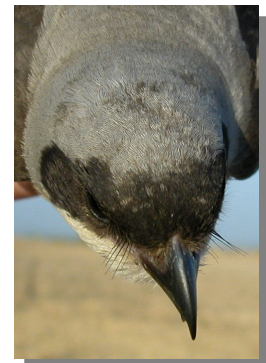
Southern Grey Shrike



SEXING

In **breeding** plumage, **male** with forehead, lores and ear-coverts jet-black; black on forehead reaching well into forecrown (10-17 mm from base of bill); breast usually with deep salmon-pink tinge. **Female** with band on forehead, lores and ear-coverts dull black, sometimes with pale grey spots or patches; black on forehead less extensive reaching 6-12 mm from base of bill; breast usually with slightly salmon-pink tinge. **Juveniles** cannot be sexed using plumage pattern.

CAUTION: breast colour in **adults** with some overlap. In **autumn**, after **postbreeding** moult, sexing much as in **spring** but although a few **males** retain all black forehead, sexing in many birds is very difficult, or impossible, due to extensive number of grey feathers on forehead.



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AGEING

3 age groups can be recognized:

Juvenile with fresh plumage; crown and mantle finely barred dark; no black on forehead; sides of breast and flanks finely barred grey; greater coverts blackish, finely edged and tipped white.

1st year similar to **juveniles** but moulted body feathers without dark barred; fresh flight and tail feathers.

Adult with worn plumage; mantle unbarred, being pure pale grey; with black band on forehead; sides of breast and flanks without grey barred; greater coverts uniform blackish.



Lesser Grey Shrike. Ageing. Pattern of forehead: left adult female; right juvenile (Photo: Reinhard Vohwinkel).

MOULT

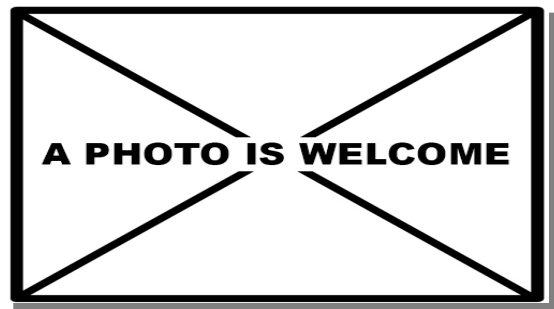
Partial **postbreeding** moult in breeding places involving body feathers, wing coverts and occasionally tertials. Partial **postjuvenile** moult in July-September variable in extensión, mainly involving body feathers. Both age classes have a complete **prebreeding** moult in wintering sites.

PHENOLOGY

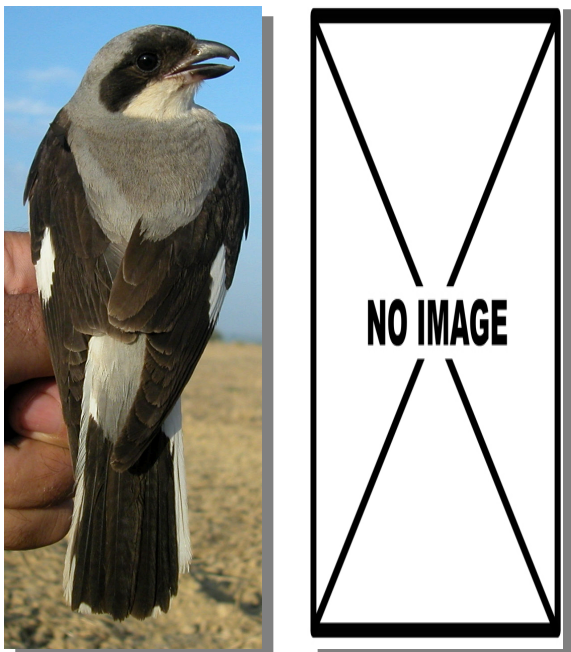
I	II	III	IV	V	VI	VII	VIII	IX	X	XI	XII

STATUS IN ARAGON

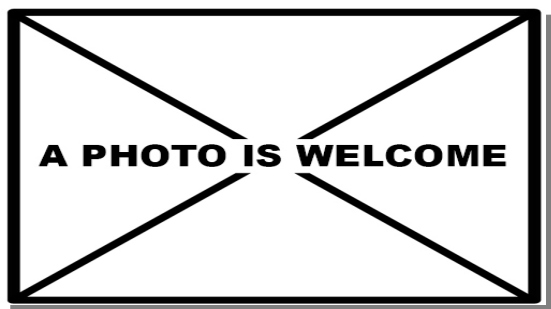
Summer visitor. Very scarce breeder in Eastern Huesca.



Lesser Grey Shrike. Spring. Adult. Male ().



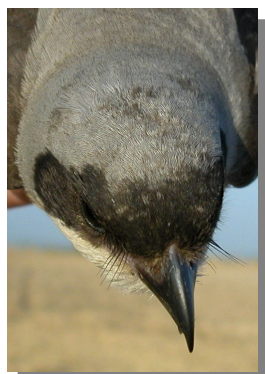
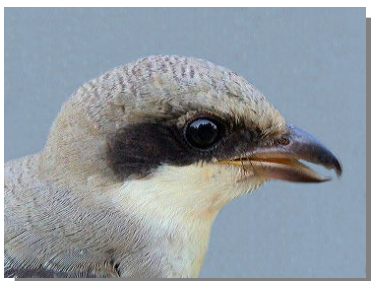
Lesser Grey Shrike. Ageing. Pattern of upperparts: left adult female; right juvenile.



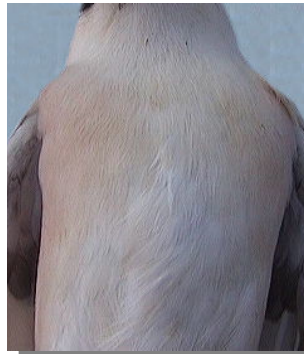
Lesser Grey Shrike. Spring. Juvenile ().

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Lesser Grey Shrike. Spring. Crown pattern: top left male (05-V) (Photo: Reinhard Vohwinkel); top right female (11-VII); left juvenile (25-VIII) (Photo: Reinhard Vohwinkel).



Lesser Grey Shrike. Spring. Breast pattern: top left male (05-V) (Photo: Reinhard Vohwinkel); top right female (11-VII); left juvenile (25-VIII) (Photo: Reinhard Vohwinkel).



Lesser Grey Shrike. Spring. Tail pattern: top left male (05-V) (Photo: Reinhard Vohwinkel); top right female (11-VII); left juvenile (25-VIII) (Photo: Reinhard Vohwinkel).

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Lesser Grey Shrike. Spring. Adult. Female: wing pattern (11-VII).



Lesser Grey Shrike. Spring. Juvenile: wing pattern (25-VIII) (Foto: Reinhard Vohwinkel).

Lesser Grey Shrike. Spring. Upperparts pattern: top left male (); top right female (11-VII); left juvenile ().



Lesser Grey Shrike. Spring. Adult. Male: wing pattern (05-V) (Photo: Reinhard Vohwinkel).